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Introduction

The prime concern for sustainable development is the conservation and preservation of environment and its natural resources. Emergence of industrial and transport revolution and urbanization are the starting point of environmental degradation. This results in the development of the concept of Sustainable development. It seems to be a warning that the world which we live are facing crisis can be known as environmental crisis. This crisis is characterized by the poisoning of our water resources like- rivers, seas and underground water resources etc, Ozone depletion- the thinning of the Ozone layer which allow to enter the U V rays to the surface of the earth which are harmful to both living and non living beings on the earth, may result global warming, deforestation, that led the extinction of species. Rapid growth of population and uncontrolled urbanization destroyed the balance of ecology.

The aim of sustainable development is to maximize well-being of human life or improve the quality of life and minimise the social evils which are harmful to all (natural resources and the factors that support life on earth). Sustainable development has emerged not only due to over exploitation of resources but also mismanagement of technology, it creates clear perceptions about the environmental degradation. The irrational management of the resource and environmental systems will damage ecological balance and stability the observable sign can be listed as following:

- a. Extensive deforestation accounting for loss of flora, fauna and some rare species.
- b. Drying up of drinking water resources and fall in the underground water levels.
- c. Intensifying rate and frequency of flood and droughts.
- d. Land degradation due to desertification, waste lands, salinity and water logging.
- e. Unplanned urbanization and unprecedented growth of urban slums etc.

For environmental protection what needed is the joint efforts of all including geologist, historians economist, ecologist gave a special parallel care, love and respect for the ecosystem, Suitable examination of land degradation, understand the difficulties of over population, proper checking of water management, waste management etc. are needed for the conservation ,maintenance and protection of bio diversity. Planned utilisation of renewable energy sources, change and attitude and life style, sincere love and care for all living being are the best effort to make a sustainable environment. This is possible only by creating awareness and proper understanding of environmental problems and their possible solutions among the people

Land Ethic.

Sustainability implies an adjustment or the betterment of a system that satisfy the present need and at the same time it conserves the future. So sustainability of land is the foreseeable use of land. Land ethic is a concern about land use - relating issue of land use that emphasises conservation and preservation of natural environment. Land ethic is a philosophy which try to explain how ethically human regard about land, its use etc. The term “land ethic” was first coined by Aldo Leopold in his famous work *A Sand County Almanac*. In his work he argues that we need to create ‘a new ethics’ –which explains ethical relation ship of human being to land and to the animals and plants and other living things including microbes which grow upon it.

Leopold offers an ecological based or eco friendly land ethics which is based on non anthropocentric view (nature centred) that rejects anthropocentric view (human centred) which focuses on the cultivation and preservation of healthy self-renewing ecosystem. He presents a holistic or ecocentric environmental approach. His land ethic is a moderate view which tries to make a balance between human interest and diverse nature of healthy self renewing natural environment. It is an attempt to extend mans moral concern and care to protect and ensure a healthy relation between natural environments with its non-human contents.

Ethics direct all members of a community to treat every one as equal. All living and nonliving thing has equal right to enjoy the benefit of environmental resources because environment is

interconnected system. So each one give respect to each other for the mutual benefit of all. So the definition land ethic is a wide one it is defined as a community which not only include the concern and supremacy of human being and his interest but all of the other things which form parts of Earth like soils, water, plants and animals or what Leopold called it as 'the land'.

According to Leopold land ethic is that which explains the relationships between people and land and also explain how they are intertwined. It holds that Care for people cannot be separated from care for the land. The concept of land ethic is moral theory of conduct which portraits interconnected caring relationship. This moral theory focuses not only on individual organism but on ecology as a collective one which is known as the land. Through the concept of land ethic Leopold extended a moral sphere to biotic community." "The land ethic simply, enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants and animals or collectively the land" (Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac* 204). Hence land ethic is love and caring about people, about land, and about mutual relationship between man and the biotic community.

Land ethic is not simply provide an ethical considerability for the biotic community but give ethical consideration of its individual members ,ie for each and every individual have their own space for the preservation of the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic world. Leopold says that a land ethics in which "the thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." (Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac* 224).

Leopold explained that conservation is a state of harmony between men and land. The concept of land ethic is moral obligations towards the land which includes all plants, animals, air, water, soil, and many other non-human organisms. These concepts make man as an ordinary citizen, down to earth -- transition from human centred view to nature centred, from instrumental values to intrinsic value.

The land Pyramid

“An ethic supplement and guide the economic relation to land presupposes the existence of same mental image of land a biotic Mechanism one can be ethical only in relation to something we can see, feel, understand, love or have faith in” (Blackwell. *Ethics in Practice* 635). True image is employed in ecology. It is known as biotic pyramid.

Sun is known as the primary source of energy, Plants receive energy from the Sun. plants make food by using this absorbed energy and plants are known as producers. All other animals get energy from this primary producer. The flow of energy circuit is known as biota. The energy flow from bottom level consists of soil to plant layer to herbivorous to carnivores. Each successive layer depends on food and for others service, proceeding upward from each successive layer there is decrease in number of consumers. This make pyramidal form Man shares an intermediate layer (omnivorous) with the bears, racoons, squirrels which eat both meat and vegetables. The line of dependency of food and other services called food chains. In the beginning the pyramid of life was low and squat. The food chain is short and simple. Evolution has added layer after layer link after link. Man is one of thousands of accretions to the height and complexity of the pyramid.

For Leopold land is not merely soil. Land is a fountain of energy flowing circuit. Energy transition starts from, soil to plants and plants to animals. Food chains are active living channels which conduct energy from bottom to upward; individuals take birth and grow, dies and decay return it to soil. This circuit is not a closed one. Some is added by absorption form the air, some is stored in soils etc. but it is a sustained circuits, raised to form new lands and to new pyramids

. An energy circuit or biota explicit three basic ideas:

1. “Land is not merely soil.
2. The native plants and animals kept the energy circuit open; others may or may not.
3. The man-made changes are of a different order than evolutionary changes, and have effects more comprehensive than is intended or foreseen.” (Blackwell. *Ethics in Practice* 635).

A land ethic reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, which make individual to take the responsibility to protect and preserve the health of the land. Health means capacity of the land for self-renewal. According to Ecocentrism; actions that are right abide by the above maxim. These actions promote and enhance the following values within the ecosystem:

- a. **Beauty:** It is referred as cognitive perception of nature. It gives us pleasure, and this emotional response is crucial to our appreciation of nature's beauty. Natural beauty is valuable in itself that is intrinsic nature. It must be preserved.
- b. **Integrity;** It refers to the wholeness of the ecosystem. Natural ecological are self-sustainable and processes can function normally. These processes include: Predator Decomposition, and Hydrologic cycle. The ecosystem is able to self-renew naturally, this means that the ecosystem is free from human activity. Human beings can create changes to the natural landscape. The value of integrity can only be maintained if an ecosystem is true to its own character and allowed to unfold on its own without any control or alteration by humanity.
- c. **Stability:** It holds that change is essential to ecosystems. What is real change, change alone is real, everything change from moment to moment so that all living things are in a constant flux from birth to death. Stability does not mean that not changing. Special features of a stable ecosystem include, 3R- recycle, reuse and reproduce that is disposal of waste and replenishment of nutrient elements are to be recycled, Using renewable source like sunlight as the primary source of energy for the base of food chain.
- d. **Health:** It refers the capacity or ability of an ecosystem to carry out its various eco-biological functions. A healthy ecosystem is able to perform its processes normally – the organisms are able to interact well with the environment.
- e. **Diversity:** It holds that there are ecological diversity includes types of species different pattern of foodchain. Eco system is also different. A Diverse eco system is important because only through diversity evolution will take place.

Biocentrism believes that any living thing in nature may be if it an animal, plant, even fungi, has intrinsic value because it possesses life. Biotic creatures have needs – e.g. sunlight, air, water,

nutrients etc., and we are morally obliged to respect and satisfy these interests. Biocentrism holds that Earth's organisms are all of equal importance and their lives should be protected. In Ecocentrism both living and non-living, must be preserved because everything is interconnected.

Our Land is flourishing, Egocentrism allows man to flourish, i.e. flourishing through Virtue Ethics. Virtue Ethics deems what is right as the possession of underlying character traits that are considered virtuous. Virtues can be specified inductively by examining the lives of environmental heroes such as Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson and even Sir David Attenborough. Through one's relationship with nature, there is a possibility for acquiring these environmental virtues and undergoing self-development.

Conclusion

All environmental issues are moral problems. Hence we need moral answers to solve them. This can be done through environmental education. To improve environment is to improve the quality of life. Our late lady Prime Minister Indira Gandhi stated at U N conference in 1972 "one cannot be truly human and civilized unless one looks upon not only all fellow men but all creations with the eye of a friend". Love this miraculous world protect our earth –the only planet with LIFE.

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