

# Environmental Crisis & Ethics of Mankind

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## Abstract

Environmental ethics is a branch of philosophy. It enlightens relationship as well as status between moral and social development which includes the environment. Environmental ethics includes different kinds of pollution such as air pollution, water pollution, land pollution etc. As a result, we observe serious global warming, lack of sustainability, rapid depletion of natural resources, loss of biodiversity, destruction of ecosystem, extinction of species. In this paper moral value of people, consciousness of the person responsible for unlimited emission and corporate social responsibility (CSR) has been discussed.

**Keywords:** *Corporate social responsibility, GHG, Ethics, Global warming*

## 1. Introduction

We are surrounded by air. But it is very unfortunate that the air from which we breathe are highly polluted. There are several reasons behind the pollution. Producer or manufacturer of companies is one of the major responsible components for the pollution. So Corporate social responsibilities have a vital role to combat the pollution. Through ethics moral values of a man is to be upraised. By environmental ethics (6) we commit to show responsibility to save our environment along with to increase sustainability so that we can keep environmental resources for our next generations. Das (2009) focused on the environmental values. He also emphasized on environmental education through formal and informal ways for different level of students.

Man are the most intelligent animal among all animals. But plants and other animals have also important part to the society. Society can not exist without the other creatures including plants. It is our duty to keep patience and take active role to save the other creation. Population growth and rapid economic expansion around the world affects largely on global demand of

food and energy. Majority of the people depend on agriculture for their livelihood and prosperity but

unfortunately, area of land is decreasing rapidly arising the scarcity of food and shelter. But to overcome these dangerous situation ethics of mankind is essential. But with great regret it is compelled to say that ethics among human being has been decreasing in an alarming way. Man is the measure of all things but with a deep despair it is compelled to say that at present money is the measure of all things instead of man. According to Ibid" Now we face a new threat to our survival".

## 2. Review of Literature

In 2015 Paris convention focusses on "net zero emission" without closing the economy. But there arises a pertinent question how it can be possible or achieved if we do not stop the production of new product. Three "R" can solve the question. REDUCE, REUSE and REMANUFACTURE.

Corporate houses also emphasize on these things. Concept of closed loop is very important for remanufacturing.

Earth is continuously heating on by different ways. Industry plays a vital role for emission of Green House Gases (GHG) which causes severe air pollution and acute temperature rise of the Earth.

Environmental ethics ([7], [8]) builds scientific insights, increases human values and emphasizes the relationship among human and its surroundings. This is very crucial as the ethics towards environment are of major concern at present. Tiwari (2012) characterizes on developmental ethics. Callicott et al (2009) questioned that what is the use of intelligence of man if it is not properly used to keep the ethics towards environment.

Sustainable development is the development which meets the present needs of human being without comprising the sustainability of future generations to meet their needs (9). The decade 2005-14 has been declared as the decade for education for sustainable

development from the World summit on sustainable development, Johannesburg. Pisani (2006) showed that the sustainable development plays very crucial role to save our environment. A conceptual overview on CSR is presented -by Perez (2013) to enhance the understanding of CSR within the local and global businessman. The study of Esen (2013) opens a new dimension of corporate reputation in CSR.

### 3. Issues of Environmental Crisis

The heavy demand for resources is mainly responsible for depletion of natural resources exhausting the sustainability and for this reason environment balance is disturbed. Overpopulation is a great problem faced by the whole world. To meet the increasing demand of the people, to give shelter deforestation has been made indiscriminately. As a result, we face the havoc environmental abnormalities such as global warming, change of climate, acid rain etc. Different types of incurable diseases have shown red eyes to us and many people are falling into death. Rapid depletion of ozone layer creates a lot of problem and creates disease like cancer. Unlimited emission of greenhouse gases into air is mainly responsible for this. Trivedy (2009) discussed on adverse effect of climate change on us in near future. He also suggested to introduce courses on climate change in our university. He concluded that necessary steps should immediately be taken to reduce greenhouse gases by adopting low emission policy. Němeček et al (2009) correlated economic crisis and social responsibility. If we are not conscious about the matter, the days are not far away when human will face a huge crisis in every step of life and we've already observed various kinds of natural disasters like severe earthquake, melting of glaciers, polluted air, infertility of soil and many more. Indiscriminate deforestation, use of fossil fuel, industrialization, creating ecological imbalance i.e. all activities of man are leading themselves to extinct. We should remember that we can not use all these natural resources indiscriminately although we are in possession of these resources.

### 4. Measures & Control

Pollution can be controlled by different ways. Improvement of technology is one of the effective ways to combat emission of greenhouse gases. Recently in India BS 4 motor vehicles have been introduced instead of BS 3. So, production of BS3 vehicles has been banned implying that motor vehicle manufacturing companies are compelled to use

improved technology.

Carbon trading (cap and trade) also plays a vital role to balance the equilibrium of emission of CO<sub>2</sub> in the modern business scenario. A manufacturer can earn revenue by trading carbon if he can keep his carbon emission within the permissible limit and sells the excess carbon serving dual purpose, one to create healthy and eco-friendly green and clean environment and other to increase his profit by earning revenue by the way of carbon trading. It is now accepted as a global concept as many countries are involved in trading carbon.

Three R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) are very important to increase sustainable development. But Plantation of trees probably is the best and cheapest way to mitigate CO<sub>2</sub> emission. Consumer consciousness and manufactures awareness along with the reuse and recycle of used products and overall plantation of trees etc are essential to save the natural resources within the Earth. Trees not only improve the quality of air by absorbing the polluted particles emitted from cars, power plants, factories etc but also cool down its neighboring place as well as save us from deadly heat waves. So, plantation of trees is essential not only for the carbon reduction but also for to upgrade the moral and social responsibility. The very recent Paris convention (December, 2015) also enlightened on afforestation and has given suggestion to take initiative to protect the environment.

### 5. Ethics to be enlightened among the people

Environmental ethics motivate us to do something to keep the environment safe and protected. Everyone should be encouraged not to cut trees. If we are compelled to cut down a tree to make our house or industrialization we should plant more and more saplings of trees. It is not a difficult task. It can easily be done if we maintain some easy steps. The Rio Declaration declares: 'Human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature'. Taylor (2009) discussed in details pros and cons of past, present aspects of environmental ethics. Bhattacharya (2009) nicely described the essence of environmental ethics in human being. Attention should be made to increase sustainability by the way of right use of natural resources. Several seminars, conferences from Rio-de-Janeiro (1992) to Paris (2015) have been organized to discuss the way how to combat the environmental crisis and to make our living environment healthy. But conferences, seminars are not enough. Environmental education as well as seminars is urgent to overcome the crisis. Environmental education creates sense of values. It

spreads concerns, awareness collectively among the people. All the efforts will be in vain if consciousness, awareness, morality cannot be backed from within. Self-realization, awareness is necessary for long existence of human being.

## 6. Social responsibility

Social responsibility is a responsibility and obligation to protect, foster, increase and enhance the benefit of stakeholders and people lives in a society. CSR is also named corporate citizenship. Big corporate houses like TCS, IBM, Johnson and Johnson started code of ethics for their employee and emphasized social responsibility by planting saplings of trees. The term CDR is also been often heard. What is CDR? It is the principle which states that the rich countries i.e. developed countries should bear more responsibility to mitigate the environmental crisis such as pollution, global warming, ozone layer depletion, climate change etc. There are reasons behind this principle as the rich and developed countries contributes more pollution and they have capabilities to bear the responsibility and solve the emerging crisis of the environment. Green et al (2010) observed the environment in the perspective of social work.

## 7. Conclusion

In this context we have a great responsibility to save our Earth. If we show the minimum ethics to the environment, we should easily the environment as well as ourselves.

We, everyone, should maintain the followings

- i. Switch energy efficient devices to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emission.
- ii. Use fuel efficient cooking methods such as pressure cooker to increase sustainability.
- iii. Careful in abuse of water.
- iv. Reduce waste of paper.
- v. Send paper for recycling instead of disposing it in garbage.
- vi. Promote environmental understanding and awareness of environmental rights.
- vii. Need environmental education to all people to create environmental understanding and awareness.
- viii. "Humans are part of the Environment not conquerors of it"—Aldo Leopold

We should remember the word of *Gaylord Nelson* in

this context

"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."

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