

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS: ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

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Abstract:

Environment ethics is a critical study of the normative issues and principles relevant to the relationship between human and natural world. In this article I tried to find that on what ethical basis should we decide how to deal with nature. The main concern is that to which inherent value can be ascribed to things that are not human, including animals, vegetation, and even land. The integrated efforts are to be put so as to examine the interrelated components of environment system. Environmental ethics has much to contribute to the solution of global environmental problems and raise awareness about environmental problems. Human have a duty to act as benign stewards of the earth.

Keywords: Environmentalism, Ethics, Food choices, Vegetarianism.

ENVIRONMENT ETHICS:

Environment ethics is the discipline in Philosophy that studies moral relationship of human to environment. Environment ethics deals with issues related to right of individuals that are fundamentals to life and well beings. It deals with next generations and other living creatures that inhabit the earth.

IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS:

It makes us aware of indiscriminate and destructive human activities. Inculcate moral values toward nature and learn to respect various life forms through environmental ethics. Concerned with issues of responsible personal conduct with respect to natural landscape, resources, species and non human organism.

When species or landscape or wilderness areas are destroyed, what of value is lost to mankind?

Will future generations “miss” what we taken from them.

Should trees have standing?

Major Environmental Issues:

Use of resources: Developed countries use a major part of natural resources. The developing countries like china and India also overuse their natural resources for their large population. Minerals are formed over a period of millions of years in the earth crust.

Urban issues- Horizontal expansion of urban areas creates many problems to environment. Urbanization has influenced the atmosphere in different ways, such as growth of vehicles, sanitation, multiplying industrialization, power consumption etc. By this type of expansion of agriculture land, forests, grasslands reduce and on it the pressure on agriculture land increases. Solid waste and sewage waste management is also another problem of big cities.

Vegetations- The number of plants species are declining. The number of threatened plants species is 5611.

Animals and birds- Biodiversity is essential for survival of life on earth. India is rich in biological heritage of world .But deforestation and mining activities, threat to this priceless biodiversity.

List of top ten threatened animals in world

Rank	Name of Animal	Name of Bird
1	Amur Leopard	Giant Ibis
2	Jawan Rhinoceros	New California Owlet nightjar
3	Vaquite	California candor
4	Cross river Gorilla	Kakapo
5	White headed Langur	Kagu
6	Sumatran Tiger	Bengal Florican
7	Mountain Gorilla	Forest owlet
8	Sumatran Elephant	Philippine Eagle
9	Hawksbill Sea Turtle	Christmas Island Frigate bird
10	Leatherback Sea Turtle	Sumatran Ground Cockoo

List of top ten threatened animals in India

Rank	Name of Animal
1	Bengal Tiger
2	Asiatic Lion
3	Sea Leopard
4	Black Buck
5	Red Panda

6		One horned Rhinoceros
7		The Nilgiri Tahr
8		Kashmir Red Stage
9		Lion tailed Macaque
10		Indian Bison

Pollution- Pollution is undesirable change in the Physical , chemical or biological characteristic of air, water and soil that may harmful affect the life.

Air pollution means the presence of pollutants such as dust , smoke ,fog and foul smell which are unimportant and even harmful for plants and other living being.

Noise pollution means the unwanted sound dumped in the atmosphere leading to health hazards. Rapid industrial growth, heavy traffic , urban crowd and electric equipments like loud speaker ,DJ, religious and social functions increase noise pollution. Some important health hazards are as follow:

Noise Intensity(db)	Health Hazards
80	Annoyance
90	Gearing damage
95	Very annoying
110	Stimulation of reception in skin
120	Pain threshold
130-135	Naisea ,vomiting ,dizziness
140	Pain in ear
150	Burning in skin
160	Rupture of tympanic membrane
180	Major permanent damage in short time

Water pollution- Water pollution simply means contamination of water due to any external material, or in other words introduction of something to natural water which make it unsuitable for human consumption.

Soil pollution- Soil pollution refers to any physical or chemical change in soil conditions that may adversely affect the growth of plants and other organisms.

Solid Waste- Solid waste is most of visible form of pollution. Solid waste includes glass containers as bottles, crokeries, plastic containers, polythene and packing material that are used

and then thrown as garbage. Most of methods disposing of solid waste pose serious damage to environment. More urbanization and industrialization the problem of waste disposal increased.

Population- Rapid growth of population has led to a number of environmental issues. Population growth and industrial development determine the total impact on environment. The major issue is population growth in India. Population of India is 17.8% of the world total population and 2.4 of world's total area. India with 1,220,200,000 people is second largest country in the world.

It has greatly increased the pressure on natural resources.

Solutions:

Conservation of natural resources: Environmental goods are distributed in such a way that wealthy and otherwise privileged people enjoy the benefits of these environmental goods, but poor or otherwise disadvantaged people bore their burden.

Forestation: Forests play an important role in carbon cycle .Main greenhouse gas CO₂ , is absorbed by the forests .Forests can absorb many toxic gases and can help in keeping air cool. There is a need to grow more trees .The natural forests must be protected as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries where all the plants and animals can be protected.

Conservation of biodiversity: It is matter of prime concern that biodiversity should be conserved. Once a species is lost, it is gone forever and it will not come into existence again There is a moral justification for conservation of existing of biodiversity. Every species has a right to exist and human being should not temper the nature's creation. There are 668 protected areas including 102 national parks, 515 wild life sanctuaries, 47 conservation reserves and 4 community reserves in India. In addition there are 47 tiger reserves, 18 biospheres reserves, 125 elephant reserves and wetland sites in India.

Pollution control- Forests cover should be protected .Trees are best controller of air pollution, noise pollution and soil pollution and soil erosion. Keeping the ill effects of noise pollution in mind it should be checked. and rules should be following.

Population control- Increasing population should be checked. It is our duty. One child concept should be adopted.

Value leadership- Leader can play an important role in establishing a climate regarding ethics. Leader can convey the importance of ethical values to public easily. They can become a role

model in youth by using eco friendly goods and mode of transportation. In this context our Honourable prime Minister Sh.Narendra Modi ,,s efforts are praising.

Say No to Plastic- Now a days we are using plastic in much amount. Use of plastic is dangerous for environment. Many cows are being killed by eating plastic begs. Parties and Functions we use plastic plates and glasses. It does not decompose easily and pollutes our environment .We must say No to plastic items and start to use earthen pots like Kullars , and leaves plates like Pattals instead of using plastic products.

Solid waste management- 3Rs Principle:

Reduce- We can reduce our necessities by changing our life style . Reduction in use of raw material will correspondingly decrease the production of waste . .We can use public transport , make pools in car , and also use cycles and save precious fuel and environment.

Reuse- Some resources can be use reused. Water is more important in them. Refillable containers can be reused .Other things like paper, clothes, bottles, boxes and other waste material etc. also can be reused.

Recycle- Recycling is more important now a days . Recycle is the processing of a use item or any waste in to usable form .All metallic goods can be recycled.

The conservation ethic and traditional value system of India

People in ancient India give regard and respect to mountains, rivers, forests, animals and birds. Nature was very important for them. Mother Nature is worshipped in Hindu religion. Hindus has sacred rivers and lakes, mountains, worship of snakes, and other plants and animals. Peeple tree (long pepper tree)was considered holy tree and it is not to be cut down. Banayan tree, tulsi plant (basil) are also considered holy plants. Tribal people worship forests.

Some species of animals ,birds and trees are venerated as being the Vahan or vehicle of gods and goddesses, mouse of Ganesh, eagle of Vishnu, bullock of Shiv, lionof Durga, swanof Saraswati, peacock of Kartik etc. And some are associated with gods and goddesses elephant with Ganesh, cow with Krishana, monkey with Rama and Hanuman. With each one of them ,some particular characters like power ,grace ,peace ,prosperity , sharpness ,stability ,force etc. are attached. The Vedas and Upnishad contain the earliest message for preservation of environment and ecological balance. This was a simple way of making the common people love nature and care for it. Budhism and Jainism believe in Ahinsa ,tolerance ,love ,compassion , forgiveness .

Guru Jambheshwar Ji, the founder of Bishnoi sect laid great stress on having compassion toward all living beings and protection of innocent animals . He also advocated to preserve and protect wild life and plants. Our religions teach us to conserve and protect our environment in a simple and natural way.

Conclusion:

Environmental ethics ask the human to establish a correct view of nature, learn to respect, imitate, and protect nature and get along amiability and peacefully with nature. It must contain rules and regulations which are followed by human nature .Efforts must be done at national level as well as international level, but individual efforts for conservation of can only solve the problem. We must not be reason for damaging ecosystem, must not harm other creatures, plants, water bodies, forests and at last to our own generations . We should think globally , and act locally .

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