



The relevance of geoethics to under-developed and developing Nations wth special reference to India.i

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Relevance of Geoethics to underdeveloped

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to India

The application of ethical principles to results of scientific investigations which will have direct impact on the well being of human kind is well amplified by medical sciences (eg.,the laws governing testing of new medications and anti-viral vaccination on humans and their subsequent usage to preserve and protect humanity), and its application to Geoscience, which is very important,however, is very recent.Geoscientific investigations involve such wide and varying aspects of our mother Earth that most of it find applications directly to the welfare and development of civilized society, such as mining of natural resources,like coal,minerals and building stones;exploration for petroleum and natural gas;or geo-engineering investigations for major civil engineering projects like construction of dams,tunnels or work related to mitigation of effects of natural hazards (earthquakes,tsunamis or landslides).The Geoscientists, since their work will contribute to the resource development and economic progress of a country,will have to be very conscientious in parting their knowledge to user agency.This involves,true and practical reporting of data without succumbing to corrupt practices or doing away tendency to over-emphasising the results to the point of creating unnecessary panic to public.In all these geoscientific investigations therefore ethics plays a vital role.For, instance,both the loss of life and property in the 2001 earthquake of Gujarat,India could have been kept at a minimum if the planning authorities had applied their mind to designs for construction of houses for city dwellers, based on geological investigation of rocks,soils and geologic structures of the area.As Pointed out succinctly by Lambert(2014),since corruption plays a negative role in formulating geologic results in developing/underdeveloping countries,combating this using a forceful geoethical approach by geoscientists becomes vital.

In this paper an attempt is made to highlight the loop-holes in direct application of results of major geoscientific investigations to society's progress and well-being, restricting to under-developed and developing countries, including India.
