



Environmental Resources and Women - An Analytical View

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Introduction

God has created so many living and non –living beings particularly human beings, intentionally are more responsible for environmental destruction than any other species. importance was given in almost all cultures for environmental portion. So it is very much necessary to safeguard the environment as for as possible and it is our responsibility to handover safe environment to our future generations.

Women and nature

Women is part and parcel of environment. Woman contributes a lot in so many ways for the environmental protection. Women revolutions in developed countries are helping so much to protect the environment. The woman, particularly from hilly region or rural areas, are the victims due to the age-old traditional blind beliefs. So it is needless to say that these women should be educated to bring them out from these orthodoxical clutches.

They should be provided with proper training to create suitable awareness and insight into the new demands in the physical and social environment.

When compared to men, women have more direct relationship with their immediate environment. Regularly they collect their own life requirements like fuel, water, food like leaves, roots, fruits, fish etc. Their activities are also confined to these. Women tend to rear the cattle. They grow or collect grass for their domestic animals, particularly milk animals and birds. So, women have closer vicinity with the animals as well as flora and fauna of that region by living with them.

Even in the past primitive society also women had relationship with the nature. Only men used to hunt and kill the animals for food where as women used to collect forest resources to meet their life requirements. Men also cut trees for preparing coal or for construction purposes by seeing from the business point of view.

Women and water

Women act as suppliers and consumers of water. Women have more knowledge about the existence and quality of water available in the local environment. They carry water so many times in a day and it requires so much times and energy. As a result they feel responsible for using the water in an economic manner. Usually women and girls are engaged in carrying water needed for their families. So consumption of water at family level is more associated with the female folk in their daily life. Moreover, women are involved in preparing the food and related items. The water required in cooking, cleaning etc is the concern of women. Water resources like river, lake, pond, well on tap are the look out of women and the maintenance of these resources are part and parcel of their routine work. So it is necessary to provide knowledge relating to preservation of water, storing water, use of water etc. to women folk.

Women and materials

Women use widely the forest resources. They buy articles made out of wood, wool, rock, shells, thorns or ivory etc. Just for fashion either on their clothing or jewellery. Decorative pieces prepared out of some species like, snakes, rabbits, squirrels, iguana etc. Due to this they may disappear from the environment. The awareness to avoid the capture and killing of these species for the sake of entertainment or luxury should be provided to women. Otherwise they will be out of sight or become extinct. Unless women deny the use of these things it is not possible to protect these species.

Even in modern society the use of some varieties of sanitary napkins, towels, cosmetics, creams and powders containing some poisonous mercury and hydro quinines should be abandoned. Even the milk powder for infant's use is really threatening one leading to diarrhea due to improper water use of boiling during the process of preparation. Mothers need to be educated about all these negative consequences leading to health hazards.

Women and work

Majority of women work as labourers either in the agricultural farms, industries or mines even for less wages. they need training in sparing their time and materials in these fields. the economic return they receive for the amount of work they turned out.

Women and society

Recently women are entering into the gainful employment. That means they are looking after their job requirements besides fulfilling their familial responsibilities. Moreover, they are contributing to their family income. The roles played traditionally by women are disintegrating and modifications are taking place .As a

Result the nature of work attended by women has changed drastically. The reasons for this are migration of men, green revolution, publicity of high yielding crops, mechanization, urbanization including industrialization leading to pollution, lessening the cultivable land and other natural resources etc. from this point of view also they need to be oriented towards these changing times.

Women and Technical knowledge

Women are involved in collection of firewood, water, materials and engaged in cooking and meeting. The requirements of family members for hours together in addition to their traditional responsibilities like rearing, caring and bearing children. besides this they have to work in their workplace for longer durations. They get very little time in due to several difficulties. They need to be exposed to the several gadgets available to save time and to spend their time in an effective manner to get more benefits, several petty things take away the time of a housewife. These traditional means of cooking, water collection, grinding, firewood collection etc., need to be replaced by modern technological devices and non-conventional energy resources for their optimum use to improve their living and health conditions. For all these purposes technical knowledge is required which need to be provided for information, use and repair of these devices.

Women and population

Women can control population explosion through family welfare education. Standard of life can be improved only by limiting the children. Even today the status of women is decided on the number of male children they possess . The menstrual cycle, child birth, early marriages, economical and social factors are responsible for population growth. Women need to be exposed to the various evil consequences of population growth and the need for small family by adopting various methods to control the birth of children as it is considered the main reason for environmental destruction as well as pollution.

Conclusion

Due to illiteracy among women and resources are being exploited from women. There is an immediate need to plan programmes to create awareness among women to move further without causing environmental destruction and to work for environmental construction which was already affected, to develop literacy socially, culturally, economically and industrially. They should be given knowledge about the resources, their management, selection of materials, implementation, control and evaluation of different procedures and appropriate environmental technology should reach the ordinary women through various women's organizations for environmental protection.

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