

EDITORIAL NOTE

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION : NEED OF THE HOUR

A clean environment is essential for human health. Public health problems caused by environmental degradation and emerging infectious diseases are a growing concern worldwide. Vector borne diseases, contamination of drinking water and bioaccumulation of pesticides in food chain are increasing the difficulties associated with human health. Unsafe water bodies, poor access to safe drinking water, indoor and outdoor air pollution, exposure to chemicals, unhygienic food and inadequate waste disposal are identified as key environment related human health issues in most parts of the world. World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that about a quarter of diseases facing mankind today occur due to prolonged exposure to environmental pollution. The improper disposal of solid waste is posing a great risk to public health. It is a challenge to the human population living adjacent to dump site due to potential of waste to pollute drinking water, air and vegetation. Environmental pollution and climatic change have started posing a major threat to mankind. The depleting ground water levels, elevated temperature, climatic change, Ozone depletion, delayed or missing monsoon, acid rains and drought have virtually affected every individual in one way or the other. Environmental crisis has severely affected the health and socio-economic status people. Overexploitation of natural resources has posed a negative impact on sustainable development all over the world. The growing population is also considered as the major cause of environmental degradation. Lack of sewage treatment operation and remnant burning of fossil fuels are the emerging problems. As a result, environmental crisis become one of the primary cause of diseases, health issues and long-term livelihood.

We have started to realize that our environment is severely deteriorated. One dimensional application of technology and expansion of human population at geometric rates are the main factors for the emergence of environmental problem. The deliberate and accidental contamination is contributing to the present environmental deterioration. The reckless poisoning of the world-air, water and soil-has led to ecological crisis. The present world is living on the edge. Many species have already become extinct and probably others are facing threat of extinction.

The conservation of our natural environment and natural resources is one of the most important challenges of the present and immediate future. Conservation or bringing back ecological balance can only be achieved by the most efficient and most beneficial utilization of the natural resources. The rational use of the environment to provide a high

quality of living for the mankind should be our motto. The sustainable utilization of the resources and ecosystem should be on our top priority. It is a matter of great regret that our conservation programs are not properly planned and maintained. We must realize the dire need to conserve our environment in which we are living. The life on this planet should not be exposed to man-made environmental hazards. Proper and planned management programs based on holistic knowledge would strengthen the conservation efforts.

