



A Study on National Green Tribunal and its Role in Environmental Protection

A. Vignesh Sai ^{a*}

^a Student, Saveetha School of Law, SIMATS, Chennai 600077, India
vigneshsaiblack22@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Tribunals are specialized quasi judicial authority to solve disputes in a quick and fast manner. The tribunals are established to adjudicate disputes in specialized subject matter. National Green Tribunal is one among the body with the characteristics that focuses to adjudicate matters relating to the environment. The Tribunal established to deal upon the exclusive matters of conservation of environment. India is a global player that values the concept of Sustainable development. It takes various efforts to make sure its performance contributing towards a nation with balanced environment and development. NGT is an important institution since it gives credible cases for the environment. Furthermore, there is widespread agreement that the environment should be included as an intrinsic part of the development process. Both regulatory and legal background exist to deal on environmental issues provided by NGT. NGT is the watchdog for implementation of Environment laws within the territory of India. Though it possess restricted powers, It is competent enough to provide sanctions for offenses committed beyond provisions of environmental law. The primary data for the present study is collected using sampling techniques. Convenient sampling is used to collect the primary information from the respondents. Convenience sampling method is used in this study to collect the samples. When population elements are selected for inclusion in the sample based on access, it is called convenience sampling. The total number of responses collected in the Survey is around 201. National Green Tribunal is quasi judicial authority with limited powers. The aim of this research is to know whether the NGT is effective in its functioning, resolves environmental disputes and public opinion about the concept of NGT.

Keywords: Environment, Tribunal, National, Adjudication, Green

1. Introduction

The National Green Tribunal is a fast-track judicial body formed with the objective of addressing the issues about the environment at the national level. The Stockholm Declaration of 1972 recognised the necessity for the formation of a central specialised body to resolve environmental issues in a timely manner. The declaration was approved at the Rio de Janeiro conference. The summit agreed that nationalized courts/tribunals were needed to appropriately handle the issue of environmental protection.

The Supreme Court recognised the need for a national tribunal to hear environmental cases when it heard the cases of M.C. Mehta and anr v. Union Of India & Ors (1986), Indian Council for Enviro-Legal v. Union Of India and Ors (1996), A.P. Pollution Control Board v. M.V. Nayudu, (1999) and A.P. Pollution Control Board v. M.V. Nayudu II (2001) and the Law Commission agreed in its 186th report in 2003. The need for a national tribunal to dispose of matters related to environmental protection was first felt in 1986 by the Supreme Court in the Oleum gas leak case and later by the law commission in its 186th report in 2003. The National Green Tribunal was formed in the year 2010 under Section 3 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. It is a statutory body formed for the expeditious disposal of disputes relating to environmental protection and conservation of natural resources. The formation of this specialized agency was guided by the provisions of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. Article 323(B) of the Indian Constitution provides for the establishment of tribunals in the country. The National Green Tribunal is not bound by either the Code of Civil Procedure (1908) or the Indian Evidence Act (1872) but works on the principles of natural justice. The working of the NGT is guided by two basic principles- 'the polluter pays' principle and 'sustainable development' principle. It was formed in furtherance of India's commitment towards establishing a national forum for the redressal of environment related disputes at the Rio de Janeiro summit. The summit was convened in 1992 by the United Nations Conference on Conservation of Environment and Development. After the establishment of NGT, India became the third country, after Australia and New Zealand, to come up with a national forum for addressing issues of environmental protection. Since its inception, National Green Tribunal has contributed a lot to the protection of the environment. The members of the National Green Tribunal can be divided under three heads: the chairperson, The judicial members and the expert members. For a person to be qualified to become the chairperson of NGT, he should either be a present/retired judge of the Supreme Court or Chief Justice of a High Court, in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. For a person to become a judicial member, he should be a present/retired judge of a high court. The expert members should also have fifteen years experience in the relevant field including a practical experience of 5 years.

Associated Challenges:

Limit to Jurisdiction: Two important acts - Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 have been kept out of NGT's jurisdiction. This restricts the jurisdiction area of NGT and at times hampers its functioning as the crucial forest rights issue is linked directly to the environment.

Obstacle to Development: Decisions of NGT have also been criticised and challenged due to their repercussions on economic growth and development.

Looming Vacancies: NGT only has three judicial and three expert members against the sanctioned strength of 10 each. The lack of human and financial resources has led to high pendency of cases - which undermines NGT's very objective of disposal of appeals within 6 months. Additional Layer to Judicial Process: NGT was conceptualized to ease out the burden on the higher courts. However, the Supreme Court in L Chandrakumar case, opined that Tribunals could not be effective substitutes of High Courts under Articles 226 and 227. This eventually leads to cases reaching the judiciary by way of appeal. **Limited Regional Benches:** NGT being located in only big cities spread across India. However, environmental exploitation is also taking place in the tribal areas of dense forest.

Therefore, the justice delivery mechanism is also hindered by a limited number of regional benches.

Objectives

- * To understand the evolution of National Green Tribunal
- * To study the role of National Green Tribunals in Environmental Disputes
- * To study the statutory background of National Green Tribunal
- * To know public opinion on National Green Tribunal

1.1 Review of Literature

Gill, Gitanjali (2014). The National Green Tribunal of India: A Sustainable Future through the Principles of International Environmental Law. Environmental Law Review. Access to environmental justice is the first step to the achievement of environmental justice goals by articulating in the language of equity the assurance of legal standing for all affected and interested parties; the right of appeal or review; specialised environmental courts and other practical dispute resolution mechanisms. In this context, India's commitment to the newly formed National Green Tribunal (NGT) assumes a significant practical importance. In seeking a balanced judicial forum to advance green jurisprudence, the NGT is a 'fast track' court having wide powers, staffed by judges and environmental scientific experts. Section 20 of the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 mandates the application of the principles underpinning international environmental law, namely, sustainable development, precautionary and 'polluter pays' principles. This article addresses the application of these principles in the Indian context, thereby recognising its international commitments concerning environmental protection. **Chowdhury, Nupur & Srivastava, Nidhi. (2017).** National Green Tribunal in India: Examining the Question of Jurisdiction. Asia Pacific Journal of Environmental Law. Some of these tribunals have been able to evolve into mechanisms that have overcome their infirmities. The Supreme Court has intervened and supported strengthening of these tribunals. NGT is the newest of these tribunals that have been established since the Constitutional amendment was passed allowing for them. The jurisdiction of the NGT although statutorily limited, has evolved in the light of Supreme Court's jurisprudence on the powers of tribunals. Further the nature of environmental disputes are such that the NGT has had to expansively interpret both procedural mechanisms such as limitation period for allowing more disputes to be brought to the bench and by entering substantive areas such as climate change. **Patra, Swapan kumar & Krishna, Venni. (2014).** National Green Tribunal and Environmental Justice in India. Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Sciences. Accepted. The Government of India has formed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) during the year 2010. NGT is a 'quasi-judicial' body exclusively dealing with the environment related civil litigations. Before NGT evolved, there were two previous efforts to establish green courts in India. These were the National Environment Tribunal Act, of 1995 (META) and National Environment Appellate Authority Act, of 1997 (NEAA). However, the most effective environmental court in the form of NGT came into reality in 2010. After its establishment, NGT has settled many environmental issues and has got overwhelming response from different corners. This study conducted an empirical analysis of NGT judgments since its inception in October 2010 to December 2013. It analyzes the Impact of NGT, the locations of conflicts. Special emphasis is given to the Coastal Zone management-related conflicts settled in NGT. Although there are many limitations in the NGT act and its procedures, it can be viewed as a positive step towards environmental justice in India. **Khandare, Jayashree. (2015).** Role of National Green Tribunal in Protection of the Environment. National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 has been enacted to fulfill the long felt need of alternative forum to deliver speedy and inexpensive justice. The philosophy of public interest litigation is echoed in the legislation, a welcome direction for the class of victims who are unable to knock on the doors of judiciary. **Shrotria, Sudha. (2015).** Environmental justice: Is the National Green Tribunal of India effective?. Environmental Law Review. This article discusses the role of India's National Green Tribunal (NGT) which was established on 18 October 2010 as a dedicated environmental court under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 and became fully operational with effect from 4 July 2011. The NGT was constituted as a multidisciplinary body with the necessary expertise for the effective and speedy disposal of cases relating to environmental protection, forest conservation and enforcement of legal rights relating to environment protection. The article brings out the jurisdiction, powers and functions of the tribunal for effecting environmental justice, the significant cases adjudicated by it in the four years of its existence, the principles applied, the accessibility and value addition to environmental jurisprudence through innovative application of law and the objectivity demonstrated by the tribunal in balancing the protection of the environment and sustainable development. The tribunal, with its specific mandate, constitutes an important step in the access to justice on matters concerning the environment. **Agarwal, Sunil. (2011).** Establishment of National

Green Tribunal in India: End of Road for Public Interest Litigation. *Litigation & Procedure eJournal*. The establishment of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) ushers in a new era in environmental protection in India. NGT has been granted dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters with a view to expedite environmental justice. It addresses the need for courts dedicated exclusively to the cause of environment protection and has both original and appellate jurisdiction related to environmental laws in the country. Being a specialized quasi-judicial body, it is expected to enhance the enforceability of environmental law in the country. Despite having certain unique features to function as a specialized body on environmental matters, the Tribunal does not make provision for public interest litigation (PIL). It may be noted that PIL has played a very important role in enhancing environment protection in India. Thus, the success of the Supreme Court in relaxing the concept of locus standi to play a proactive role in the environment protection may be nullified by jurisdictional limits of the NGT. As a result, it would be difficult to seek remedy for violation of the constitutional right to a healthy environment under Article 21. **Singh, aprajita. (2021)**. A Decade of National Green Tribunal of India: Judgement Analysis and Observations. Established in 2010, it has been more than a decade since the establishment of the National Green Tribunal in India and in this context, the effectiveness of the National Green Tribunal as an institution comes to the forefront specifically from the lens of access to justice. To fill in the gap that is existing in the environmental area in the social and economic dimension, the role of an effective institution created for environment protection is a matter of utmost relevance. The judicial mechanism as a means of access to justice in environmental matters as one of the pillars of environmental governance is seen as means for achieving environmental justice and bringing in environmental democracy. National Green Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body dealing specifically with environment-related civil litigations, which brings about the plurality of justice with its multidisciplinary approach. This paper through the analysis of judgments of the year 2019 of the specific months where the tribunal has done significant intervention, through analysis looks into the impact the judgments have concerning environmental protection and innovations brought and jurisprudence created through its judgments and impact on the access to environmental justice. **Motiyani, Prachi. (2018)**. NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL OF INDIA AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. Towards Excellence. Improving the environmental rule of law, access to justice and environmental dispute resolution is essential for achieving the UN's 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG Goal 16—'to provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels'. To accomplish this goal, establishing specialised courts and tribunals dealing exclusively with environmental matters is becoming essential. All over the world, more than 1200 environmental courts and tribunals are functioning in various countries, and more such courts have been planned for the future. **Kurt Lewin and Edgar Schein, 2018** Mapping the Power Struggles of the National Green Tribunal of India: The Rise and Fall? This article documents the life-cycle of the National Green Tribunal of India (NGT). The NGT is officially described as a "specialized body equipped with necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues"—a forum offering greater plurality for environmental justice. Its international and national recognition promotes it as an exemplar for developing nations. The change management theory underpinning the paper is drawn from the work of thereby allowing the analysis of competing internal and external forces affecting the NGT. There is a transmigration of theory and its application from one discipline to another social science: business psychology and management to law. The article identifies and addresses the crisis, and analyses the reasons and actions of the principal actors or forces interested in supporting the NGT and, on the other hand, those who are concerned, challenged, and affected by its growth, activities, and popularity. **Gill, Gitanjali (2010)**. A Green Tribunal for India. *Journal of Environmental Law*. This article considers the passage of the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 in India and the proposal to constitute a National Green Tribunal as a specialist body to hear environmental cases. The article considers the debate surrounding the introduction of a specialist environmental tribunal and explores questions of its composition, jurisdiction and procedures. **Patra, Swapan kumar. (2013)**. Centre for Studies in Science Policy, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, The role of the "green tribunals" in India. This study conducted an empirical analysis of NGT judgments since its inception in October 2010 to December 2013. It analyzes the impact of NGT, the locations of conflicts. Special emphasis is given to the Coastal Zone management related conflicts settled in NGT. Although there many limitations in NGT act and its procedures, it can be viewed as a positive step towards the environmental justice in India. **Stephens, Tim. (2009)**. *International Courts and Environmental Protection*. International environmental law has come of age, yet the global environment continues to deteriorate. The challenge of the twenty-first century is to reverse this process by ensuring that governments comply fully with their obligations, and progressively assume stricter duties to preserve the environment. This book is the first comprehensive examination of international environmental litigation. Analyzing the spectrum of adjudicative bodies that are engaged in the resolution of environmental disputes, it offers a reappraisal of their relevance in contemporary contexts. The book critiques the contribution that arbitral awards and judicial decisions have made to the development of environmental law, and considers the looming challenges for international litigation. With its unique combination of scholarly analysis and practical discussion, this work is especially relevant to an era in which environmental matters are increasingly being brought before international jurisdictions, and will be of great interest to students and scholars engaged with this vital field. **Mbengue, Makane. (2022)**. *The Protection of the Environment Before African Regional Courts and Tribunals*. Despite the scarce jurisprudence, African regional courts African Regional Courts and tribunals have contributed significantly to the development of international environmental law by better linking environmental protection and human rights, strengthening the content of the duty of due diligence and shaping proactive environmental remedies Environmental remedies. In contributing to the development of international environmental law, these courts and tribunals engaged in cross-fertilization Cross-fertilization with other universal or regional courts. **Sands, Philippe. (2007)**. *Litigating Environmental Disputes: Courts, Tribunals and the Progressive Development of International Environmental Law*. The policy framework for investment: the social and environmental dimensions This paper is distributed as part of the official conference documentation and serves as background material for the relevant sessions in the programme. The views expressed in this paper do not necessarily represent those of the OECD or its member governments. **Harrison, James. (2013)**. Reflections on the Role of International Courts and Tribunals in the Settlement of Environmental Disputes and the Development of International Environmental Law. *Journal of Environmental Law*. This article explains and analyses key trends in the environmental jurisprudence of international courts and tribunals over the past decade. It starts by discussing the different jurisdictional bases that are available to bring environmental claims at the international level, as well as some of the problems that arise from the current consent-based system of international dispute settlement. The article then turns to examine the growing cross-fertilisation that is evident in the environmental case law. The article provides examples of this phenomenon in relation to the interpretation of substantive rules on environmental protection and in relation to the development of procedural mechanisms

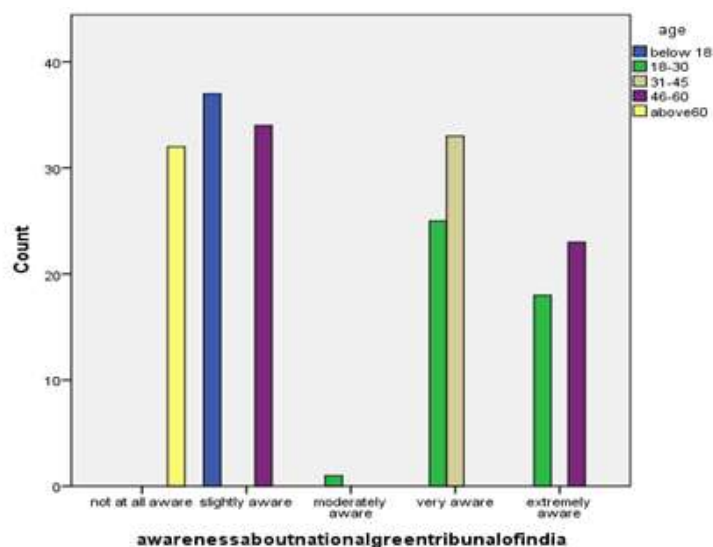
to deal with certain challenging aspects of environmental litigation. **Chazournes, Laurence. (2017).** Environmental Protection and Investment Arbitration: Yin and Yang. *ACDI - Anuario Colombiano de Derecho Internacional*. This article explores the interactions between international environmental law and international investment law. It discusses existing tools and procedural devices available before international courts and tribunals to promote compliance with emerging principles, standards, the way in which international courts and tribunals have had recourse to environmental protection through treaty interpretation. It then appraises the various ways that environmental protection is referred to in bilateral investment treaties. Finally, the article explores the procedural devices that could be used to take into account/address environmental considerations within the investment framework. **Ukponu, Michael. (2019).** Environmental Law and Access to Justice in Nigeria - A Case for a Specialised National Environment and Planning Tribunal (NEPT). *Nnamdi Azikiwe University Law Review* (2019). It is fair to comment that the dispensation of environmental justice and the implementation of environmental laws in Nigeria have suffered various challenges, especially the slow adjudication of environmental cases by regular courts with heavy caseloads spanning across different causes of action. This causes delays in accessing environmental justice to the detriment of affected persons. This paper proposes the establishment of a specialised National Environment and Planning Tribunal (NEPT) to ensure the efficient and informed dispensation of environmental justice in Nigeria, citing successes recorded by specialised environmental courts/tribunals in Australia and India. **Boyle, Alan. (2007).** The Environmental Jurisprudence of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. *The International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law*. This presentation starts out with an overview of the environmental jurisprudence of international tribunals and courts in the last decade. The author then examines the jurisprudence of the ITLOS and considers four issues that have arisen: the precautionary principle; environmental impact assessment; environmental co-operation; and jurisdiction over marine environmental disputes. **Anderson, Michael. (2002).** International Environmental Law in Indian Courts. *Review of European Community & International Environmental Law*. The judge-made law of environmental protection in India recognizes international principles which tend to be treated in a more circumspect manner in other common law jurisdictions. Not only have Indian courts explicitly recognized a human right to environmental protection, they have also incorporated the polluter pays principle, the precautionary principle, and the principle of sustainable development into domestic law. These developments post important questions for both theory and practice. **Chng, Kenny. (2021).** Conceptualising A Role for The Common Law in Environmental Protection in Singapore. *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*. In Singapore, the key institutions driving environmental protection are the legislature and the executive. The judiciary's role in environmental protection has thus far been relatively minor. By drawing upon environmental law theory and comparative analysis of other common law jurisdictions, this article explores avenues through which the common law can be engaged more meaningfully to further environmental protection in Singapore.

1.2 Methodology

For the purpose of this study Empirical research is used. It is a way of gaining knowledge by means of direct and indirect observation or experience. This empirical study includes a self tested questionnaire which contains yes or no questions and other choices accordingly by using the Convenient sampling method. The sample size is 203. This is a non- doctrinal study. This paper depends on both primary and secondary data. The primary data for the present study is collected using sampling techniques. Convenient sampling is used to collect the primary information from the respondents. A random sample selected from the available general public who are the regular users of online platforms. The primary data which has been analysed using Frequencies, Chi-Square test and Crosstab method, Anova. The secondary data is collected from books, journals, articles and e-sources. The researcher has also utilized books, articles, notes, comments and other writings to incorporate the various views of the multitude of jurists, with the intention of presenting a holistic view. The dependent variables are age and educational qualification.

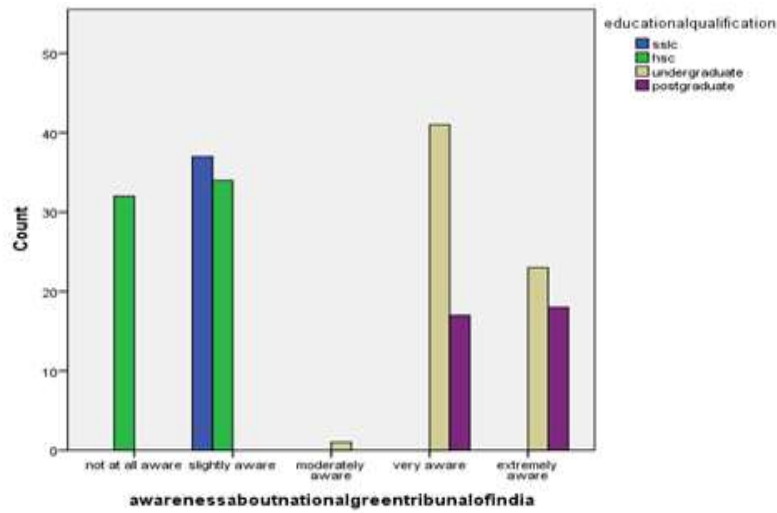
1.3 Analysis

Figure 1



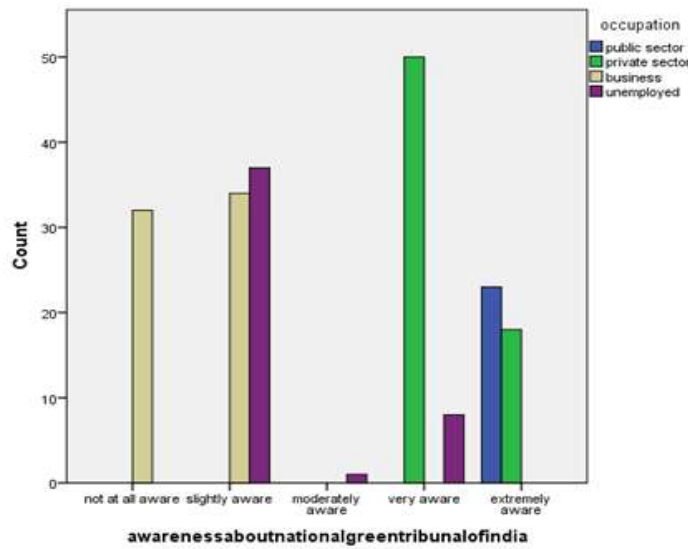
Legend: The figure 1 represents awareness on National Green Tribunal in India on the basis of age.

Figure 2



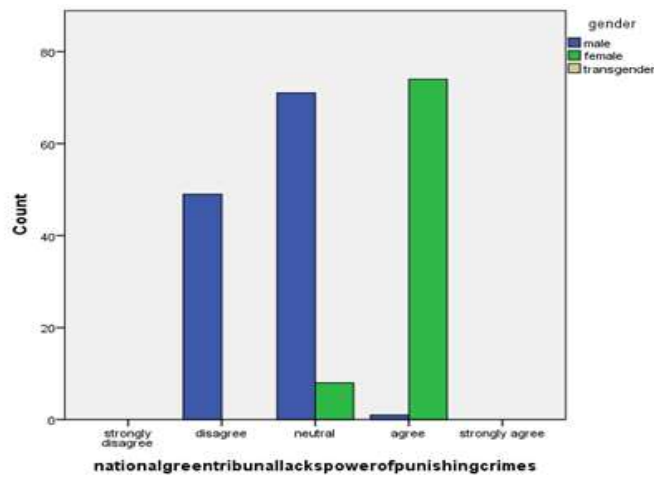
Legend: The figure 2 represents awareness on the National Green Tribunal in India on the basis of educational qualification.

Figure 3



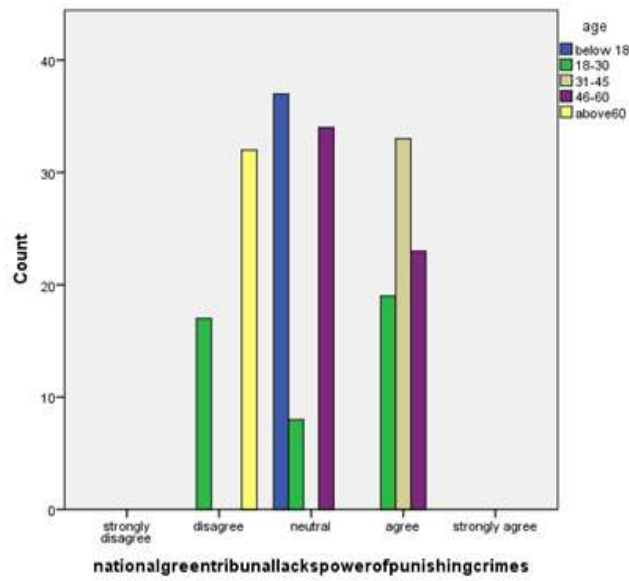
Legend: The figure 3 represents awareness on the National Green Tribunal in India on the basis of occupation.

Figure 4



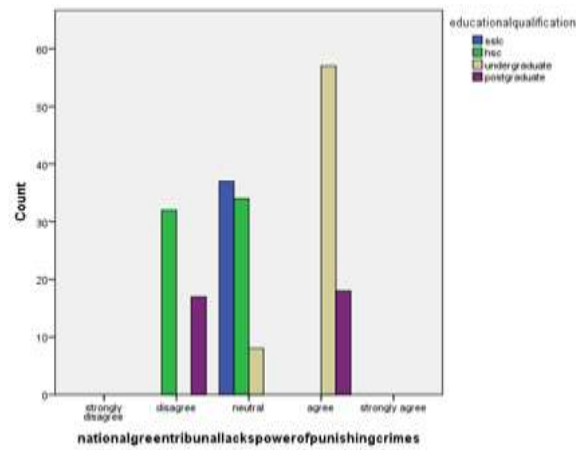
Legend: The figure 4 represents that the National Green Tribunal lacks punishing powers in India on the basis of gender.

Figure 5



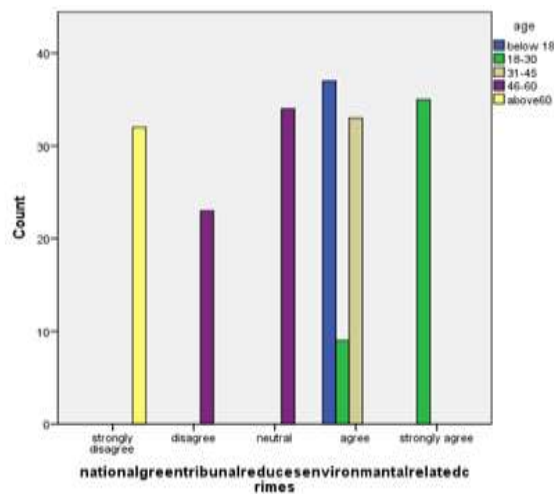
Legend: The figure 5 represents that the National Green Tribunal lacks punishing powers in India on the basis of age.

Figure 6



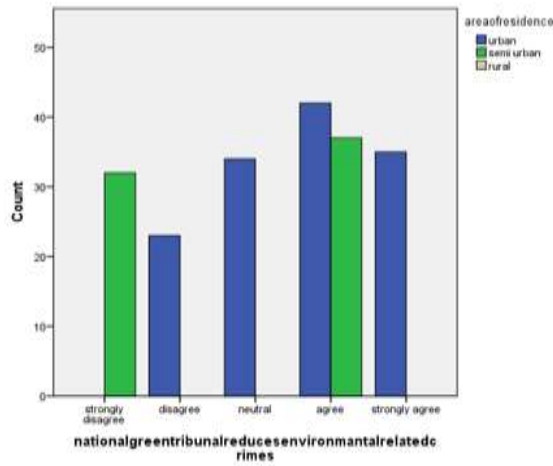
Legend: The figure 6 represents that the National Green Tribunal lacks punishing powers in India on the basis of educational qualification.

Figure 7



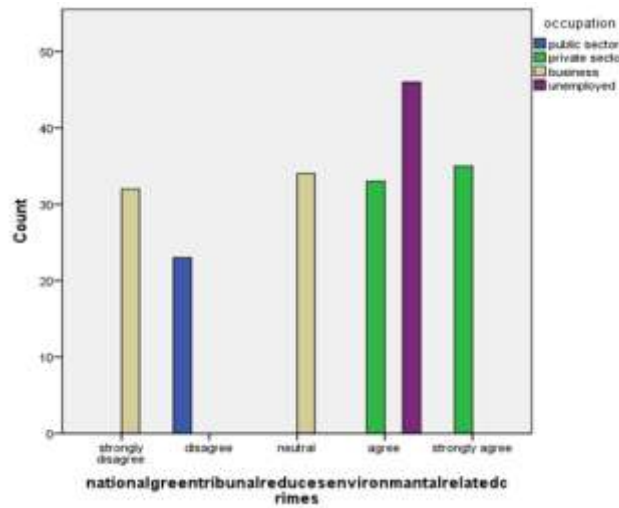
Legend: The figure 7 represents that the National Green Tribunal reduces environmental crimes on the basis of age.

Figure 8



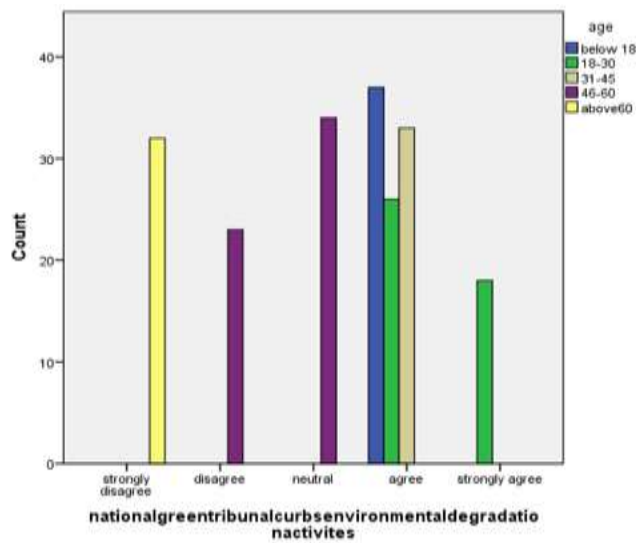
Legend: The figure 8 represents that the National Green Tribunal reduces environmental crimes on the basis of residential status.

Figure 9



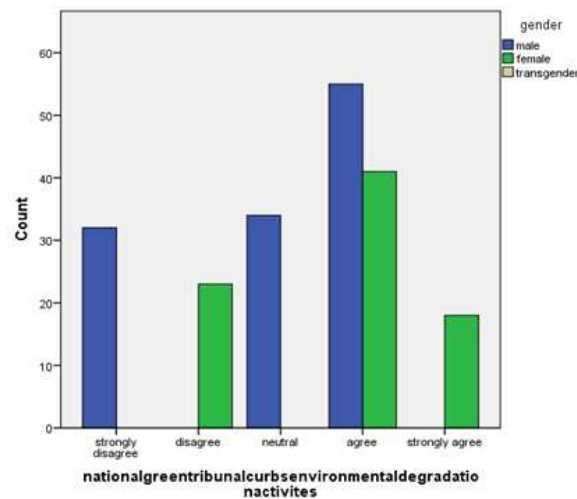
Legend: The figure 9 represents that the National Green Tribunal reduces environmental crimes on the basis of occupation.

Figure 10



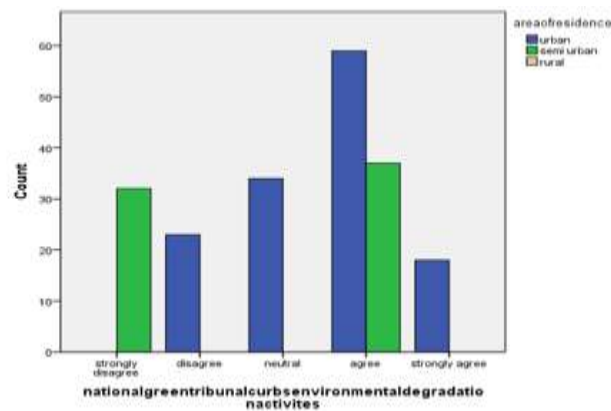
Legend: The figure 10 represents that the National Green Tribunal curbs environmental degradation on the basis of age.

Figure 11



Legend: The figure 11 represents that the National Green Tribunal curbs environmental degradation on the basis of gender.

Figure 12



Legend: The figure 12 represents that the National Green Tribunal curbs environmental degradation on the basis of area of residence.

RESULTS:

The figure 1 shows that people seems aware about national green tribunal,age group of 18-30 are major respondents.The figure 2 shows responses in relation to education and awareness on national green tribunal,Undergraduates show more awareness whereas Hsc and Sslc students seems slightly aware about national green tribunal.The figure 3 discusses in relation to occupational status and private sector contributed major responses.The figure 4 shows national green tribunal lacks punishing powers and majority of female and male responses stated neutral.The figure 5 shows national green tribunal lacks punishing powers among age categories,all age categories shows agreeable responses.The figure 6 shows shows national green tribunal lacks punishing powers among educational categories,many of the responses stating neutral,undergraduates and postgraduates shows agreeability.The figure 7 deals on national green tribunal role on reducing of environmental crimes on basis of age and majority people agrees to the statement.The figure 8 deals on national green tribunal role on reducing of environmental crimes on basis of age and shows agreeability.The figure 9 deals on national green tribunal role on reducing of environmental crimes on basis of residential status and more urban and semi urban responses shows agreeability.The figure 10 represents that the National Green Tribunal curbs environmental degradation,age group of 18-30 are major respondents and results agreeability.The figure 11 represents that the National Green Tribunal curbs environmental degradation majority of male and female respondents shows agreeability towards the statement.The figure 12 represents that the National Green Tribunal curbs environmental degradation on residential status urban and semi urban responses shows agreeability.

DISCUSSION:

The figure 1 represents awareness on National Green Tribunal in India on the basis of age.The figure 1 shows that people seems aware about national green tribunal,age group of 18-30 are major respondents.The figure 2 represents awareness on National Green Tribunal in India on the basis of educational qualification.The figure 2 shows responses in relation to education and awareness on national green tribunal,Undergraduates show more awareness whereas Hsc and Sslc students seems slightly aware about national green tribunal.The figure 3 represents awareness on the National Green Tribunal in

India on the basis of occupation. The figure 3 discusses in relation to occupational status and private sector contributed major responses. The figure 4 shows national green tribunal lacks punishing powers and majority of female and male responses stated neutral. The figure 4 represents that the National Green Tribunal lacks punishing powers in India on the basis of gender. The figure 4 shows national green tribunal lacks punishing powers and majority of female and male responses stated neutral. The figure 5 represents that the National Green Tribunal lacks punishing powers in India on the basis of age. The figure 5 shows national green tribunal lacks punishing powers among age categories, all age categories shows agreeable responses. The figure 6 represents that the National Green Tribunal lacks punishing powers in India on the basis of educational qualification. The figure 6 shows shows national green tribunal lacks punishing powers among educational categories, many of the responses stating neutral, undergraduates and postgraduates shows agreeability. The figure 7 deals on national green tribunal role on reducing of environmental crimes on basis of age and majority people agrees to the statement. The figure 8 represents that the National Green Tribunal reduces environmental crimes on the basis of residential status. The figure 8 deals on national green tribunal role on reducing of environmental crimes on basis of age and shows agreeability. The figure 9 represents that the National Green Tribunal reduces environmental crimes on the basis of occupation. The figure 9 deals on national green tribunal role on reducing of environmental crimes on basis of residential status and more urban and semi urban responses shows agreeability. The figure 10 represents that the National Green Tribunal curbs environmental degradation on the basis of age. The figure 10 represents that the National Green Tribunal curbs environmental degradation, age group of 18-30 are major respondents and results agreeability. The figure 11 represents that the National Green Tribunal curbs environmental degradation majority of male and female respondents shows agreeability towards the statement. The figure 12 represents that the National Green Tribunal curbs environmental degradation on residential status urban and semi urban responses shows agreeability. The figure 12 represents that the National Green Tribunal curbs environmental degradation on the basis of area of residence.

LIMITATIONS:

The major limitation of the study is sample size. Sample size is 203 responses. Conclusion is drawn based upon looking into the 203 samples. Based on the limited responses, conclusion cannot be drawn about effectiveness of emission regulations and norms. The restrictive area of sample size is also another drawback. Limited Sampling size and Sampling Frame acts as major drawback of the study. Responses were collected by Google Forms, through the online portal which may have some possible errors and that would be a drawback of the study.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Expansion of Regional Benches: NGT benches have to expand manifolds. These new regional benches should have been based in a place that has the highest forest cover or large mineral deposit.
- Establishing Larger Bench in NGT: Appeal may be provided against the order of the NGT before a larger Bench of the Tribunal before the matter reaches to the Supreme Court or High Court.
- Sorting out Administrative Inadequacy: Vacancies in NGT, needs to be filled as soon as possible.
- Collaborative Government Approach: There is a need for the central and state governments to work in collaboration with the NGT for balancing between environment & economy.

4. Conclusion

The National Green Tribunal is an exclusive quasi judicial body to settle disputes in relation to the subject matter of the environment. India became the third country in the world, after Australia and New Zealand, to exclusive body, specialized environmental tribunal, and the first developing country to do so with the founding of the NGT. The NGT deals with all forms environmental crimes and issues as it is powered by National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. The appeal from order, award, decree of the tribunal directly lies on Supreme Court. NGT shows lack of effectiveness in terms of its performance. The National level tribunal only has its regional offices in six prominent areas of the country. People aware about green tribunal and they opined that as a protector of environment. National Green Tribunal cannot have its jurisdiction over Forest Acts, hence protecting forest resources by NGT isn't possible. However it is required that add more powers similar to that of Environmental Agency of United Kingdom. The suggestion of the research is to expand regional offices of NGT to secure full effectiveness of NGT and to include all acts relating to environment under jurisdiction of NGT for a better conservation.

References

1. Gill, Gitanjali [Gita]. (2014). The National Green Tribunal of India: A Sustainable Future through the Principles of International Environmental Law*. *Environmental Law Review*. 16. 183-202. 10.1350/enr.2014.16.3.217.
2. Chowdhury, Nupur & Srivastava, Nidhi. (2017). National Green Tribunal in India: Examining the Question of Jurisdiction. *Asia Pacific Journal of Environmental Law*. 21. 10.4337/apjel.2018.02.06.
3. Patra, Swapan kumar & Krishna, Venni. (2014). National Green Tribunal and Environmental Justice in India. *Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Sciences*.
4. Khandare, Jayashree. (2015). Role of National Green Tribunal in Protection Environment. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. 10.2139/ssrn.2713728.

5. Shrotria, Sudha. (2015). Environmental justice: Is the National Green Tribunal of India effective?. *Environmental Law Review*. 17. 169-188. 10.1177/1461452915595548.
6. Agarwal, Sunil. (2011). Establishment of National Green Tribunal in India: End of Road for Public Interest Litigation. *Litigation & Procedure eJournal*.
7. Singh,aprajita. (2021). A Decade of National Green Tribunal of India: Judgement Analysis and Observations. 10.21203/rs.3.rs-792456/v1. eated through its judgments and impact on the access to environmental justice.
8. Motiyani, Prachi. (2018). NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL OF INDIA AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. *Towards Excellence*. 82-88. 10.37867/TE100310.
9. Gill, Gitanjali [Gita]. (2018). Mapping the Power Struggles of the National Green Tribunal of India: The Rise and Fall?. *Asian Journal of Law and Society*. 7. 10.1017/als.2018.28.
10. Gill, Gitanjali [Gita]. (2010). A Green Tribunal for India. *Journal of Environmental Law*. 22. 461-474. 10.1093/jel/eqq014.
11. Patra, Swapan kumar. (2013). Centre for Studies in Science Policy, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University.
12. Stephens, Tim. (2009). *International Courts and Environmental Protection*. 10.1017/CBO9780511576034.
13. Mbengue, Makane. (2022). The Protection of the Environment Before African Regional Courts and Tribunals. 10.1007/978-94-6265-507-2_10.
14. Sands, Philippe. (2007). *Litigating Environmental Disputes: Courts, Tribunals and the Progressive Development of International Environmental Law*. 10.1163/ej.9789004161566.i-1188.96. Session 2.2.:
15. Harrison, James. (2013). Reflections on the Role of International Courts and Tribunals in the Settlement of Environmental Disputes and the Development of International Environmental Law. *Journal of Environmental Law*. 25. 501-514. 10.1093/jel/eqt018.
16. Chazournes, Laurence. (2017). Environmental Protection and Investment Arbitration: Yin and Yang. *ACDI - Anuario Colombiano de Derecho Internacional*. 10. 371. 10.12804/revistas.urosario.edu.co/acdi/a.5296.
17. Ukponu, Michael. (2019). Environmental Law and Access to Justice in Nigeria - A Case for a Specialised National Environment and Planning Tribunal (NEPT). 1. 20-52. *Nnamdi Azikiwe University Law Review (2019) 1 (1) 20-52*.
18. Boyle, Alan. (2007). The Environmental Jurisprudence of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. *The International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law*. 22. 369-381. 10.1163/157180807781870354.
19. Anderson, Michael. (2002). International Environmental Law in Indian Courts. *Review of European Community & International Environmental Law*. 7. 21 - 30. 10.1111/1467-9388.00123.
20. Chng, Kenny. (2021). Conceptualising A Role for The Common Law in Environmental Protection in Singapore. *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*. 1-20. 10.1017/asjcl.2021.16.