

THE NECESSITY OF HARMONY BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL AND ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

There are constant changes in the environment – it comes about at a slower pace than changes to the individual as he goes through the stages of childhood, adolescence, youth, adulthood and old age. The changes to the individual are irreversible during his short life time. The

environmental changes are also not static, but society and individuals adjust to these changes. While certain environmental changes can be avoided or delayed, this very much depends on the individual's Aim and Objectives of life. So, it is this aim and objectives of life that determines the Harmonious blending of individual and his environment. The objective of individuals may or may not be fulfilled during his life time; but he can make progress towards the same so that the succeeding generations can enjoy the fruits of his actions. In fact this interaction between the individual and environment in society is what is called Life or History of Life. History is HIS-STORY of how he has lived a life of fulfillment in harmony with his environment. Man's sojourn or his term, is limited by his life time. But history of man continues and the environment exists with whatever he does to it. So, it is but natural that man co-exists with his environment with Harmony so that future generation of humans may thank him.

KEY WORDS: *Environmental changes are seen throughout our lives from the childhood to adulthood; though irreversible we can try and make adjustments to changes that are inevitable. Human history is the progress of this.*

INTRODUCTION

There is always a debate between the environmentalists and management professionals whether the environment or the individual is more important in shaping the course of human history. This could be an endless debate without any positive conclusion. But the merit of this debate cannot be devalued. Both individual and the environment are responsible in shaping the history of humans. It is only when you tread into areas like which is more important or significant that you end up with a difficult terrain. We have not selected this topic to start the debate but to see the Harmony that has to exist between the two for progress and prosperity. I have heard somebody say that Harmony is the soul of wit, but seriously it is the pulsating reality between the two.

Human beings are responsible for the ruining of erstwhile cities of Mesopotamia and several parts of North Africa. The story of man has largely been concerned with an attitude of regular conquest of nature, without caring or concern for the consequences of such an attitude. Several species of plants and animals have been genetically modified to suit human needs, and this has made them so weak in living with the wild that they could not cope without human intervention. Agriculture has resulted in the total destruction of natural surroundings to create vast cultivable lands that serve human beings alone. Earth has changed in its look and cannot be identified as was thousands of years ago, and the rate of change to suit human needs and greed has only increased as time has passed on. The only option to protect the nature or natural resources is an basically an unprecedented revolution, a change in our ideas and focus towards Nature, and the relationship between human beings and Nature, accompanied by a natural change in our values from a narrow point of view to a wider group of concerns. Our people are closely connected—with nature in every breath we take, every sip of water we drink, and every particle of food we eat—to the surrounding physical elements. We are not—and let us not conceive of ourselves as free of the natural surroundings. Rather we are very much in congruence with it. The protection of our health and wellbeing is not different from the protection of environmental health and sustainability.



Figure 1: Illustration of Environmental degradation.

A change of attitude and thought, and conscious awareness is the only path to a revolution of political thinking, economics, commerce and industry. One thing that is certain, that is change and evolution, if we look back, what the world was like in 1912, or 1812? In 1812 the automobiles were not in existence and steam engined rail locomotives were still in an introductory stage. In 1912 there were hardly any commercial aircrafts and no personal or business computers. Because, all the positive changes in the human connection with the natural habitat will happen by an evolutionary process—from the bottom up, not the top down—and then those will be “rather ratified and institutions created,” and thus put into society, by the government through policy and changes in the laws governing. Human beings do not introspect and assimilate the life on earth. They did not see the nature of the earth which succumb, surrender and accept what if we think how many millions of years the earth exemplary human being stepped on - trampling the earth, people on the earth and polluted the earth. Earth and environment raise humans, plants and animals. He remained faithful but it is people who do not have the heart to the environment itself so that there was a mutually beneficial relationship that resulted in the man himself is not dependent and uncomfortable living on this earth.

In a welfare society which is kind to the surrounding, a humanitarian spirit prevails over excessive materialistic values, with people helping and caring for one another and that becoming the order of the day. This culminates in a caring society with a resounding ethical attitude to Nature. To create an environmental friendly society, energy-efficient and eco friendly technologies need to be developed and calls for a large number of creative professionals for execution, thus injecting vitality into a cooperative society. A friendly Society develops, new environmental policies and regulating mechanisms for the distribution of available and scarce resources. Such a society will be worked out to protect public health,

address major social concerns and sort out social differences. This is the requirement in developing and guaranteeing orderly and smooth functioning of a society for the welfare and harmony of all.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

Society faces from time to time several problems which are overcome by human efforts and ingenuity. Recently there is a sudden rise of awareness of natural resources because of the media and international convention attention. Recent problems are shortages and scarcity of natural resources. The solution to this problem is evading action because the creators of this problem are none other than humans inhabiting this planet. Though some awareness is there about their root causes human beings are so much separated by countries regions and languages that the problems are evading solutions acceptable to one and all. However there is wide spread acknowledgement that these problems need urgent attention and solution for survival of species. In order to comprehend and provide some thoughts with a focused mind and adequate attention following are identified as a typical case for solution instead of the identification of the universe of problems for achieving focus. The following Objectives have been identified for the current research paper with possible solutions and future actions:

1. A brief review of the current environment.
2. The problems concerning natural resources.
3. Importance of finding quick and universally acceptable solutions.
4. Impact of these problems for the harmony of humans.
5. How the harmony can be achieved between man and his environment.
6. Futuristic outlook and Solutions

Current business environment and the climate of political outlook for the world are very challenging. It is not as if, there have never been so many challenges to the existence of Humans on earth. But some of these challenges that will be outlined in the following pages need urgent and universal attention. This topic has wide ranging ramifications and so vast that we shall restrict our discussions to the specific objectives identified for the current research paper. In order to fulfill the objectives various methodologies were considered including a separate field survey with experts in the above field. That became cumbersome and somewhat difficult; so other methods were explored. While such exploration was going on, it is but natural first to look at the web base and other published resources. While exploring these possibilities we found that published information on related topics were

available on the web pages as well as in the form of research papers in electronic and print forms. Such available information has been identified, collected, collated and tabulated to arrive at suitable data base for further analysis. This has been done and the information was found to be reliable from the credibility of the sources and authors.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The United Nations General Assembly took a long time (2009), to acknowledge that the Earth and its enveloping ecosystems are concerns for all, and expressed their belief that it is essential to promote a peaceful coexistence with Nature for achievement of a just balance between the economic, social and ecosystem needs of earth for present and future generations of people. The General Assembly has very well recognized the depletion of natural resources around the world and rapid environmental degradation as a result of unsustainable consumption and production systems which have unfavorably affected both the resources and the health and overall well-being of world population. There is scientific documentation that our present way of life, and consumption and production patterns, have severely affected sustainability of our resources.



Figure 2: Futuristic picture of Management of our water resources.

This disregard for Nature has cost us disappearance of biodiversity, creation of more deserts, climate change and the disruption of a number of natural cycles and the integrity of its ecosystems and life-supporting parts and processes. A recent scientific study reveals that a number of planetary boundaries are being disregarded and many others are at risk due to such an attitude. Nature has been badly treated as a resource that exists largely for the benefit of a few people, and environmental problems have been disregarded with the advancement in technology. As a result the basic needs of a growing population with the limits on the finite resources, there is an immediate need for a more sustainable method for manufacture, consumption and dispersal of natural resources. The Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) is more concerned about the loss of biodiversity and the destruction of the natural habitats on

the planet. The world in general are also have a growing concern for the disruption of native cultures.

It has been seen that is a direct link between native inhabitants and resource exists - such as pygmies in the Congo Basin or aborigines of Australia. These cultures who account fo almost 20 percent of the world, mainly of pristine forests or dry land, have accumulated vast knowledge of ecological and natural resources over many years in the past. Several projects in all five continents of the world concurrently aim to protect (or claim) indigenous people and their habitats; often threatened by mining, logging and other activities such as lumber cutting and burn for agriculture harvesting.



Figure 3: WWF is interested to save native cultures and their habitats.

The world is a very special place compared to the other planets in the universe. Humans are greedy are inquisitive and less satisfied with whatever they have. Therefore to avoid and end the phenomena of nature and human friction let us all keep a balance between the natural environment with the hospitality of our conscience and the growing concern of the conscience of us all. Of the few things we know with human activity that deforestation could lead to flooding and exploit the natural resources that exist in the bowels of the earth. WWF held a poll titled Public Perception Survey Of Environmental Issues and Political Party Preference sometime back to know how prospective legislative participants respond to environmental issues. The poll was held in seven cities in Indonesia. The survey, which was held WWF Indonesia in cooperation with the Institute for Research, Education and Economic and Social showed most of the public (95.7%), stated that representatives of the people who will be sitting in the seat next legislature needs to seriously address the issue of environmental damage in Indonesia. According to him, the majority of respondents also believe there is a connection between natural disasters, both nationally and in the regions with the exploitation of natural resources redundant (91%) and corruption in the management

of natural resources (80.1%). According to the respondents flooding is a type of natural disaster that most often they experienced (61%) and followed by drought (13.6%).

Indonesia is famous for its abundant natural resources, especially in Papua. Where Papua known also as one of the largest gold producer in the world is on hold by the company Freeport, which would certainly have an impact on the economy of Papua high income but on the other side of the abundant amount of gold that it causes, poverty continues in Papua, especially in Mimika region. In the area of Freeport's operations, most of the indigenous population were below the poverty line and are forced to earn a living gold left over from waste Freeport. In addition to problems of economic inequality, Freeport mining activities also damage the environment. The existence of Freeport also leaves the issue of human rights violations associated with the actions of the Indonesian security forces in the past and present. Until now, all of the serious human rights violations were seen but the government seemed to be 'blind'.



Figure 4: Water conservation and organic Management.

The present era is governed by ever-increasing global awareness of interdependence and need for cooperation. While this has ushered many new ideas, it had also brought about many new threats for humans and our existence in the world. Unfortunately, we are less happy and more unconcerned than ever before in our vast new tenements. Atmosphere throughout the world has suffered irreparable damage due to our negligence. We live to die and tell lies of our superiority over the Earthlings, and this lack of balance and moral principle have damaged our future. The urgent need is that we change our ways, so that our fellow citizens do not become victims on account of ourselves.

As per opinions of knowledgeable people, a harmonious society should have the attributes of democracy and rule of law, fairness and social justice, credibility, vitality and energy, order and stability, and harmony between nature and society. All these qualities and attributes are

reflected more clearly in an environmentally friendly society. If we are an environmentally friendly society, greater access to information facilitates public involvement in environmental undertakings, "green" GDP indicators and systems hold officials more accountable for the state of the environment quality and environmental laws and rules guarantee people's environmental rights. This would provide institutional foundation for democracy and rule of law and a harmonious society. In such a friendly society, social justice is promoted by people for fully enjoying their environmental quality. Consequently the society realizes social justice in a harmonious way.

It has been seen from research that those who spend time in nature have, on an average, decreased levels of stress and higher happiness, creativity and vitality. On the flip side, those who live in cities are more exposed to higher stress levels, resulting in depression and anxiety. The findings only make it clear what has long been suspected; i.e. to remove man from his traditional home that is the wonderful greenery of the Earth is to send him to unhappy environment. Only very few among earthlings can truly understand the depth of our mistakes. By creating a harmony between nature and man this can be achieved. Permaculture is a way of working with, rather than against nature, of sustained and thoughtful observation rather than mindless and protracted activity. Viewing plants and animals in all their functions, rather than treating any area as a single product system is good. There are several principles of 'permaculture', and a few of these being observing the topography of the area, designing a system specific to that area, self-regulation and avoid production of wasteful material. It is important to manage farmlands, acknowledge its existence, through management completely in an organic way.

Over exploitation of available resources have to be stopped immediately for which following actions can be taken.

1. Extent support to environmental preservation laws and other initiatives for sustainable development.
2. Promote legislation to regulate the over usage of natural resources and establish strict control over environmental assessment of any new project.
3. Encourage and provide incentives for renewable and pollution free sources of energy. Promote environmental care to maintain ecosystems.
4. Create better awareness of public transport and by-cycles. Foster a culture of recycling, reuse and reduction of necessities.

5. Promote Environmental sustainability through education in schools.
6. Save electricity and water and avoid unnecessary frills.

Environment', refers to the total of resources and the planetary offerings we have inherited. It includes two parts- **biotic** (animals, plants, birds, etc.) and **non-biotic** (sun, land, water, mountains, etc.). We need to better understand the relationship that exists between the non-biotic and biotic elements. The environment impacts four critical functions as given under:

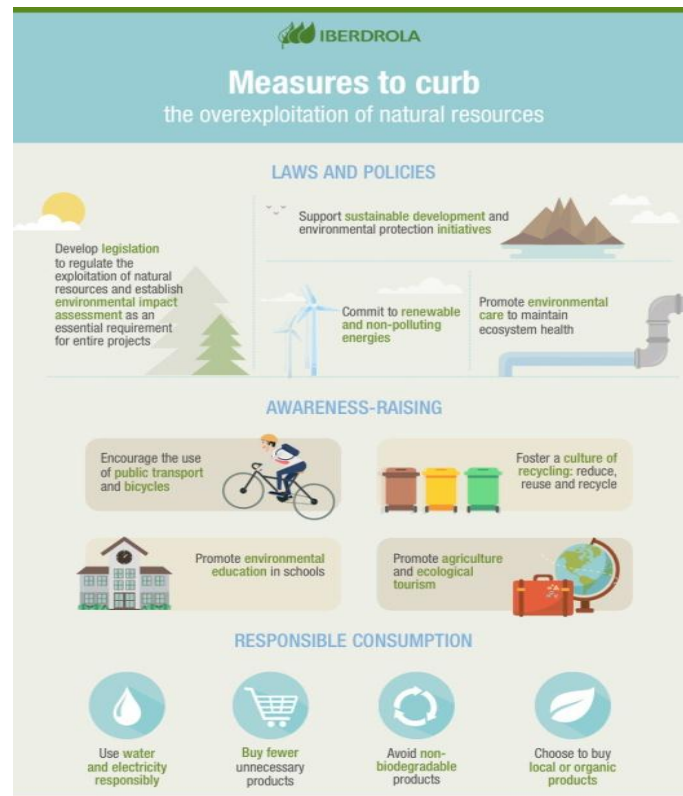


Figure 5: Message of Conservation and intelligent use of energy sources.

- 1. Storage of Resources:** The environment contains both regenerative (air, water, land) and non-regenerative (fossil fuels) resources. While the first can be reused and do not get reduced fast due to regeneration, non-renewable resources have the property of reduction and non-renewability.
- 2. Usage of Waste:** Economic activities produce automatically waste which the environment removes through natural processes.
- 3. Supporting Life:** The environment consists of non-biotic parts that support and help the living of components. In the absence of basic resources such as air, water, land, etc. there would be no life forms on the planet.

- 4. Aesthetic value of Life:** The environment adds aesthetic quality to life. The mountains, oceans, seas, landmasses and other components of the environment enhance the beauty and quality of life.

We need to understand that activities such as production and consumption of natural resources have led to environmental degradation over the last few years. We need to recognize that there is a certain amount of resources of the environment which are retained for the future. When the rate of consumption and exploitation of resources exceeds the rate of their reproduction, the environment fails to perform its functions. The result is termed as environmental degradation. Available resources are limited and their continued usage leads to their extinction. The waste generated is too much for the environment to absorb and regenerate.



Figure 6: Riverbed clogging!: Hindustan Times.

River beds are getting more and more clogged and dirty due to the excessive dumping of human wastes onto them. Consequently poor water quality for consumption by humans is the result! The mindless consumption of non-renewable resources has not only reduced their availability but also led to increase in pollution everywhere. We need to focus increasingly therefore on depleting renewable sources or on devising newer ways of generating resources. Pollution of various kinds have resulted in degeneration of the environment and ruined human welfare. Air and water pollution directly cause air and water-borne diseases and consequently ill-health. Depletion of ozone layer and global warming are other concerns of natural disasters looming at large.

Analysis and Inference

What we have inherited (habitat) has become one of the most critical issues of our time and will continue to be so into the future. The Answer is to find suitable solutions to

environmental management that would enable people to have the quality of life they want while also protecting the environmental systems that form the basis of our good health. To solve these problems, people today will need to have more than scratchy knowledge or awareness of different environmental issues. A broad interdisciplinary approach to understand can build upon the knowledge of a wide range of fields of study, providing a deeper understanding of the technological, political, and social needs and actions for policy and management of the relationship between society and the environment.

There are innumerable solutions to the problems of environmental impact to sustainability depending on the area we are looking at. But, it is seen that, a common basis that all areas of the Earth share, a set of principles need to be scientifically assessed to ensure sustainability. Intruding by humans towards habitat is avoidable because of the present picture of destruction of our living spaces. Unavoidability of certain resources to be utilized can be seen, but this can be done without causing irreversible situations and problems. Replacement of resources which have been used should be constantly kept in mind so that concerted action is possible.

The tendency and greed of man to intrude, ineffective, vicious and destructive of Nature and farming for his own benefit cannot be ignored any more. Several experts have given their opinion at length and their ideas on how to improve the mutual interaction between agriculture and nature, and those interested in making a difference should be the first to get enlightened, for finding solution to problems. Still it is not late for us to understand that it is the traditional small town and not the industrial cities that lead to happiness of its population. Fresh guidelines for building both small towns and big cities should be created which could be considered the kinds of places people enjoy living in. The rapid growth of large cities may be controlled. This means cities which are compact yet have conveniences, with limits to their expansion and not dependent on one type of industry and conserve natural resources are to be conceived.

Among the living beings man influences his environment to the maximum extent because he has the ability to change the environment to suit his requirements. Urbanization and Rapid growth of population, industrialization, faster modes of transport, and increase in the uncontrolled activity level of humans have contributed to pollution of the atmosphere. As we have already seen environmental destruction causes serious headaches like global warming, reduction of ozone cover, disappearance of biodiversity; large scale depletion of the natural resources not only causing pollution but even threat to the very existence of human

civilization. All these developments can be traced to unchecked consumption of a growing society that exploits its resources.

In an ideal world farms and ranches spread the landscape and stay relatively closer and more as compact units for the sake of human comfort and living. Such human settlements must take care not to destroy the land they are settled, just as much as the environment surrounding them. As a world class city on the Earth, we must have our common structures, such as parks and farms, appear to be merging with their natural surroundings. Such structures must be separate dwelling units and compact centers of civilized people. More space for walking should be provided and facilitated. This requires cooperation of individuals and helps both the environment and the cost of living for them. Such human settlements would act as reminders of nature everywhere and close by.

CONCLUSION

Man has the skill sets and ability to act as sustainer and the well wisher of nature. He has to think of what is useful in the long run and not satisfy him today. In this process short-sighted approach is dangerous for the future of mankind. He needs to ensure that such a tunnel vision is avoided so that the future generations may live free of this self effacing tendency.

World over, coordinated efforts are required to deal with the environmental crisis which threatens elimination of our race. The concept of sustainable development, is to be promoted. Air, water, noise, soil are some of the major areas of pollution we need to tackle for the benefit of the environment today. Pollution control boards can be set up and regulatory standards enforced to keep pollution within required levels. As a result of forests being cut down and ecology of the world is significantly affected. Reforestation measures which are slow need to be accelerated and forest conservation regulations have to be strictly enforced. Educating people of the gravity of the situation, and until we do it the problem of environmental destruction cannot be controlled. Awareness needs to be created through media campaigns and people movements to avert the problem of the ongoing serious degradation. Waste has the potential of being converted as natural manure into compost. Harvesting and conservation of water has to be implemented by legislation with the long-term possibility of scarcity of water.

Though the environment-centric policies and acts are necessary the ground level participation by people are crucial and will make a difference. Increased awareness and consciousness of people should be the driving forces of change. As the gravity of the situation is understood by

ground level people and a moral responsibility towards forthcoming generations is realized, we can pass on a healthy environment to them.

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