

have strongly reacted against large damming projects which not only alter the environment but pose a severe threat to human life. Large dams may not always provide the fit all solution to problems like flood management or generation of electricity. Rather other alternatives may bring down the social and environmental costs that large projects involve.

It has been generally held that future wars among nations will not be based on arms but resources like water which has speed up the technology-driven planning for large projects in countries like China and India in order to meet the growing demand.

One such alternative to large projects is giving importance to local water harvesting and management schemes which can boost the supply side in view of the growing demand of water and the imminent water crisis set to hit the world in the coming decades.

Secondly, planning at the micro level will be more effective and people – oriented than planning at the macro level which seeks to overlook many social aspects.

Thirdly, water resource management should be given priority rather than water resource development. Specially, management at the local level should be stressed.

Fourthly, traditional methods of water conservation like canals, talabs etc should be revived for irrigation purposes.

Fifthly, planning measures such as preparation of EIA, environment clearance, rehabilitation and resettlement issues etc should be strictly adhered to.

Lastly, people's participation and cooperation at all levels should be properly ensured. Consultation with the project affected persons and their consent is a must before commissioning of large dam projects, if at all they are inevitable.

10. Conclusion

The potential adverse effects of dams on the fragile ecology of North East India which is also seismologically active along with the potential negative effects on the life of the people displaced might deprive them of their livelihood opportunities and bring in a permanent ecological crisis in the region. At a time when the whole world has turned towards a pledge for parity and sustainability, any attempt that might ignore the long term impact on livelihood stands at a contradiction to the state's responsibility towards sustainable development. Human survival is concomitant with the availability of natural resources and when ecological imbalance and destruction of livelihood surface due to the disparaging attitude of the state in terms of its development policies, survival of mankind is at stake.

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