

Man-environment relation and Sustainable development

Human being is the most important creature in the organic and inorganic system of nature. Human being is supplied with various quantities and virtues which make it different from other creation. This is the only feature in the biosphere which has got most developed brain. Man has capacity to compose society and to have the technological development, other creatures are totally dependent on nature for their life. On the other hand human being can make its physical environment adjustable by doing several activities. This human being is considered to be most superior creation of Nature.

The human-environment relationship has seen many changes over time. On this basis the human-environment relationship can be studied in the following stages.

- ① Hunting and food gathering period
- ② Domestication of animals and pasture period.
- ③ Domestication of plants and agricultural period.
- ④ Science technology and industrial period.

(1) In this period, man was fully dependent on nature for their survival. To meet his demand regarding food, clothing and shelter, he used to perform hunting of wild animals and gathering of plants, fruits etc. For shelter his only hope was caves. This was the period of ecological balance. The resources used by human

being is managed by nature. But with the discovery of fire, some change in human-environment relationship could be seen. Now man started cooking food by burning vegetation. Sometimes the man caused loss of nature by unknowing fire.

- ② The basic aim behind the domestication of animals was first to get food and second to get milk. May be thus the development of domestication of animals and pastoralism took place. To help human being in domestication, the dog became the best friend of human being. Different pastoral groups like the Kizgoiz group of Asia depended for more than 75% of requirements on animals. The Mozzic and Bedouin of Africa and middle east also depend on animals for their survival. Pastoralism may be considered as the first economical activity for which the human being started exploiting the environment. To get the fodder, shelter for their domestic animals he started struggling to the environment. With the increasing number of domestic animals the pressure in the environment also increased. The prosperity of human being in the form of more number of domestic animals resultant into increase in human population.
- ③ The exact date of the starting of agriculture cannot be set. But it is believed that some of the people in the pastoral groups may have noticed

few plants which grew in their backyard. This anxiety resultant into systematic agricultural activities. Later on the human dependency on these plants gradually grew. The agriculture has given a different aspect to the man-environment relationship. In this period man dependency on nature is reduced. The agricultural activities develop in that areas which were favourable for agriculture.

eg → The River Valley Civilization

The first negative effect on environment of the result of agricultural activity was the deforestation to get agricultural land. The agriculture solved the problem of food. This resulted into unprecedented increase in human population and the spread of human population in different areas. The further development in agriculture, man's ability to harm environment also increased. The concept that nature provides gift was changed into nature which can be extracted.

Prior to the industrial revolution, the agriculture dominant areas became the areas of high population concentration.

eg → The agricultural countries of Asia, Africa, Southern Europe, Southern America became the focal point of high population concentration.
 The intensive agricultural activities cause imbalance in between man-environment relationship. Large scale deforestation development of large and impact settlement etc. cause negative effects on environment.

④ In the mid 19th Century the era of science, technology and industrial development started. The industrial revolution caused tremendous increase in human population. To meet the increase requirement of increase population the large scale destruction of natural resources started. Various power resources like coal, petroleum, gas, electricity provided tremendous power to human being and these resources also cause large scale pollution. The passive behaviour of human being towards deforestation, extinction of minerals and other resources neglected the fact that there should be a balance between man and nature.

Thus from the above discussion it is clear that man has developed a lot over the period but the development was done without considering the future of human beings. As a result of this the relationship between man and environment got worst with time. But lately it was realised that to achieve rapid development the environment was depleted severely. The meteorologist's view point of human beings has been mainly responsible for this. Industrial revolution, urbanisation, rapid growth of population, rapid deforestation is creating a threat for the existence of human being in future. It has only been realized that there is one certain limitation of the nature after which the nature starts giving punishments to the human beings. Thus a balance should be maintained between the human activities and nature. With this,