Towards Ethical Economics: An Initial Exploration

Rajiv Kumar

Glasgow April 3, 2007 The Stern Report:

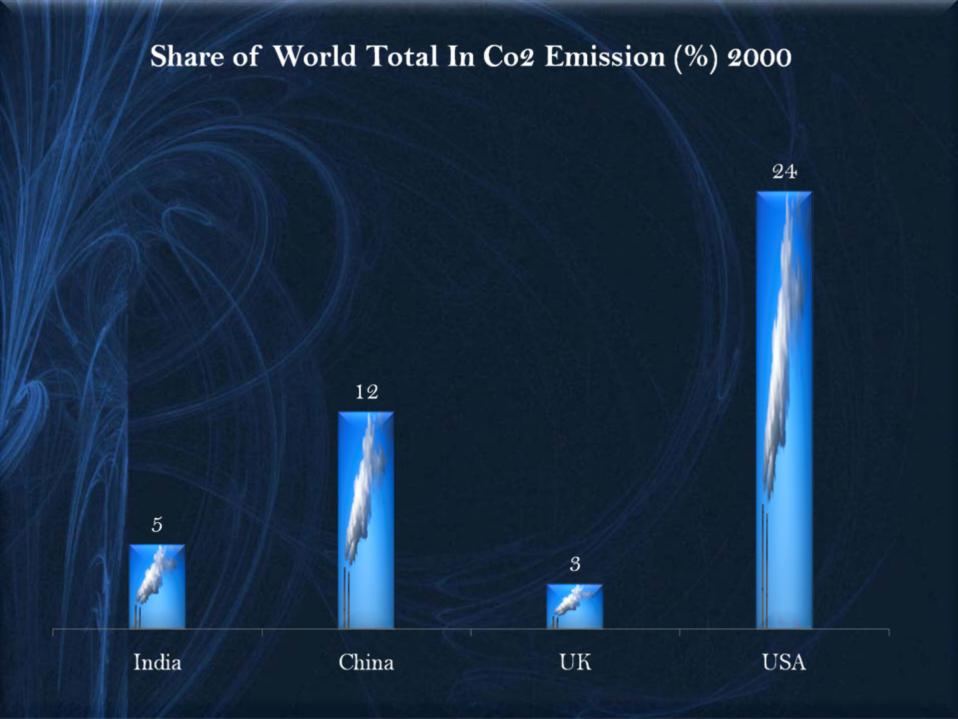
Business as Usual will simply not do

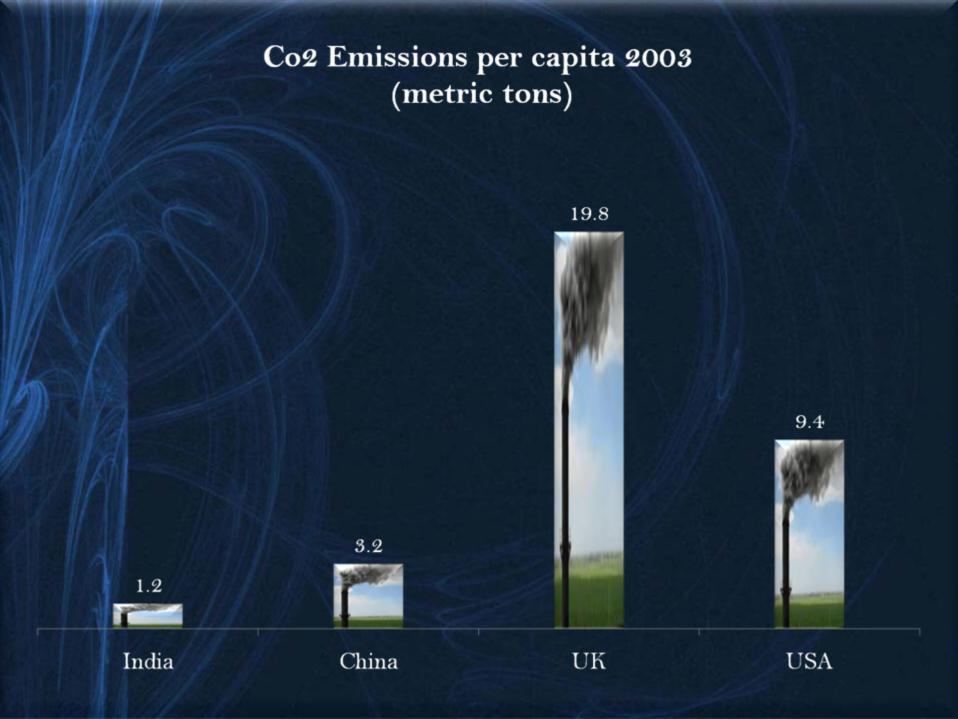
IPCC Report:

• Damage already done will have adverse impacts in coming years:
The Inertial effect

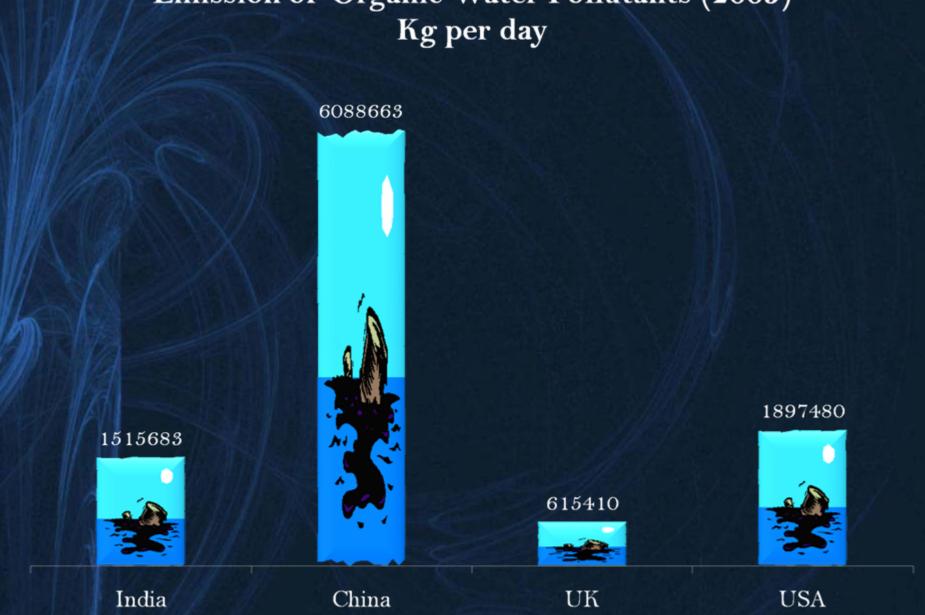
Gore Film:

• Ecology could be one of the major issues in presidential elections



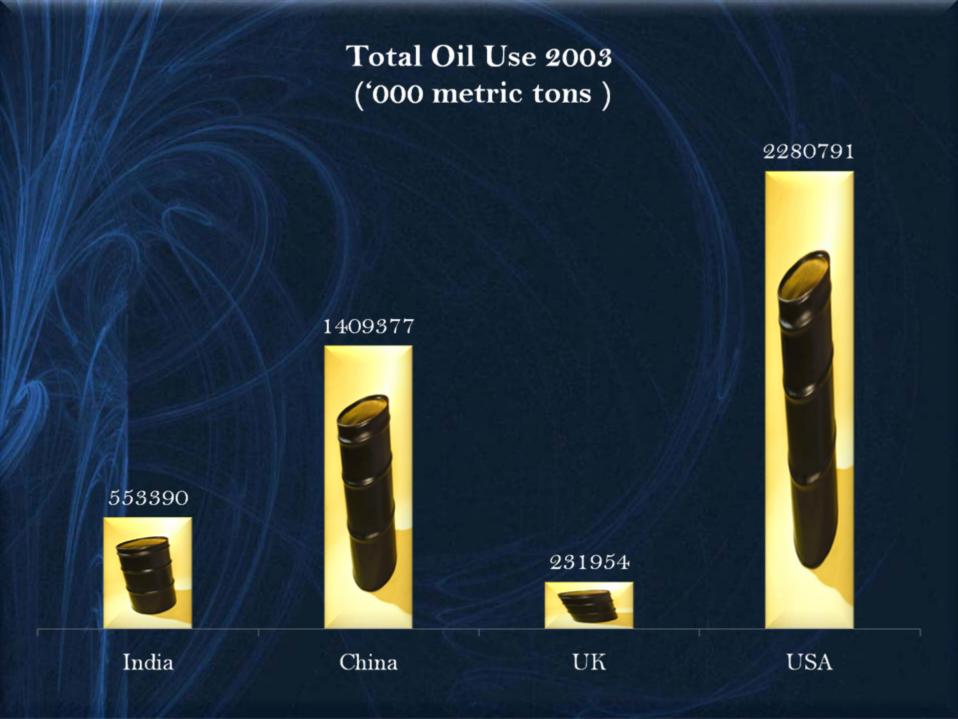


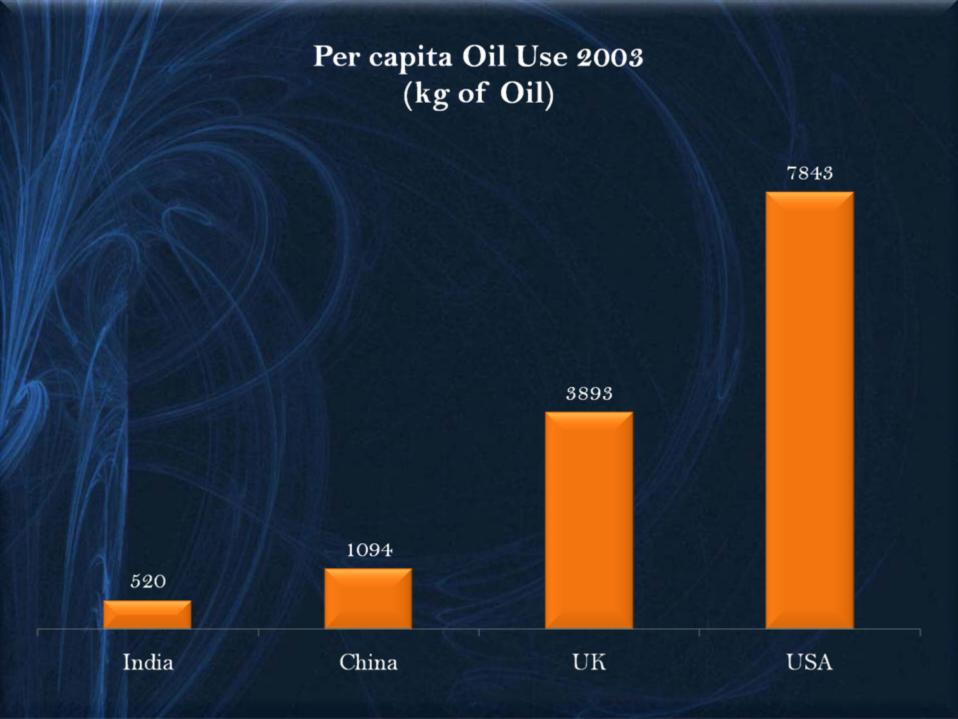
Emission of Organic Water Pollutants (2003) Kg per day

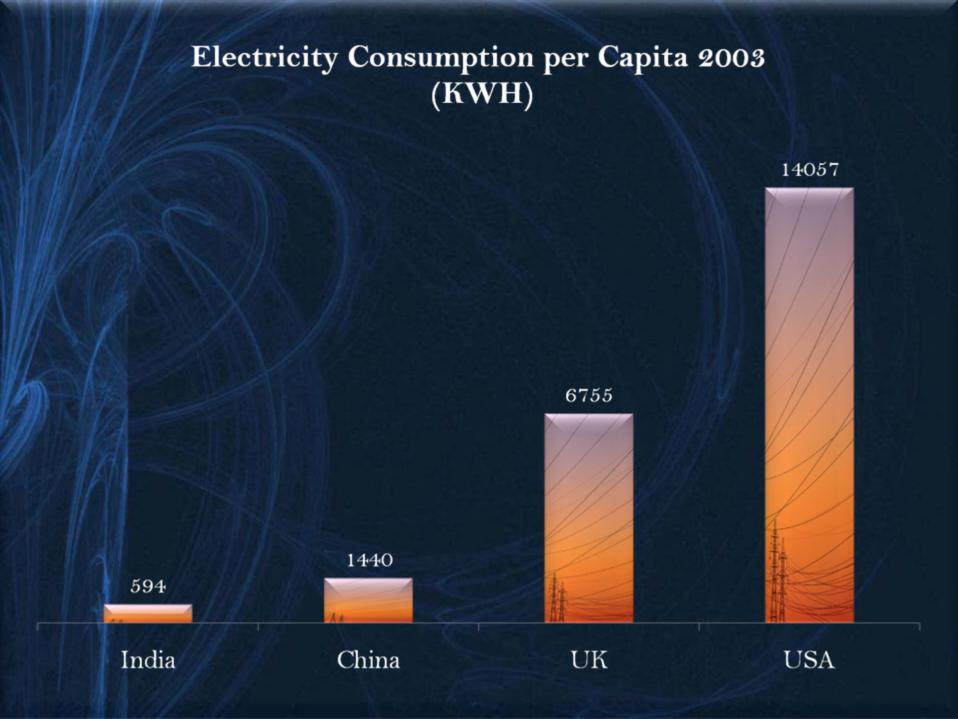


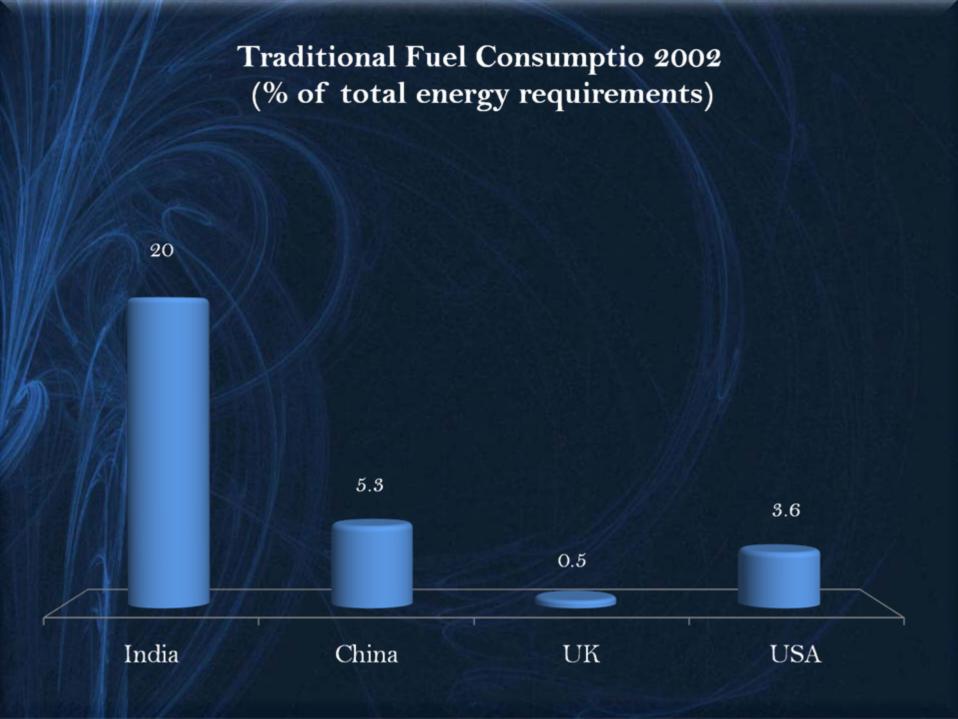
Emission of Organic Water Pollutants (2003) Kgs per day per worker

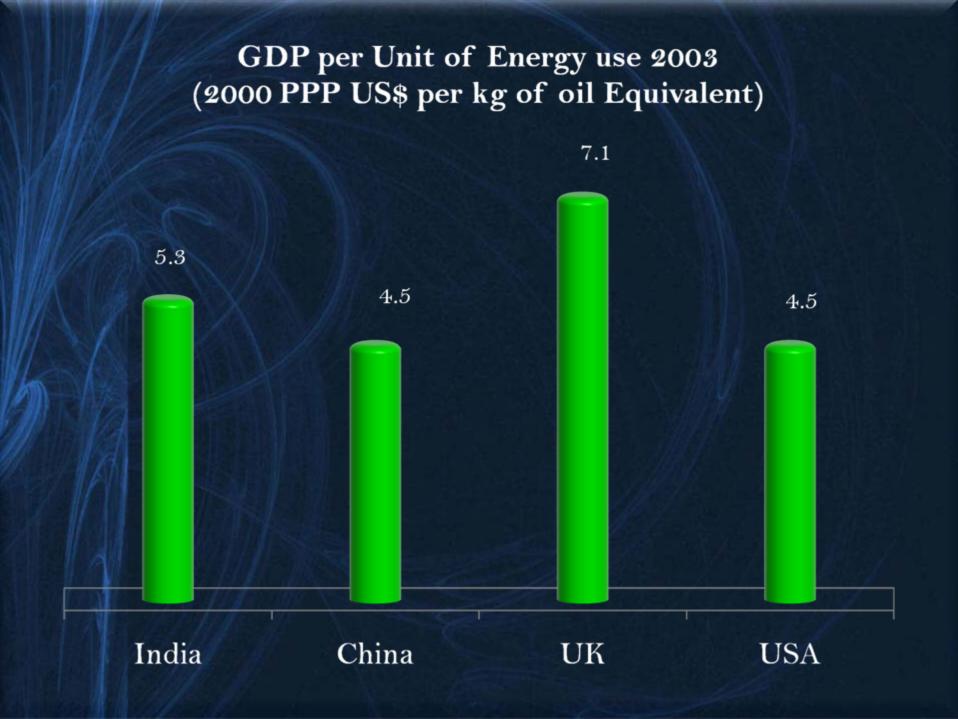


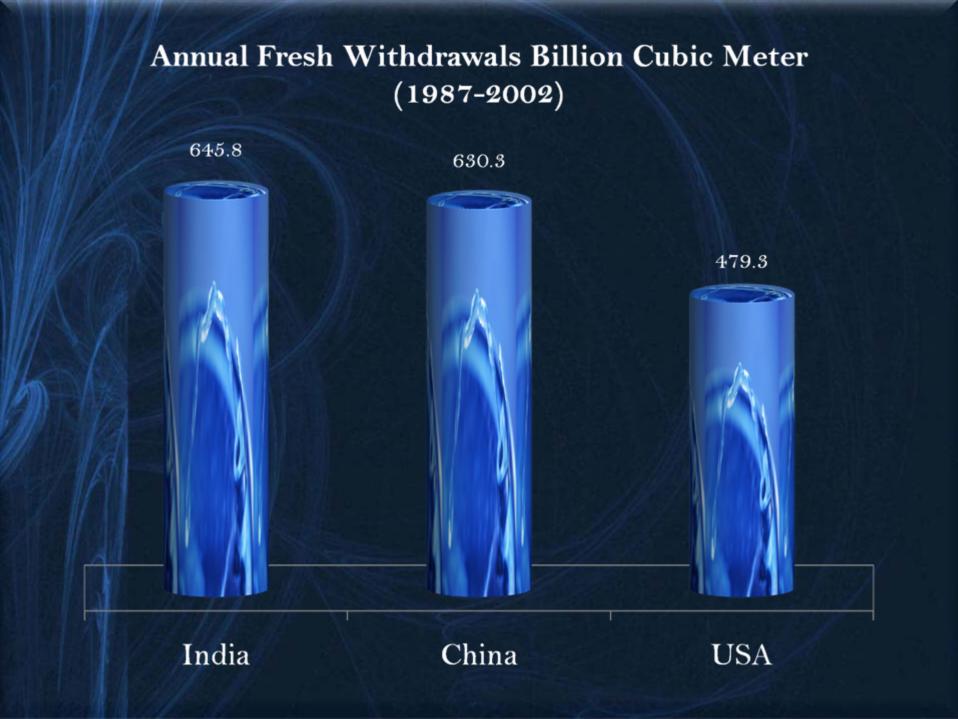




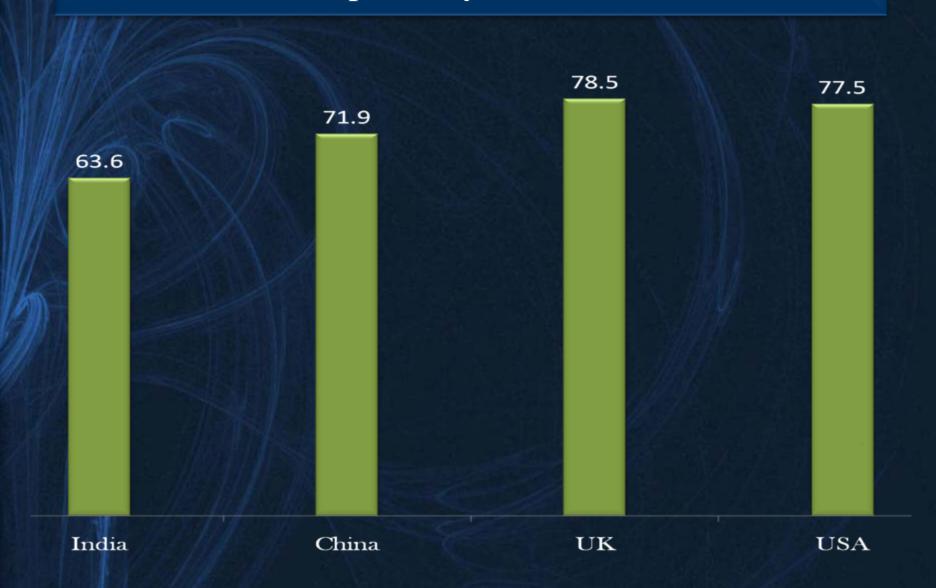


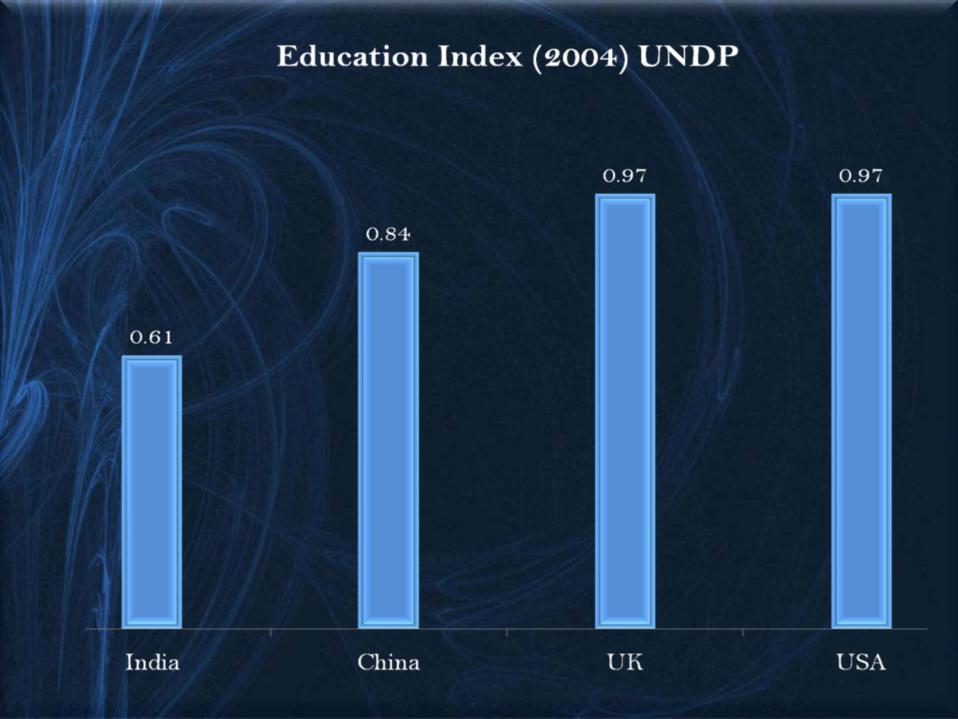


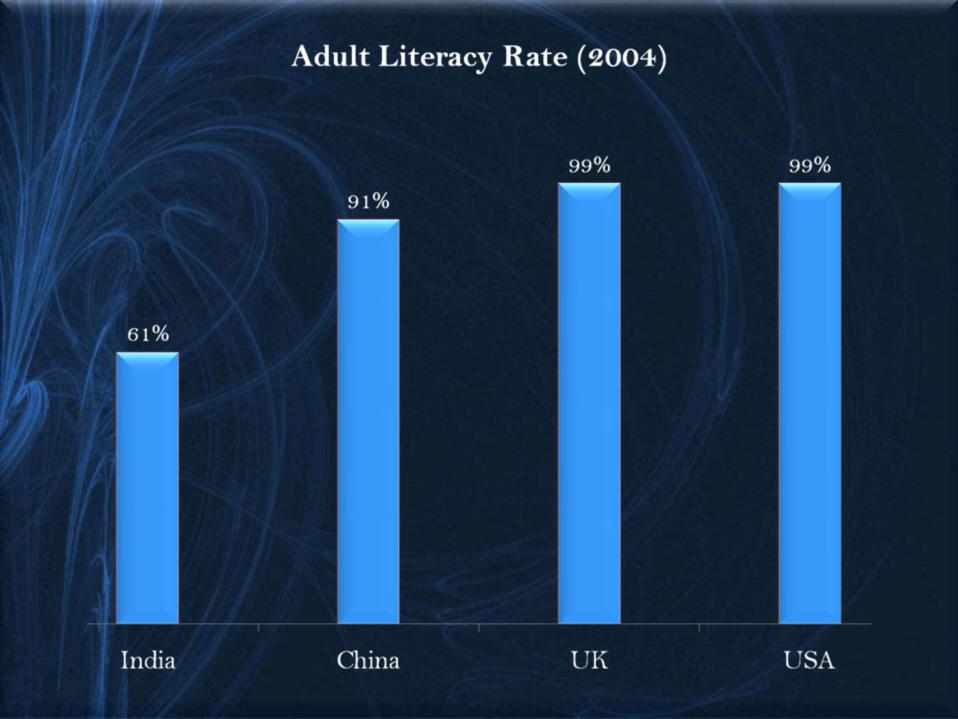


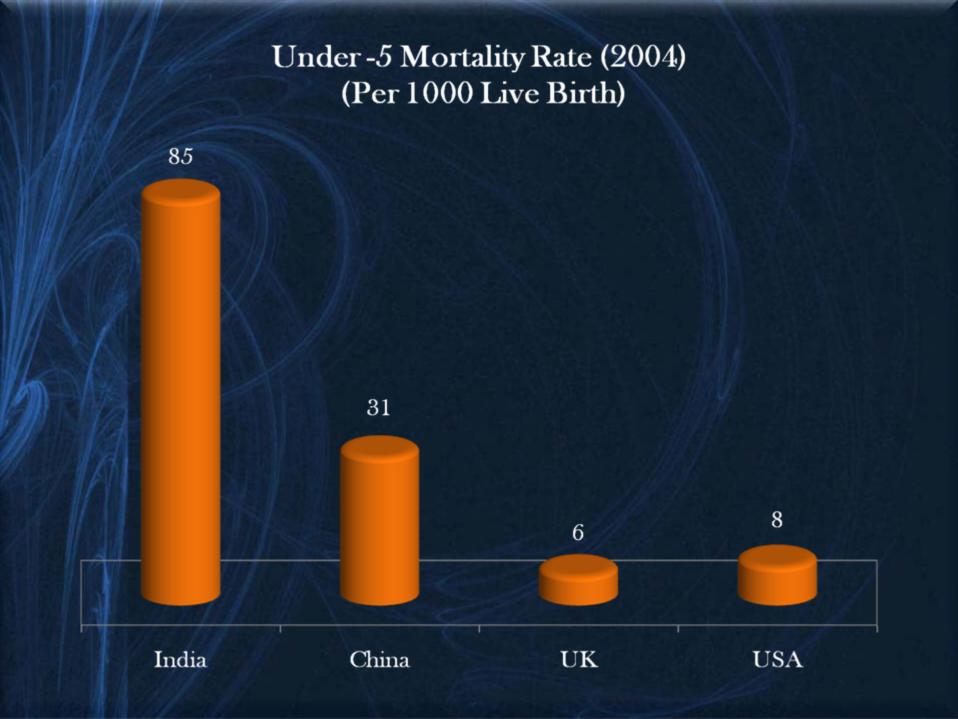


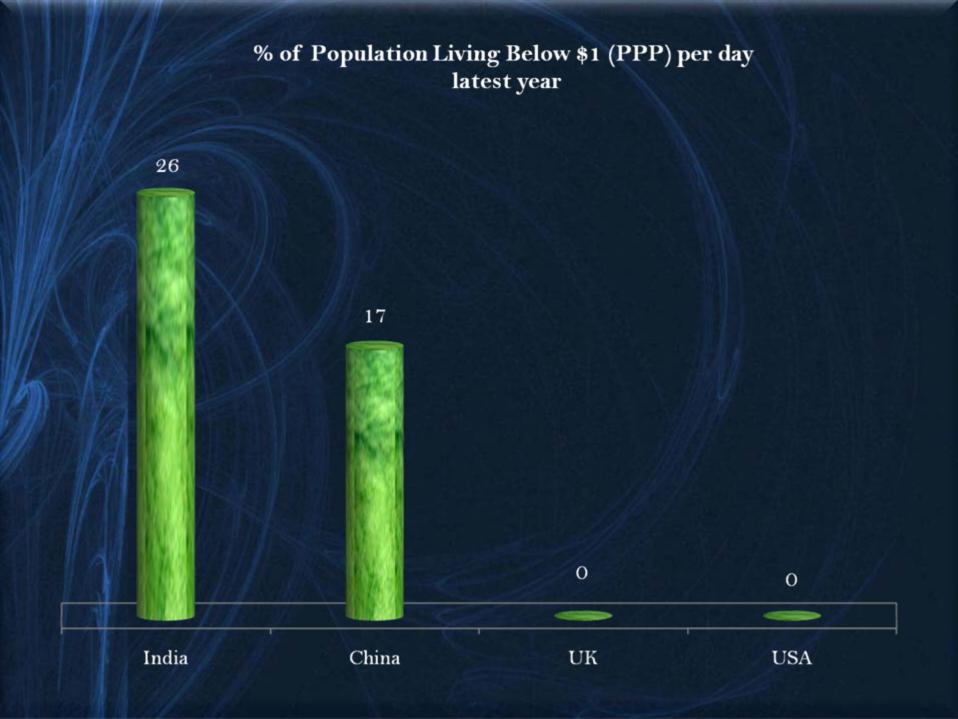
Life Expectancy at birth (2004)

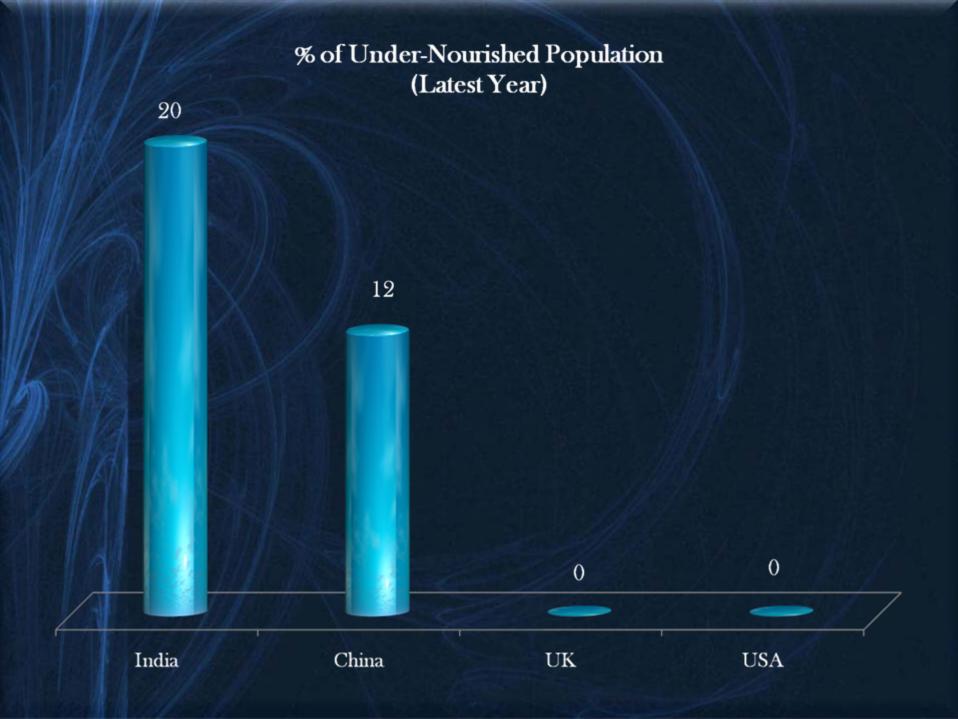












Business as Usual Will Just Not Do

Steps Forward

This is all too much hype!

It is the developed country problem

It is our right to raise our consumption and income levels

In any case there is always retrofit (Trout in the Thames)

Steps Forward: The Shared Responsibility

Can we take the chance?

Change our view of the global commons

Change our view on working together; TRIPS don't apply

Share developing country aspirations and costs of adopting new technologies

Accept 0.7% of GDP as aid.

India's Stance

No more US and Them: This is about Global Commons.

Costs of new technology could be shared.

An opportunity for taking leadership in ideas and technology

India's unique situation needs new solutions

India's Traditional Thought



Not conquest of Nature but Nurturing Nature and Finding a place within it.



Needs are different from Demands



Needs are finite but Demands can be Endless



Greed intervenes- Demands cannot be rationalized

Needs

Has to be an ethical basis for this

Requires a set of Ethics and Value Norms

Whose norms: Can conflict be avoided

Rich will have to set the lead-the poor are below all ethically acceptable levels

Needs

• Poverty Reduction: Highest Priority

• Let greed and fashion and keeping up with Joneses not predominate

• If each one of us could act truly independently and be 'swantantra'

• The Pressure to Drink: My case

Conclusion: Steps Forward



Rethink Development Strategies based on needs and not demands



Rich countries will have to take the lead and set examples



Adopt new technologies that encourage shared use.



Generate more environment friendly technologies



Identify global commons and agree to share costs of nurturing them

