

RESEARCH PAPER

Gandhian solution to environmental problems

MARINA ISLAM

Department of Philosophy, Cochar College, SILCHAR (ASSAM) INDIA

ABSTRACT

It is true that the environmental problems are more challenging today than ever before. It's also a reality that we have to fight against the menace. In search of different approaches in lacking with environmental challenges, we are naturally attracted towards the Gandhian approach. Now a day Gandhian ideas, approaches and alternatives to social transformation and development are a debate of global concern. If we go through voluminous writings of Mahatma Gandhi there are rare references to his concern for protection and preservation of environment. Only a few writers recognize Gandhi as an early environmentalist. But it is more than appropriate to remember Mahatma Gandhi as one of the hap bingers of environmental issues.

Key Words : Gandhian ideas, Global concern , Environmental issues

View point paper : Islam, Marina (2012). Gandhian solution to environmental problems. *Asian Sci.*, 7(1): 31-34.

The literal meaning of environment is related to the surroundings of an object in nature. In fact, environment may be regarded as everything else but to me it includes the sky over our heads and the earth beneath our feet. It also comprises all other people and any living organism with which we have any connection. The environment includes not only the natural and man-made things for us but also the circumstances or influences created by physical and cultural conditions and processes. All living organisms, from microorganisms to human beings, have their own environments. In a nut-shell the conditions for existences and development for all kind of living beings postulate the whole perspective of environment. The biological existence of all creatures depends on the harmonious relationship naturally maintained within the eco-system. It is true that the environment pollution is the part and parcel of human activities aiming at more and more exploitation of nature for prosperity and development in life without caring the unfavourable changes imposed upon it. A UNESCO report elaborates the environmental crisis in the following words: Imperfect understanding of the natural systems and mechanism which make possible the maintenance of life on earth; disregard of the unintentional efforts of technology, in particular the various forms of pollution, poor management of the soil, forests and water unbridled consumption of fossil fuels; uncontrolled urbanization; the relegation of rural population to a marginal position; and the crushing of traditional cultures- these are the most obvious and most frequent disadvantages of the changes that is taking place in the relation between man and his environment. Sir Edmund Hillary¹ once said that 'environmental problems are really social problems. They begin with people as the same and end with the people as victims'. The creation of friendly atmosphere by human being with nature and natural phenomenon without causing any harm to it has been our cultural heritage since ancient time beginning. But with the advent of industrial revolution in West, the demand and need for the exploitation of nature and natural resources became inevitable causing the disastrous effects on the whole biosphere and its existences. The environmental degradation is so alarming that very existence of humanity is in danger today. In spite of various safeguard measures for environmental protection situation is not healthy. With the growth of industrialization and the demand for more and more consumer goods, the cut throat competition amongst western industrial powers led to over exploitation of minerals, forests, soil and flora and fauna. The cutting down of jungles and