



## Importance of Nature in Life

### KEYWORDS

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Vedas are one of the oldest source of pure information available to mankind. In Atharva-veda's Bhumishukta, humans are described as the kids of mother nature :-

“माता भूमिः पुत्रो अहं पृथ्व्याः ।”

Rig-veda describes man as a part of nature. Ancient scriptures consider nature as mother who makes growth of life possible. Instead of following the laws of nature, however, we have developed a civilization based on the pursuit of material pleasure.

In current time overexploitation of natural resources has taken place which is gradually demolishing environment's capacity to sustain the balance. As per a law of economics we must return what we take from any source. Similarly, we have to take some actions to help nature recover the loss.

In the time of ancient civilization, the forest cover was efficient for sustaining the environmental balance as well as fulfilling the needs of lives dwelling on the planet. But as the civilization developed, the exploitation of nature increased. We are currently facing a situation where if proper action will not be taken, we may lose the reason of our existence forever.

There are different organizations which are working for the protection of nature by forming certain laws and acts. For re-establishment of balance each and every citizen of this planet will have to contribute as much as possible without waiting for anyone to guide them.

### Rethinking of environmental science in a practical and vedic manner:

Currently we are able to observe many examples of environmental depletion. In order to make human life more comfortable and Porsche, we humans have exploited nature to a great extent. Nowadays global leaders have also gathered to work on environmental problems which this planet is facing.

But before working on any project, we should at least try to rethink about the solutions that we already possess and which require just to be implemented. Vedas which are one of the most purest forms of information available to us have the guidelines and methods to solve the problem of almost anything.

In the **Rig Veda**, for example, the crimson streak of day-break is portrayed as Usas, the Mistress of Dawn whose brilliant effulgence spreads out piercing the formless black abyss (*Rig Ved*, 10.127). Night and day are the two celestial sisters that bring rest and awakening to the world. In their lap, gods recline and enact their roles. The much

celebrated mother of the gods, Aditi who claims as many as sixty hymns in the Vedas is the infinite and the womb of the cosmos. Goddesses such as, Kuhu, Sinivali, Anumati and Raka are lunar divinities symbolizing the waxing and waning of the lunar-cycle. The rivers Ganga, Yamuna and Sarasvati mentioned in the Vedas are goddesses who preside over the facundating waters of life. The hymn dedicated to *Aranyani (Rig Ved*, 10.146) or the forest goddesses (*Vanadevis*) celebrated the spirit of the forest and groves. They are joined by an innumerable number of goddesses who preside over village territories and specific sacred centres (*Ksetradevis*). The life sustaining foods also have their goddesses in the personifications such as, Annapurna, Sataksi and Sakhambari. Thus from the sky wandering celestial bodies to the sprouting plant were conceived of as a manifestation of the feminine principle. In later literature these personifications culminate into the composite vision of an all-inclusive cosmic form (*virat svarupa*) of the goddess, where mountains, rivers, celestial bodies, vegetation and stratum of space from various parts of her body:

They (the gods) saw the goddess's superanal cosmic Form. The *Satyloka* is situated on the topmost of Her head; the Sun and Moon are her eyes; the quarters, Her ears; the Vedas are Her words; the Universe is Her heart; the earth is Her loins; the space between earth and sky is Her navel; the asterisms are Her Thighs; the *Maharaloka* is Her neck; the *Janarloka* is Her face; Indra and the Devas and then *Svarloka* is her arms; the sound is the organ of Her ears; . . . The fire is within her Face; day and night are like her two wings; the mountains are Her bones; the rivers are Her veins, and the trees are the hairs of Her body. O King ! youth virginity, and old age are Her best gaits, the two twilight are Her clothings; the Moon is the mind of the Mother of the Universe.

[Devibhagavata Purana, VII. Chap. 33.1-21ff]

### Current scenario of environment:-

Whatever maybe the reason behind it, but it is true that we are on a verge of losing the environment which made our existence possible. During the stone-age, the exploitation of environment was limited. Hence the natural cycle was efficient to balance it. But in current days, due to over exploitation of the resources, their quality as well as their re-establishment powers have been destroyed. None of the natural resources are in the purest possible forms.

### Some of the main reasons of today's ecological problems:-

- Pollution
- Lack of eco-friendly commodities

The population of forests and trees are continuously decreasing. Similarly, due to more exhalation of smoke and carbon dioxide in the environment, problems like global warming, acid rain, etc have occurred. Due to disturbance in natural cycle, problems like hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, etc have been increased.

#### **Rapid industrialization:-**

- Establishment of factories far away from the city has reduced the noise level of the residential areas. But it also has reduced the forest cover of that region.
- Due to increase in use of motor-vehicles, smoke emissions in the environment have increased to a large scale
- Industrial dumps in the river makes the river water harmful. Everyone knows it but no one cares for it
- Use of jets pollutes the air and ozone layer more than anything. But still increasing number of airlines indicates the ignorance towards it

#### **Lack of eco-friendly commodities:-**

We know that with the use of technology and vehicles, we have been able to develop much faster. We also know that now, we won't be able to survive without them. But at least, we can find some solutions so that our purpose is also solved and the environment also does not get affected.

#### **For example,**

- In Israel, there is a law which states that for each and every death or birth, people plant a tree. Hence it is one of the most forest rich countries of the world.
- Levis company manufactures jeans from plastic bottles and waste, which is a respectable thing to do.

Similarly many institutions are undertaking programs which are good for maintaining ecological balance.

Mr. Manoj Bhargava the founder of 5 hour energy and an instrument of producing 24 hour energy by cycling for one single hour has also made a very nice contribution for helping in the current problems.

#### **Steps needed to tackle the causes of environmental depletion:-**

According to a simple law of science, to establish an equilibrium condition, input should be equal to output. Similarly if we want to establish an equilibrium between the exploitation and re-establishment of nature, we will have to grow same amount of trees that we cut down.

- Simple steps can easily be applied to stop or retard large scale deforestation.
- If each person grows only one tree per year, then also according to the population of the world, 4.4 billion trees will be planted at an instance. This simple idea for even 5 years shall play a vital role in replenishment of the natural wealth that has been generously gifted to us.
- If the toxics, wastes and other non-essential commodities are utilized, amount of air pollution can notably be reduced.
- The most important step for fulfillment of this purpose is the awareness and mutual co-ordination of the humans.
- If eco-friendly motor-vehicles are used, the smoke levels in the residential areas can be reduced to a great extent. A common example for this is people undertaking the concept of carpool.

- Similarly if the energy production techniques are modified or renewable energy sources are used, we can see a great reduction in energy prices
- Increase in the total forest cover can also be helpful to decrease the pollution level of any region
- Judicious use of any commodity available from nature can help preserve it for a long time
- Recycling is also good enough to tackle wastage of raw materials

#### **Benefits of good environment:-**

- Reduction in diseases
- Increment in flora and fauna
- Purified air
- Decrement in the rate of natural calamities
- Increased life expectancy
- Availability of raw materials in more quantity
- Life sustaining surroundings
- Good quality of natural plants

There are many more benefits which will happen if proper care of environment will be taken and proper steps will be taken to re-establish the pre-established equilibrium of nature.