

An Ethical Approach to Control over Pollution for a Sustainable Future

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Abstract- Pollution free India will not only create a hygienic image on the world map and fulfill the aspirations of the nation but also transform the lives of the common masses and leave a foot print for surrounding nations to adopt the same for a healthy breathing. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi has launched "Swachh Bharat Mission" which aims to mobilize masses to create a clean environment across nation and to stimulate Indian citizens to devote at least hundred hours every year i.e. two hours every week to keep their homes and neighborhood clean. The birth of this mission underlines the urgent need of improving waste management scenario in India where public apathy towards proper waste disposal is a major hindrance. The world's production of plastic materials has been increasing over the past 20 years at a rate of nearly 5% per annum. In 2010 alone, 265 million tonnes of plastics were produced, 15 million more than the previous year. This means that on the one hand more resources are being used to meet demand but also more plastics waste is being generated. India, being one of the most populated countries in the world as well as one of the most rapidly developing country, is the source of a humongous amount of waste per annum, be it the municipal solid waste, hazardous waste, biomedical waste or e-waste. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the average solid waste generated in Indian ranges from 0.21 to 0.5 kg per capita per day.

Keywords: Ethics, Culture, Pollution, Waste

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Objectives of study:

The overall objective of the study is to create a culture in the society to reduce pollution, solid in waste streams, saving non-renewable resources and enabling carbon neutral energy production from waste through an application of ethical approach in everyday life. Studied ethical approach of healthy relationship with nature and to find out its impact on future generation due to increased population problem on the earth.

More specifically, the study aims at-

- Identifying the main challenges and barriers for reducing solid waste in mixed waste and residual waste streams, hereby stimulating prevention and recycling of plastic waste.
- Promoting recycling of plastic polymers as a substitute for virgin plastic.
- Diverting waste plastic from the residual waste going to incineration (creating a carbon neutral energy source) and landfill.
- To create a culture and ambiance of minimizing wastes across the nation at large.
- To make humans learn some interspecific altruism instead of intraspecific altruism, what they already have learned.

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B. The scope of ethics is much broader than the realm of law

"Ethics extends to all our duties, obligations, virtues, and the vices, as we interact with each other – whether or not we should lie or steal, whether we should be charitable towards less fortunate than ourselves, whether we should be figuring how to resolve conflict of interest when we have conflicting obligations to different persons."¹ **Andrew Light and Holmes Rolston III, Environmental Ethics: An Anthology, Blackwell, London, 2006, p. 3**

II. METHODOLOGY

Phase 1: Survey

Study was conducted in four phases. The first phase involved conducting surveys to identify the Plastic-waste generators. In this phase we identified the sectors contributing a major portion uniquely and the organizations and groups of people working towards Plastics-waste management. Surveys have been conducted to determine the prevalent techniques of plastics-waste recycling so far.

Phase 2: Data Analysis & Maintenance

Collected data from survey has been analyzed to identify the waste generation pattern according to the different sectors of the society. The major components which form a part of the plastic-waste will come into the consideration through this analysis. The different data analysis and maintenance techniques have been utilized to generate the plastic-waste usage patterns.

Phase 3: Creating Culture

This phase has the major responsibility of creating culture in the society regarding solid waste reduction. Sectors of the society which are the prime generators of solid waste have taken under consideration and it helped targeting the group to bring them into the mainstream of the program to make the nation pollution free, specifically in this phase. Several conferences organized by NGO's and Government organizations have called stakeholders in the sector to create the awareness in the society to make it a culture at large.

There should be an urgent need to create awareness about values

"We all live in a difficult time. We face social and environmental problems that are massive in scope, for which effective solutions are elusive at best. These problems are well symbolized by global warming, which threatens nonhuman species, unique eco-systems and human communities equally."² **Anna Peterson, Everyday Ethics and Social Change, 2009: 1**

Establishment of a good society

It's a matter of urgency to focus upon the Climate Change, Deforestation, Endangered species, deforestation, Air and Water Pollution, Loss of biodiversity, loss of soil, etc.

Ethical Protection

“How values carried by nature could best be described, often asking whether nature is morally considerable in itself, rather than only indirectly morally considerable.”³ **Light and Rolston III, 2006, p.2**

- Grounds of protecting non-human animals
- Moral foundation for the laws protecting endangered species
- The ethical basis for preserving and protecting degraded environment.

Deeper sense of obligation

There should be deeper sense of obligation and the duty of humans is not only to harm non-human animals but also to help them in all possible respects. Destroying species is like tearing pages out of an unread book. “We know relations of love and solidarity, even if these are fragile and fragmentary. We know connectedness with other people and with members of other species. We play freely and joyfully. We feel satisfaction in taking care of those who need us and in being cared for.”⁴ **Anna Peterson, 2009: 2**

Duties to the Endangered Species

An adequate ethic for preserving species requires an unprecedented mix of biological science and ethics.⁵

Holmes Rolston III, 1985 Bioscience, 35, 718-26

Respect for Nature and Nature of Respects Respect for Nature “God has created this universe, and everything is unique here in the nature”If we respect the nature it will reciprocate the same in a better organized manner.

1. Give Respect for Valuable Humans
2. Give Respect for Valuable Animals
3. Give Respect for Valuable Organisms
4. Give Respect for Valuable Species
5. Give Respect for Valuable Ecosystems

“If people do not behave in right way with respect to nature then nature will take its revenge-for example, animals might not offer themselves up for food or it might not rail when needed.”⁶ **The Whanganui River Report 1997 (Wai 167) 46.**

III. NATURE OF RESPECTS

1. Intrinsic Value:

“Value if it is good and desirable in itself.”

- a) How much does the society earn in a specific time period?
- b) What is that earnings stream worth to me?

“Respect is a fundamental category of appeal with significant intuitive traction. Ethical consideration concerning our relationship with environment quite naturally, then, often use the category of respect as, for instance, Paul Taylor does in his work *“Respect for Nature”* (1986) or Tom Regan does in his discussion of moral and legal obligations.”⁷

T. Regan, 1992, “Does Environmental Ethics Rest on a Mistake?”, Monist, 75: 161–82

We should think of earning power while thinking about a social intrinsic value. Try to determine the stream of value that we could expect to get from the society over time in the future. If we think a society can earn Rs. 10 per share, how much is that Rs. 10 worth to us? If we think the business, by retaining and reinvesting a portion of its earnings, can grow

its earning power at 10% per year, maybe that Rs. 10 is worth more to us than a business that earns a consistent Rs. 10 that pays it all out in dividends but can't retain and reinvest anything (i.e. it's not growing). In other words, if I am a private buyer, how much cash will this business put in my pocket over a specific period of time after paying for capital expenditures required to maintain my competitive position? (What are the normal owner earnings that I can expect from this business)?

Intrinsic value can be defined simply: It is the discounted value of the cash that can be taken out of a business during its remaining life.”

2. Instrumental Value:

“Value as a means to some other end or purpose.” Nature has several instrumental values for people and instrumental view is the sufficient and reasonable ground for nature conservation. We should link together Instrumental and Intrinsic-value views instead of regarding them as oppose views. Otherwise those to whom instrumental value is attributed will not lose their live but will lose an identity as an independent people.

Human Centered Ethics towards Non-Human

a) Duties:

Not to allow the natural environment to deteriorate. Duty is owed to the owner, not to the animals itself. Cruelty to animals should be discouraged.

b) Responsibility:

To protect Wilderness with a sense of it's your own.

c) Obligations:

Link the plants & Animals with Human Values. Be friendship with nature to secure the future of our own and next generation.

Solid-Waste Maintenance

Solid waste discarded in the streets and roads could lead to the breeding of rodents and fleas which could lead to spread of several diseases. Solid waste could lead to water and air pollution.

Treatment of solid waste becomes very difficult once different waste materials are mixed.

All organic waste must be degraded biologically with in the period of 10-15 days.

Glass waste will never get degraded biologically.

Therefore it is necessary to deal with it in a systematic manner-

- a) Collection- it may be door to door in the community.
- b) Separation-segregated waste must be filled in the colored bin made for specific purpose.
- c) Storage-all filled waste must be stored in the separate sections of the compartment of the vehicle.
- d) Transfer to the destination through transport-modern trucks (hydraulic compactors) must be in application in carrying waste to the destination.
- e) Processing-latest technology require to make it valuable and
- f) Disposal at last.

“62 Million Tonnes of solid waste is generated annually by 377 million people in the urban part of our nation.”⁸

http://planningcommission.nic.in/reports/genrep/rep_wte1205.pdf

Report of the task force on Waste of Energy (volume-1), 2014 Benefits:

8. Report of the task force on Waste of Energy (volume-1), 2014 (http://planningcommission.nic.in/reports/genrep/rep_wte1205.pdf)

Creating Jobs—Small investments in recycling collection can produce real benefits for a community in the form of well-paying jobs in the recycling industry, the vast array of businesses that support the recycling industry, and the manufacturing facilities that rely on recycling for feedstock.

Saving Money—By diverting recyclable materials from the landfill, immediate economic benefits are produced through reduced disposal fees and the sale of recyclable materials.

Retaining Local Employers—By collecting recyclable commodities, industries that need these materials remain in the region and may even expand their operations.

Generating Tax Revenue—Support of a vibrant recycling industry in the nation ensures continued receipt of sizable tax revenues that can be used to further improve communities.

Producing Economic Development Opportunities—Increased collection of materials attracts businesses that are interested in processing or using the materials. Community leaders are beginning to see recycling not just as a public works operation, but as a sound investment in a town, a state, and a region.

IV. CONCLUSION

Pollution free India will not only create a hygienic image on the world map and fulfill the aspirations of the nation but also transform the lives of the common masses and leave a foot print for surrounding nations to adopt the same for a healthy breathing. Plastic-Waste generated across various sectors must be collected properly from the villages and surrounding urban societies, segregated into re-usable components and the other components are re-cycled using cost effective and optimized techniques. Findings from the experiments, awareness campaign, seminars and workshops should bring in application with immediate effect to make this work a grand success for a better tomorrow. By diverting recyclable materials from the landfill, immediate economic benefits are produced through reduced disposal fee and the sale of recyclable materials to save environment. Study on control over pollution helps creating awareness of using wastes as an important resource and do not waste it by spreading on earth because it creates the problem of increasing the level of sea water, which is the urgent need of an hour to be controlled as soon as possible for making a better living on the mother earth across the world. We should come ahead to make friendship with nature to secure the life of our own and next generation because population is increasing day by day and earth is decreasing rapidly. As it is easy to give birth to billions of people but is difficult to increase even a single square inch of earth in reality.

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