

AN APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS : A STUDY FROM INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Every being and none being organism of the universe have belonged to an environment. The environment protection Act 1986 says that environment is the sum total of water, air and land, inter-relationship among themselves and also with human being other living organism and property. Today the subject of environmental pollution is a major threat to future generation. Man is regarded to be the chief cause for environmental degradation because man and environment is reciprocally related to one another. For the basic need, man depends on environment and the value of environment is determined by Man. Man's activity and behaviour is the main cause of environmental being. Therefore as, a human being man has some responsibility towards environment for better future. This paper is an attempt to focus the value of ethics in context to manifold problems facing the environment of India based on common discussions.

Every human being and non-being organism of the universe has belonged to a definite environment. Environment may be a physical, non-physical or moral. Nobody can exist by ignoring an environment. earth, water, air, fire, plants, animals, agriculture, dresses, culture, food habit, literature, economic condition, political status, being and non-being organisms etc are stand under one umbrella which is togetherly called environment. The external conditions and factors of environment determine the existence, growth and development of all organisms and focuses all their activities. The Environment Protection Act 1986 says, that Environment is the

sum total of water, air and land inter-relationship among themselves and also with human beings, other living organism and property.

Man is a larger part of environment and considered himself to be superior to animals. So, he thought he has capacity to shape the environment as he wants. Consequence, all environmental activities are completely based on man's behaviour.

Here, the problem arises unhindered exploitation and destruction of nature and natural elements that concern ecological imbalance not merely India but for the world as well. This paper is an attempt to analyse the value of ethics in context

to manifold problems facing the environment of India based on common discussions.

India is a homeland of a variety of species of animals and birds. People of India can proud and inspired for her rich culture and religion taken together. Love of nature is seen in religion, culture and even education. Indian heritage highlights a spiritual home for the environment ethos by worshipping nature in many forms. The vaidic, Jania and Buddhist traditions have preached the principle of ecological harmony. "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"-the world as one family is the main principle of ancient Indian seers, Sands, stone, rocks, birds, animal, men and women are belonged to be one family. The earliest deities and gods were manifested representations of nature. The wind was Vayu, the rain was Varuna, and the fire was Agni etc. Again, Lord Gangosha is an excellent example of the harmonious blending of different levels of existence "animal-human divine". We can mention Sankardeva a pioneer priest of Vaisnavism and an environmental ethicist of Assam, who tried to propagate environmental consciousness in his ethical preaches "Kritana Ghosa" that "Kukura Srigala Gardhorvara atmaram janio sabako pari kariba pranam" here through the writings of sankardeva we must learn to respect all beings equally. The teaching of these religions don't led only quest for spiritual freedom but synthesize in a system of ethical awareness and moral responsibility in order to ecological balance in nature.

In recent time, to fulfill the basic needs of food, cloth and shelter as well to walk up of two steps for progress, man have done unhindered exploitation of nature and natural elements that ecological balance has been seriously deteriorated. With the rapid growth of industrialization, deforestation, population growth, global warming etc which are called natural corollary of progress for which the environment suffers as well as threatening the very existence of the biosphere. Consequently, it affects not only the health of human race-nor extinction of species, it also affects depletion of non-renewable resources, polluted landfills, rise in air and water

pollution, took a tsunami, hurricanes, glacier meltdowns etc. However, it is impractical to suggest to stop the industrialization or deforestation as such it hinders two steps forward. The idea is that man can take the middle position regarding environmental degradation.

In this context, ethics refers to the most important values and beliefs of an individual or society. It is a question of right and wrong. Here, environmental ethics can play a vital role to run our life smoothly and can make a balance between man and other beings. It deals with moral grounds for social policies aimed at protecting the earth's environment and remedying environmental degradation such that reforestation is immediately needed for deforestation. It also makes awareness about the affects of technology, industry, economic expansion and population growth. Environmental ethics studies the moral relationship of human beings and also the value and moral status of the environment and its non human content. Regarding this, environmental ethics stands on a frontier not for the needs of moral responsibility of human subjects; but for the needs of biological objects too. People want to live in harmony with nature in order to entertain the balanced nature of environment. It implies that the purpose of environmental ethics is teleological, not mechanical in the sense that it consists of a goal that is to realize the harmonizes relation between human beings including other species of nature.

Today, the chief issues of environmental ethics are related to the duties of human with respect to the environment and obligation, and means in preserving biodiversity for the sake of human beings living in the world today or in the future or for the sake of entities within the environment itself, irrespective of any human beings.

We are living in a 'Global village' as a global change. But first of all we should be a human being with the gift of intellectual power. As a human being we have some obligation for our incoming generations to consume some natural elements. With environmental ethics we can ensure that we are doing our part to keep the environment safe and

protected. And by cultivating a moral values man can transform mindset into developed one. In this respect, human beings have some duties to environment because men have environmental obligations for the sake of human being living in the world today. For human beings in the future, or for

the sake of entities within the environment itself, it should be needed to moral teaching every one and all ages. Otherwise, human being doesn't aware about what is right or wrong or what is moral obligations towards environment.

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