



getting degraded and imbalanced apprehending the danger of life. People are cutting forests, blocking rivers, stopping free flow of nature's law. Unwise use of natural resources demands consciousness among the people to protect it. The improvements of the environment are vital for the survival of mankind. Natural resources of land, air, and water have to be utilised wisely as a trust to ensure healthy environment for the present and future generation but practical output is not satisfactory for lack of natural, social, moral, cultural and ethical values. This can be done by making students to be aware of the statutory norms of environmental behaviour through nature's poets. If this very foundation is strengthened, then our students, future citizens of the country will be fully awakened towards its conservation and may share a lot in this undertaking. The scope of its protection is multi-dimensional not only scientist and sociologist but also our poets have been revealing important aspects of its protection even before the formation of the 'National Association on Environmental Education' in UK in 1972, enactment of the law on the 'Environmental Protection and Conservation' in USA and an International Conference on 'Environment Education' from 16-20 Dec 1981 in New Delhi. But before them the poets of nature laid down certain principles on the conservation and scientific use of our natural resources to bring about a universal awakening to the core in nineteenth century.

Introduction:

Rabindra Nath Tagore said, "Children with the freshness of their senses come directly intimacy of this environmental world. This is the first gift they have. They must accept it naked and simple and must never again lose their power of immediate communication with it and their education must be organised in natural surroundings"ⁱ The interactions of organisms with biotic and abiotic factors form an ecosystem. Even minute changes in any one factor in an ecosystem can influence whether. Organisms and their environment both are changed by this interaction. We have changed our environment and are destroying world's tropical rain forests to create farms or grazing land for cattle. Scientists study the long-term consequences of human actions on the environment, while nature poets advocate ways to minimize the impact of human activity on the natural world.

Meaning:

On Lithosphere, Hydrosphere and Atmosphere everything being, doing and causing which affects the life of a plant and its family directly or indirectly is called environment. 'Environmental protection' means the safety of the natural world in which people animal and plants live. Also, an environment is a total sum of surroundings in which all things living and non-living organism exists and which tend to influence their development and behaviour. It is a phenomenon which affects the activities of creature of different levels in several ways. With the population explosion, uncontrolled and undesirable activities of human beings, it is getting degraded and imbalanced apprehending the danger of life. People's cutting forests,

blocking rivers, stopping free flow of nature's law and injudicious use of natural resources demand consciousness among us to protect it.

Factors Threatening the Environment:

We find in our surrounding houses, schools, colleges, offices, ponds, channels, canals, rivers, and seas are being polluted for throwing of litters polythene bags plastic cups etc. The emergence of industries, emission of dust, smoke and gases absorb the energy sent by lord sun on the earth. The energy is permanent. It can neither destroy nor goes back to the sun. It starts warming globally causing the melt of snow at Antarctica and Himalaya mountains. This melting invites destructive problems for existence of the earth and demands its protection. The problems facing the environment are vast and diverse. Climatic, edaphically, topographic, biotic, global warming, the depletion of the ozone layer in the atmosphere, air, water, noise, soil, radioactive, biological, chemical pollutions and the destruction of the world's rain forests are just some of the problems that many scientists believe will reach critical proportions in the coming years.

Green House Effect:

Whenever coal, oil, wood, fuel etc. burn, carbon dioxide gas is produced; this gas rises up and covers the earth like a blanket. The heat radiations from the surface of earth get stopped by this blanket of carbon- dioxide gas resulting in rise of temperature of atmosphere. This phenomenon can be compared with a green house where the heat radiations are blocked by the roof of the green house its temperature gets raised. Therefore, rise in the atmosphere temperature due to blocked heat by blanket of CO₂ is called Green House Effect. Gases like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and water vapour, insulate Earth's surface, helping to maintain warm temperature in the Earth's atmosphere permit the Sun's radiation to heat Earth like the glass panes in a greenhouse. It is threatening the environment.

Depletion of the Ozone Layer:

The ozone layer, a thin band in the stratosphere serves to shield Earth from the Sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. In the 1970s, scientists discovered that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) chemicals used in refrigeration, air-conditioning systems, cleaning solvents, and aerosol spray destroy the ozone layer. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) release chlorine into the atmosphere; chlorine, in turn, breaks down ozone molecules. Because chlorine is not affected by its interaction with ozone, each chlorine molecule has the ability to destroy a large amount of ozone for an extended period of time. The consequences of continued depletion of the ozone layer would be dramatic. Increased ultraviolet radiation would lead to a growing number of skin cancers and cataracts and also reduce the ability of immune systems to



respond to infection. Recent studies suggest that global warming, in turn, may increase the amount of ozone destruction.

Air -Pollution:

A significant portion of industry and transportation burns fossil fuels, such as gasoline. When these fuels burn, chemicals are released into the atmosphere and a vast number of substances contribute to air pollution, the most common air pollutants contain carbon, sulphur, and nitrogen. These chemicals interact with one another and with ultraviolet radiation in sunlight in dangerous ways. Acid rain too has left its impression on environment. In India acidic rains are observed in Agra causing the damage of Tajmahal which is transforming into yellowish colour. It is also responsible for the decline of many forest ecosystems. Bhopal gas (1984) tragedy is the worst example of air pollution.

Water-Pollution:

Water that collects beneath the ground is a renewable resource. Presently, groundwater level is going down in India. Scientists worry about groundwater contamination, which arises from leaking underground storage tanks, poorly designed industrial waste ponds, and seepage from the deep-well injection of hazardous wastes into underground geologic formations. By some estimates usable groundwater is contaminated. Scientists warn that fundamental, and perhaps drastic, changes in human behaviour will be required to avert an ecological calamity.

Environmental Protection with the Help of Nature Poets:

In the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in 1970 to protect the nation's natural resources. The scope of its protection is multi-dimensional not only scientist and sociologist but also our poets have been revealing important aspects of its protection even before the formation of the 'National Association on Environmental Education' in UK in 1972, enactment of the law on the 'Environmental Protection and Conservation' in USA and an International Conference on 'Environment Education' from 16-20 Dec 1981 in New Delhi. But before them the poets of nature laid down certain principles on the conservation and scientific use of our natural resources to bring about a universal awakening to the core in nineteenth century.

Nature poets aim at eliminating or minimising diseases with the help of nature. We know that tree does not eat its fruit, river does not drink its water, for the betterment of humanity saints be earth's dweller. To protect the environment which is essential to life, humans must learn that Earth does not have infinite resources. Earth's limited resources must be conserved and reused. The future generation must depend upon the development of sustainable conservation methods that protect the environment. Many nations have acted to control or reduce environmental problems. Great Britain has largely succeeded in cleaning up the waters of the

Thames and other rivers and London no longer suffers the heavy smog caused by industrial pollutants. Japan has some of the world's strictest standards for the control of water and air pollution. India is cleaning river Ganga and celebrating green energy festivals at schools, colleges, states and national levels to overcome the grave situation of protecting the environment.

Like Wordsworth, Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose, the great scientist made the world aware that, "plants too have feelings"ⁱⁱ. The great Indian epics, 'the Ramayana' and 'the Mahabharata' influenced him. These epics became his constant source of inspiration. The poet Rabindra Nath Tagore was Bose's friend he translated many of his works and published them. By the turn of century, Bose was totally engrossed in the science of plant physiology. He developed a novel method to study micro movements in plants when they are stimulated. He proved that plants too have feelings or sentiments and like human beings they too tend to react in a particular way to pain and pleasure like man or animal, a plant cannot express pain or pleasure by voicing, wailing or shrieking. But it can bloom, wither, sway and thus express its feeling. Like other living beings, plants do breathe. William Wordsworth a great poet and worshipper of nature emphasised on natural world and its protection in his poem, 'Intimations of Immortality Ode' he said that every smallest plant has the power to teach a lot. He feels life in every plant, flower, animal, bird and tree. He says-

*"Thanks to the human heart by which we live,
To me the meanest flower that blows;
Can give thoughts that lie too deep for tears."*ⁱⁱⁱ

In another poem 'Tintern Abbey' he says-

*"We stood together and that I so long
A worshipper of nature hither came,
Unwearied in that service, rather say
These deep woods and lofty cliffs
And these green pastoral landscape were to me
More dear both for themselves and for thy sake"*^{iv}

He calls nature a nurse, a guide, anchor of his purest thoughts to build his character. He remembers his childhood days and appreciates the nature like a lover. He says in the poem, 'Tintern Abbey' –

*"Therefore am I still, a lover
Of the meadows and the woods and mountains
In nature and the language of the sense
Nature is the anchor of my purest thoughts,*

*The nurse, the guide; the guardian of my heart and soul;
And of all my moral being.”^v*

William Wordsworth the worshipper, devotee, priest, and philosopher has complete philosophy of nature to protect the environment. He felt the living air in breath, the blue sky in spirit, the mind of man in consciousness, the fire in blood, the river in veins. The spirit, he says rolls through all things. He further says-

*“A motion and a spirit that impels
All thinking things, all objects of all thoughts
And rolls through all things”.^{vi}*

Above all Wordsworth emphasised the moral influence of nature. He spiritualised nature and regarded her as a great moral teacher, as the best mother, as a guardian, as a nurse of man an elevating influence on troubled minds and healing influence on sorrow stricken hearts. According to him, nature influences human character. He says, “Nature never did betray the heart that loved her”. Nature can impress the human mind with quietness and beauty and it deals human beings with lofty thoughts. He says-

*“Nature is a teacher
Whose wisdom we can learn
If we will, and without which human life is vain and incomplete”.^{vii}*

In his poem, ‘Three Years She Grew in Sun and Shower’, he like Tagore, bring up the children amid the nature. He would like to nourish the Lucy amid natural surroundings to make a beautiful lady.

*“A lovelier flower on the earth was never sown,
This child I too myself will take
She shall be mine; I will make a lady my own
The girl in rock and plain
In earth and heaven, in glade and bower
Shall feel an overseeing power
The floating clouds their state shall lend to her
For her the willow bends.
Nor shall she fail to see
Even in the motion of the storm....
Where rivulets dance their wayward round
And beauty born of murmuring sound
Shall pass into her face”^{viii}*

William Wordsworth in his poem, 'To Milton', appreciates human nature. He says about John Milton and wail for the loss of human values in England at that time. He said, "England hath need of thee". He compared powerful poet expression with natural objects like the star, the sea, and the heaven. He says-

*"Thy soul was like a star and dwelt apart
Thou had'st a voice whose sound was like the sea
Pure as the naked heaven majesty free"*^{ix}

In his another poem "Daffodils", he finds joy with nature and feels ecstasy in the company of daffodils. He says-

*"The waves beside them danced
But they outdid sparkling waves in glee
A poet could not but be gay
In such a jocund company"*^x

William Wordsworth calls natural worlds a beautiful world to live in. he remembers them at retiring time. His heart is filled with pleasure in the company of daffodils and solitary reaper. William Wordsworth's happiness is unmeasured in natural surroundings, as he says-

*"For oft when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood
They (Daffodils) flush upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude
And then my heart with pleasure fills
And dances with the daffodils."*^{xi}

Not only in plants, animals and human beings but also in the birds he survey God, he says in his poem, 'To a Skylark':-

*"Ethereal Minstrel! Pilgrim of the sky!
Type of the wise who soar high but never roam
True to the kindred point of heaven and home."*^{xii}

The bird soars high up in the sky and keeps singing there but all the while, its eye and heart are with its nest on the ground. The bird is those type of wise man on earth who soars in high thoughts, but yet do not disregard the limitless lies of their earthly lives. In the poem, "Lines Written in Early Spring' he says-

"I heard a thousand while in a grove I sat reclined blended notes",^{xiii}

William Wordsworth enjoys, in his poem “Nature’s Holy Plan” the flowers, the leaves, the birds enjoy in nature but now man has become a stranger to the joy of natural world. He says-

*“The birds around me hopped and played,
Their thoughts I can not measure
But the least motion which they made
It seemed a thrill a pleasure
The budding twigs spread out their fan
To catch the breezy air;
And I must think do all I can,
That there was pleasure there
If this belief from heaven, we sent
If such be nature’s holy plan
Have I not reason to lament
What man hath made of man?”^{xiv}*

William Wordsworth felt that man could fit amid inter- playing forces of nature. ‘Three Years She Grew in Sun and Shower’, ‘Resolution and Independence’, ‘Tintern Abbey’, ‘The Simplan Pass’, show presence of eternal spirit. Nature soothes man, when the individual mind and external nature are in harmony; it is natural that there is a communion between nature and man. In the “Thorn”, a beautiful passage brings home to us the union of the tragic figure to the element ... “and she is known to every star and every wind that blows” Nature has the power to console mankind. Man and nature to Wordsworth are part of a whole and should live in harmony. In this regard Sukhomlinsky said, “The very nature of one’s mind and memory demand that one should be ever aware of the vivid world around him complete with all its laws and patterns”.^{xv} In America the nature poet Robert Frost gave importance to environmental protection in his poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" he says-

*“The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep”^{xvi}.*

In America modern environmental movement was rooted in 19th-century New England philosophical movement called transcendentalism, whose leaders included the poet and essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson and the naturalist and author Henry David Thoreau. In their writings, both men expressed a reverence for the natural world, believing that humans and nature shared a divine spirit. Emerson asserted that nature was eternal and capable of recovering from mistreatment at the hands of humans. Thoreau, more protective and pessimistic, has been quoted as saying, “Thank God, men cannot yet fly and lay waste the sky

as well as the earth.” Although Emerson and Thoreau wrote eloquently about the value of nature and its spiritual importance to humans, neither of them undertook a systematic analysis of the effects that humans have on their environment. In 1864 Marsh published *Man and Nature; or, Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action*, considered the first book to demonstrate that human activity could cause dramatic and irreversible damage to Earth. Marsh explained how some agricultural practices had led to deforestation, loss of wetlands, desertification, species extinction, and changes in weather patterns. A book ‘*Silent Spring*’ combined solid science, a reverence for nature as strong as that of the transcendentalists, and a wonderfully poetic style that moved people to a new level of environmental awareness. In India media is playing a very significant role in protecting environment by creating awareness among the masses. The Idea, Aircell, Nokia and other mobile companies are making environment free advertisement to protect it. NDTV 24X7 also recently organised a programme for creating awareness among the people. Kailash Kher sang a melodious environmental theme song.

Conclusion:

The improvements of the environment are vital for the survival of mankind. Natural resources of land, air, and water have to be utilised wisely as a trust to ensure healthy environment for the present and future generation but practical output is not satisfactory for lack of natural, social, moral, cultural and ethical values. This can be done by making students to be aware of the statutory norms of environmental behaviour through nature’s poets. If this very foundation is strengthened, then our students, future citizens of the country will be fully awakening towards its conservation and may share a lot in this undertaking.

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