

Eco-centric Approach on Environmental Sustainability**MR. RAJAB ALI***Assistant Professor**Department of Philosophy**Karmashree Hiteswar Saikia College**Guwahati (Assam)***Abstract:**

Environmental issues are the harmful effects of human activities on the environment. At present across the world people are facing the environmental crisis. Natural environment of the earth is constantly changing. For the protection of our future generation environmental sustainability is essential and primary condition. This environmental crisis demand moral awareness on the conservation of natural resources and environment. Eco-centric approach as a philosophical and ethical method gives importance on the protection and conservation of the natural environment for sustainable development. It supports a long term solution of environmental issues. It is based on ontological belief denying the external divisions of living and non- loving entity of the Nature. It believes that all human and non-human beings have intrinsic value and have equal importance. The earth is the ultimate source of value and wellbeing of the whole earth's environment depends on living and non-living components of the nature. Eco-centric approach needs to be promoted more for sustainable use of natural resources not only for the present generation but also for the future generation. The aim of this study is to determine impact of eco-centric approach to create moral support and awareness to protect environment for sustainable use of natural resources.

Keywords: Environmental Issues, Morality, Eco-centric approach, Conservation, Sustainability.

Introduction: Environmental issues are the harmful effects of human activities on the environment. At present across the world people are facing the environmental crisis. Natural environment of the earth is constantly changing. For the protection of our future generation environmental sustainability is essential and primary condition. This environmental crisis demand moral awareness on the conservation of natural resources and environment. Eco-centric approach as a philosophical and ethical method gives importance on the protection and conservation of the natural environment for sustainable development. It supports a long

term solution of environmental issues. It is based on ontological belief denying the external divisions of living and non-living entity of the nature. It believes that all human and non-human beings have intrinsic value and have equal importance. The earth is the ultimate source of value and wellbeing of the whole earth's environment depends on living and non-living components of the nature. Eco-centric approach needs to be promoted more for sustainable use of natural resources not only for the present generation but also for the future generation.

Methodology: In this research paper descriptive method has been used and the primary and the secondary data have been used from different books and journals.

Objectives: The primary objectives of this paper are to focus on the impact of eco-centric approach to create moral support and awareness for the conservation of environment for sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable development.

Environmental Ethics: Environment ethics is a new area of applied ethics which deals with the ethical problems related to environment and its protection and conservation. It is the scientific taking of various problem related to the right and duties of men towards the nature and all non-human beings. It deals with issues relating to environment protection and conservation. It is ethical relationship between man and natural environment. It is concerned with what do's and don'ts at the human being to the environment. It deals with the equal rights at all creatures of the nature. It emphasizes the development of sustainable environment and society with the help of a reciprocal and holistic way. It given importance on comprehensive aspects. Where all the elements of environment are protected, preserved and co-exist with harmony. It is concerned with the issue of responsible personal conduct with respect to natural landscape, resources, species and non-human organism. It simply tries to deals with the human duty and responsibility to the environment and its elements. The practical goal of environmental ethics is to guide how the human race ought to interact with the natural environment including the non-human individual.¹The environmental crisis prevails because the human treats every thing in the non-human world as having no moral significance of its own. The human treats nature as something to which they own no direct moral duties.²All human being, animals, other creatures and all non-living things are the essential members of the environment of the natural. So, it is very natural to have inter dependency and equilibrium situation among all the elements. Environmental ethics creates awareness and grow a moral consciousness towards the nature. It emphasizes for increasing and improving moral regard for non-human entities of nature. It deals with water and air

pollution, depletion of natural resources, loss of biodiversity, destruction of ecosystems, global climate change, man animal conflict, ozone depletion, greenhouse-effect, global warming, desertification, deforestation, and many other global environmental problems and try to draw attention of man to solve these issues.

Environmental sustainability: Environmental sustainability is the ability to maintain an ecological balance in the natural environment of the earth and conservation of natural resources to support the wellbeing of the present and future generations. The aim of environmental sustainability is to protect and preserve the natural environment for the future generations. It works on to develop alternative resources reducing pollution and less harm to environment. Sustainable development related to the issues of natural resource management and environment stewardship. Sustainable development is always grounded on ethics. Environmental sustainability stresses on the conservation of natural resources and creates moral consciousness about the natural environment. The present world is facing environmental issues including the greenhouse effect, global warming, acid rain, draught, forest-fire and many other issues. The destruction of environment and pollution arising out of different factors. The immoral and unethical human activities of man are mainly responsible for these harmful activities. For the present and the future generations of the world environmental pollution and climate change are the biggest threats to lives and human beings. The burning environmental crisis requires identifying the ambitious environment which can protect and save the living and non-living being on earth. The ethical consideration on environment creates the attention of man for the protection and conservation of natural environment. The ethical consideration on environment gives attention on moral duty of human being towards the environmental protection. For environment sustainability moral behavior of man towards the nature is fundamental issue. Environmental sustainability is the ground of sustainable development. Environmental sustainability is now a personal, social and corporate responsibility.

Ethical approaches on environmental sustainability:Applying ethics to environment is necessary and fruitful for environmental protection, conservation and sustainable development. Environmental ethics include a moral consideration on human approach to natural resources and believe that human as well as non-human being are the parts of society. Ethics as a philosophical discipline involves systematizing, defending and recommending concepts of right and wrong behavior.³ Ethics considers broadly questions around how we should or should not act, and what obligations we have with relation to other beings.⁴ Ethical

approaches are internal to humanity. Ethical approaches are crucial as it shapes human actions and is influential to environmental protection.

At present environmental movements tend to highlight the point that man is central to the various life systems on earth and the existence of these systems in a right balance much depends on man and his attitude to the Nature. They work for a greater interest of protecting the planet earth. In this environmental movement the prime duty of human being is the protection of environment for our own sake. In environmental ethics gives importance on normative approaches of anthropocentric, bio-centric and eco-centric approach. Eco-centric approach is very practical for a long-term conservation and maintenance of nature and its resources.

Eco-centric approach: Eco-centrism is a term used by the environmental philosophers and ecologists to denote a nature-centre. The eco-centric ethical approach was conceived by Aldo Leopold.⁵ Eco-centrism focuses on the biotic community as a whole and strives to maintain eco system composition and ecological process. It is a world view that recognizes intrinsic value in ecosystems. It sharply contrasts with anthropocentrism. To preserve a healthy environment for current and future generation, eco centric approach must prevail over anthropocentrism. Eco-centrism is a value system that puts forth that both living and non-living beings in nature have a moral value. There is a mutual dependence and inter relationship between living and non-living things in nature. Environment includes both the biotic and a-biotic entities. Human beings as a biotic factor are responsible for the protection and conservation of nature in order to secure their own lives in the present and in the future. It gives importance on the conservation of the natural environment for their ethical and aesthetic value and rejects the crude economic shade on material value of natural things. Aldo Leopold in his essay, “The Land Ethics” puts forth a form of eco-centrism where he considers human beings as the members of a greater community to which both biotic and a-biotic components belong. This sets a reversal of thought since land is normally taken as a community to which we all belongs.⁶ For Leopold, the basis of ethics lies in the evolution of the modes of co-operation between individuals between individuals and society and between land and animals. He claims that the moral considerations should be extended to land and the various living beings and non-living beings on it because all of them have an intrinsic value. He extends a moral principle that a thing is right if it is capable of preserving integrity, stability and beauty of Nature, it is wrong if not capable of being so. Leopold offers an ecologically based land ethics that rejects strictly human-centre views of the preservation of

healthy and self renewing ecosystem.⁷ Eco-centric approach conceives that much before the origin of various like-forms, there was air, water, fire, earth and other. The human species is the last in the order of evolution. The human beings have a moral obligation towards all the life forms and the inanimate entities in Nature.

Environmental Ethics and Sustainable Development: Sustainable development is a pattern of utilization of natural resource to meet human needs protecting and preserving the environment for the future generation. The issues of sustainable development are the most practical for economists, social scientists, and statesmen all over the world. Since the 1970s, every nation of the globe is taking the issue at the center point of all development planning and programs. The issue of sustainability has been made a part of global politics. Even the sustainable practices are followed by local, regional and globally. The concept of sustainable development is defined in the Brundtland Report, “humanity has the ability to make development sustainable to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.⁸ Sustainable developments deals and manages the impacts on patterns of environmental degradation and human development. Sustainable development will protect environment and economy with compromising of environmental policy and institutional policy. It helps economy and environment to be healthy, develop and improve living conditions. Sustainability has three main dimensions; economy dimension, socio-political dimension and environmental dimension. Sustainable development considers the environmental effects on future generations. It is unwilling to make development ignoring the safety and security of the future generation in the context of the environment. Environmental ethics try to established realistic sustainability. It develops moral relationship between humans and natural environment. So, the objective of sustainable development and environmental ethics is to consideration the welfare of the future generation in respect to environmental conservation.

Findings and Conclusion: Eco-centrism gives importance on human duties and responsibilities for the protection and conservation of the environment. As a rational being every individual has duties towards the nature to solve the unprecedented environmental crisis. Eco-centrism reminds that all like is independent and both human and non-human beings are absolutely dependent on the ecosystem process that nature provides. For sustainable development, human being individually should take responsibilities to protect and preserve the natural environment. Every individual directly or indirectly involves in polluting the natural environment. So, every human being should show their responsibilities to

protecting and preserving natural resources and natural environment. All social organizations, corporate agencies have more responsibility for environmental sustainability and should expand their effects to decrease carbon emission, reduce and eliminate waste and consume less water. For environmental sustainability ethical behavior and responsibility to environment is very important. Environmental sustainability demands individual responsibility and collective action. Each individual can contribute by adopting ethical lifestyles. Only ethical consciousness can create responsibility towards the environment. Eco-centric worldview on environmental issues is necessary for the management of natural resources and environment conservation for sustainable development.

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