



Threatening Ecology: The Remedial Orientation of Modern Era

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ABSTRACT

Where is the life we have lost in living ?

Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge ?

*Where is knowledge we have lost in Information".^{*1}*

With this eternal questionings of T.S.Ellot, we can assuage the alarming predicament of modern era. The situation of ecosystem is deteriorating day in and day out. The mother earth prakriti is in a deep trouble, exasperating with her, breathing and hoping and gazing with expectations at the face of us to save our self from the inferno of our own creation. We are at fault by not realizing development which should not be at the cost of environmental pollution.

There should be some way a healthy way to live meaningfully. This way of living has been denied by us for common people. E.M. Forster In his brilliant essay expostulates thus while realizing apathetic situation: There is a need "to respect 'art' which brought man out of original darkness and differentiates him from the beasts, and we must continue to practices and retreat to the ancient way of life with an eye for development side by side. Bible hopefully says-

The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose (Isaiah).

People from all strata of society are worried and fearful when they came to know what we have done to our surroundings-All that remains for us will be concrete and tyres. Environmental scientists viewed the situation as ecological problems that are worse than we thought from destruction in the rain forest to melting glaciers in the Arctic Our bio-diversity is in peril owing to utter disregard and negligence for our green world and unresponsive behavior to our fellow-beings.

Pollution happens when unwanted gases and other materials escape into the environment. It causes waste, financial losses and damage to human, animal and plant health. Huge growth of industry and in the world's population in the last 100 years have led to more and more industrial processes and pollution. Deliberate dumping and accidents such as oil -spillages have seriously affected the Earth's air, land and water. *6 World of facts P.70. The effect on natural eco-system is highly detrimental which is least heard and the remedy is far off. A great environmentalist Tein Flannery said that "the amount of greenhouse emission in the atmosphere is already above the threshold that can potentially cause dangerous climate change. We are already at risk. It is not next year or next decade, it is now."^{*7}

In sea world the situation is also gloomy, there is ' hypoxic zones' which is created by excessive emission of nitrogen in the ocean of Mexico is as big as Oregon of U .S. A . ., due to fertilizers, vehicles and sewage.

All this is indicative of decay of flora and fauna of natural habitats. Robert Diaz a known marine science biologist says that "Everything is pointing towards a more desperate situation in all aquatic life, fresh water and marine. That is pretty clear. People should be worried all over the world."^{*8} Air pollution is highly dangerous. Some gases and particles in the air is dreadful to health if breathe in. Most air pollution comes from burning fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) and solid waste or from gases released into the air by different processes. One of the worst is carbon monoxide from vehicle exhaust. It prevents the absorption of Oxygen and another nitrogen oxide which reacts with sunlight to produce dense smog (a combination of smoke and fog).

Global warming and the greenhouse effect were first came to limelight in 1896 by Swedish Chemist Svante Arrhenius. The problem is that more and more greenhouse gases are being released into the atmosphere from human activities, and too much heat is being trapped. "The earth became 0.5°C warmer during the 20th century and a further rise of even a couple of degrees will damage its natural balance. Polar icecaps will melt, sea level rise and many areas will be flooded. Changing climate will also affect plants and animals, which might not be able to adapt quickly enough to new conditions"⁹ all this grim scenario is the resultant of reckless depletion of green natural habitats and fraudulent human activities.

"The perfect example of study of the effect on ecology is Antarctica, because of her simple eco-system and lack of bio-diversity, is fit to assess how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions, i.e. microscopic phytoplankton - those grasses of the sea that nourish and sustain the entire Southern ocean's food-chain. These single celled plants use the solar energy to assimilate carbon and synthesizes organic compounds in that wondrous and most important of processes called photosynthesis any further depletion in the Ozone layer will affect the lives of all the marine animals and birds of the region, and the global carbon cycle. There is a parable of the phytoplankton, there is a great metaphor for existence: take care of small things and big things will place property? According to Peter Fabian, British Expert on Environment, "the hole in ozone layer above the Antarctica is about 12 million square milas." very alarming eye opener of impending dangers of imminent future. This is "We need a drastic action plan for remedial purposes. Many countries have more and more awareness of pollution and damage it can have and are taking action to reduce it - for example, laws have been passed and promulgated in Britain and other countries to reduce lead in petrol and paint.

Clean air laws have reduced pollution in cities such as London, and scientists are business are heavily fined for dumping waste and chemicals.¹²

As a suggestion of IPCC we must make a swift and significant switch to clean, efficient and renewable energy for sustainable development and technologies in view to prevent the worse-case scenario, and it is must to stand up with conviction to end this deadening impasse and reverse the cyclic order the have done till now. That is the reason why Aldous Huxley warned very candidly: 'Science should be taught in the language of religion. To make the world green we must curb our magnanimity a little and be more attuned to the call of time. Desmond Morris wrote in his famous book : 'Animal contract Conservation has gone astray because it has failed to confront the disease that is causing all the trouble. The Organizers of the movement have been too embarrassed to face the simple truth : If human breeding is not restricted, wild life will disappear.'¹³

We earnestly need a vision from within vis-à-vis sustainable development and people must be aware not in theory but in deeds to end the dangerous effect of eco-imbalance on Earth. I am quoting Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi whose motto against evil was thus : "In my humble opinion, non cooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with good." there is no need to mention what is the meaning of 'good' & 'bad' in the present situation. We need a new orientation of value of sustainable development for the reversal of old value of development which has done more harm than good.

While concluding I like to quote and ponder the following lines of T.S.Eliot for a remedy:

Sightless, unless The eyes reappears As the perpetual star Multifoliate rose of death's twilight kingdom The hope only of empty man " .¹⁵

Discernible, it is a reorganization of attitudes for the motto live and let live.' We need, first of all, a radically new orientation towards the future. Psychologist Herbert Gerjuoy viewed that "tomorrow's illiterate will not be the man who can't read, he will be the man who has not learned how to learn."¹⁶

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