

# Editorial

## Environmentally Sustainable Revolution

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Few of us believe that the earth was born; they think that the earth was always there as it is now. Scientists conjectured that it happened about 5000 million or even more years ago. Slowly creatures born with progress of time. Man originated on earth at what time is still a fascinating subject. However with age men progressed in life sustenance. At early stage they were savage, lived in caves and depended on roots, fruits. Subsequently they discovered fire and thence they are used to live on cooked food also. Later a great revolution called 'Agriculture Revolution' (AR) prevailed for thousands of years. Then came the 'Industrial Revolution' (IR) which is in vogue till now but at the same time 'Environmentally Sustainable Revolution' (ESR) has crept in.

ESR started when the first paper on environment was published in 1866. Edward, the King of England banned sailing of steamers through the Thames when the British Parliament is on. But the ESR started by United Nations (UN) taking a unanimous decision to hold a special session to discuss how to make the environment sustainable for healthy and disease free life of mankind. The session was held at Stockholm, capital of Sweden from June 5 to June 16 in 1972. It was so important that June 5 is treated as the 'World Environment Day'.

Let us now start our discussion on ESR narrating a short story: Two kings were playing chess, though there is no such king in the world now barring a few countries where the ancient process is still going on. The condition of play was: the winner is to be paid by the loser whatever the winner wants. After play the

winner asked the loser to pay wheat grain so that one grain is to be paid for First Square, two grains for the second square, four grains for the third square and so on such that the grains are doubled as the No. of square as increased till all the squares of the board are taken into consideration. The loser thought it was an easy work but in going to do this he lost his kingdom and still all the squares were not considered. There were 64 squares on the board. This gives rise to a new concept which is called exponential growth.

From story let us come to reality. ESR is related with the following issues:

- Population growth increasing and wasted natural resources
- Global climate change due to environmental pollution
- Premature extinction of different species leading to biodiversity crisis, hunger, poverty ; and the last is the
- Extinction of all living species.

World population was 2.5 billion in 1950, 6.3 billion in 2003, 7 billion in 2010, and 7.1385 billion on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2014 (according to the World Population Clock). At the current death rate population will increase to 8 billion in 2028 and 9 billion in 2050. An environmentally sustainable world should have the characteristics, the basic needs of its people for food, clean air, clean water, shelter without depleting earth's natural resources. But if the rate of natural resources used up is more than the rate at which it is replenished then the living organisms

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will be destroyed.

We may compare the scenario in his way: If we inherit rupees one crore and deposit it in a bank with 10% interest per year, we will have a sustainable annual income of rupees one lakh without reducing our capital. But if we spend rupees two lakh per year our principal of rupees one crore will be gone early in the seventh year, even if we spend rupees 1.1 lakh a year we will be bankrupt early in the 18<sup>th</sup> year. The same less is applicable to our natural resources. Environmentalists say that we are living unsustainably by depleting our natural resources at an accelerating rate of our population growth.

Without going into the details of the subject we may say that if the environment is polluted increasingly with population, industry development with time without a proper precaution then one day will come when we will be vanished.

Here we give an example. Poor people in winter set fire in wood in the room where they go to bed for want of warm clothes and bedding shutting the doors and windows. They will never be able to get up in the morning. Fire consumes oxygen present in the air of the room. While breathing persons in the room exhale carbon dioxide which being heavier than air store up in the lower level of the room. With time the volume of exhaled carbon dioxide increases the persons sleeping in the floor will not get oxygen and will die.

Pollution is anything foreign material which added to air, water, food etc that causes injury to health, survival or activities of living beings. Air is polluted mainly by emission of carbon dioxide from burning of any type of fuel. Refrigerators emit chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) in air which is highly pollutant. Due to complex and incomplete burning of petrol, diesel etc hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide come out. Sometimes natural calamities such as eruption of a volcano pollute air. International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) in its session at Bangkok proposed more carbon tax.

Water gets easily polluted because many organic and inorganic matters get easily dissolved in it. Pesticides, insecticides, inorganic chemical manure used for producing bumper crops for more population pollute

air. Industrial and city sewage pollute water.

Sound pollution in the form of bursting of crackers, rampant use of microphone in trifling causes, horns, running of heavy machines in factories are harmful to us. According to Robert Koch, a Nobel Laureate German bacteriologist, a day will come when sound pollution will destroy life.

Light pollution in the form of fireworks, oxyacetylene flame, melting of metals from ore in industries also affects our eyes.

Life depends on food, our food is adulterated to make easy money, there are provisions for checking the purity of consumable good but nothing is done for lack of personnel, infrastructure and humanity. It is ridiculous that in recent report published by Wal-Mart Company, it is asking its employees not to eat its fast food which it is marketing for people. People die but we get money – this is the philosophy of the world in general.

Life depends on condition of mind which is polluted by dishonesty, indiscipline, corruption, lack of truthfulness, respect, magnanimity, compassion, virtues of human beings, media, advertisement in television and even in programs of television. The stress of mind affects our health. Even some government decisions also go against ordinary people. Scams flow of wine doom the young minds.

According to Nobel Laureate, R K Pachauri of the energy research institute (TERI) the three ingredients of human sustenance – energy, food and water which are interrelated are not used cautiously. There is a lack of these resources management. For this we all are to be blamed. In these days we do not pay our minimum attention in using resources which we get free. If we can bath in one bucket of water we should not use more than that because we should bear in mind that the water table is going down with time. Due to green revolution in Punjab water table is lowered dangerously. Getting subsidized energy water is lifted unscrupulously for irrigation where the crops are not favoured for production there. Moreover drip irrigation prevents water loss by evaporation. Harvesting of crops should be managed in such a way that crops requiring profuse watering should be sown where such quantity of water is available. In Gujarat canals used for irrigation are

covered with photovoltaic panels serving two purposes reducing drying of water of canals by sunrays and producing electricity as well. Rain harvesting should be encouraged so that water is replenished. We should motivate all people for proper watch to see loss as well as pollution is not there in rivers. The whistle blowers are killed instead of protection by the government. The mind set of all concerned should be such that we stand united to protect the environment not only for ourselves but for our future generation. Maintaining health friendly environment is better than keeping wealth

and unfriendly environment for our generation. Delhi sustainable development summit held in February 2014 where all the stakeholders including energetic politicians, environmentalists and bureaucrats participated in environmentally sustainable revolution. Let us hope for the best output in this discussion so that we are all happy.

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