

# Environmental Concern, water and Rabindranath

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**Abstract-** Environment is a very important thing today. Every one is concerned about environmental degradation. In-fact now every one very much concerned about water scarcity. Day by day the water level fall down with the continues increasing of urbanization, industrialization population growth.

**Index Terms-** Environment, Environmental degradation, water scarcity.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Today environment is a very important thing. Everyone is concerned about environment. Specially water is a very vital thing. Water scarcity a very critical problem in today's life. All of know us water is known as life but today we do not get proper drinking water. water supply in India has two principle sources, (1) water from fivers and (2) ground water.

Rabindranath Tagore was not only a great writer but also great environment pioneer. Today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are thinking about environment. Rabindranath Tagore already even a century ago had been thinking about the matter. In 1916 when he was going to Japan, on his was, he saw oil spill over the sea and started thinking about the impact on environment.

## II. ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM:

Today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are facing various types of environmental problems like global warming, acid rain, air pollution, urban sprawl, waste disposal, ozone layer depletion, water pollution, water scarcity, climate change etc. Actually, now we are facing the environmental degradation.

Environmental degradation is the disintegration of the earth or deterioration of the environment through consumption of assets, for example, air, water and soil, the destruction of environments and the eradication of wildlife. It is characterized as any change or aggravation to nature's turf seen to be pernicious or undesirable. Ecological effect or degradation is created by the consolidation of an effectively substantial and expanding human populace, constantly expanding monetary development or per capita fortune and the application of asset exhausting and polluting technology. It occurs when earth's natural resources are depleted and environment is compromised in the form of extinction of species, pollution in air, water and soil, and rapid growth in population.<sup>[1]</sup>

This environmental degradation is the highest threat today. The United Nations also focused on the matter. The environmental degradation is a long term ecological effect which affected the whole living and non living components of the earth that live inside it. It also includes the things on which they depend on, like-streams, lakes, and soils.

There are various causes for environment degradation such as Land disturbance, pollution, over pollution, landfills, deforestation, natural causes.

It affects human health. Today maximum people are suffering from pneumonia and asthma. Millions of people are known to have died of due to indirect effects of air pollution. Biodiversity also effected for this environmental degradation. Biodiversity is very is important for maintaining balance of the ecosystem in the form of combating pollution, restoring nutrients, protecting water sources and stabilizing climate. Deforestation, global warming, overpopulation and pollution are few of the major causes for loss of biodiversity.<sup>[2]</sup>Ozone Layer Depletion is another effect of environmental degradation. Ozone layer protects the earth from the harmful ultraviolet rays.

The chlorofluorocarbons and hydro chlorofluorocarbons in the atmosphere harm the ozone layer. As a result it will pass the harmful radiations to the earth. The environmental damage such as loss of green cover, loss of biodiversity, etc. also makes a deep effect on the Tourism industry.

If we look the water crisis issue from geographical perspective we saw that India is not a water deficit country, India have major rivers like Ganga, Yamunas, Brahmaputra and annual rainfall of 1170 millimeters. But due to various reasons India faces serious water problem. Due to high population, urbanization, industrialization India faces serious water scarcity. India has failed to properly conserved the rivers. The rivers become polluting. Another side India has a very poor storage capacity. Only 6% of rainwater stored on the other hand the developed country stored 250% stored capacity.

India do not have an strong legislation regarding right to water. only the Supreme court try to protect the right to water.

Rabindranath Tagore was the first environmental pioneer. Tagore was very much concerned about the impact of human being on environment. His concern about environment had been started when he was travelling to Japan in 1916. He saw an oil spill at sea. That experience provoked him to write about nature and made an effort to create consciousness among the human beings about nature. We can say that Tagore was an environmental activist. His philosophy about nature is related with sustainable

rural development. The concept of sustainable rural development is correlated to nature and human beings.

#### **A brief Introduction on Tagore life history:**

Tagore was born on 7th may 1861. At some time towards the end of the seventeenth century, his forefather had migrated from their native land to Govindpur, one of the three villages which later came to constitute Calcutta. Rabindranath grandfather was Daraknath Thakur who supported the contemporary Rammohon Roy social movement which also known as Bramha Samaj movement. Rabindranath's father, Devendranath Thakur, also supported the Bramha Samaj's movement. In order to encourage its spread in 1863, he establish a meditation centre and guest house on some land about 100 miles from Calcutta at a place called 'Santiniketan' at abode of peace.<sup>[3]</sup> Rabindranath was the fourteenth child of his parents. His brothers and sisters were poets, musicians, play writers etc.

The context when Rabindranath was born, there create a deep impact on Rabindranath. At that time Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar had trying to reform the position of the women in the society. English as an important language is considered.

Rabindranath could not get any formal schooling. His education was carried out at home through his own personal efforts and with the help of tutor in various subjects. In 1878 when he was 17, he was sent to London by his father to qualify for the Indian civil service, or as a lawyer. Back in India he continued with his personal education and creative writing and music.<sup>[4]</sup>

#### **Rabindranath concern about Nature**

: Rabindranath Thakur considered as humanistic philosopher, his main focus was human being and man's well beings who reside in the nature. So as a result his attention came on the nature. His philosophy on the environment is related with sustainable rural development.

His experience in the way Japan, he expressed it in his lectures in Japan. This experience provoked him to write about the modern man who likes to be destroying something to create something for themselves. His experience to modern man considered him to the concept that limitless greed of human beings is the chief enemy of nature. Tagore's play 'Raktakarabi' and 'Mukatadhara' show how the human beings torture the nature for his personal greed. He also tried to aware people towards nature. In the essay 'Aranyabata', he shows how man becomes unrestrained in his actions.

He wrote "**The free bird cries, "O my love, let us fly to the wood".**

**The caged bird whispers, "come hither, let us both live in the cage"**

**Says the free bird among birds, "among bars, where is there room to spread one's wings?"**

**Alas, cries the cage bird, "should not know where to sit perched in the."**<sup>[6]</sup>

Tagore feels that human beings are responsible for the environmental problems. He sorted out the measures to adopt and to overcome this in their near future through the poem. The tame bird was in a cage and I pluck you flower. In his poem the tame bird was in a cage. (the gardener, poem no/11), Tagore brings out

the plight of a tamed bird. One bird is in the cage and other in the forest. Both of them meet and fall in love.<sup>[7]</sup>

Here the both the birds are same type but their upbringings are different. One is domesticated bird and other is a free bird.

**The free bird cries, "My darling sing the song of the woodlands.**

**The cage bird says "Alas for me, I know not the song of the woodlands".**

According to Tagore, the cage bird forgot his natural voice. It can imitate its master's voice which is not useful for her/him because of the greedy nature of human beings. According to Tagore the human being always refuse the natural perspective and adopt their greedy nature of perspective.

Rabindranath also said in his famous poem 'The Gardener' that

**"I plucked your flower, o world**

**I presented it to my heart and the thorn picked**

**When the day wanted and it darken, I found that,**

**The flower had faded, but the pain remained."**

According to Tagore human beings feel plucking of flower his/her own right. He also said that ".....**it is beyond your**

**power to make it blossom.**

**Your touch soils, you tear its petals to**

**Pieces and strew them in the dust."**

Rabindranath in his various writings not only blamed the greediness nature of human beings but also focused on the concept that it is a universal problem to save the forest as well as the nature from the human greediness. According to him God or the creator, sent life and also made agreements for nurturing it all round. But our greed supplied the instrument of death. Tagore not only focused the problem but also look for a solution. He was concerned basically about deforestation. In 1926 when Tagore stayed at the heart hospital at Balatonfured, he planted a tree and that was his first attempt tree-planting ceremony. Many people were inspired by the Tagore's initiative including Indian Prime Minister by planting trees.

Santiniketan is another example of Tagore's initiative towards protecting the environment as well as the nature. In 1927 at Santiniketan he started an annual tree-planting ceremony (Brikhharopon) program which is really a great example for the whole world towards protecting our nature or the relation between the man and the nature. The ceremony is still celebrated in Santiniketan every year. Classes at Santiniketan, under the shades of trees, were not only romantic but also a deliberate way of bringing students closer to nature.

Tagore also introduced the idea of Halakarshana (tilling land). It is a clarion call to increase the green cover across the deserts through the plantation.<sup>[8]</sup> He also initiated the concept of celebrating 'Borshamongol' where basically we welcome the monsoon season.

The festival of Earth is also coined by the Rabindranath Tagore. These festivals create a mass environmental awareness.

### III. CONCLUSION:

Thus the philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore about nature inspired every human being. Even when the environmental movement was not started in the West, Tagore in 1927 started the

festival 'Brikharopan' at Santiniketan which today we are doing 'gach lagao gach bachao' program. In short his work can be used for raising awareness about the environment.

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