

World needs mindful and deliberate utilization, instead of mindless and destructive consumption

Earth overshoot Day marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. In 2021, it fell on July 29. This shows us our mindless and destructive consumption of Earth resources by depriving resources which is meant for our future generations.

Since there is only one habitable planet for us and also for our future generations excessive utilization of water, non-renewable resources like petroleum, natural gas, coal, and deforestation in the name of development is resulting into ecological loss, pollution, ozone depletion, degradation, soil erosion and desertification. The consequence of such acts will affect our future generations in terms of clean oxygen and access to drinking water which are considered as minimum survival. The rising in Earth's temperature is resulting in melting of glacier which in turn results in increase in sea level. Already many islands are suffering from submergence of land due to rise in sea level. We are observing frequent droughts and excessive rain, increase in atmospheric temperature, mass extinction, acid rain resulting in overall climate change.

Climate change which is discussed above started with the Industrial revolution 1.0. With the advent of steam engine, our journey started using non-renewable energy. Day by day our consumption increased in the name of Development. Development and climate change are two faces of the same coin. Development cannot be stopped because of climate change and now we are in dilemma whether to stop this mindless utilization of natural resources or to slow down the development. We cannot neglect one considering the other one. To overcome this, we came up with the idea of sustainable development goals. We

should adapt ourselves in such a way that we use our resources mindfully considering future generation without hampering development.

Sustainable development is started with Rio earth summit 1992. It was declared that we should use our natural resources mindfully along with maintaining the development pace. This is what is called sustainable development. Later we came up with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. We need resources for the development and, we need to preserve them for our future generations. It is our responsibility to reduce the emission and make Earth more habitable. The Developed world who are major contributors for global warming have more responsibility now to reverse the effects. Thus, we came up with common but differentiated approach.

In the same lines many initiatives were started to preserve our blue planet. To name few, Montreal Protocol to stop the ozone layer depletion, Kyoto protocol to reduce Green House Gases (GHGs), Paris climate agreement to reduce mean global temperature rise by 2 degree Celsius above Pre-industrial levels and preferably limit the increase to 1.5 degree Celsius. Likewise, there are many protocols and agreements for climate change, adaptation, and finance (by Developed world to Developing world). These damage control measures are not sufficient.

Any protocols or agreement will become success when the masses are involved in it and are made aware of our surroundings. We should take every human being into consideration and confidence. Community involvement can do miracle. That is what we observed in Chipko movement. Small group of villages under the leadership of Sundarlal Bahuguna stopped cutting of trees. Which influenced many other movements like appiko movement in Karnataka. Inclusion of local people along with government is need of the hour. Awareness is like wildfire. Once it starts its difficult to stop.

Popular saying in Sanskrit – Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitaha says that, the one who protects the Dharma will be protected by Dharma. Now it is our Dharma to

protect our land, our Earth or our future generation will have to face the heat.
Thus, the World needs mindful and deliberate utilization, instead of mindless and
destructive consumption for the human beings to thrive on this beautiful planet.

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