

Environment: Concept & Significance

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Abstract:

The quality of the environment has suffered as a result of the extremely high cost of the economic progress we have made thus far. We must consciously choose a path of sustainable development as we enter an era of globalization that promises higher economic growth. However, we must also keep in mind the negative effects that the previous development path had on our environment. We must first comprehend the significance and contribution of the environment to economic development in order to comprehend our unsustainable development path and the difficulties of sustainable development. This is why there are three sections in this chapter. The functions and roles of the environment are the focus of the first section. The environment in India is discussed in the second section, and sustainable development steps and strategies are discussed in the third section. Climate assumed a significant part during the time spent authentic turns of events. The favorable or unfavorable environmental conditions of a given period or country are primarily responsible for the favorable or unfavorable condition of that period or country. Because human society, like any other living thing, tries to adapt to its natural surroundings, environmental factors have had a significant impact on the history of nations as well as the development of culture and civilization.

Keywords: Environment, Vedas, Buddhism, Sikhism, and other religions: Ecological administration, Natural debasement, Natural assets, Natural emergency.

Introduction

Environmental history is the study of how humans interact with the natural world. The term "environment" refers to all of the natural things that surround us and are necessary for life to continue, such as air (the "atmosphere"), water (the "hydrosphere"), land (the "lithosphere"), and so on. Ecological history imparts an extremely muddled guest to financial and social narratives, history of science and innovation, sickness history, and even with different disciplines. The essential objective of ecological history is to develop how we might interpret what individuals have been meant for by the common habitat and furthermore what they have meant for that climate and with what results and outcomes. Ecological antiquarians base comprehension they might interpret human and nature relations fundamentally on verifiable procedure, a few times taking thoughts and data sources from researchers as well as from the researchers working in different fields too. In India, ecology and environmental history are relatively new fields of study. The scholarly foundation of the investigation of ecological history followed back to the Chronicles School of France which weights on the meaning of regular geological highlights and their job in shaping a general public. A sincere effort has been made in this brief paper to shed light on a variety of environmental issues in ancient India from a historical perspective, when there was no industrialization, a small population, vehicles that didn't pollute, and less pollution. Numerous references to environmental management, preservation, and protection can be found in ancient Indian literature.

The principles of ecological harmony were established by the Vedic, Puranic, Jain, and Buddhist traditions centuries ago. The unfamiliar explorers like Megasthenes, Pliny, the obscure creator Periplus of the Erythraean Ocean, Ptolemy, Fa-Hien, Hiuen Tsang, Itsing and so forth., in their eye witness itineraries, travelers who came to India at different times mention various aspects of the environment. Without sufficient knowledge of the environment, geography, ecology, and physical features through which it traveled, Indian history cannot be properly interpreted. In point of fact, the current generation finds the study of early Indian environmental history to be extremely rewarding. Nature played a significant role in the development of humanity in addition to providing man with food and shelter. There had been a constant dependence on nature ever since man first appeared on the planet. Man's nature at the beginning of his development was quite helpless (Majumdar, 2004:37). Indeed, even in the advanced times, disregarding remarkable advancement and endeavor of science to control nature and climate, people can't quell it; maybe they are incredibly controlled and impacted by the normal peculiarities. Normal assets accessible on this planet, nonetheless, have their cutoff points, over double-dealing of which prompts climate emergency in some structure or other.

Definition of Environment

The environment is a highly subjective concept open to multiple interpretations. In its broadest sense, climate is characterized as including water, air, soil, greenery and fauna.⁶ In the 1972 Stockholm Announcement moreover "particularly agent tests of normal environments" are

remembered for the definition . " According to the New Zealand Environment Act of 1986, the term "environment" encompasses "all those elements which in their complex inter-relationships form the framework, setting, and living conditions for mankind, by their very existence or by virtue of their impact."8

- a) Ecosystems and the parts that make them up;
- b) All resources, both physical and natural;
- c) The social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions that influence the environment or are influenced by environmental changes.

"From a scientific point of view is taken to mean everything that is physically external to the organism," Gilpin asserts. Humans are, of course, an organism.

According to Justice P.N. Bhagawati, "the term refers to the conditions within and around the organism, which affect the behavior, growth and development, or life processes, directly or indirectly.11 It includes the conditions with which the organism interacts" is how the term "environment" is defined.

Therefore, "environment is essential for the development of both biotic and a biotic things and the relationship between both biotic and a biotic things" can be used to define environment.

Objective

This paper being fundamentally founded on ideas, the conclusions communicated in this paper are the creator's own viewpoint and the assessments of a few presumed creators. The concept of "Environmental Management" is illuminated in this paper in terms of some fundamental and theoretical aspects. The concentrate likewise endeavors to analyze the significance of ecological administration today. In the illumination of this, the inspiration for this paper isn't to look for new answer for the basic issues confronting ecological administration research. It is anticipated that this discussion will provide insights as well as a foundation upon which management can evaluate their current procedures and encourage them to provide a deeper comprehension of how the business and the natural environment interact. Unique significance is put on ecological administration and mindfulness since this is evidently the crying need of the day.

Environment: Concept & Significance.

Everything that surrounds us—living and nonliving things like soil, water, animals, and plants that adapt to their surroundings—is part of our environment. Nature's gift contributes to the nourishment of Earth's life. Healthy living and the existence of life on Earth are greatly influenced by the environment. We all rely on the environment for food, water, and other necessities because the Earth is home to many different species of living things.

As a result, conserving and safeguarding our environment is critical for everyone. Concept: Climate is the whole of the relative multitude of outside powers, impacts and conditions, which influence the life, nature, conduct and the development, improvement and development of living organic entities. The environment serves four purposes: supplies assets, acclimatizes squanders, supports life by giving hereditary and bio variety and offers tasteful types of assistance. The atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere make up the majority of the environment. Be that as it may, it very well may be generally partitioned into two sorts, for example,

- (a) The micro and macro environments.
- (b) It can also be broken down into two other categories, t
- (d) he biological and physical environments, respectively.

The person's growth and development is influenced by the environment. The person's behavior, body, mind, and heart are all impacted. In Florence Nightingale's Environmental Theory, she identified five environmental factors that have an impact on the living conditions of living organisms in an environment: clean or sanitary conditions, pure water, clear air, effective drainage, light or direct sunlight, and In the Lowlands of Scotland in 1828, Thomas Carlyle (1795–1881) coined the term "environment" at this pivotal apprehension of industrialism's effects on humanity and theoretical aspects of this transformation.

Importance of Environment

Healthy living and the existence of life on Earth are greatly influenced by the environment. We all rely on the environment for food, water, and other necessities because the Earth is home to many different species of living things. As a result, conserving and safeguarding our environment is critical for everyone. India is well-known for its customs, traditions, and culture. Respect for religion dates back to our ancestors. This article examines the security of the climate in the old India by dissecting antiquated Hinduism especially in Vedas, Puranas and Manusmruti and vkingdom like Maurya, Climate assurance arrangement in Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam and Christianity and so on., enables us to comprehend ecological preservation and environmental conservation. India is the richest nation in the world because of its distinctive traditions, practices, and so on. In spite of its vast diversity, Indian culture is fundamentally unified. Since its remote past, India is divided not only in terms of culture, religion, social customs, language, attire, and eating habits, but also in terms of climate, environment, and flora and fauna. It is home to a wide range of races with varying degrees

of culture, from crude barbarians to refined philosophers. Subsequently, it has been portrayed as an 'ethnological historical center'.

Genuinely it is separated into five very much differentiated divisions for example the Himalayan district, the Indo-Gangetic alluvial northern plain, the Deccan level, south-eastern and south-western beach front fields. " The defensive mass of the Himalayas has given to India the coherence of its human progress and social construction from the earliest times to our own days. "The northern plains and peninsular India are separated by the Vindhya Mountain ranges. Be that as it may, despite biological variety, different topographical zones of the subcontinent have never been confined units.³ Nature has favored the Indian expanse of land with an enormous number of enduring streams took care of by both downpour water and snow. Since the beginning of time, routes that cut across mountains, rivers, and other regions were used for human interaction. These routes were determined by the needs of humans and the features of the area. In the ancient world, India was one of the cradles of civilization. Indian civilization, like those of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China in the ancient world, developed along the course of the well-known river Indus, ⁴ after which the subcontinent is named India.

It is true that people have settled on riverbanks since the beginning of civilization because they realized how important water was to life. Rivers provided the constant supply of water that was necessary for drinking, cooking, hygiene, cultivation, irrigation, transportation, and trade and commerce. The waterways like the Sindhu (Indus), Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra, Mahanadi, Narmada, Tapti, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri and so forth., played an obvious part in the growth and prosperity of Indian culture and civilization. While the rivers in the Peninsula, which are entirely dependent on the monsoon, become dry during the summer, the Himalayan Rivers, which originate from the Himalaya, primarily rely on snow for their water supply. However, India's extensive coast line has fostered international trade and maritime activities since ancient times and encouraged cultural expansion in distant nations. Entrepreneurial sailors and navigators from ancient India maintained commercial and cultural relationships with Egypt, Babylonia, Greece, the Roman Empire, and various Southeast Asian nations from various ports.

Environmental history is the study of how humans interact with the natural world. The term "environment" refers to all of the natural things that surround us and are necessary for life to continue, such as air (the "atmosphere"), water (the "hydrosphere"), land (the "lithosphere"), and so on.

The boundaries between environmental history, economic and social history, the history of science and technology, the history of diseases, and even a number of other fields are extremely muddled. The essential objective of ecological history is to develop how we might interpret what individuals have been meant for by the common habitat and furthermore what they have meant for that climate and with what results and outcomes. Historical methodology is the primary foundation upon which environmental historians build their understanding of the relationship between humans and the natural world, though they occasionally draw inspiration from scholars in other fields as well as scientists. In India, ecology and environmental history are relatively new fields of study. The Annals School⁵ in France, which emphasizes the significance of natural geographical features and their role in shaping a society, is where environmental history got its intellectual start.

Religious Concept of Environment

Religion is in some cases characterized as the connection among individuals and that which they view as sacred, frequently in extraordinary terms. Although a significant gap is frequently perceived between the religious texts and the current practices of those who follow those religions, all faiths around the world share a common ethic based on harmony with nature. Religion and the environment are closely intertwined. The natural environment has benefited greatly from religion. The ways in which world religions, as a whole and as individuals, can positively address anthropogenic climate change are the subject of a growing body of research.

Conservation of the environment was governed by numerous religious and customary norms in the beginning. Every aspect of nature was highly valued and revered by the people. We are taught in Indian traditions that all forms of life—plants, animals, and humans—are tightly connected and dependent on one another, and that any disruption in any one of them would disrupt the entire ecological balance of the universe. ¹² Each member of the society had a dharma to preserve nature. The five significant components of nature called the Panchabhutas were heavenly manifestations to them. Hinduism perceives that the human body is made out of and connected with these five components, and associates every one of the components to one of the five detects. The human tongue is related to water, the nose to the earth, the eyes to the fire, the skin to the air, and the ears to space. The foundation of our human relationship with the natural world is this connection between our senses and the elements. For Hinduism,

nature and the climate are not external us. In point of fact, they are inseparable from our existence.

Importance of Environmental Management

Environment takes into account all of the conditions necessary for corporate sectors to survive. Nonattendance of natural thought causes serious environmental harm. At the national and global levels, unprecedented social and environmental issues are being caused by poverty, a lack of resources, population pressure, and uneven resource use around the world. Sustainable development tends to strike a balance between the needs of environmental process management and economic development. The prerequisite for sustainable development that meets the needs of both the present and future generations is precise knowledge of various aspects of effective environmental management. Internal management initiatives with a specific environmental focus, such as cleaner production, supply chain management, "given" product or service design, environmentally preferable purchasing, and environmental management systems, all benefit greatly from environmental management. Information related to environmental management is increasingly being used for external reporting as well. One of the tools for environmental management is Environmental Management Accounting (EMA). Since the range of decisions that are affected by environmental issues is gradually increasing, EMA is becoming more important for all types of managerial functions, with a special emphasis on eco-efficiency and strategic position, in addition to environmental management decisions. EMA provides a broad set of principles and an approach that are required for the success of many other environmental management functions.

Hinduism

Hinduism is known to be the most seasoned religion in the whole world. Rig Veda, India's oldest book, is evidence that this religion is the oldest. The glory of ancient Indian literature is crowned by Hindu religious texts like the Vedas, Upanishads, Smritis, Puranas, Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhagwat Gita. The concept of Mother Earth's, nature's, and life's well-being is central to each of these scriptures. The importance of the environment, known in Hindi as Paryavaran and derived from the Sanskrit word Parvavarnam, which means "avaran" (covering), is attributed to Hinduism and Hindu literature. In Vedic and ancient Sanskrit literature, the environment is given importance and respect. The connection between humans and nature is conceptualized in the Hindu religion. The old messages accessible in Hinduism give information about the essential components of the environment.¹⁴ They train in every one of the structures to have a venerating disposition towards

the elements of mother Earth and every one of the normal assets present on it. Hinduism has always preached respect for nature and living in harmony with it. All religious texts teach that it is the sanctified duty of humans to protect Prithvi (Earth), Vayu (Air), Aakash (Sky), and Jal (Water), as well as animals. Many plants and creatures were venerated as gods. Ahimsa Parmo Dharama, or nonviolence, is still regarded as the highest order of dharma in Hinduism. Conservation of plants and animals was thought to be the highest duty of humans, who were also thought to be God's creation.¹⁶ Saikia (2018) claims that the Vedas provide answers to all environmental inquiries. Physical and profound information both are canvassed in Vedas and they are brimming with thought of life and nature.

Climate assumed a significant part during the time spent authentic turns of events. The favorable or unfavorable environmental conditions of a given period or country are primarily responsible for the favorable or unfavorable condition of that period or country. Because human society, like any other living thing, tries to adapt to its natural surroundings, environmental factors have had a significant impact on the history of nations as well as the development of culture and civilization. Nature played a significant role in the development of humanity in addition to providing man with food and shelter. There had been a constant dependence on nature ever since man first appeared on the planet. Man's nature at the beginning of his development was quite helpless (Majumdar, 2004:37). Indeed, even in the advanced times, disregarding remarkable advancement and endeavor of science to control nature and climate, people can't quell it; maybe they are incredibly controlled and impacted by the normal peculiarities. Normal assets accessible on this planet, nonetheless, have their cutoff points, over double-dealing of which prompts climate emergency in some structure or other. Without sufficient knowledge of the environment, geography, ecology, and physical features through which it traveled, Indian history cannot be properly interpreted. In point of fact, the current generation finds the study of early Indian environmental history to be extremely rewarding.

Environmental Awareness In India

Through environmental accounting, environmental management demonstrates the extent of pollution managed by business entities. With the assistance of current science and technology, man has been hurriedly and purposefully exploiting the resources of the environment. Industrialization is a fact of life, but it also comes with a lot of bad things. The most extraordinary and patent peril that rises out of the modern exercises is contamination.

In immature nations, contamination isn't the difficult issue for what it's worth in mechanically evolved nations of the world. The worst pollution occurs in the most technologically advanced and well-developed nations. Physical environmental pollution (air, water, and noise) is the primary focus of industrialization. The majority of freshwater streams and rivers in India are seriously polluted by industrial wastes or components from various industries that spread diseases through water. Spontaneous urbanization, development of water undertakings, and movement of individuals - all that helps change the nature and the study of disease transmission of illnesses. After China and the United States, India is the world's third-largest tobacco producer. Due to competing interests, the needs of the public purse, and concerns for public health, the Indian government has done little to curb smoking. Due to the limited amount of land available per person, urban ecology is unfortunately no better than it was in the past, and it is vulnerable to health risks and reduced human activity. Animals and the environment are both polluting one another. Animal and human health are being jeopardized by hospital waste that hasn't been treated and dumped in garbage cans. Drossy animals on urban roads are exposed to a lot of chemical pollution from car exhaust, which hurts their health, productivity, and ability to reproduce. In India, environmental pollution is a serious issue right now, and significant efforts are being made to educate the public about how to protect it.

Due to a lack of reliable information regarding the implementation and violations of these regulations, the administration of pollution control has been gloomy. We are not better off in India. The company that pollutes the most appears to be the most successful and attracts additional public investment [3]. Because national accounting does not just take into account the value of natural resources, measuring the relationship between environment and development has become a difficult problem. The need to consider the value of the services provided by environmental resources is also becoming increasingly important as the problem of environmental protection gets worse. The shadow pricing process assigns environmental goods and services monetary values that are uncertain and inadequately quantified. Many of the assumptions and conditions that underpin economic theory are not met. Global firms and associations tended to reveal non-financial data including natural data; normally, they have improved the assumptions from Indian corporate to act responsively towards the climate and be responsible to society past the customary job of giving monetary records to investors. Most of the literature on environmental

performance reporting has focused on developed nations, with little attention paid to developing nations' environmental reporting practices. For the accounting treatment of the aforementioned issues, no comprehensive accounting standard has yet been issued. Although numerous international organizations have issued some guidelines regarding these issues, the majority of these guidelines are advisory in nature. An enormous number of nations force prerequisites on corporate to provide details regarding their ecological presentation, in India, corporate are expected to set up a supposed "Green Record". Companies sometimes pollute the environment while appearing more economically efficient than others that incur costs to protect the environment due to a lack of comprehensive and verifiable information and financial data on their environmental performance. According to the economics perspective on environmental issues that is prevalent in a few nations, businesses that are shady in their pursuit of profits have the potential to cause a significant amount of harm to society and the environment. In India, environmental management is not implemented effectively. Since environmental factors in India are so important to a business, significant misrepresentation, inadequate or incomplete presentation of such information in financial statements is a real possibility.

Manusmruti and Environment:

The Manu Smriti, an old legitimate text denounced savagery towards creatures and expressed that the enemy of the dairy cattle is ill-fated to kick the bucket however many times as the quantity of hairs on the skin of the cattle (Krishna 2017, 137). It asserts that since water is a public resource rather than a private one, no one should pollute it. He likewise discusses the air contamination. It is not recommended to throw an impure substance into a fire because the smoke could be poisonous. Manu's highest environmental ethics call for repentance when someone wrongs the environment; Self-realization is part of a high order of self-punishment. Under states of earnest need, this discipline is loose for a matured man, pregnant ladies or a child.³⁵ The Manu smriti likewise says that „He who harms blameless creatures with a longing to give himself joy never finds joy, neither in life nor in death". The earth's fauna and flora, as well as creatures in the sky and under the sea, are examples of these innocent beings (Krishna).

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Environmental growth

Estimates are likely to be out of date before they can be used because the social values attached to environmental products and services are changing at such a rapid rate. Making arrangements for maintainable improvement requires a gauge of ecologically changed GNP. However, the slogan for environmental management and environmental accounting has achieved the inherent perpetual benefit despite the theoretical inconsistencies. Environmental management has also developed as a result of growing awareness and acceptance of the significance of environmental and natural resources both globally and nationally. Valuation of ecological labor and products and fuse of natural information into the public and corporate levels recommend various strategies. The disclosure procedures for environmental issues are now required in many nations. However, not all countries have such a mandate. It is now critical to take international action, particularly to develop valuation methods for environmental issues. Every nation can impose regulations requiring the company to include these in its annual report, including environmental laws, as in developed nations. Because it has the potential to significantly increase the value of economics as a tool for decision-making, particularly in determining national policy, the dedication with which work is being done to develop environmental management will undoubtedly result in environmental management occupying a position that is more stable and effective in the foreseeable future. It is anticipated that managerial attitudes and perspectives will shift as a result of environmental

management implementation. There is ample evidence to suggest that a significant number of nations around the world have sincerely attempted to meet the new challenges and threats, despite the difficulties associated with environmental management. The "quality of life" and "ecological balance" aspects of economic activity should go beyond the "profit motive" alone. Therefore, utilizing an environmental management system to provide more effectively rather than less is the key to sustainable growth.

Impact of Human Activities on the Environment

The person's growth and development is influenced by the environment. It influences the individual's way of behaving, body, brain and heart. The everyday environments of living organic entities in a climate are impacted by the climate or environment changes in the climate. The conditions under which an organism must survive or continue its life cycle make up its environment. Living things' growth and development are influenced by it. To put it another way, the term "environment" refers to the entire set of circumstances that surround and influence living things. Climate studies is tied in with learning the manner in which we ought to live and how we can foster supportable systems to safeguard the climate. It aids individuals in developing an understanding of the physical and living environments, as well as strategies for resolving difficult environmental issues affecting nature. The term "significant environmental impact" refers to any anticipated environmental change that calls for the preparation of appropriate measures to avert, mitigate, or eliminate its effects. The advanced idea of climate envelops environmental, financial, tasteful, and moral worries. From a personal and North American perspective, this essay explains how the concept of environment has changed over time. Ecological training is a cycle that permits people to investigate natural issues, participate in critical thinking, and make a move to work on the climate. As a consequence of this, people acquire a more in-depth comprehension of environmental issues and the abilities to make decisions that are responsible and based on information. A spotless climate is fundamental for the tranquil and solid endurance of people. The environment is negatively impacted by human activities. It includes, among other things, pollution, climate change, species extinction. Our environment should be safeguarded by citizens as well as the government. These are likewise called abiotic factors and incorporate air, water, soil, environment and so on. The atmosphere, the hydrosphere, and the lithosphere are the three broad categories of physical components. The zone of life (or global sum of

ecosystems) is also referred to as the "biosphere" by scientists.

Conclusion

The environment was treated as if it were a god in Indian epics and mythology. The Vedas are the essential wellsprings of moral upgrade for the financial man as well as ways for misinformed biology to accomplish a genuine maintainability. It takes into account both material and spiritual values in an individual and harmonious unity, and it looks at human perfection and happiness from a variety of integrated perspectives. The Vedas will manual for edify the internal human spirit to keep up with have virtues, genuine motivation behind life and care for nature. From a development point of view, the Vedic cultures are unique.⁵⁰ Nature and the environment treat each force of exploitation equally. People who rely on nature continue to receive its goods and services without being harmed in any way. Nature does not differentiate based on caste, religion, or color; It continues to provide a great deal without any favor or distinction. Nature and normal assets see no dissimilarity, qualification and handicap. Nature and the climate don't regard anyone subject to it as fragmented on partisan lines. The environment treats all living things equally. Nature and normal assets cooperate with everyone with same soul of demeanor and attitude. Every human and living thing is revered and admired by the environment. The environment imposes a great deal of discipline, control, and regulation on its surroundings. Climate renders advantage to all animals with equivalent regard and regard. Secularism is enforced in the true sense of the word by the environment. Secularism is founded on four fundamental tenets of the green geopolitical ethos: "ecological responsibility, social justice, grassroots democracy, and nonviolence."

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