

Green Environment – Past, Present and Future

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Abstract

Slowly but surely, the world today is realizing why green management matters, and why it is imperative to take a green approach to business and management. The authors wished to investigate as to how educated Indians are trying to counter the growing environmental issues that progress brings in its wake. 500 educated consumers from all walks of life were selected by the random stratified method. A structured questionnaire was administered together with a personal interview to gather primary data. Results showed that most people were aware of sustainability and global warming mainly through social networking sites. Majority of the respondents kept an eye on their water and electricity consumption. It was heartening to note that not a single Pune person consumed non-vegetarian food on all seven days of the week. Most respondents went in for CFL bulbs that resulted in a saving of both electricity and money.

Key Words: Awareness and Use Of ‘Green’ Products, Global Warming, Energy Saving

Introduction

The word *environment* has several meanings and connotations. According to <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/environment?s=t>, the word *environment* includes the following:

- “1.aggregate of surrounding things, conditions, or influences; surroundings; milieu.
2. *Ecology*. the air, water, minerals, organisms, and all other external factors surrounding and affecting a given organism at any time.

the social and cultural forces that shape the life of a person or a population.

4. *Computers*. the hardware or software configuration, or the mode of operation, of a computer system: In a time-sharing environment, transactions are processed as they occur.

5. an indoor or outdoor setting that is characterized by the presence of environmental art that is itself designed to be site-specific. Environment is one where we dwell decades which is a combination of numerous living and non-living things in the world. Some are natural and some are manufactured and created.”

Environment is a vital factor which mankind is supposed to maintain in an orderly manner. It's our priority to maintain the environment as it is for our future generation. We mankind view Nature as a part of our lives and not as a valuable one. As we have got the nature by default, unable to know its features we are not aware of its importance. To overlook we have 5 natural resources – Water, land, fire, wind, sky. They were friendly to man when man was committed to those with sincerity. But as man moves away with his heads above in Technology, he gradually started ignoring the nature and hence nature is in a pathetic situation to remember us of its presence and its importance to us.

Let's take a small trip to our ancestor's period where they lived happily and they had enormous time to live. The day begins with a bright sunlight with a pleasant feeling. Early morning he starts his day brisk enough both physically and mentally. With all commitments men goes to Work to earn and his home ministers maintains family as a place of heaven to dwell. Farming was tough, but was non-polluting. Cooking was hard, but safe enough to environment. Except the carbon Smoke man had no pollutants to pollute atmosphere. Green was not a color but was an identification of safety. In current scenario, Green has just become a color for our kids which are a most painful feeling. Rare species of animals and birds existed and was a great gift for man. The world created by God was Gorgeous. When man started creating the world, its becoming more tragedy to live in. Artificial things are developing more and so Nature is exploited - being lost gradually. Thorns in the roses are to prick the one who plucks it. We love flowers, so we pluck it, we love trees, so we cut it and we love nature and so we pollute it. So,

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we are not here to conquer nature, but to live in it. Environment and nature is like a mirror which reflects exactly what we do.

Land

Land is the uppermost area of the earth where we live in. The inner part is much different from what we see above. The crust of earth is full of molten rocks, minerals etc. Obviously, the earth's crust is not polluted as much as the place where man live in. Nature by default has produced grass and the like to prevent soil erosion due to rain or wind. But man digs soil for his personal benefit without any guilt of doing so. We pollute land with lots of non-decomposable products which are the symbol of status now. When men used cloth bags to purchase things he had no health issues or polluting issues. In the name sake of modern lifestyle we carry lots of non decomposable bags from wherever we shop and just throw it out as it is. This causes serious effects in terms of health and other factors. When we recall of our ancestors, Land was considered as a female god and even when they start ploughing for crop cultivation they perform all rituals to honor the land naming it as "Booma Devi". As when honored, the land was friendly with man and earthquakes never took lots of lives. Digging land to construct building with stories up and up creates lot of nuisance below the earth's crust.

Water

Survival of fittest is the scientific law. But survival of fittest is not only going to make man live long. Only of man is going to respect nature he can live long. Live long is not only living years...but living Generations. Our upcoming generations should live long as we live. Water, being an essential thing has now become a matter of business. Man with natural water consumption was healthy and never needed a doctor, dietician or a nutritionist. Water is the major cause of all diseases. It's impossible to imagine a human body with no water. Such human will no longer survive on earth. Glaciers melt rapidly yet water is scarce. The scenario is like two states and nations fight rigorously for water. We Tamil Nadu people and Karnataka people are the best examples for this. If we are going to save and use water as and when we need no need of asking from someone. Whatever we face is the consequence of what we did before. So

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conserving water is a solution for lot of issues. The effect of Tsunami is the effect of Water pollution and various other effects under the world.

Fire

Sun, the major source of heat and the ball of fire is the one as it was, being lightly disturbed. The distance and its nature to burn things prevent men from reaching it to carry out his science. The fire calamities are mostly found in deep forests where animals and birds live in numbers. Failure of rainfall and the sun's continuous burning gives a pre heat to the trees and when wind disturbs, the forest starts burning into ash. Fire is perceived as a power of anger in Hindu traditions. The fire totally exhausts man kind in recent years.

Wind/Air

Man, plants-trees, animals, birds live by inhaling and exhaling the air, one of the most vital factors for day-to-day living. When mild it is wind and when violent it is cyclones. The effect varies with the tendency of the Nature of it. At present we are polluting a lot of air than any other. Our world after LPG has become more industrialized than before. India, in particular has become the HUB for industrial wastes. This is so because all industrial wastes all over the world are dipped into India. As of air pollution there are a lot of carbon emissions from our two wheelers to the Industrial emissions. The emissions have caused a lot of Breath problems in recent years.

Sky

The top most part of universe with no definite position or color. It is miles away from us, yet we pollute it too. The pollution from here has created damages in the ozone hole which is a block for UV Rays, which are harmful to mankind. The damage in ozone has caused the greenhouse gas effect. It directly transmits the UV rays which cause a severe damage to the skin.

With all the negative impacts we give to Nature, There are also some activists who care to preserve nature. The steps they take are more admirable to know. The City with Air Pollution

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of Major Industrial cities in India is Mumbai. The table below shows the pollution percentage among Indian cities.

Causes of Environmental Degradation

The improper or wrong use of available resources in the environment is the environmental degradation. The degradation might also be because of over usage of the available resources.

Human Impact on Environment

Human Impact on the environment or anthropogenic impact on the environment includes impacts on bio-physical environments, Bio-diversity, and other resources. Alexey Pavlov, A Russian Geologist was the first person to use the term anthropogenic in the technical sense and British ecologist Arthur Tansley, first used the term in English in reference to Human influence on Climax plant communities. In context of pollution emissions produced as a result of human activities, the term “anthropocene” is used in the mid 1970’s.

Causes of Environmental Degradation:

Technology

The Technological application creates unavoidable impacts on the environment and according to I=PAT equation is measured as resource use or pollution generated per unit GDP. The use of technology at first is to exploit and control or improve the benefit of humanity and secondly the conservation of mass principle and conservation of energy, the first law of thermodynamics. Environmental consequences can never be escaped whenever the material resources are moved or manipulated. Third, within a system, order can be increased. Increased entropy is correlated to negative environmental impacts.

Agriculture

Recent trends, agriculture has become more associated with chemicals and medicines. The technological emissions are not a part of agriculture, but the chemicals, fertilizers and

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manures added to soil are the environmental degradation materials. In agriculture, there are two types of indicators of environmental impact which are as “mean-based” and “effect-based” “mean-based are based on the farmer’s production methods whereas effect based is the effect of farming methods on agricultural activities.

Energy Industry

There is a great variation in the energy harvesting and energy consumption. The renewable resources are commercialized in recent trends. Global warming and climate change are the effects of the fossil fuel consumption. The proof of Peak oil theory being proved true will explore viable alternative resources of energy sources and is of friendly to environment. Transition of energy generation, water and waste management are achievements of rapidly advancing technologies using practices of systems ecology and industrial ecology.

Nuclear Energy

The nuclear fuel cycle processes like mining, transporting, fuel generation and fuel storage of nuclear power are the outcome of nuclear processes. Health danger on human populations, animals and plants etc. are imposed by radioisotopes through various transmission routes. There have been several nuclear disasters like Chernobyl Disaster, Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster and the Three Mile Island accident.

Reservoirs

The demand for water and energy increases and the number and size of reservoirs increases. The uses of Dams and reservoirs are as like supply drinking water, generate hydroelectric power and provide recreational opportunities and flood control. After the reservoir constructions many adverse effects have been identified. Advances in technology have provided solutions to many negative impacts of dams but these advances are often not viewed as worth investing in if not required by law or under threat of fines.

Wind Power

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The generation of wind power has not made any degradation to society, yet there are some adverse effects as a result of the wind mills. The birds, bat etc. roam around there in the wind mill which would get hurt due to the spinning of wind Mills. This in due course of time would cause the extinction of species. There are also arguments regarding the noise pollutions in the wind mill. Other impact of Wind mill is that it occupies a large area of land, which provides lack to agriculture.

Light Pollution

Light Pollution has become the topmost of the pollutions in the world. The artificial light created by man is much polluted when seen from space. Artificial lights affect dispersal, orientation, migration and hormone levels, resulting in disrupted circadian rhythms.

Manufactured Products like Nano Technology

As a coin the Nano Technology has two effects like positive and negative ones. It argues that Nano Technology has a positive effect that it develops environment and there is another negative effect that it may cause danger when they are emitted into environment. Since it is an emerging field, there are much contrary arguments regarding the Nano Technology and its effects.

Effects of Environmental Degradation

Biodiversity

Human impact on Biodiversity is significant; humans have caused the extinction of many species, including the dodo and potentially large mega faunal species during the last ice age. But most experts agree that human beings have accelerated the rate of species extinction. The exact degree of this impact is unknown, perhaps 100 to 1000 times the normal background rate of extinction. Some authors have postulated that without Human interference the biodiversity of the Earth would continue to grow at an exponential rate.

Carbon Cycle

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Global warming is the result of increasing atmospheric carbon di oxide concentrations which are caused primarily by the combustion of fossil energy sources such as petroleum, coal and natural Gas. The carbon cycle is due to the destruction of forests and other natural sources. The Livestock contribution to the climatic change is through production of greenhouse gases and also by destruction of rainforest sinks. Data: According to UN/FAO report of 2006, 18% of the greenhouse contribution are due to Livestock.91% of rainforest are degraded since 1970's and are used for Livestock. The negative impacts of environmental degradation has increased the concentration of carbon di oxide in air with rising global air temperatures, and the hydro geological cycle is affected resulting in drought, famine and storm and flood in the ecosystem.

Loss of Tourism Industry

Many people are dependent on tourism department for their daily livelihood and incase if environment degradation persists, they would lose their daily living. Most of the tourists would be reluctant to visit countries if there is loss of Green cover, biodiversity loss Increased land and water pollution.

Economic Impact

The loss of the environmental green cover would cost more in terms of recovering landfills, green cover of environment, and protection of endangered species. For restoring the environment cover and to enhance tourism we will have to spend more on the Environmental recovering activities.

Approaches

Voluntary Environmental Agreements

Voluntary Environmental Agreements are to provide a platform for companies to be recognized for moving beyond the minimum regulatory standards and thus support the development of best environmental practices. Since 1998, an organization called Environment Improvement Trust (EIT) is working for the protection of forest and the environment. Green

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India Clean India has been organized by a group of Green Volunteers. The effectiveness can't be measured and hence the quality of such agreements has been a debate.

Ecosystems Approach

Simply responding to any issues in the ecosystem is not going to help at any cause and issues and therefore an ecosystem approach to environmental protection aims to consider the relationship between the entire ecosystems in aspects of Decision making. This approach will bring about a better communication among the representatives of industries and various other personnel from the Government departments of the corresponding Departments.

Kyoto Protocol

The Degradation of environment is due to the effect of human activities' impact. This has made it vulnerable. The result of this is that the countries have taken measures to sign various agreements in order to protect nature. The international agreements are legally bind sometimes and legal actions are taken when they are not followed. Some of the most well known multi-national agreements include the Kyoto Protocol and others.

Conclusion

The sun is the only safe nuclear reactor, situated as it is some ninety – three million miles away. Mother Nature has been a boon for us at many instances. Between man and land, Conservation is the state of Harmony. In management perspective, Government has formulated rules and regulations under the industries act to make contributions from the industries. The industries practice Corporate Social Responsibility activities to contribute to nature. When buildings are built for establishing industries, we take a lot from the society and it is viewed as what is given back to the environment. This was not strictly followed by the corporate and hence the rules were confined to be followed strictly. Rules and regulations were made to be must practices. As a result, now gradually the environment will slowly gain its nature back. Recycling and Reprocessing are followed to avoid unwanted usage of resources.

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