

Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land

As Mahatma Gandhi has aptly said "The world has enough resources for everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed". We were born on this earth not only to fulfill our desires, but live life to meet our necessities. But, with time technology has taken a giant leap ahead and aroused greed in humans to such an extent that we have forgotten the earth is for all creatures to live. This human greed for better living along with the rapid growth of technology is one of the important reasons for nature getting destroyed at a faster pace today.

The conservation of nature is the responsibility of every human on earth for it to remain healthy and prosperous. Conservation is an effective tool for utilization and management of natural resources that helps not only in protecting our environment but life on earth be it humans or flora and fauna from the perspective of environment, economic, social, and cultural growth etc.

Harmony between men and land with environment

The protection of plants and animals is a must and with many of these species becoming extinct, it signifies a disaster waiting to happen for human life as these form the links in food chain and the ecosystems may vanish thereby causing scarcity of food. The plants depend upon better soil, water and climate and if any one of these gets hampered by either excess or minimum supplement, then the plant ecosystem may become extinct. In the same way, humans depend on fish and fish depends upon phytoplankton for food thus creating a state of equilibrium. But due to over utilization of resources the harmony is getting disturbed giving rise to events like climate change and green house effects. According to the National Academy of Science, the world is entering into sixth mass extinction as it has lost more than 50% of animals and plants species. Hence, many countries are coming forward to 'revive nature' through various government initiatives like building wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves, etc. For example, India has introduced 'Nagar Van Udyan' scheme in building city forests.

Harmony between men and land with economic implications

Humans depend on agriculture for food and due to over use of chemicals in agriculture to achieve greater output, the soil quality is getting degraded as many nutrients in the soil are lost thus yielding to low productivity and giving rise to poverty. It is evidently seen that agricultural contribution to India's GDP is declining over the years. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has estimated that the world may enter into poverty by 2030.

Harmony between men and land with socio-cultural implications

Due to globalization and man's avarice for luxuries, humans are depleting the natural resources, like instance establishing soft drinks producing plants like Coca - Cola and Pepsi which not only uses most of the ground water but also contaminates it with effluents. Recently, the National Green Tribunal fined Coca-Cola, Pepsi for overusing groundwater beyond limit.

The livelihood and cultural traditions of the tribal communities depend mainly on forests and its produce for their basic living and recently due to human intervention of forest land; these communities are displaced from the very forests they have conserved since ages. The depleting forest of Amazon due to human activities and forest fires that is a result of global warming is one such example of human greed. The Indian government has recently implemented various measures to safeguard the rights of forest

dwellers. In order to protect their integrity, environment protection has been made a fundamental and legal right of every citizen by the Indian government.

According to United Nation Combat to Desertification (UNCD) around 29% of world land is getting degraded and efforts are being made by the international community's by bringing initiatives like National Action Plan, UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol etc. India has also implemented a national action plan on climate change, International Solar Alliance (ISA) which is a collaborative approach to meet United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) goal 13 "Climate Action" by 2030.

Apart from all these factors, an ethical perspective is required to conserve nature by creating awareness about climate change in all educational institutions and also by following NOLAN committee recommendations.

Some steps have been taken by both national and international committees for conservation and to combat climate change like the Paris Agreement that many countries including India are adhering to, United Nations "World day to combat desertification and drought' to combat land degradation, UNFCCC. India is a founding member of ISA with France. Many local campaigns like Save Soil an initiative by Sadguru and national programs like National Afforestation Program, Green India Mission, Nagar Van Udyan etc have been implemented.

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) needs to be implemented in letter and spirit to conserve environment along with economic development. Environment is like our parents, and as the citizens of tomorrow, we need to nurture, care and protect our environment for us and for tomorrow.

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