



Review Article

Environmental Conservation: Key to Sustainable Development

J. B. Devhade*

P. G. Department of Chemistry, Jijamata Mahavidyalaya Buldana, Maharashtra– 443001, India

ABSTRACT

The blue planet which is gifted by all suitable situations for life is currently struggling for its existence mainly due to various anthropogenic actions. Forests are disappearing at a rapid pace. For years the forest resources have been exploited for quick revenue return. Mining is another cause of deforestation due to which there is loss of biodiversity and ecological imbalance. To achieve the goals of sustainable development, participation of public is must which is possible only when the public is aware about the ecological and environmental issues. Two key aspects for sustainable development are Inter-generational equity and Intra-generational equity. Inter-generational equity emphasizes that we should hand over a safe, healthy and resourceful environment to our future generations. This can be possible only if we stop over-exploitation of resources, reduce waste discharge and emissions and maintain ecological balance.

Keywords: Environmental Conservation, Sustainable Development, Natural Resources, Over-exploitation

ARTICLE INFO

Contents

1. Introduction	81
2. Sustainable Development.	82
3. Measures for Sustainable Development	83
4. Conclusion	83
5. References	83

Article history: Received 24 August 2014, Accepted 25 October 2014, Available Online 19 November 2014

*Corresponding Author

J. B. Devhade
P. G. Department of Chemistry
Jijamata Mahavidyalaya Buldana,
Maharashtra– 443001, India
Manuscript ID: WJPBT2299



PAPER-QR CODE

Citation: J. B. Devhade. Environmental Conservation: Key to Sustainable Development. *W. J. Pharm. Biotech.*, 2014, 1(2): 81-84.

Copyright © 2014 J. B. Devhade. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

1. Introduction

Earth is the only planet in this universe which has been gifted with life supporting vital elements -water, food, land

and air and a rich bio-diversity of flora and fauna bestowed with aesthetic, commercial and medicinal values that are of

utmost significance to human beings. Life on this planet earth has been possible only because of its environment and depends upon its natural resources : Forest, Water, Mineral, Food, Energy and Land. Forests, one of the most important natural resources cover the earth like a green blanket. They not only produce innumerable material goods but also provide environmental services which are intangible and hence very difficult to assess economically. Water, another indispensable natural resource on this earth cover 97% of the earth's surface. Minerals which form a very important part of any nation's economy occur naturally in inorganic and crystalline solids. Land is a finite and valuable resource upon which we depend for our food, fiber and fuel wood - the basic amenities of life. But, unfortunately Earth is used to be a reservoir of nature's wealth is losing its resources because of step motherly treatment given by we human beings in the name of development, industrialization, greater production, agricultural extension etc. The evil effects of industrialization and deforestation for agricultural extension are now apparent. Only recently human beings have realized the extent of damage done to the earth by their over enthusiasm.

Effects of Over-exploitation

The earth is a victim of the onslaught of a materialistic civilization and industrial revolution. As a consequence there is rapid depletion of natural resources -- water, forests and land. Environmental pollution has reached an alarming level due to uncontrolled discharge of air pollutants. Automobiles produce both noise and smoke. Forests are disappearing at a rapid pace. For years the forest resources have been exploited for quick revenue return. Mining is another cause of deforestation due to which there is loss of biodiversity and ecological imbalance. Food production has also been directly affected by deforestation because forests are the mothers of rivers and the factories of soil manufacture. Another invasion of materialistic civilization is on water. Domestic use of water goes up along with urbanization. Mining of water has been done to such an extent that its level is going down dramatically. Canal irrigation has brought the salts on the surface and the waterlogged area has increased. Soil erosion is eating up fertility of the soil. Another effect of industrialization is the migration of the rural population to urban areas. The overwhelming population of rural migrants will have an adverse effect on the land use pattern and result in scarcity of fresh water, air and fertile soil. Due to over population in the cities and growing urbanization the rivers are getting polluted. Sewerage from cities freely flows into the sea. Clean rivers have become a thing of the past. Their water is not even fit for bathing. Dams, too, have had a disastrous effect on seas and fresh water lakes. The fish, which survived on the coasts in the mixture of sea and fresh water have become extinct. Many species of flora & fauna are also becoming extinct.

Need for Conservation

Immediate steps are needed to save the environment. We will wipe out the creation of millions of years, if we still continue with the ruthless destruction of forests, wetlands, commercial and game hunting and indiscriminate use of

pesticides and other toxic substances. The most important step in achieving the goals of environment friendliness is arousing the concern and awareness among the general public regarding the maintenance of ecological balance, environment conservation and adoption of green technologies. To achieve the goals of sustainable development, participation of public is must which is possible only when the public is aware about the ecological and environmental issues. Today, environmental conservation, ecological balance and prevention of environmental pollution concern every individual. A concerted campaign to save the environment by striking a balance between the development process and environment protection is the need of the hour. There is a proverb, "If you plan for one year, plant rice, if you plan for ten years, plant trees and if you plan for 100 years, educate people." So if we want to save our Mother Earth, we have to make all the persons environmentally educated.

Conservation has been misunderstood by many as a moratorium on progress. This is in fact not true. Only sustainable development is permanent remedy to droughts, famines and the dwindling bio-diversity on this earth. Each individual needs to realize that his future and ecological security is at stake and should contribute towards conservation of environment. Conservation is the science and arts of managing the system and resources on which they depend. It is basically different from preservation. Preservation is a simple action like preserving a specimen or understanding specific measures for maintaining a monument e.g. Taj Mahal. On the other hand conservation implies an attitude and understanding that involves active management of the thing(s) to be conserved. About four decades back, the words such as Conservation and Environment were little known. Today, one can find conservation messages in every newspaper and books. WWF, Green party of the west, IUCN and so many other famous organizations are doing continuous efforts for bringing the need for conservation home to the general public. Conservation is not just a matter of conserving wildlife and natural resources because of their rarity and aesthetic value of significance but what underlines is the understanding that if other systems are threatened existence of "man" is also in danger. It is, in fact, the interdependence of all living things and the finiteness of the resources upon which they and we depend for our survival.

2. Sustainable Development

Environment belongs to each one of us and all of us have a responsibility to contribute towards its conservation and protection. Human beings, for whose development, there is much hue and cry, live in both natural and social world. When we talk of development, we should keep in mind two basic characteristic of development:

1. It should be sustained. The benefits that we are getting now from it should be assured to future generations.
2. It should be ethical. Whatever the benefits, a person or species should not harm other

individuals or species. Thus, development has to be visualized in a holistic manner, where it brings benefits to all, not only for the present generation, but also for the future generation.

The objective of development should not only be to raise the economic standard of life but to raise the social, economic, ethical and spiritual level of the people. Sustainable Development is "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Today, Sustainable development has become a buzz word. Two key aspects for sustainable development are Inter-generational equity and Intra-generational equity. Inter-generational equity emphasizes that we should hand over a safe, healthy and resourceful environment to our future generations. This can be possible only if we stop over-exploitation of resources, reduce waste discharge and emissions and maintain ecological balance. On the other hand intra-generational equity emphasizes that the development processes should seek to minimize the wealth gaps within and between nations.

3. Measures for Sustainable Development

Some of the measures for sustainable development are;

Emphasis on 'Decentralized Industries'

Instead of big centralized industries, emphasis should be more on Khadi, village and other such decentralized industries. These are based on natural law that whatever is essential for survival, should be easily available in the neighbourhood.

Encouragement for 'Tree fanning'

In order to get more food from less and degraded land, tree farming should be encouraged as trees give more production on less land. Moreover, trees are rightly called as 'Earth's Lungs' because they evolve oxygen through the process of photosynthesis and make the atmosphere pure.

Declaration of water as the main product of forests

This declaration is the only way to combat the increasing water crisis. No green felling should be done in these forests.

Preservation and Management of Forests

Preservation and management of forests for sustainable growth is the need of the hour. Forests reduce global warming, help in regulations of hydrology, prevent soil erosion and act as a pollution moderators. A forestation programme by involving small farmers, rural folk and others have to be made popular.

Conservation of 'Mono-Culture stands into mixed forests,

It can be done by raising food, fodder, fuel, fertilizers and fiber giving species of trees, bushes, climbers, herbs and tubers in the midst of mono-cultures.

Designing with Nature' by using Appropriate Technology

Locally adaptable, eco-friendly, resource efficient and culturally suitable technology are more useful, cost effective and sustainable as they use less of resources and produce minimum waste.

By using *3R *s approach' viz- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The 3-R approach advocating minimization of resource use, using them again and again instead of passing it on to waste stream and recycling the materials goes a long way in achieving the goals of sustainability.

Environmental education and Awareness

In the rapidly changing environment, it is necessary to aware about various environmental issues and the protection of environment. Preparation of resource material in the form of pamphlets, brochures and boards and organization of seminars and workshops, establishment of eco-clubs, tree plantation activity and introduction of environmental education subject right from the school stage will inculcate a feeling of belongingness to earth.

Value-based Environmental Education

Value based environmental education is one of the important recipe for transforming our life styles and attitudes. If basic values like i) Human values 'man in nature' rather than 'nature for man', ii) Social values like love, compassion, tolerance, justice Hi) Ethical values, iv) Global values i.e. human civilization is a part of the planet as a whole and v) Spiritual values highlighting the principles of self-restraint, self-discipline, contentment, reduction of wants, freedom from greed and austerity, are incorporated into environmental education, we can go a long way in attaining the goals of sustainable development and environmental conservation.

Developing a Life Style in 'Harmony with Nature'

This life style can be developed only if we can change those forces and circumstances which are giving birth to war, pollution and hunger.

4. Conclusion

The preservation and conservation of environmental heritage is our sacred duty. All of us living on this planet, whether rich or poor, industrialists or workman, farmers or laborers, office goers or housewives, VIP's or common men, as individuals or groups, are responsible for the present dismal state of our environment and each one of us has to contribute towards its rehabilitation, preservation and conservation. All of us have to change our mental attitude, our way of thinking so as to attune our actions and our living style to the promotion of clean and safe environment and to contribute towards conservation of environment.

5. References

1. Bahuguna. Sunderlal., Ecological balance facing grave threat. *The 'tribune*. July 3. pp. 10(1998).
2. Kansal, F. Lal. ,For Life on Earth. *The Tribune*, June 5. pp. 5(1997).
3. Kaushik. Anubha, Forests - the Saviours of Environment. *Green News*. Vol. 4 (I) p. 2-3(1998).
4. Kaushik. A. and Kaushik. C.P., *Perspectives in Environmental Studies*. New Delhi: New Age International (P) Ltd.. Publishers,(2006).
5. Kumar. H.D. *Forest Resources : Conservation and Management*. Affiliated East West Press Pvt. Lid,(2001).

6. NCERT. Special issue on Environmental Education. *Journal of Value Education*. Vol. 3 (2), (2003).
7. Sharma. Heniant Leila, Environmental Protection and Law, *Green News*. Vol. 1 (3 & 4). 14-15,(1998).
8. Sharma. U.S. and Khan, T.I.. Environmental Conservation Depicting Resources and Sustainable Development. Jaipur: Aavishkar Publishers, (2003).
9. Singh. .1. (1998). Philosophy of Conservation. *Green News*. Vol. 4 (3 & 4), 6-7, (1998).