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CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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ABSTRACT

The population of human beings has grown enormously in the past two centuries. Proportionally, the utilization of resources also increased- building houses, burning fuel for transportation, and much more. The continuation of life depends upon how carefully we use renewable and non-renewable resources. These natural resources should be consumed by humans judiciously since they are valuable for their intrinsic values. For instance, crude petroleum is an exhaustible source of energy, however, we will face its deficiency at some point in time since nature won't be able to produce at the same rate, we consume it. They should be used judicially, and because of their utmost importance, we have to think about their conservation. Along with the preservation for utilization, they are required to maintain environmental balance - prevent soil erosion, control floods and draughts, and maintain a balance of CO_2 and O_2 in the air for the forest. Though nature provides water abundantly, now we scarcity of water across the globe. With time, getting fresh and clean water is costly, and even scarce in some parts of the world. At this point, it has not become a duty but a mandatory objective to conserve and preserve natural resources for the smooth sustainability of humans, and if we don't do it religiously, we will soon face nature's reaction in form of floods, draughts and other natural calamities.

KEYWORDS: Nature, natural resources, conservation, soil.

INTRODUCTION

The developed and third world countries are facing global environmental issues appeared in last three decades. The dramatic changes in our environment are due to the negligence of natural resources and their unplanned use by human beings(1). In ancient period, our administrators and people both, cared for natural resources. Today these resources are under disaster conditions and creating a devasting state of environment. Therefore, conservation of natural resource is need of present time.

Conservation has been defined as the management for the benefit of all life including human kind of the bio-sphere so that it may sustainable development to the present generation while

maintaining potential to meet the needs and aspirations of the future generations.

In other words, we can say that the conservation of natural resources as repletion of these resources for last longer so that our coming generations can be benefited as we are. To maintain this condition the rate of utilization and rate of regeneration of natural resources must be equal(2).

Our late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi emphasized our ancient care and worship of trees and animals while launching the world conservation strategy in India on March 6, 1980.

HUMAN EFFORTS FOR CONSERVATION

The present scenario of the environment is due to human activities. The unplanned use of natural resources the land, water, forests, petroleum, mining etc. causes imbalanced environment. The human power can conserve and sustain these resources.

CONSERVATION OF WATER

Among the life constituents the water has prime importance for the life of animals and plants. Although greatest resource of water, the ocean has 97% water of the total but we cannot use it for domestic and irrigation purposes because it is saline. Thus, only three percent water is fresh of the total two percent is in the form of glaciers and polar ice. Therefore, we can say that only one percent of water is on our disposal to meet our needs.

The nature gives us enough water through many ways like rivers, dams, lakes, water-falls, streams, rain and ground water(3). We are using only 10% water the total rain falls in a calendar year, and rest water settled in the ground and reaches to ocean.

Until 1965, using tanks, ponds wells, lakes etc. to store the rain water and use it timely. But in last three decades these resources were neglected by human beings. On the other side the per head water consumption is increasing day by day. It is about 800 liter a day in USA. It is about 200 liter in India. Simultaneously we are polluting our resources by industrial wastes, sewage, civil garbage, and agricultural chemicals like pesticides, herbicides and insecticides. The water of at least six rivers is unsafe for drinking and domestic use(4). However, numerous efforts are made by Government to revoke it but it is increasing day by day. For the conservation of water some points suggested as are:

- Revival of traditional water management system.
- Use of ponds and lakes to store rain water which will be helpful for the ground water reserve.
- Safe guarding water shed areas and protects use of water table in draught prone regions.
- Reassessment of large surface irrigation schemes.
- Exploitation of the potential of increasing the water reservoirs by proving the catchment areas.
- Development of alternative irrigation systems such as run of water harvesting.

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- Recycling the sewage water and effluent discharged from factories.
- New policies should be prepared for the suitable use of recycle water in large scale industries, big hotels and agriculture land.
- Awareness schemes for water conservation should be implemented.
- Minimize the use of fresh water.

CONSERVATION OF SOIL

Among the major abiotic components of the environment the soil is the uppermost, unconsolidated solid layer of lithosphere in which vegetation occurs. It has minerals, air, water organic and vegetable matter and living organisms. Soil is the only natural resource where physical, chemical and biological activities take place. The most important life support systems as ecological regulation starts from soil(5).

But in last thirty years it was used badly for industrialization, civilization, and mechanization. In this way we are losing our agriculture resource to fulfil the food requirements of the population which is increasing rapidly.

Deforestation is another problem of the exploitation of cultivated land. Due to deforestation sunlight comes in the direct touch of the land and it converts the agriculture land slowly into desert. The second one, when rain falls on soil the soil particles of upper layer flow down. The following points are suggested for the conservation of soil.

- Promotion of integrated nutrients supply systems, bio-fertilizers and green manure crops.
- Enforcement of conservation measures in coastal areas.
- Not locating industries and townships in area of good agriculture land.
- Not use of agriculture land for unsuitable growing food.
- Development of strategies to cope with future changes in the climate and agricultural practices.
- Promotion of integrated tropical forests and coastal mangroves ecosystem.
- Promotion of the production of millet, pulses and oil seeds in dry land areas.
- Improve the diversity and nutritional equality of food.

CONSERVATION OF FORESTS

It is reported (6) that the total forest area of the world was nearly 7000 M ha in 1900. It was recorded 2890 M ha in 1975. It is expected 2370 M ha in 2000 A. D. The maximum deforestation was noted in tropical and subtropical regions.

India is losing approximately 2-3 M ha forest every year which is near about eight times to the annual rate putout by the Department of Environment and Forest by afforestation. As the forests are important for living and non-living world because they make ecological cycle and ecological balance for suitable life. It should be conserved as:

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- The deforestation should be stopped forcely.
- New sources of energy should be detected.
- A forestation should be started at large scale.
- Search of options of trees for paper industries.
- Use of old clothes, paper and garbage for paper industries.
- Forest conservation awareness programs should be launched.
- Use of solar energy in rural regions to consume and prevent firewood.

CONSERVATION OF MINERALS, COAL AND PETROLEUM:

Minerals mines, Coal mines and Petroleum are nature's gift to human beings. We cannot think about life without these natural resources (7). A danger is ahead because mineral mines, coal mines and petroleum oil are non-renewable resources. They are decreasing at rapid rate and their importance is increasing day by day. According to the forecast the greatest petroleum resources of Gulf countries will be threatened by 2030 A .D. Minerals and coal mines are no longer(8). Therefore, today we have to make efforts to conserve these important resources.

- Maximum recycling of minerals scrap.
- Sustainable development and minimize use of non-renewable resources.
- Search of new sources of energy.
- Maximum utilisation of non-conventional energy resources.
- Use of the options of mineral metals.
- Decrease the use of petroleum oil.
- Save the oil for the future.

CONCLUSION

Natural resources are components of the environment that are vital to humans somehow. The term conservation of natural resources refers to the sustainable use and management of natural resources such as animals, water, air, and earth deposits. If we continue to exploit nature, there will be no available resources in the future. Thus, conservation of nature is critical to protect our biodiversity and maintain balance. The Indian constitution has numerous acts and legislation to conserve natural resources, such as National Forest Policy, 1998. It includes conservation of soil, water and preservation of biodiversity

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