

10th Global

Business and Marketing Studies Summit

Perspectives on the imperative of the value chain of environmental justice

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Environmental justice entails that people should be treated equally when making any environmental decision that will be beneficial or harmful to the environment. In a situation where a poor community is targeted as a site for deposit of toxic waste, this is purely perpetration of environmental injustice. Nowadays, deliberately targeting poor and vulnerable people and their communities to perpetuate this injustice is still rampant despite various international, national, regional, and local instruments prohibiting this injustice. This paper revisits the principles of environmental injustice and presents various processes that have the potentials to promote the elimination of environmental injustices that are prominent as a deliberate action in poor communities while the rich communities are exempted. This paper notes that environmental injustices still prevailing and rampant post-1994 South African democratic dispensation. To address this, the current paper reviews the provision of transformative constitutionalism and various pieces of legislation that have been introduced to tackle and combat environmental injustice and foster environmental justice where all people are treated equally with dignity and fairness.

Keywords: Environment injustices, environmental inequalities, discrimination, black communities, transformative interventions, South Africa.

Received: January 21,2022 | **Accepted:** January 24,2022 | **Published:** March 14,2022