



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Human And Nature: An Inseparable Bond

NAWAZ MONDAL

STATE AIDED COLLEGE TEACHER

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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Abstract: Nature has been around since the creation of the world. This nature lives on trees and other animals. It is completely impossible to create an environment without trees or forests. Trees play an important role as an essential part of this environment. Nature has given so much to human beings that in return, nature has only received deforestation. In the distant past, as well as in the present, it is impossible to imagine the environment without trees.

Rabindranath Tagore focused on nature in his short stories as well as literature. In addition to Rabindranath Tagore's short stories, we find mention of the environment in many of his big stories. We find his thoughts on the environment in the establishment of Santiniketan located in Birbhum district of West Bengal. Among all the poets and writers of subjugated India, Rabindranath Tagore was probably the first to show the way of how to provide education in the lap of nature. He also gave great importance to tree plantation.

In today's world, people need 'free air' again in their luxurious lives. There is no end to human needs. In the past, when civilization could not progress so much, people were worried about how to enter into modern life and live a luxurious life. This happened with the change of time. Even though people live in the post-modern world today, they cannot remain confined within four walls and want to take refuge in the lap of nature again.

That is, two types of beings are emerging in humans. Human beings want to live in the modern world so that they can live in luxury. On the other hand, they want to live in the open air. So whenever humans get a vacation or leisure, they run to the mountains to breath cover in the open air. Today, they are living in modern urban civilization and they are exhausted. That is why we see attempts to create fake nature in big buildings. But nature sometimes gets angry with human beings and continues its rampage. It can be said that nature will be angry with the way human being are doing injustice to the environment. Human being are practically lost today. Nature is standing right in its own place. Human being have brought their own dangers by living a life of luxury.

Index Terms: Tree, Civilization, Fresh Air, Literature, Nature

1. Introduction: This environment was created by the Creator before humans came to earth. After humans were born, they found food from trees to satisfy their hunger. They also built their nests among the trees. Humans and other animals depended on trees for their livelihood. But immediately after the population growth, the number of trees started decreasing. Many old species of trees are becoming extinct. Modern civilization and population growth are putting pressure on trees.

The English word 'Environment' is derived from the French word 'Environir'. The meaning of the French word 'Environir' is observed in the usage of the word 'Environir' in the sense of surrounding. Therefore, it can be said that 'environment' is the combination of all those elements that surround humans, create reactions on humans and have a far-reaching impact. That is, in the etymological sense, the surrounding

conditions are called the environment. Simply put, the environment refers to humans and the organic and inorganic world around them. The Concise Oxford Dictionary says, 'Environment is the set of external conditions that affect the plant and animal world.' This environment is always changing. In general, the environment refers to the houses, soil, water, air, plants, animals, people, everything around people.

We find discussions about this environment in literature. Rabindranath Tagore's short stories have brought about a connection between humans and nature in various ways. Therefore, the environment sometimes plays a role in Rabindranath's short stories directly or indirectly. The theory of the relationship between every living and non-living thing on earth that scientist Darwin gave in 'Evolutionism', Rabindranath Tagore found in his self-realization. In his words, 'There is no real difference between the smallest atom of this world and me, that is why this world was created. Even when I become like dust to dust, at least my bond with the living universe will not be severed – I feel this from the simple joy within myself. I have no other reason.' (Thakur: 1401, page number -322) For this reason, man cannot separate himself from nature.

Manik Bandopaddhay has shown the unity of nature and man in his novel Padma Nadir Majhi. He has complemented his psychological interpretation. The behavior of Kuber, Kapila, Hossain Mian is like the human form of the unknowable nature, the human condition of these characters changes with the change of the 12-month story season. The novel describes the period of nine months from the middle of the monsoon to the end of Falgun. The first four chapters talk about the monsoon. The second chapter mentions the chariot festival. The autumn has arrived at the end of the fourth chapter. The fifth and sixth chapters talk about the autumn. Therefore, the fifth chapter begins with the description of Durga Puja. The seventh chapter describes the three seasons - autumn, winter and spring. At the end of the seventh chapter, i.e. towards the very end of the novel, the Dol festival is mentioned.

This novel begins in the middle of the monsoon. It is during this rainy season that poor fishermen can earn some money, because 'the season of Hilsa is over'. Poor fishermen enjoy the chariot festival during this time. In this novel too, we see fishermen of Ketupur travelling along the river to Sonakhali village to participate in the chariot fair. A fair means a gathering of many people, a meeting place for cultures. Manik Banerjee has given a thorough description of the chariot fair.

In other words, the coexistence of nature and man has been beautifully portrayed in the novel Padma Nadir Majhi. Just as the change in human behavior with the change of seasons is shown, so too is the terrible disaster of the Ashwin storm in the Padma. Again, in the wake of this storm, the arrival of Kapila in a new form in Kuber's life. The indelibility of Kuber repeatedly remembering the youthful Kapila with the exuberance of nature, especially Padma, actually helps to highlight the eternal question of man and nature.

The role of trees as environmental helpers: Trees are an essential element in maintaining the balance of the environment. The Buddha tree provides cool shade to people in the summer heat. Trees provide a peaceful environment, fruits to satisfy hunger, and life-giving herbs. It is said that human civilization was created in the loving shade of the forest. And it provides oxygen (O₂), an essential element for the survival of the living world. Trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) and release oxygen, thereby maintaining the balance of carbon dioxide and oxygen in the atmosphere.

Trees improve air quality by providing oxygen. They absorb the polluting gases nitrogen oxides ammonia, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide and purify the air by trapping them in their leaves and bark. Trees regulate the climate by moderating the effects of sun, rain, and wind. They contribute to the environment by conserving water and soil and providing shelter for wildlife. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one acre (three bighas) of trees absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide. And provides four tons of oxygen, which is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people. Protects against natural disasters like lightning, landslides, and drought. Helps the environment by absorbing the sun's ultraviolet rays. Helps prevent water pollution. Even studies have shown that when patients see a view of trees through the window, their recovery is faster. Also, seeing this natural view relieves mental fatigue.

2.Results of tree destruction:

There is no doubt that the role of trees in environmental protection is very strong and clear. The environment is being polluted today due to the industrialization of the developed countries of the world. Due to the excessive use of fossil fuels for industrialization, the intensity of global warming is increasing significantly day by day. Industrial waste is being released into the environment without being treated. As a result, the greenhouse effect is being created in the atmosphere. With the increase in population, deforestation is going on freely to build housing for people. As a result, there is no amount of trees that are needed to maintain the balance of carbon dioxide and oxygen in the atmosphere, so the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is gradually increasing day by day. As a result, the fear of terrible natural disasters such as lightning, drought, heavy rain, landslides, cyclones, etc. is also increasing day by day. If the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases, the temperature of the earth's surface will also increase due to the greenhouse effect. The melting of the polar ice caps will also increase the sea level, which is not a pleasant result at all.

We call trees our best friends at different times. But are we able to maintain the respect of this friendship at all? Are we able to be careful towards our friends? Due to the misdeeds of a certain class of unscrupulous real estate developers, trees are being cut down freely every day. Due to the destruction of green fields due to tree cutting, the damage to nature is irreparable. Today we are deeply affected by air, water, soil and noise pollution. The life of the living world is at stake today. We have forgotten the saying 'one tree, one life'.

And the saddest thing is that the capital of our country India is New Delhi. That New Delhi is the top polluted capital of the world. Most of the time of the year, the educational institutions there have to be closed just because of the pollution. Not only that, in October 2025, there was such a natural disaster in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal that about 32 people died there. The main road between West Bengal and Sikkim was closed for some time. There were landslides on the roads. The Sundarbans region of South 24 Parganas in West Bengal also suffers a lot of damage due to natural disasters every year. Even so, the presence of mangrove forests there helps to save it to some extent. The study says that India's position in the Global Environment Performance Index for 2024 is 176th out of 180. 15 of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are from this country.

There are several important laws in the Indian Constitution related to the environment, they are as follows:

1. The Indian Boilers Act, 1923
2. The Indian Forests Act, 1927
3. The Factories Act, 1948
4. The Radiation Protection Rules, 1971
5. The Motor Vehicle Act, 1938, amended in 1988
6. The Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994
7. Eco Mark Notification, 1997
8. Environmental Audit Notification, 1997
9. Public Hearing Notification, 1997
10. Coastal Zone Management Authority, 1998
11. Biodiversity Protection Act, 2002
12. The National Environment Tribunal Act, 1992
13. The Energy Conservation Act, 2001 etc.

Also some international agreements were made with the help of which this world can be saved. They are as follows:

- (1) Bashundhara Conference: The Bashundhara Conference held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 initiated global discussions to curb the production and uncontrolled release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
- (2) Berlin Mandate: The Framework Convention on Climatic Change (FCCC) conference was held in Berlin in 1995. The decisions taken at this conference are known as the Berlin Mandate.
- (3) Kyoto Protocol: The Kyoto Protocol was signed in 1997 to control the emission of greenhouse gases. India signed this agreement in August 2002. It is very important to mention here that according to the Kyoto Protocol, all the industrialized nations of the world have committed to returning the world to the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that existed before 1990. Therefore, 1990 has been accepted

as the base year, and in 1990, the United Nations first took the initiative to start global discussions on climate change.

(4) Paris Agreement: The Paris Agreement was signed in Paris in December 2015 to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and keep global temperature increase below 1-5° Celsius. This agreement has been in effect since 2020. 195 countries of the UNFCCC have signed this agreement. However, the United States has decided to withdraw from this agreement by 2020.

After the independence of India, many movements were organized to save the environment. These movements were of the people of the most marginalized sections of the society. Even though they did not get to eat properly for 3 times a day, they loved the environment more than their own lives and carried out these movements. The movements are briefly discussed. •

3. Chipko Movement

In April 1973, a spontaneous movement against tree felling took place in Mandal village of Garhwal district of Uttarakhand. It is known as Chipko Movement. The word Chipko means to embrace or to hold. When unscrupulous contractors came to cut trees, the women of the village would embrace the trees. As a result, the contractors could not cut the trees.

The business of cutting trees from the Himalayan hilly areas had been going on for a long time. This excessive cutting of trees resulted in intense discontent among the hill people. Because they were not getting the fuel they needed from the cutting of these trees. In addition, the cultivation of land was being severely damaged due to increasing soil erosion.

The benefit of the Chipko movement is that felling of trees in the Himalayas has been controlled and cutting of big trees has been banned. As a result of the Chipko movement, people in other backward areas of India have also become very aware of the environment. Gandhian leaders Shri Sunderlal Bahuguna and Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt led this movement. Shri Bhatt formed a cooperative organization called Dasholi Gram Swaraj Mandal (Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh or DGSS) in 1964 to continue the environmental movement. The results of this movement were very far-reaching. This movement played a significant role in saving the environment and trees in India.

4. Appiko Movement

The Appiko Movement of South India holds a special place in the list of environmental protection movements in India. In September 1983, a movement similar to the Chipko Movement took place in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka state, known as the Appiko Movement. The leader of this movement was Pandurang Hegde. The reason for the Appiko movement is that in 1950, the forest area in Uttara Kannada district was about 40 percent of the total area of the district. By 1980, the area covered by forest had decreased to about 25 percent.

This is because during this period, paper industries, plywood manufacturing industries, sawmills, etc. were established in Uttara Kannada district, whose raw materials came from nearby forests. In addition, the construction of large dams and reservoirs on rivers also caused a lot of land and forest loss. As a result, the tribal people who have been living in the forest for a long time are losing their means of earning a living. This has created extreme despair among them. From this situation, to save the local environment and to help the people, the work of planting trees under the leadership of Pandurang Hegar started. A cow dung gas plant was set up in the village to replace wood as fuel so that they no longer have to depend on wood for fuel. The work of spreading tree seeds in this forest area has started. Many public awareness camps have been organized to increase environmental awareness among the common people. So that they are specially informed about how much trees are needed for their survival.

5.Silent Valley Movement

The name of the valley covered in tropical rain forest in Palakkad district in the southern Indian state of Kerala is Silent Valley. The area of this forest is 8592 hectares. The Silent Valley region is famous for its dense tropical rain forest.

This hilly forested environment of Palakkad district is so peaceful and quiet that it is called Silent Valley (the English word 'silent' means silent and the word 'valley' means valley). The Kerala State Electricity Board has taken up a plan to build a dam on the Kunti River, which flows through the rainforest here, for hydroelectric power generation. If the project proposed by the board is completed, about 800 hectares of forest land in the Silent Valley rainforest will be destroyed. This means that about 10 percent of the total forest area will be lost to build the dam's reservoir, hydroelectric power generation plants, roads, and houses.

6.Narmada Bachao Movement

Narmada River is one of the major rivers of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. Its basin is home to tribal people. This basin is very sensitive from the point of view of forest and ecology. Sardar Sarovar in Gujarat on Narmada River Narmada is a major river of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. Its basin is home to tribal people. Narmada Bachao Andolan was founded based on the construction of a dam in the forest.

This movement was led by social activists Medha Patekar and Baba Amte. Numerous people from home and abroad participated in this movement directly and indirectly. Writer Arundhati Roy and film artist Aamir Khan also took an active role in this movement. This project is opposed because there is a proposal to build two big dams on the Narmada river, Narmada Sagar and Sardar Sarovar. As a result, the number of homeless people will be close to two lakh. A total of about 541 square kilometers of forest land will be destroyed. About 556 square kilometers of agricultural land will be destroyed. The number of villages that will go under water will be about 294. Initially, the administration did not make any arrangements for compensation to the people affected by this huge work. Later, under the pressure of the movement, they agreed. The height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam has been fixed at 138 meters by the Supreme Court. However, the World Bank has withdrawn from this project.

However, there is no doubt that the awareness of the environment among people has increased somewhat compared to the past. It is especially important to mention here that the important role that the environment played in Bengali literature is evidenced by the Shantiniketan (original name was Brahmacharya Ashram) established by Rabindranath Tagore in 1901 in undivided India (now Bolpur, Birbhum district, West Bengal).

So that the students do not have to study confined within the four walls. Later in 1921, Brahmacharya Ashram was converted into Visva-Bharati University. Even today, there is a system of teaching under trees. And this Visva-Bharati University continues to carry his well-thought-out Chinese philosophy even today. Moreover, he talked about tree plantation to keep the environment healthy. He gave the status of a festival to tree plantation, who considered it right to provide education in nature and Who sent his son Rathindranath Tagore to study agriculture abroad for the development of the country's agriculture. His literature repeatedly reminds us of environmental awareness. Along with this, the traditional place of Bolpur, Sonajhuri Hat, has been added. A lot of people's financial resources are being centered around this hat in the lap of nature. There, buying and selling goes on under beautiful trees until sunset. However, the environment is being badly damaged due to human disturbance in the area surrounding this hat. A public interest litigation has even been filed to save this place. Every year, Sonajhuri Hat gets very polluted during the Dol festival. However, this year (2026), Sonajhuri Hat was completely closed for 2 days of the Dol festival. Apart from that, this hat is closed every Wednesday of the week and cleaned. And plastic has been completely banned in this hat. CCTV has been installed to prevent pollution. However, to save this beautiful environment, the process of shifting this market to another place has been started. Bolpur in Birbhum district means Shantiniketan, and Shantiniketan means teaching students in an open environment where the memory of the poet is preserved. In other words, this Shantiniketan is a perfect example of the combination of literature with the environment.

7.Solution: We know that 'Environment Makes a Man', so we want a beautiful pollution-free environment, which is impossible without trees. There is a lot of room for doubt about the enthusiasm and enthusiasm of the people of India to save trees. There is no real concern about the environment among the people of India. It would be a bit wrong to blame only the common people here, the ones who are the first to come forward in this regard are those who are running the country. Because the rules and regulations of the country, the law and order are all in their hands. They have to make some legal arrangements for exemplary punishments, which the common people will be forced to follow. But there is a lack of goodwill among them. Not only those who are running the government, but all the political parties in India have to think about the environment. They have to think not only for their own political benefits; they have to think for their own survival, they have to think about giving a clean environment to the future generations.

8.Conclusion:

By properly understanding the slogan 'Plant trees, save the environment' and planting trees, let us respect the poet's environmental thinking and protect the balance of the environment from increasing pollution and global warming. Let us build a pollution-free society. As people have developed, that is, with the passage of time, today, with the touch of modernity, people have become dependent on advanced technology. They have forgotten to love nature. Today, man is going into space, but his refuge, i.e. nature, is not able to save itself. Even in ancient times, nature was not subjected to so much oppression. The dream of the world poet about nature is almost in danger today. The connection between man and nature is in danger today. However, nature is taking revenge for the oppression done to it. Floods, droughts, earthquakes, heavy rains, etc. are its best examples. One thing we have to keep in mind is that man has to come forward to save the relationship between man and nature. The relationship between humans and nature is inseparable. Therefore, humans will never be able to live without nature. Therefore, we all have to do whatever we can to save nature. In the 1970s and 1980s, many movements were organized in India to save the environment. The leadership was given by the common people. Even today, some movements are seen to save the environment. However, their results are not far-reaching. To save the environment, movements like those in the 1970s and 1980s need to be strengthened. Let us not dig our own graves for the extinction of our own existence by cutting down trees, that is, by destroying nature, by destroying civilization and culture created through long labor and effort. The sooner this thought or wisdom comes to us, the better it will be for us.

Acknowledgement

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