



ENVIRONMENTAL ECOLOGY: PARALYZED THROUGH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RE-MODIFICATIONS AND FIEFDOM

Dr. Jayshree Singh

(Dept. of English, Lecturer (Selection Grade), Bhupal Nobles P. G. College, Udaipur, Rajasthan.)

ABSTRACT

The modern material mechanized world's political and economic ideology as far as environmental concerns is based on the policy of self-determination and exploration which relies blindly on biodiversity utilization, desertification, deforestation, industrial growth, chemical wastage, poisonous emissions. Moreover the environmental issues function on local and global phenomenon controlled through decision making of hierarchies of power. Hence modernization and development works at multiple levels including the roles, actions and practices of government agents, civil society and individuals. It connects local, national, international and global environmental domain and discourse, which attempts to bring forth the social impacts and climate change due to environmental problems arising out of scientific advancements. This paper attempts to bring together Ecology and Economics - the disparate disciplines of different nature by probing into the sole objectives of both respectively. It aims to investigate how the local sources become the source of subsistence for inhabitants. Thirdly the paper will take up the role and responsibilities of the stakeholders to reconstruct the dysfunctional ecological balance and to recompense the loss that has occurred due to blindness towards global environmental health and harmony.



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INTRODUCTION

Modern world's scientific temperament, existential skepticism, cultural-social anarchy have given birth to industrialism, deforestation, desert encroachment, dryland degradation, biodiversity loss, poverty, shifting cultivators, migration, population increase, forest product trade, infrastructure development, government policies and subsidies, land tenure policies, consumption, market failures, environmental change due to less forest cover, environmental degradation and global environmental crisis due to threats to the environmental securities. Shiva in the book *Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge* (1997)

writes that due to bioprospecting for developing food crops and drugs "the metaphor of biopiracy signals an activity implying plundering poor people and poor countries". Thus it is leading to hegemonic environmental exploitation and neglecting patent and property rights and laws on indigenous people and their traditions. Currently in the Environmental discourses on the conflict, between ecologists and economists, ecologists and politicians, has well been placed in the statement that a critic writes regarding bioprospectors or biopirates who are now "representing the embodiment of global capitalism and its negative impacts.....Local and indigenous people are seen as victims of biopiracy, colonialism, plundering and exploitation"(Adger, p.696)

In the pioneer society as in the pioneer ecosystem, high birth rates, rapid growth, high economic profits and exploitation of accessible and unused resources considered to be advantageous, but as the saturation level has approached in the consumption of natural resources, these tendencies (drives) must be shifted to considerations of symbiosis i.e. the relationship between man and nature raises the necessity of the imposition of civil rights, law and order, education and culture. A balance between youth and maturity in the socio-environmental system is therefore the really basic goal that must be achieved, if man as a species is to successfully pass through the present rapid growth, to which he is clearly well adapted.

ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS

Eric Davidson expresses his concern in this way that 'Economics and Ecology are inseparably

wedded in a high-stakes game of politics. The stakes are the human habitat and its future (Davidson, xiv). Men's techno-creations have caused green environmental hazards and catastrophes like emission of too much carbon dioxide, monoxide and other gaseous transmissions because of the comfort and luxury. There is marine pollution due to 'unmonitored abundance of anthropogenic debris, including plastics' (Thompson: 2009), therefore the agricultural land and freshwater underground sources have become inadvertently contaminated and environmental waste

The great environmental disasters in the twentieth and twenty -first century indeed recount the man-made developments for the evolution of civilization through science and technology, for example nuclear weapons used during World War II on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the London Smog Disaster of 1952 caused airborne pollutants mostly from chimney emissions and coal burning, Minamata Disaster happened in Japan during 1970s caused by the release of methyl mercury industrial wastewater into the river from the Chisso Corporation's chemical factory, Chernobyl Chemical Explosion in the Nuclear Power Plant of Ukraine in 2013, Bhopal Gas Tragedy happened in Union Carbide Industrial Plant at Madhya Pradesh in India in 1984, use of chemical weapons attack during Civil War in Syria in 2013 are tragic examples of interconnectedness of humans and environment on one hand, while on the other hand the catastrophe of massive poisoning inflicted agonizing injuries that caused permanent or partial disabilities both on biology and culture.

Besides that there are other physical man-made holocaust as environmental hazards in the form of wars, riots, massacres and acrimony to obstruct socio-cultural well-being and ecological peace and balance, for example Anti-Semitism, the Rise of Nazism, Life in the Ghettos, the Concentration and Death Camps, Jewish Resistance, and the actions of non-Jews. The other man-made disasters include the Armenian massacres of 1915, the Soviet (Ukrainian) Famine of 1933, the Nagasaki-Hiroshima atomic destruction during World War Second, the Cambodian killings of 1975-1979, and the Rwandan massacres of 1994, The Partition of India in 1947, Indo-China War in 1962, Indo- Pak War in 1965 and in



1971 etc. These are examples of cross-cultural discord, communal differences, relativistic psyche, cross-border economics and environmental politics that cause mass deaths on account of arms and ammunitions and greed.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Currently in India health economics is at stake due to environmental politics and economical greed and poverty. It is found that most of the junk food and ready to cook items such as Maggi has higher quantity of lead, juice extracted from beef; facial creams contain oil from pig fats, Vicks which is a slow poison to human body, Coke Pepsi is banned in many European countries due to twenty-one types of poison it has, many health tonics are made out of the waste oils, mostly used for animal food, Pizza has E-631 and it is made from pork, besides these chips, biscuits, chewing gums, toffees, kurkure have the prohibited contents such as E-322 i.e. Beef, E-422 i.e. alcohol and chemical, E-471 i.e. beef and alcohol, E-481 i.e. mixture of beef and pork, E-627 i.e. dangerous chemical, E-631 i.e. oil extracted from pig fats and E-472 i.e. mixture of beef, meat and pork. Even may soft drinks have pesticide percentage as released by the report from Indian Medical Association, for example Thums Up 15.2%, Coke 13.4%, 7 Up 12.5%, Mirinda 10.7%, Pepsi 10.9%, Fanta 9.1%, Sprite 15.3% and these are harmful to human liver and cause cancer.

Many of the writers of Indian English Literary Studies have picked up the facts of health economics and environmental degradation of nature and culture in their writings. For example Manjula Padmanabhaman's play *Harvest* illustrate the grim picture of the health povertisation of the third world nations i.e. India where people sell their body organs to meet both ends, to earn their livelihood, to survive their family from hunger and starvation. Even povertisation of femininity in context of 'dismemberment of the female body' (Regina, *Commodified Bodies*, MWG 004, p.73) has been the subject of many writings in which women's reproductive health is endangered due to illegitimate practices of foeticide, infanticide, sexual politics, commercialisation of surrogacy, prostitution, pornography, immoral trafficking, commodification, sexism, exchange value, alienation, violence against

women etc. Andrea Dworkin (1979) writing on the abuse of woman's body says: 'It is impossible to use a human body in the way women's bodies are used in prostitution and to have a whole human being at the end of it, or in the middle of it, or close to the beginning of it. It's impossible. And no woman gets whole again later, after.' This statement pathetically explains the exploitation of Nature 'Prakriti' which signifies perceivable material reality. If men's pleasures continue to make use of this matter, just as he has been doing it since ages and ages: then non-perceivable spirit i.e. the laws of Nature and Soul of the Universe will emanate catastrophe, disaster, destruction, calamity which will appear ruthless, apocalyptic, merciless, miserable to tolerate. This predicament of mankind will be as similar as to the Nature's exploitation, because he too has been engaged in the other ways of deriving full benefit from the nature's creation and resources by polluting the environment and by unbalancing the social and environmental ecology of the universe.

According to Marxist, environment has been transformed by human activity and it has been made inhabitable due to materialism and it has become a problem in the sense because 'it arises as a practical consequence of man's dealing with nature' (Passmore, p. 43). Another notion of Marxist's socialism in the interest of middle class has been brought forward that emphasizes 'the oldest and most brutal of capitalism's crimes, the death resulting from workplace conditions which 'have been going on in the factories and mines over a hundred years' (Hall, p. 68, 34).

According to Prof. Vinod Agarwal, a geologist and an academician asserts that there is environmental stress due to mining sector activities in India and it is one of the current challenge for not only the state of Rajasthan, but also to the environmental and ecological essentials. Although from economics point of view the mining sector plays very important role but it has become one of the hazardous aspect from the occupational health point of view. Due to Eco-unfriendly mining operation, whether it is opencast or underground, large or small, mechanized or non-mechanized, metallic or non-metallic, it creates significantly negative impact on bio-geo-physical environment. Subsequently



mining has raised physical disturbance to natural ground, resulting in land degradation, deforestation, soil erosion, soil contamination, pollution of surface, drying of ground water, mineral dust pollution, noise pollution and vibrations, change in land use, change in hydro-geological conditions, occupational health hazards. Besides these, there are waste heaps of huge dimensions and deep depression has developed under the surface of the soil which has turned it into unfertile and unproductive wasteland. According to the Annual Report 2011-2012 of the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, it is however recognized under the Mining Policy and Legislation that the forest and environment issues viz-a-viz social impact, ecological balance and environmental economics shall be 'for sustainable development which will be designed to take care of bio diversity issues and to ensure that mining activity takes place along with suitable measures for restoration of the ecological balance. Special care will be taken to protect the interest of host and indigenous (tribal) populations through developing models of stakeholder interest based on international best practice. Project affected persons will be protected through comprehensive relief and rehabilitation packages in line with the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy' (71).

CONCLUSION

There is a need to establish rational land, water, air-use policies to realize the ecological basis for this conflict between man and nature. To bring awareness, both conservationists and economists have to evolve strategies for the controlled growth and equilibrium stage. At the same time they have to constrain man to understand the relevance of ecosystem vis-à-vis its effect on the environment in the context of 'protection' and 'production' on account of the globalization of the market and economy. It is certain that the biosphere, as a dynamic system capable of supporting the human species, will be unable to tolerate indefinitely this continuing intensification of techno-metabolism (that is, use of energy and resources and discharge of technological wastes by the human population (Nauser, p.37).

But the real economist is always curious to extract the maximum benefit out of the natural and unnatural resources without considering the pros and

cons. The policies of global integrated market and economy should be framed in consideration to the strategy of 'maximum protection' (to achieve maximum support to complex biomass structure), which characterizes ecological development and man's goal of 'maximum production' (to obtain the highest possible yield).

Mostly the market economy, human autonomy ignores environmental ethics, intrinsic values of the resources that have their worth independently and they are observed with objective value in terms of policy, politics and endless acquisition of material goods (O'Neill, p. 43).

Hence the human's wellbeing precedes existence, instead of being instrumental to ecological harmony. In order to assimilate the contribution of various social, economical and environmental aspects, the responsibility and role of stakeholders rendering service in nation-building increase for the sake of governance and to foster environmental learning. The stakeholders of modern society and mechanized economy have to realize their purpose of life is to save the world from being schizophrenic. They have misunderstood humanity and morality in relation to the conflict between 'spiritual ecology' (Sponsel, p. xiii) and environmental economics and thus creating chaos for the followers of environmental spirituality and harmony as regards 'ecological crisis happening due to mental and physical sickness, malpractices and over-consumption' (Spiritual Ecology: 2012).

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