

Integrating Sustainability and Social Justice: Land Use Changes in India

Amita Baviskar
Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi

The pursuit of high rates of economic growth in India since the 1990s have placed unprecedented pressures on natural resources within the country. The rising demand for land for infrastructural development, mining and urban expansion, and the government's policy of facilitating land transfers by using its powers of eminent domain, have been challenged by social movements and campaigns defending local livelihoods and environments. The political negotiations between the state and social movements on the issue of land use and management provide a rich site for understanding the changing dynamics of development policies that affect ecological sustainability and social justice. This presentation will show how democratic politics has been a key factor in shaping the dynamics of land use change and its concomitant social and environmental effects.