

An Enquiry into the Environment and Causes of Degradation of Life - Support System: with Special Reference to Tripura

Dr. Biswajit Baidya

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, I. C. V. College, Belonia, South Tripura, Tripura, India

Abstract: *Every human being has a right to lead a health life. Earlier, basic human rights were not recognized, but with the passage of time, the relationship of humans with nature and society has changed. Tripura is newly rising state and it has many unexplored fields in almost all spheres including natural environment in their surroundings. Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh are all situated in the North - Eastern region of India. There live a number of tribal communities. The gifts of nature to the state of Tripura are beyond imagination. The flora and fauna of Tripura is very rich in number and variety. There are mountains, hills, and rocks, valleys etc. though it has the characteristic of pre - mature; those who are residing in these place or are forest dwellers, they are generally called tribes. Earlier Tripura was experiencing moderate temperature, but now - a - days there are wide fluctuations in temperature in different parts of the state. The chief feature of climate is the complete seasonal swivel of winds. The rainfall is heavy is well over 100 inches annually in almost all over the state. Now our perception has been changing day - to - day regarding environment. We have been experiencing in the North - Eastern region of India that climate cycle does not follow the earlier pattern, rather marked by irregular rainfall pattern with the same starting quite early and flash floods becoming more frequent and dry period becoming longer in different parts of this region. Evidently the impacts of such climate changes on agriculture are manifolds as they adversely affected sowing and harvesting of crops thereby threatening the life of millions in this region as well as in the rest of the world. The people of North - East India have been facing the impact of these changes. The environment is continuously being contaminated by various pollutions thrown into environment. As a result, people of this state suffer from various kinds of diseases and it is considered that human health is intimately connected to the surrounding environment. Several diseases are due to poor and outdoor pollution and many more diseases are due to poor environmental condition leading to contamination of water, food, soil etc. the main aim of this paper is to find how natural environment of Tripura has been degrading day - to - day. What are the main causes of present distress?*

Keywords: environment, values, health, poverty

Very human being has a right to lead a healthy life. Earlier, basic human rights were not recognized but with the passage of time, the relationship of humans with nature and society has changed. The term environment implies, all the external factors living and non - living, material and non - material which surround man. In its modern concept, environment includes not only the water, air and soil that form our surroundings but also the social and economic conditions under which we live.

Therefore, environment is a complex system that includes physical, chemical, biological, social and cultural elements; all these elements are interlinked to each other in a complicated manner similar to a spider web and the disturbance of any one of these elements will threaten the structure of the environment. Thus, for the stability and sustenance of the environment, it is important that all these elements are preserved and left undisturbed.

Much of the ill health in India is due to poor environment hygiene that is, unsafe water, polluted soil, unhygienic disposal of human excreta and refuse, poor housing, insects and rodents. Air pollution is also a growing concern in many cities. The high death rate, infant mortality rate, sickness rate and poor standards of health are in fact large due to defective environmental sanitation or waste. Improvement of environment hygiene and sanitation is therefore crucial for the prevention of disease and promotion of health of individuals and communities. Since more than 75% of the population of India lives in rural areas, the problem is one of rural hygiene. The first step in any health related problem is

the elimination through environmental control of those factors which are harmful to health.

Safe and wholesome water is a basic health need. Much of the ill health in India and other developing countries are largely due to lack of safe drinking water. Same picture in Tripura. It has been estimated that more than 50% of illness in India could be reduced by the provision of safe drinking water alone. The percentage of water borne diseases in Tripura is very high from all India standards. The provision of safe and adequate drinking water is therefore a basic need for society health as well as all. The WHO has coined the slogan 'safe water for all by 1090', as part of its activities to achieve the goal of 'health for all by the year 2000'.

In North - Eastern region of India there are several reasons for environmental degradation and pollution. It seems that people of North - Eastern region had not developed minimum scientific sense mainly rural areas, water pollution occurs in the North - Eastern region due to a variety of reasons contaminating the drinking water as well as harming the local people. People themselves are responsible for that. They usually throw away dead domestic animals and the idols of God and Goddess during many religious occasions in water bodies. The washer - man wash cloths in the water bodies and thus adding Caustic Soda and Chlorine in huge amount to the same. Large numbers of people are engaged in the laundry works and hence we can very well understand the massive scale water pollution there. No effect measures have been taken by the management and so no way of refining the contaminated water.

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For the increment of the rate of pollution one of the reasons which we can recognize is rail. From Guwahati to Tinsukia or from Lumding to Silchar and Agartala thousands of people are engaged in this job. There is no natural disposal system of the garbage produced there. When we shall go through the rail colonies, we shall see that officers' one is very well - planned whereas that of other workers' is unplanned. Most of the septic - tanks are connected to a common drain through a single pipe and the drain gets merged either with the pond or river. So, it can be very well guessed that every day what tremendous environmental pollution is going on there. This system is going on from the last 5 to 6 decades.

We have seen that is North - Eastern India rail department has always chosen the surrounding water bodies for the disposal of the garbage generated in rail engine from diesel and mobile. No planned and developed disposal system can be worked out through the recent years. The same threat is hovering over in Tripura in the name of construction of railway industry.

In the N - E region one of the main components of agriculture is Jute. Many people are associated with the jute industries. Jute after being cultivated have to be thrown out into the water and then it is left for rotting. The same procedure follows for betel - nut. The water then becomes unfit for use. In West - Bengal, Assam, Tripura and in other states of India specific rule is set for this purpose. The unfit water is dispose very quickly. In N - E states there is heavy rain fall and there is the chance for floods is also very frequent. Therefore, until and unless floods occurs after rain the unfit water remains there. There is no way refining or removing the unfit water. For this reason not only the water is contaminated but also the surroundings are polluting equally. This is the main reason why most of the people in that region suffer from skin diseases. Not science but advertises motivates the people more. Ignoring the necessity of making people aware scientifically in their practical lives, many villages got the honour of 'Nirmal Gram'. the underground water table is depleting day - by - day. For this pollution by arsenic is increasing. This has been seriously felt in Kolkata and its suburbs. The same picnic as big cities like West - Bengal is in North - East.

It is necessary to develop a scientific outlook towards environmental society in the eyes of future citizens. The problem is very ground - level one, we have to understand our duties and responsibilities. Not only in the North - Eastern region but we have to improve the quality of school level education also. The student can apply the values in their practical life: we have to take care of that.

The problems and issues discussed above are not only confined to N - E region but also in plain regions in every part of Tripura. Since the very last days of winter people living in the hills have to dig 150 to 200 fit long tunnel and those who live in distant places have to cover 5 to 10 km to collect drinking water flowing from the hills. So, for this reason scare and unsafe availability has resulted to mainly water borne diseases like cholera, typhoid, etc. are there relatives from the very Royal era. The traditional house

pattern of the local tribes is also cause of indoor air pollution and diseases.

The air is occupied rooms gets gradually loses its freshness unless replaced by fresh air. The peoples in the room may experience discomfort at a certain stage. This feeling of discomfort was once thought to be due to technical changes that take place in the air, namely increase in carbon - dioxide and decrease in oxygen contact as a result of respiration. Subsequently it was established that the discomfort in the rooms are due to certain physical changes. There are rise in temperature, increase in humidity, decrease in air movement, body odours and bacterial pollution etc.

These physical changes are collectively responsible for the feeling of discomfort in indoor. People living in ill ventilated and overcrowded rooms, apart from discomfort, complain of headache, drowsiness and inability to concentrate. The purpose of ventilation is to remove vitiated air and replace it by fresh air. The inhabitants of Tripura mainly rural tribes are residing in congested houses. The house having one door for exit and in and no proper ventilation facilities as well as toilets which measures needs for good health are not exist there. They are cooking inside the rooms with wood, animal's dung, etc. Therefore, they have been facing above problems. The majorities of poor people in the rural areas of Tripura are affected by the indoor air pollution in the form of smoke and fume from the burning of biomass, such as wood, agricultural residues and animals dung which is used chiefly for cooking food. The environmental factors, such as water, soil, air, etc. play a major role in spreading of various deadly diseases. Cholera, dysentery, gastroenteritis, skin irritations, etc. are some of the water and sanitation related illness. Poor people who live in unhygienic conditions are most prone to diseases caused by environmental factors, and most affected are the children who easily become prey to these diseases.

More than 100 substances which pollute the air have been identified. These are called air contaminants. The important ones are carbon - dioxide, carbon - monoxide, sulphur - dioxide, hydrogen sulphide, fluorine compounds, cancer producing substances, etc. these are in addition to dust and smoke. The health effects of air pollution are both immediate and delayed. The immediate effects are borne in the respiratory systems, especially acute bronchitis in lungs. Air pollution has also other effects namely destruction of plant and animal life; deterioration of metals; damage to buildings. To decrease the nuisance of air pollution, the Govt. of India has enacted the 'air prevention and control of pollution act' in 1981. These kinds of environmental pollution guide climate changes in Tripura.

We have been experiencing in the N - E region of India that climate cycle does not follow the earlier pattern, rather marked by irregular rainfall pattern with the same starting quite early and flash floods becoming more frequent and dry period becoming longer in different parts of this region. Evidently the impact of such climate changes on agriculture are manifolds as they adversely affect sowing and harvesting of crops thereby threatening the lives of millions in this region as well as in the rest of the world. The people of N - E India have been facing the impact of these changes. The

environment is continuously being contaminated by various pollutants thrown into environment. As a result, people of this state suffer from various kinds of diseases and it is considered that human health is intimately connected to the surrounding environment. Several diseases are due to poor indoor and outdoor pollution and many more diseases are due to poor environmental condition leading to contamination of water, food, soil etc.

Now we have been looking since the last week of March, 2015 heavy fog fall (smoke+fog= smog) during the mid - night and early morning. But at the same time humidity is 85% above. So, we are feeling very warm on morning and day light time. It is a result of environment pollution, like air. The North - Eastern inhabitants have never seen the unwanted climate change in the recent past. We have been experiencing another climate change in N - E region mainly in Tripura, i. e., day - light advocates heavy hot and night supports cold. Before three decades, Tripura has six seasons but few years ago we are having four seasons. Now it has reduced into two i. e., summer and rainy.

These changes are mainly marked from the year 2000. In order to these climatic changes now it has adverse affect in our local climate and our livelihood. It has painted a painful picture of our daily life. Irregular rainfalls, heavy heat waves, a large number of storms occur from Bay of Bengal, it has adverse affect on agriculture system. Laege - scale environmental changes may cause a variety of diseases. Many health problems today reflect population pressure, climate change and environmental pollution. The critical climate gradually changes genetic structure of humans and affects all creatures. Disruption and destruction of the world's natural life - support system constitute the greatest threats to human health. These changes may cause extinction of various types of creatures from world as well as the Tripura. Aristotle taught us long ago nature does nothing uselessly in this famous book "politics" (P - 1, 1253, 98).

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