

T.R.Subramanya, *Hazardous Substances in India and the World: Legislations, Frameworks and Management (South Asia Edition, Routledge, 2021), pp. 310.*

The era of industrialization has had a devastating effect on the ecosystem. Hazardous substances emissions from industries when improperly handled can cause substantial harm to the environment. Hazardous wastes are in diverse forms and are primarily generated by chemical production, manufacturing and other industrial activities. Improper storage, disposal and transportation of such substances is accompanied with threat to the planet. Governments must take adequate measures to educate citizens regarding the management and disasters of these substances. The author has examined the complex nature of hazardous substances and legal control of hazardous substances in a profound manner. The book is divided into seven chapters. An elaborate introduction in the beginning gives a comprehensive analysis of the scope of the book elucidating the nuances of the subject matter. It states the problem faced by underdeveloped countries as these countries are used as the dumping yard of hazardous wastes from developing nations. The introduction *inter alia* sets motion into the theme that the management and disposal of hazardous substances ought to be done with caution to protect the human race and their environment.

Chapter one focus on the problems of developing countries due to the hazardous substance dumped by western countries. The chapter also highlights monopoly of western corporations in the trade of hazardous substances and their dominance over the third world countries. The prevailing flaws and inadequacy in the legal mechanisms of the developing countries as well as the problems encountered in trans frontier movement of such substances are accurately narrated.

Chapter two mainly overview the development of normative as well as institutional mechanism in the area of management of hazardous substance. The scholarly discourse on the International conventions, declarations and programs undertaken by various United Nations organs in the governing and management of hazardous substances is dealt in detail.

Chapter three focuses on the regional management of hazardous substances. A discussion on the directives of the EEC, and OAU's policy on waste trade is remarkable. The chapter also focuses steps taken by the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) in regulating hazardous substance and maps out the several conventions signed between nations.

Chapter four overview the laws related to hazardous substances in India from the early 1900's to the present date. The author has discussed all these legislations clearly indicating the role of the Apex Court in bringing law reforms in this area. After the Bhopal Gas Leakage at the Union Carbide India Pesticide Plant, major rules were passed to ensure safety and control disasters. Significant legislations

came into force not only to create social responsibility but also to help citizens claim damages in case of any accident. The author has explored the major legislations like the Environment Protection Act (1986), the Government of India's Rules on Hazardous and Other Wastes(Management and Transboundary Movement 2016), the Public Liability Insurance Act (1991), the National Green Tribunal Act(2010) etc. The safe disposal and handling of hazardous substances is an emerging area in most of the countries. This book traces the impact of hazardous substances and the key challenges faced during its transboundary movement.

The chapter fifth special focus on the normative development after the Bhopal gas disaster. It includes the Planning Commission initiative on protection of environment. The different rules adopted by the Government of India on management of hazardous substance. The author also analyses the recent amendment to the different legislation such as Indian Factories Act, Public Insurance Liability Act and the National Green Tribunal Act.

The sixth chapter discusses the principle of liability in hazardous substances litigation. The challenges faced while proving the case and the emergence of a new legal regime in India is critically assessed. Leading cases from the national and international level are expounded in a lucid manner addressing the global issues. Author also highlights growing litigation on this issues and the role of judiciary in effectively protecting environment from the hazardous substance.

The last chapter dwells on the need for sustainable development to preserve the natural resources for future generations. The author has also identified the lacuna in the existing laws and has given appropriate recommendations to develop better mechanisms to overcome the problem of hazardous substances and wastes.

Today we are in the era of globalization and one of the big concern of this time is environmental degradation. Many authors have written books on environmental concerns and legislations. But this book is a unique work, the only book that ventures into the nature of hazardous substances giving a profound analysis of the National and International legal order in regulating the management of hazardous substances. As rightly mentioned in the foreword the book will be a guide to researchers, legislators and all stakeholders concerned with the management of hazardous substances.

Balajinaika B G*

* Ph D, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Assistant Professor, Law Centre – II, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, New Delhi.