

## An Environmental issue on Conservation of Nature and Natural resources

Atasi Mahapatra,

Assistant Professor, Sahid Matangini Hazra Govt. College for women Chak Srikrishnapur, Kulberia, Tamluk,  
Purba Medinipur, W.B., India.

Corresponding Author: Atasi Mahapatra

---

**ABSTRACT:** Nature, in broadest sense is the natural, physical or mental world or universe. It refers to the phenomena of the physical world as well as to life. Conservation of Nature refers to the preservation of natural resources like water, forest land, sunlight, atmosphere, minerals, vegetation and animals. These natural resources are divided two categories like, renewable resources and non-renewable resources. First are the ones that replenish naturally, but the second are not replenish. All these natural resources are obtained from the nature without any interference from the mankind. The importance of conservation must be understood and steps must be taken to ensure the ecological balance. Using the value of utilitarianism, these resources are further employed to produce various things that make the lives of human beings as well as others living beings comfortable. Unfortunately, man has grown so engrossed in over utilizing these resources to invent newer things the importance of conserving them. As a result, many of these resources are depleting at a fast pace and if it continues this way, then the survival of human beings as well as others living beings on Earth would become very difficult. So, conservation of Nature is the very serious issues in the world. The governments of different countries are employing various means to conserve nature; individuals must also come forward to contribute their bit in this direction. There are many ways in which common man can help conservation of Nature. These ways are planting trees, restricting the use of paper, stopping wastage of water, power or electricity, stopping all practices such as hunting of animals, employing rain water harvesting system, restricting use of cars, and finally spreading awareness about the conservation of Nature. If we follow these ways, we will be protecting the natural world. This study demonstrates nature, importance and utility of the conservation of nature and natural resources.

**KEYWORDS:** awareness, phenomena, preservation, renewable resources, the value of utilitarianism.

---

Date of Submission: 28-09-2018

Date of acceptance: 01-10-2018

---

### I. INTRODUCTION

Generally we believe that nature is everything that was put on this earth whether it is the food we eat, the water we drink, or the wood we use to build our houses. Others may think nature is just the oceans and the forests, but no matter what you think nature is we all must take care of it, because it was given to us. "Nature" can refer to the phenomena of the physical world, and also to life in general. The study of nature is a large, if not the only, part of science. Although humans are part of nature, human activity is often understood as a separate category from other natural phenomena.[1] The concept of nature as a whole, the physical universe, is one of several expansions of the original notion. This usage continued during the advent of modern scientific method in the last several centuries. Within the various uses of the word today, "nature" often refers to geology and wildlife. Nature can refer to the general realm of living plants and animals, and in some cases to the processes associated with inanimate objects—the way that particular types of things exist and change of their own accord, such as the weather and geology of the Earth.

It is often taken to mean the "natural environment" or wilderness—wild animals, rocks, forest, and in general those things that have not been substantially altered by human intervention, or which persist despite human intervention. For example, manufactured objects and human interaction generally are not considered part of nature, unless qualified as, for example, "human nature" or "the whole of nature". This more traditional concept of natural things which can still be found today implies a distinction between the natural and the artificial, with the artificial being understood as that which has been brought into being by a human consciousness or a human mind. The living part of the natural world – the wild plants, animals and fungi with which human beings are share the earth; the wildlife is a vital parts of whole. All the others services depend on it.[2]

## **II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The primary objective of this study is to establish a clear understanding of conservation of nature and natural resources. Using the analytic and explanatory method, this study is analysis notion and importance of nature as well as needs and practices conservation of the natural resources. Generally natural resources are grouped into major categories renewable and non-renewable. Renewable resources are capable of regenerating themselves within a relatively short period. These can be further classified into two distinct groups: biological resources and flow resources. Biological resources consist of various species of plant and animals; and flow resources include solar radiation, wind, tide, water streams. On the other hand regenerative capacity of non-renewable resources can be assumed to be zero for all practical purposes. These are broadly classified into two groups: one is recyclable, such as metallic minerals like iron, aluminium etc; other is non-recyclable such as non-metallic minerals like fossil fuels, sand, salt etc. For the world to sustain future generations, the human community at large should embrace conservation of natural resources both renewable and non-renewable. This paper is demonstrated some nature related subjects such as, some major environmental problems, importance of nature, good practices of conservation of nature and natural resources, and sustainable development. There are arising some important questions: what is natural environment? How we can conserve nature and natural world? What are the major current environmental problems? How does possible the good environment conservation practices? What is our role in Nature? Discuss the notion of sustainable development and future generation? etc.

## **III. DISCUSSION AND ITS RESULTS**

### **3.1: Importance of nature:**

Nature is very important because if there was no nature we wouldn't be alive. Especially trees, they give us the oxygen to live and breathe. Nature is also important because we have comfortable clothes; some of our own clothes are made out of animals. Some animals give us food. For example, cows give us milk and pigs give us bacon. Plants also give us food like corn, peas, barley and beans. Trees are the most important of all the stuff that we talked about because they give us oxygen to survive. Importance of nature, it's not so much that humanity has destroyed a large part of the natural world and withdrawn from the remainder. We have also expelled it needlessly from our daily lives. Today, the number of people living in urban areas has passed the number living in rural areas. Simultaneously, the home range of each person on average, the area traversed on a regular basis, is declining steadily.

Natural gifts are beautiful, benevolent, and soul restoring, nature waits for us to bring her home.[3] Nature around us: food, water, medicine, materials for shelter, and even natural cycles such as climate and nutrients. Scientists have come to term such gifts 'ecosystem services'. Yet we have so disconnected ourselves from the natural world that it is easy—and often convenient—to forget that nature remains as giving as ever. The rise of technology and industry may have distanced us superficially from nature, but it has not changed our reliance on the natural world; most of what we use and consume on a daily basis remains the product of multitudes of interactions within nature, and many of those interactions are imperilled. Beyond such physical goods, the natural world provides less tangible, but just as important, gifts in terms of beauty, art, and spirituality. Nature is also particularly important because the more people are inspired, motivated and empowered to value and take action of nature.

### **3.2 Major current environmental problems:**

The Earth is the only planet man can ever call home. Therefore, he must love and take care of it. This is the place where plants and animals thrive, its atmosphere and its terrain providing what man needs in order to live. When man refuses to acknowledge his responsibility to care for nature, destruction occurs. Devastation happens either by omission or commission. As a result, Our Mother Earth is currently facing a lot of environmental concerns. The environmental problems are pollution of air, water, soil etc, global warming, acid rain, urban sprawl, waste disposal, ozone layer depletion, climate change, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, over population, natural resources depletion and many more affect every human, animal and nation on this planet.[4] Human physical and industrial activities have played a big role in depleting the beauty of our environment. This is where soot, dust particles, and other lethal elements are deposited into the atmosphere polluting the air natural resource. These particles interfere with the normal environmental setting and contributing to global warming effects. Elements like nitrous oxides, methane and carbon monoxide readily combine with vapour in the atmosphere to form acidic rains. Acidic rains are responsible for corroding and destructing manmade structures, destroying plants and animals.

Animals disappear and become endangered or extinct because of irresponsible hunting. Plant life is essentially destroyed by incessant cutting of trees and burning of grasslands. The atmosphere is being damaged by pollution. Global warming destroys land masses as the sea rises because of increasing temperatures. Rising global warming and climate change has become a reality, warning us to pull our act together while there is still

time. It even causes the growth and rapid spread of different kinds of bacteria and viruses. There are people who are directly responsible for the devastation in our surroundings while there are also people who do not even think about it. It is Just and fair behaviour which means the conservation of natural resources, proper and responsible use of water, land and air resources, preservation of the purity of the environment and avoidance of pollution as an ethical obligation.[5]

So, Nature provides us the basic needs like food, shelter, clothes, etc. for our survival. We use air, water, soil, minerals, coal, petroleum, animals, plants etc. in our daily life. But do you ever think how long these precious materials of the nature will be available for our use. The growing population, rapid industrialisation and urbanisation have created heavy demand on all these materials. It is feared that unless proper steps are taken to conserve them in time, we will face tremendous hardship in future. As the human population is continuously growing the consumption of natural resources is also increasing. With the increasing industrialisation and urbanisation of the modern human society, the use of all the resources is rising. If they are not properly used and well managed, a serious scarcity will result. Therefore we need to conserve the natural resources. This will also upset the ecological balance. Conservation is the proper management of a natural resource to prevent its exploitation, destruction or degradation. It is the sum totals of activities, which can derive benefits from natural resources but at the same time, prevent excessive use leading to destruction or degradation.

### **3.3 Notion of conservation of natural resources:**

Conservation of natural resources is the wise use of the earth's resources by humanity. The term conservation came into use in the late 19th cent. It referred to the management, mainly for economic reasons, of such valuable natural resources as timber, fish, game, topsoil, pastureland, and minerals, and also to the preservation of forests, wildlife, parkland, wilderness, and watershed areas. In recent years the science of ecology has clarified the workings of the biosphere; i.e., the complex interrelationships among humans, other animals, plants, and the physical environment. At the same time burgeoning population and industry and the ensuing pollution have demonstrated how easily delicately balanced ecological relationships can be disrupted.[6] Conservation of natural resources is now usually embraced in the broader conception of conserving the earth itself by protecting its capacity for self-renewal. Particularly complex are the problems of non-renewable resources such as soil and coal and other minerals in great demand. Current thinking also favours the protection of entire ecological regions by the creation of "biosphere reserves." The importance of reconciling human use and conservation beyond the boundaries of parks has become another important issue.

### **3.4 Needs to conservation of natural resources:**

We know that nature provides us all our basic needs but we tend to over exploit it. If we go on exploiting the nature, there will be no more resources available in future. There is an urgent need to conserve the nature. Some of the needs are:

1. To maintain ecological balance for supporting life.
2. To preserve different kinds of species (biodiversity).
3. To make the resources available for present and future generation
4. To ensure the survival of human race.

In broad terms a resources can be defined as anything that is directly or indirectly capable of satisfying human want.[7] Natural resources are those things that exist naturally within the environment and subsist relatively undisturbed in a normal and natural form. The world is blessed with diverse natural resources wealth that has helped mankind meet their daily needs for food, shelter, clothing, medicine and other important chemical elements that are vital for making useful products. Uplifting the life standards of human beings depend wholly on the wise use of the available natural resources. The primary natural resources include air, sun, forests, land, water, minerals, wildlife, and fisheries. Natural resources protection or conservation involves employing and adopting environmental protection techniques that will prohibit further destruction or unwise use of our natural resources. This study is indicating that, the vast significance of protecting and conserving nature and natural resources.

### **3.5 Good practices of conservation of natural resources:**

Through good natural resources conservation practices, the nature will remain pure and a good habitat for all organisms. Everything that we throw away in the form of waste has diverse impact on degrading and destroying our natural resources. For instance, landfills have taken up valuable space and have contributed to both ground water pollution and air pollution by releasing significant amount of air pollutants like methane, and other greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere. Natural resources conservation through reducing, reusing and recycling helps in decreasing household waste thus reducing landfills. In essence reducing involves manufacturing, designing, purchasing or using materials like products and packaging materials in manner that

decreases the overall toxic levels of trash. On the other hand, reusing entails avoiding disposal of an item by reusing it in a similar way or devising a new way to use it.

Recycling is another key factor in natural resources conservation, for example, items that could have been used by consumers and discarded form the raw material for manufacturing other items. Recyclable items can be recollected and redeveloped into new products that are of equal importance. This reduces pressure on exploitation of natural resources thus protecting them. Recycling saves energy conserves natural resources like timber, water and mineral salts thereby inhibiting and preventing environmental pollution. Consequently, it provides room to preserve resources for future generations. The commonly recycled materials are papers, yard Trimmings e.g. grass, leaves, and shrubs which are recycled through compositing, Glass, bottles and jars, Aluminium mostly beverage containers, and plastics like soda bottles, milk jugs, plastic bags and detergent containers .

Energy is what drives the world economy, without energy the world will be a very different place. Electrical energy has greatly transformed various sectors such as education, manufacturing, farming, lighting and agriculture. Conserving this primary and original natural resource will provide diverse innovations and development in the world as a whole. The lighting element of energy is widely used all over the world; therefore, conserving this natural resource is of great importance. This can be done through use of compact fluorescent lamps/bulbs (CFL), which has been found to be the more appropriate way of conserving electricity as opposed to using ordinary incandescent bulbs.

Raw materials, food and technology all come about as a result of exploitation of natural resources. Food industries and factories rely on the agricultural produce as their basic raw materials. For these raw materials to be available, forests and grasslands must be cleared to pave way for agricultural activities to take place. Energy, for instance, used in these industries must also be available for industries and factories to completely manufacture relevant products that help satisfying basic human needs. Fossil energy like coal and petroleum must be extensively utilized to provide the required energy. Without exploitation of these natural resources the economic development we all want will not be achieved. Exploitation of these natural resources is the sole drive for economic growth in all economies.

The learning process since time immemorial has fundamentally relied on paper. The primary source of paper is trees or forests. Without cutting these trees and processing them into paper, education sector will suffer greatly, so will other sectors that depend on paper. Exploitation of these natural resources has resulted into employment opportunities, where many individuals earn their livelihood from. If exploitation of these resources is stopped, many people jobless hence are jeopardizing their daily wellbeing. Though natural resources are scary, people still have to continue exploiting them to survive, what can be done is creating new innovative ways to exploit these resources. It can be stated that though natural resource should be conserved for sustainable development, their exploitation should continue. Indeed people have the ability to come up with new and better ways of using these natural resources when they understand that they are scarce.

Conservation of natural resources is something that should be undertaken with serious consideration. In order to create a favourable environment for future economic growth in the world, we should develop strategies that promote more conservation than exploitation. On a wider view of this matter, there should be in place programs that regulate human population growth to ease pressure on the few remaining natural resources. Sustainable proper use of the existing natural resource should be encouraged by all governments to give room for both economic growth and environmental conservation.

Proper utilization and management of nature and its resources is termed as conservation. International Union for conservation of Natural and Natural Resources (IUCN) define conservation as rational use of environment to provide a high quality of living for the mankind. Conservation is essential for life support system like air, water, land, flora & fauna, biodiversity and ecosystems. Natural resources are conserved due to economic as their natural beauty and importance to local culture. Preserving biodiversity is essential for ecosystems to respond flexibly to damage or change. The conservation of wild life includes natural habitats; make them to reproduce and give rise to fertile offspring without human interference.

Forest conservation can be done by preventing fires, eradicates pest, resistant varieties of plants, reduces deforestation, increase a forestation, regeneration, conservation of soil depends upon the maintenance of vegetal cover, terracing and landscape and check soil erosion. The measures like proper drainage, storage, use, flood control can be taken for conservation of water. Energy conservation require the use of renewable energy resource and alternative energy resource and in household energy can be conserved by turning down thermostats, switching off unnecessary lights, insulating homes and using less hot water.

### **3.6 Sustainable development and future generation:**

For environment, sustainability would be means that sustainability of natural resources which can be used by future generations or has regenerative value.[8] Sustainable development is said to be a patterns of resource use that aims to meet human needs while conserving the environment so that these needs can be met

not only in the present, but also for future generations. The sustainable development defines as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. [9] It is the development that meets the needs of the present generation and conserves it for the future generation. Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. Thus, the goal of intergenerational anthropocentric policy making is to ensure that the natural resources are used in an efficient and a farsighted way, so that the needs of present and future human generations can be satisfied. The goal is to create an ecologically sustainable development. [10] We should leave water, air, soil and other natural resources as pure and unpolluted as when it came on earth. We depend entirely on a healthy natural environment for our wealth and wellbeing. It is fundamental to our economy and social structures, our home and neighbourhoods, our ability to create and construct things, and to our health and happiness. Human beings are part of the natural world, we are one species amongst million and have evolved to be part of the nature, not apart from it. [11] Sustainability requires the enforcement of wider responsibilities for the impacts of decisions. It is a moral response to an incredible gift. So we think and do the eco-friendly exercises in life.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

Today, Mother Nature is in serious danger. We cannot give back to the Earth what it gave to us. When we burn fossil fuels, we cannot make up the millions of years of history it took to create them. When we pollute the skies and obscure the sunrise, we cannot simply wipe the atmosphere clean. Our relationship with the planet is one of lopsided exploitation, in which we take while the planet gives. It is inherently an unfair relationship. We have been too engrossed in our technological advancements and our ability to harness nature's gifts to truly take care of nature herself. The Earth is made for co-habitation and the pursuit of man's advancement of technology and biodiversity should not destroy all other things that thrive on it. Nature provides what man needs and man should be responsible to take care of nature. If man wants later generations to enjoy living on the planet, he should be responsible to protect it now. It is never too late. While one person may not make a big impact on the environment by himself, the collective simple efforts of many concerned people can help conserve nature. Therefore, we need a more ethical way to carry out our relationship with an earth, for the planet's sake and for our own. Instead of greed, let us consider the possibility of approaching the Earth with an attitude of gratefulness.

#### **REFERENCES**

- [1]. Nature: Wikipedia, [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org), visit at 21.03.2018.
- [2]. Gwent Wildlife Trust, Nature Matters: The importance of a healthy natural environment, [www.gwentwildlife.org/node/8195](http://www.gwentwildlife.org/node/8195).
- [3]. Liam. S. Whittaker, The importance of Nature, 2013, [csglobe.com/the-importance-of-nature](http://csglobe.com/the-importance-of-nature).
- [4]. Ahmed M. Hussien, Principle of Environmental economies (economics, ecology and public policy), (Routledge, Taylor Frances group: 2000).
- [5]. Anis Ahmad, Global Ethics: Environmentally Applied: An Islamic view, in King-Tak-Ip (Ed), Environmental Ethics (intercultural perceptives), 6 (New York: Rodopi-Amsterdam, 2000) 93-113.
- [6]. Anil.K. Rajvanshi, Nature Conservation + spirituality = Sustainability, Nimbakar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), Phaltan, Maharashtra, India.
- [7]. Ahmed M. Hussien, Principle of Environmental economies (economics, ecology and public policy.) (Routledge, Taylor Frances group: 2000).
- [8]. Reena Patra, Environmental sustainability: Ethical issues, International research journal of humanities and social sciences and education (IJHSSE), vol-1, issues-8, 2014, 35-40.
- [9]. World Commission on Environment and development, Our Common Future, Oxford University Press, oxford, 1987, page-43.
- [10]. Mikael Stenmark, The relevance of Environmental ethical theories for policy making, in Ben. A. Minteer (Ed), Nature in Common? Environmental Ethics and the Contested foundations of Environmental policy, 6 (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2009), 81-93.
- [11]. Gwent Wildlife Trust, Nature Matters: The importance of a healthy natural environment, [www.gwentwildlife.org/node/8195](http://www.gwentwildlife.org/node/8195).

Atasi Mahapatra "An Environmental issue on Conservation of Nature and Natural resources"  
"International Journal of Business and Management Invention (IJBMI)", vol. 07, no. 09, 2018,  
pp 53-57