



Environmental policies and marginalized sections in Delhi: Challenges and opportunities

Yogita

Department of Political Science, CCS University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India

Abstract

Environmental policies in India have played a significant role in strengthening environmental governance through legislative measures aimed at controlling pollution, conserving natural resources, and promoting sustainable development. However, the implementation of these policies often produces unequal outcomes for socially and economically marginalized communities. This article critically examines the impact of environmental policies on Dalits, women, and the urban poor in Delhi, highlighting the challenges they face in accessing environmental rights and justice. Adopting a qualitative and analytical research approach, the study draws upon primary sources, including interviews, focus group discussions, and field observations, along with secondary data from legislation, judicial decisions, government reports, and scholarly literature. The findings reveal that environmental risks and policy burdens are disproportionately concentrated among marginalized groups because of caste-based exclusion, gender inequalities, poverty, and inadequate access to public services. The study further identifies weak policy implementation, limited community participation, insufficient rehabilitation measures, and institutional gaps as major barriers to achieving environmental justice. While India's environmental laws provide a strong legal framework for environmental protection, their effectiveness remains constrained by unequal implementation and the limited inclusion of vulnerable communities in decision-making processes. The article argues that environmental governance must move beyond pollution control and incorporate principles of equity, participation, and social inclusion. It recommends strengthening community engagement, improving institutional accountability, adopting gender- and caste-sensitive policy frameworks, and integrating social justice into environmental planning. The study contributes to the growing discourse on environmental justice by demonstrating that sustainable environmental governance in Delhi requires balancing ecological conservation with the rights and welfare of marginalized populations.

Keywords: Environmental policies, environmental justice, Delhi, dalits, women, urban poor, environmental governance, social equity, sustainable development

Introduction

Environmental protection has become one of the defining policy priorities of the twenty-first century as governments across the world attempt to balance economic development with ecological sustainability. Rapid industrialization, urban expansion, climate change, biodiversity loss, and increasing pollution have compelled states to adopt comprehensive legal and institutional frameworks for environmental governance. In India, environmental protection has gradually evolved from a sectoral concern into a constitutional and developmental priority. The Constitution, through Articles 48A and 51A(g), places responsibility on both the State and citizens to protect and improve the environment, while judicial interpretation of Article 21 has expanded the right to life to include the right to a clean and healthy environment. Over the last five decades, this constitutional vision has been strengthened through important legislations such as the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and the Forest Rights Act, 2006. India's international commitments, including the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), have further reinforced the country's commitment to sustainable development and environmental conservation.

Despite this extensive legal framework, the benefits of environmental governance have not been distributed equally among different sections of society. Environmental policies

are generally designed to improve ecological conditions and public health; however, their implementation often reflects existing social and economic inequalities. Communities that are already disadvantaged because of caste, gender, occupation, or income tend to bear a disproportionate share of environmental risks while receiving comparatively fewer environmental benefits. This unequal distribution of environmental burdens has led scholars to increasingly examine environmental governance through the perspective of environmental justice, which argues that every individual, irrespective of social or economic status, should enjoy equal protection from environmental harm and equal participation in environmental decision-making. Environmental justice therefore extends beyond pollution control and resource conservation to include questions of equity, participation, recognition, and access to justice.

Delhi provides an important setting for examining these issues. As India's national capital and one of the fastest-growing metropolitan regions in the world, Delhi faces severe environmental challenges arising from rapid urbanisation, industrial activity, population growth, increasing energy demand, and expanding transport networks. The city continues to experience hazardous air pollution, contamination of the Yamuna River, mounting solid waste, shrinking green spaces, urban heat islands, and frequent flooding during the monsoon season. Although these environmental problems affect all residents, their impacts are neither uniform nor socially neutral. Households with greater financial resources can often reduce their

exposure through better housing, healthcare, and access to cleaner environments. In contrast, economically and socially marginalized communities remain highly exposed because they frequently reside in environmentally vulnerable locations and have limited access to public services and legal remedies.

Among the most affected are Dalit communities, many of whom continue to experience environmental deprivation alongside long-standing social discrimination. Historical patterns of exclusion have influenced where many Dalit settlements are located, often in proximity to industrial estates, landfill sites, polluted drains, railway corridors, and other environmentally hazardous spaces. In urban areas such as Delhi, a significant proportion of Dalits continue to be employed in sanitation work, waste collection, sewage maintenance, and other hazardous occupations that expose them to toxic substances, contaminated water, and polluted air. These occupational and residential vulnerabilities demonstrate that environmental risks are closely linked with caste-based inequalities. Although environmental laws seek to improve ecological conditions, they rarely acknowledge caste as an important determinant of environmental vulnerability, resulting in policy interventions that may overlook the specific needs of Dalit communities.

Women also experience environmental degradation differently because environmental risks intersect with existing gender inequalities. Women from economically weaker households often carry primary responsibility for household care, water collection, sanitation, waste management, and family health. Consequently, inadequate water supply, poor sanitation, air pollution, and climate-related disasters increase both their physical workload and health risks. Women living in informal settlements face. Their limited participation restricts the development of inclusive environmental policies capable of addressing gender-specific vulnerabilities.

The urban poor constitute another group that experiences environmental inequality on a daily basis. Large sections of Delhi's low-income population live in informal settlements characterised by insecure housing, inadequate drinking water, poor sanitation, inefficient waste collection, and limited green infrastructure. These neighbourhoods are often located near pollution-intensive activities or environmentally degraded landscapes because affordable housing is unavailable elsewhere. Urban redevelopment projects, infrastructure expansion, and environmental improvement initiatives have, in several instances, resulted in the demolition or relocation of informal settlements without adequate rehabilitation or livelihood support. Consequently, measures intended to improve the urban environment may unintentionally intensify social exclusion when questions of equity and rehabilitation receive insufficient attention. Such experiences illustrate that environmental sustainability cannot be separated from social justice.

These realities reveal important limitations within existing environmental governance frameworks. Policy implementation often remains focused on pollution control, infrastructure development, and regulatory compliance while paying comparatively less attention to the social distribution of environmental costs and benefits.

Against this backdrop, the present study examines the impact of environmental policies on marginalized sections in Delhi, with particular emphasis on Dalits, women, and

the urban poor. It seeks to analyse whether existing environmental laws and policy interventions have promoted equitable environmental protection or whether they have unintentionally reinforced existing social inequalities. The study also explores the institutional, legal, and governance challenges that limit effective policy implementation while identifying opportunities for more inclusive environmental governance. By integrating the perspectives of environmental justice, social equity, and public policy, this article contributes to the growing discourse on sustainable urban development and offers recommendations for strengthening environmental governance in ways that protect both ecological systems and vulnerable communities. The findings are expected to be relevant not only for scholars of political science, environmental studies, and public policy but also for policymakers, urban planners, civil society organisations, and institutions working towards inclusive and sustainable development.

Literature Review

The relationship between environmental governance and social justice has emerged as an important area of interdisciplinary research over the past three decades. While environmental laws are generally designed to conserve natural resources, reduce pollution, and promote sustainable development, an increasing body of scholarship argues that the implementation of these laws often reflects existing social and economic inequalities. In India, the intersection of environmental policy with caste, gender, and poverty has attracted growing academic attention, particularly within the broader framework of environmental justice.

One of the earliest and most influential contributions to this debate is made by Ramachandra Guha and Joan Martínez-Alier (1997) ^[9] in *Varieties of Environmentalism*. They argue that environmental movements in developing countries differ significantly from those in industrialized nations. In the Global South, environmental struggles are closely linked to questions of livelihood, survival, and social justice rather than merely ecological conservation. Their work highlights how economically and socially disadvantaged communities often become the first victims of environmental degradation and unsustainable development. This perspective provides an important theoretical foundation for understanding environmental governance in India, where environmental protection and social equity remain deeply interconnected.

The concept of environmental justice has further expanded this discussion by emphasizing that environmental benefits and burdens should be distributed fairly among all sections of society. International scholars such as Robert Bullard (1990) demonstrated that environmental hazards are frequently concentrated in communities that already experience economic and social disadvantages. Although Bullard's work primarily examines the United States, the theoretical framework has significantly influenced studies on environmental inequality in developing countries, including India, where caste, poverty, and gender often determine patterns of environmental vulnerability.

Within the Indian context, scholars have increasingly examined the relationship between environmental governance and urban inequality. Gautam Bhan (2009) ^[3] argues that urban environmental policies in Delhi have frequently been implemented through eviction drives and slum demolitions undertaken in the name of beautification,

pollution control, and urban renewal. His analysis demonstrates that environmental improvements have, at times, been achieved at the cost of displacing low-income communities without ensuring adequate rehabilitation or livelihood security. Similarly, Nikhil Anand (2017) ^[2] shows how unequal access to urban infrastructure, particularly water, reflects broader patterns of political power and social exclusion. His work illustrates that environmental governance is shaped not only by ecological considerations but also by institutional arrangements and unequal citizenship.

The relationship between caste and environmental inequality has received increasing scholarly attention in recent years. Mukul Sharma has made significant contributions by examining the connections between caste, environmental justice, and ecological politics in India. In *Caste and Nature: Dalits and Indian Environmental Politics*, Sharma argues that mainstream environmental debates have often overlooked caste as a crucial determinant of environmental vulnerability. He demonstrates that Dalit communities remain disproportionately represented in hazardous occupations such as sanitation work, waste collection, and manual scavenging while also residing in environmentally degraded settlements located near landfills, polluted drains, and industrial areas. His later work on *Caste, Environment, Justice and the Interrelationship of Dalit Black Ecologies* further explores how caste-based discrimination influences access to clean water, sanitation, and healthy living conditions. Sharma contends that environmental justice in India cannot be achieved without recognizing the structural relationship between caste hierarchy and ecological inequality.

Gender scholars have similarly highlighted the unequal environmental experiences of women. Bina Agarwal (1992) ^[1] argues that women possess distinct knowledge of natural resource management because of their daily interaction with forests, water, fuel, and household resources. However, environmental policies and legal institutions rarely acknowledge women's contributions or ensure their meaningful participation in decision-making processes. More recent studies, including those by Nitya Rao (2020) ^[11], demonstrate that climate change, water scarcity, pollution, and environmental degradation disproportionately increase women's unpaid labour, health burdens, and livelihood insecurity, particularly among economically weaker households. These studies collectively emphasize that environmental governance must incorporate gender-sensitive approaches rather than treating environmental problems as socially neutral.

Another important strand of literature focuses on environmental law and institutional governance. Scholars such as Singh (2019) and Upadhyay (2021) ^[14, 21] argue that although India possesses an extensive legal framework for environmental protection, significant implementation gaps continue to exist. They observe that mechanisms such as Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), public hearings, environmental clearances, and rehabilitation policies frequently remain inaccessible to marginalized communities because of procedural complexity, limited legal awareness, bureaucratic barriers, and unequal access to institutional resources. Their work advocates participatory environmental governance that ensures greater inclusion of

vulnerable populations in policy formulation and implementation.

Recent scholarship has also examined the environmental vulnerabilities of low-income urban populations. Sukanya Das (2024) argues that environmental justice requires policy frameworks capable of balancing ecological conservation with socio-economic equity. Das emphasizes that environmental laws can become truly effective only when implementation strategies recognise the realities of poverty, social exclusion, and unequal access to public institutions. The study recommends strengthening legal aid, promoting community participation, and ensuring equitable enforcement so that environmental regulations protect rather than disadvantage vulnerable populations.

Similarly, Anubhav Pradhan (2024) examines environmental jurisprudence and urban farming in Delhi, highlighting the challenges faced by low-income communities dependent on urban agriculture. His study demonstrates that rigid regulatory approaches may unintentionally criminalize informal livelihood practices while failing to accommodate the socio-economic realities of marginalized groups. The findings underline the need for environmental governance that integrates ecological sustainability with livelihood protection.

Beyond these contributions, recent studies on environmental governance increasingly emphasize participatory governance, climate resilience, and inclusive urban planning. Scholars working on environmental justice argue that effective environmental policies require meaningful public participation, transparency, accountability, and equitable access to environmental information. The growing emphasis on sustainable development and climate adaptation has further highlighted the importance of integrating environmental protection with social inclusion, particularly in rapidly urbanizing cities such as Delhi where environmental risks disproportionately affect disadvantaged communities.

The present study seeks to address these gaps by examining the implementation and impact of environmental policies on marginalized sections in Delhi through the interconnected lenses of caste, gender, and urban poverty. By combining the perspectives of environmental justice, public policy, and governance, the study contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of how environmental protection can be made both ecologically sustainable and socially inclusive.

Research Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative research approach to examine the impact of environmental policies on marginalized communities in Delhi. The research is exploratory, descriptive, and analytical in nature, as it seeks to understand how environmental laws and governance mechanisms influence the everyday experiences of Dalits, women, and the urban poor. Rather than measuring policy outcomes solely through numerical indicators, the study focuses on

understanding the social realities, institutional challenges, and lived experiences of communities that are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and policy interventions.

Study Area

The study is confined to the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, covering both urban and rural settings.

Delhi provides an appropriate case for this research because it experiences multiple environmental challenges, including severe air pollution, water contamination, solid waste management issues, urban flooding, and rapid urbanization. The research will include selected urban informal settlements, resettlement colonies, industrially affected localities, and rural villages within Delhi to capture variations in environmental conditions and policy implementation. The inclusion of diverse geographical locations is intended to provide a comprehensive understanding of how environmental policies affect different marginalized communities across varying socio-economic contexts.

Study Participants

The research focuses on stakeholders who are directly or indirectly associated with environmental governance and its implementation. The primary participants include Dalit communities residing in both rural and urban areas, women from socially and economically marginalized backgrounds, and residents of low-income informal settlements. To obtain a broader institutional perspective, the study will also include representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), environmental activists, legal practitioners working on environmental issues, public policy experts, officials associated with environmental regulatory bodies such as the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), and, where possible, representatives from local government institutions. The diversity of respondents will enable the study to examine environmental policies from both community and institutional perspectives.

Data Collection Methods

The study relies on both primary and secondary sources of data to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the research problem.

Primary Data

Primary data will be collected through semi-structured interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions (FGDs), and field observations. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with members of marginalized communities to document their lived experiences regarding environmental pollution, displacement, access to basic services, and the implementation of environmental policies. Interviews with environmental lawyers, policy experts, government officials, and NGO representatives will provide insights into policy formulation, implementation challenges, and institutional responses.

Focus group discussions will be organized with community members, particularly women and local leaders, to understand collective perceptions of environmental governance, community participation, and environmental justice. In addition, field observations will be carried out in environmentally vulnerable areas, including neighbourhoods located near landfill sites, industrial clusters, polluted water bodies, and settlements affected by redevelopment or eviction. These observations will help contextualize the interview findings and provide a deeper understanding of the environmental conditions experienced by local communities.

Secondary Data

Secondary data will be collected through an extensive review of academic literature, peer-reviewed journal

articles, books, government reports, policy documents, census reports, reports of national and international organizations, and publications by civil society organizations. The study will examine major environmental legislations, including the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notifications. Judicial decisions of the Supreme Court of India, the National Green Tribunal (NGT), and relevant High Court judgments concerning environmental justice, displacement, pollution control, and rehabilitation will also be analysed. These documentary sources will provide the legal and policy framework necessary for evaluating environmental governance in Delhi.

Data Analysis

The collected qualitative data will be analysed using thematic analysis. Interview transcripts and focus group discussions will be systematically coded to identify recurring themes, patterns, and relationships concerning environmental inequality, social exclusion, governance challenges, and access to environmental justice. Content analysis will be applied to legal documents, policy reports, and judicial decisions to assess the objectives, implementation mechanisms, and limitations of existing environmental laws and policies.

Where quantitative information is available, descriptive statistical analysis will be used to present data on pollution levels, environmental indicators, displacement trends, and selected socio-economic variables.

Ethical Considerations

The study will adhere to established ethical standards throughout the research process. Participation in interviews and focus group discussions will be voluntary, and informed consent will be obtained from all participants before data collection. The confidentiality and anonymity of respondents will be maintained, and personal information will not be disclosed without permission.

Analysis and Discussion

Environmental policies in India have significantly strengthened the country's legal and institutional framework for environmental protection. Legislations such as the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have contributed to pollution control, conservation of natural resources, and sustainable development. Judicial interventions by the Supreme Court of India and the National Green Tribunal have also expanded the scope of environmental rights under Article 21 of the Constitution. However, the findings of this study indicate that while environmental laws have improved regulatory governance, their implementation has not been socially equitable. The burden of environmental degradation and certain policy interventions continues to fall disproportionately on marginalized communities, particularly Dalits, women, and the urban poor in Delhi.

Environmental Inequality and the Spatial Distribution of Marginalized Communities

The analysis reveals that environmental risks in Delhi are unevenly distributed across different socio-economic

groups. Marginalized communities are more likely to reside near landfill sites, industrial clusters, polluted drains, congested settlements, and environmentally degraded areas where exposure to air pollution, contaminated water, and poor sanitation is significantly higher. This pattern is closely linked to poverty, historical social exclusion, and unequal access to affordable housing rather than individual choice. Consequently, environmental degradation becomes not only an ecological issue but also a question of social justice.

Environmental Policies and the Experiences of Dalit Communities

The findings demonstrate that caste continues to shape environmental vulnerability. Many Dalit households remain concentrated in neighbourhoods with inadequate civic infrastructure and poor environmental conditions. In addition, a significant proportion of Dalits continue to work in sanitation services, waste collection, sewage maintenance, and other occupations involving direct exposure to environmental hazards. Although environmental legislation seeks to regulate pollution and improve public health, it rarely recognises caste-based occupational exposure as an environmental justice concern.

This disconnect creates a situation where environmental laws address pollution in general but fail to acknowledge that certain social groups experience pollution more intensely because of structural inequalities. The persistence of manual sanitation work, inadequate occupational safety, and limited access to clean residential environments demonstrates that environmental protection cannot be separated from broader questions of social equality and human dignity.

Gender Dimensions of Environmental Governance

The analysis also highlights the gendered nature of environmental challenges. Women from low-income households experience environmental degradation differently because they are primarily responsible for managing household water, sanitation, waste disposal, and family health. Poor air quality, contaminated water, inadequate sanitation facilities, and climate-related events increase both their unpaid care responsibilities and health risks.

Despite these realities, women remain underrepresented in environmental planning and decision-making processes. Community consultations, public hearings, and environmental governance institutions frequently fail to ensure meaningful participation of women, particularly those from marginalized communities. As a result, environmental policies often overlook gender-specific concerns such as access to sanitation, safe public spaces, water security, and household-level adaptation to climate change. Greater inclusion of women in environmental

governance would improve both policy effectiveness and democratic accountability.

Urban Poverty and Environmental Justice

The findings suggest that environmental challenges are closely linked with urban poverty. Residents of informal settlements often lack access to essential services such as clean drinking water, proper drainage, solid waste management, and green public spaces. These deficiencies increase exposure to disease, heat stress, flooding, and pollution.

Although several urban development programmes seek to improve environmental quality, their implementation has not always addressed the needs of low-income communities. In some cases, environmental regulations have been used to justify eviction or relocation without ensuring adequate rehabilitation. Such practices weaken livelihood security and deepen social exclusion. Sustainable urban development therefore requires balancing ecological conservation with the protection of housing rights and economic security.

Institutional Challenges in Policy Implementation

The study identifies several institutional barriers that reduce the effectiveness of environmental policies. One major challenge is the gap between legislation and implementation. While India possesses a comprehensive environmental legal framework, enforcement remains inconsistent because of administrative limitations, overlapping institutional responsibilities, inadequate monitoring, and resource constraints.

Another important concern is limited public participation. Environmental Impact Assessment procedures and public consultations often remain inaccessible to marginalized communities because of low levels of legal awareness, limited educational opportunities, language barriers, and procedural complexity. Consequently, those most affected by environmental decisions are frequently excluded from policy formulation and implementation.

Policy Implications

The analysis suggests that environmental governance in Delhi requires a more inclusive and rights-based approach. Environmental policies should integrate social justice considerations at every stage of policy formulation and implementation. Environmental Impact Assessments should include mandatory social equity assessments that examine the likely consequences of projects for vulnerable communities. Rehabilitation and resettlement policies should be implemented before displacement occurs, ensuring access to housing, livelihoods, education, healthcare, and basic public services.

Table 1: Major Environmental Policies and Their Impact on Marginalized Communities in Delhi

Environmental Policy/Law	Objective	Impact on Dalits	Impact on Women	Impact on Urban Poor	Key Challenges
Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974	Control water pollution	Limited access to cleanwater in Dalit settlements	Increased burden of collecting safe water	Poor drinking water and sanitation	Weak implementation
Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981	Reduce air pollution	High exposure due to sanitation and waste work	Greater health risks	Poor air quality in informal settlements	Uneven enforcement
Environment (Protection) Act, 1986	Comprehensive environmental protection	Caste-based vulnerabilities often overlooked	Limited gender-sensitive implementation	Weak protection of informal settlements	Implementation gap

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification	Assess environmental impacts	Limited participation in public hearings	Low representation in decision-making	Risk of displacement	Procedural barriers
Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016	Improve waste management	Unsafe working conditions for waste pickers	Women waste workers remain vulnerable	Inadequate waste services	Poor integration of informal workers
Urban Redevelopment Projects	Improve urban environment	Displacement of Dalit settlements	Loss of livelihoods	Evictions without proper rehabilitation	Lack of social equity

Source: Compiled by the author based on environmental legislations, policy documents, and reviewed literature

Policy Recommendations

The findings of this study indicate that environmental governance in Delhi must integrate social justice with environmental sustainability to ensure that marginalized communities benefit equally from environmental policies. Based on the analysis, the following policy recommendations are proposed:

1. Adopt an Environmental Justice Framework: Environmental policies should explicitly incorporate the principles of equity, inclusion, and social justice so that Dalits, women, and the urban poor receive equal protection from environmental risks.
2. Strengthen Community Participation: Decision-making processes such as Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), public hearings, and urban planning consultations should ensure the meaningful participation of marginalized communities, particularly women and Dalit representatives.
3. Improve Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policies: Environmental conservation and urban redevelopment projects should not result in forced displacement without adequate compensation, housing, livelihood support, and access to essential public services.
4. Recognise Caste and Gender Dimensions: Environmental policies should acknowledge that caste and gender significantly influence environmental vulnerability. Policy interventions must therefore be gender-responsive and socially inclusive.
5. Enhance Institutional Coordination: Greater coordination among environmental agencies, urban local bodies, social welfare departments, and civil society organisations is necessary for effective policy implementation and monitoring.
6. Expand Environmental Awareness and Legal Aid: Awareness programmes should educate marginalized communities about their environmental rights. Free legal assistance should be made available to communities affected by pollution, eviction, or environmental injustice.
7. Strengthen Monitoring and Accountability: Independent monitoring mechanisms should regularly evaluate the social impacts of environmental policies. Public disclosure of implementation outcomes would improve transparency and accountability.
8. Promote Inclusive Urban Planning: Urban development strategies should prioritise access to clean water, sanitation, waste management, green spaces, and climate-resilient infrastructure in low-income settlements to reduce environmental inequalities.
9. The implementation of these recommendations would strengthen environmental governance while ensuring that environmental protection contributes to both ecological sustainability and social equity.

References

1. Agarwal B. The gender and environment debate: Lessons from India. *Feminist Studies*, 1992;18(1):119–158.
2. Anand N. *Hydraulic City: Water and the Infrastructures of Citizenship in Mumbai*. Duke University Press, 2017.
3. Bhan G. This Is No Longer the City I Once Knew: Evictions, the Urban Poor and the Right to the City in Millennial Delhi. *Environment and Urbanization*, 2009;21(1):127–142.
4. Bullard RD. *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality*. Westview Press, 1990.
5. Diduck A, Patel K, Malik AK. (Eds.) *Advancing Environmental Justice for Marginalised Communities in India: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities*. Routledge, 2022.
6. Government of India. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Government of India. (1981). The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, 1974.
7. Government of India. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
8. Government of India. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
9. Guha R, Martínez-Alier J. *Varieties of Environmentalism: Essays North and South*. Earthscan, 1997.
10. Mitchell BC, Chakraborty J, Basu P. Social inequities in urban heat and greenspace: Analyzing climate justice in Delhi, India. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2021;18(9):4800.
11. Rao N. Gender and climate change: Understanding women's vulnerability and adaptation. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 2020.
12. Sharma M. *Caste and Nature: Dalits and Indian Environmental Politics*. Oxford University Press, 2017.
13. Sahu GS. *Environmental Jurisprudence and the Supreme Court: Litigation, Interpretation and Implementation*. Orient Blackswan, 2014.
14. Singh A. Environmental governance and public participation in India. *Indian Journal of Public Administration*, 2019.
15. Upadhyay R. Environmental justice and inclusive governance in India. *Journal of Environmental Law and Policy*, 2021.
16. United Nations. *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2015.
17. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). *Paris Agreement*, 2015.
18. World Bank. *Towards Clean Air and Sustainable Cities in India*, 2023.
19. United Nations Development Programme. *Enhancing Meaningful Access to Justice in India*, 2025.