



ISSN Print: 2394-7500
ISSN Online: 2394-5869
Impact Factor: 5.2
IJAR 2017; 3(8): 396-398
www.allresearchjournal.com
Received: 15-06-2017
Accepted: 18-07-2017

Dr. Subal Chandra Sahoo
Lecturer, Department of
Vyakarana, Govt. Degree
Sanskrit College, Baripada,
Odisha, India

Preservation of wild life, why and How?

Dr. Subal Chandra Sahoo

Abstract

The study of wild life provides valuable knowledge about life process which has helped scientists understand the functioning and behavior of the human body. So the magnificent animals of our Jungles play an important role in the field of ecological balance among the living system of the earth. Thus the idea of preservation and protection of wild life has been an integral part of religion and culture since very ancient times.

Keywords: Wild life, preservation

Introduction

The love and regard for wild life is a part of India's culture and civilization. A poem in the Yajurveda invokes universal peace with special mention such as वायुः शान्तिः: peace of air, आपः शान्तिः: peace of water पृथिवी शान्तिः: peace of earth वनस्पतयः शान्तिः: peace of plants, peace of trees.

This reference to vedic poetry reveals how responsive the Indian sensibility was, in the earliest days, to the benediction of nature and wild life. The Upanisadic speculation about man's spiritual destiny were undertaken in the deep peace of Forest retreats. The very name "Aranyakas" or Forest texts reveals the significant Indians spiritual heritage.

The development of the Industrial society, population explosion and the concept of development which implies higher and higher level of production and consumption. The effect of this has been over whelming and has brought about a great change in the environment, but the consideration of man's environmental needs has not been foremost in the minds of the industrialists, development planners of decision makers. Such a preservation ethic will have to be a reiteration of the vedic invocation to universal peace as in the Yajurved poem. India has a rich heritage of wild life as well as a long history and tradition of preservation. The preservation or conservation ethic was embodied in the Sylvan surroundings of the Ashrams of our sages which were the seats of learning in the country's ancient past. The rich heritage of wild life came down to 06 through the ages mainly because of the deep rooted Indian tradition of compassion for all life in general. More over animals have been closely associated with our folk yore and legends, Kautilya's Arthashastra, written in the 3rd century B.C. refers to definite administrative arrangements for preservation of wild life, Special areas, called Abhayaranya, were set a side for their protection. Emperor Ashoka introduced gamlaws and ordained the preservation of forests, and prohibited killing of animals.

Definition of Wild Life-

By wild life we generally mean the animals and the birds of the wild. The term, however, carries a much wider and deeper meaning in the field of nature preservation. Plant and animal communities right from protophyte to the most developed tree forms, and from the simplest protozoa to the largest mammals exists in nature in a dynamic equilibrium the balance of nature –involving complexly intermingled and interdependent Floral and Faunal chains. These communities, jointly referred to as the eco-complex, very in composition and in mass, both in space and in time, depending upon the habital factors e.g. the climatic and edaphic characteristics, the interaction among themselves, and the extraneous influences such as human interference. The term wild life respect to a locality or region will thus denote the entire animal and plant community there in, covering all forms.

Correspondence

Dr. Subal Chandra Sahoo
Lecturer, Department of
Vyakarana, Govt. Degree
Sanskrit College, Baripada,
Odisha, India

Thus the conservation of wild life assumes new dimension directly influencing the human environment, can hardly be viewed apart from the conservation of forests. Wild life is defined as "living things" that are neither human or domesticated, especially mammals, birds and fishes hunted by man. The term wild life includes animals as well as plants which from part of any habitat in nature. According to the description of late Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru wild life refers to be the magnificent animals of our jungles and to the beautiful birds that brighten our lives. Life would become very dull and colourless if we did not have these magnificent animals and birds to look at and to play with. We must try to preserve at ever is left of our forests and the wild life that inhabits them. Some wild animals are so characteristic that they become symbols of their home countries, thus tiger is associated with India, White bear with Russia, Giant pandas with China, Kangaroo with Australia, Kiwi with New Zealand and Springbok with South Africa.

Since the dawn of civilization man has been interested in wild animals. In India the idea of preservation and protection of wild life has been an integral part of religion and culture since very ancient times.

Values of Wild Life

Along with the topic on preservation arises a question – Why do we need to protect our wild life from extinction? The answer to such a question can be attributed to many reasons some of them are as follows:-

Ecological value

Every species plays an important role in maintaining an ecological balance among the living system of the earth. These systems must continue to function if life is to survive. Loss of any species threatens the survival of several species inclusive of man. Man's own survival depends on his willingness and ability to cooperate with the living environment. Human beings turn to nature and wild life for spiritual, psychological, physical and cultural benefits. The study of wild life provides valuable knowledge about life processes which has helped scientists understand the functioning and behavior of the human body. Scientists have also gained medical knowledge and discovered important medical products by studying wild life. By studying the effects of environmental pollution on wild life it is possible to learn how pollution affects human life.

Commercial Value

Wild life forms an important natural resource. Unlike coal or Petroleum which is non-renewable, wild life is a renewable resource. With proper care and management, it can yield good dividends and even earn foreign exchange. The commercial value of wild life is best seen in the world's marine fisheries. With an annual output of about 100 million tons of sea food worth billions of rupees. Fresh water fish and other aquatic creatures also provide large amounts of food for people. Wild life has its worth as game also. In several European & American countries, millions of dollars are spent on these sports.

Scientific Value

Scientific studies of many of the wild life species are of direct value to mankind. Thus sea urchins have helped greatly in the understanding of human embryology. Rhesus

monkeys have contributed to the present knowledge of human blood groups. Antlers of deer help in determining the degree of radioactive contamination of natural environments.

Aesthetic Value

There is a great world wide aesthetic value of wild life because of their sheer beauty and appeal to the human spirit. A world without melodious birds, graceful beasts and lush forests would be a poorer place for humans to live in. Without wild animals, a country side looks dead, static, monotonous and like a picture post card. People feel pleasure, satisfaction and happiness in the presence of wild life.

Ethical Value

Generally people think that they have no right to destroy wild animals, rather they feel an obligation for the conservation of nature and protection of wild life. In fact all religions preach a healthy respect and reverence for wild life.

Causes of Destruction of Wild Life

The ways and means of extermination of wild life by man fall into two broad categories: direct and indirect.

Direct destruction:-

The main causes of direct physical elimination of wild animal species by man include hunting, capturing and indiscriminate killing for amusement, meat, fur, feathers, trophies etc.

Indirect destruction

The indirect causes for destruction of wild life are also numerous. The prime causes are deforestation, destruction of habitats, spread of deserts, population, insecticides etc.

Why wild life preservation is important

To an average citizen in India, it is difficult to understand why wild life preservation should be important. If India's sages in their wisdom, laid great emphasis on conservation ethics in their Ashrams in the forest, the concern for wild life is however, the concern for man himself. All forms of life- Human, animal and plant, are also closely inter linked that disturbance in one gives rise to imbalance in the others. Plants and animals constitute the World's living resources and the various food chains and cycles constitute life support systems essential for their survival including the survival of man. Any process of development by human societies with varying levels of their technology in harvesting natural resources, is an intervention in nature and its life support systems.

Measure Adopted and planned

Today wild life conservation is being accorded priority by the central and state Governments. In Independent India the first important step was the constitution of the Indian Board for wild life in 1952. The Board is an advisory body created for advising the Government on the means of preservation and protection of wild life, constitution of national parks, sanctuaries of Zoological gardens, promoting public interest in conservation of wild life in harmony with natural environment. The board has been rendering valuable service in this field.

In India early 67 National Parks, 394 wild life sanctuaries and 35 Zoological gardens have been established for wild life management.

Important Indian wild Life

The wild life of India is Unique in the richness of its variety from the great sweep of Himalayas in north to the Virgin forests of south and from the mangrove swamps in east to the sprawling deserts of West, India abounds in natural habitats having different terrains and varied climatic conditions.

Method of Wild life preservation

The most commonly adopted methods for the preservation of wild life in brief are described as follows:-

1. **Habitat Management:** This includes ecological study of the habits of wild life special protection, preservation and improvement of habitats. Census and Statistical data regarding species to be conserved.
2. **Establishment of parks, reserves and sanctuaries:** The establishment of national parks, wild life reserves, sanctuaries, Zoological gardens etc. Serves many purposes 1) to conserve the species in their State. 2) to provide scientific, educational and recreational opportunities and 3) to earn revenue by attracting tourists.
3. **Breeding in captivity:** Tree species, such as ginkgo and metasequoia, have survived only in captivity. Tiger, White tiger and Indian Lion today live in national parks. So captive breeds are necessary for survival of wild life.
4. **Mass Education:** For any kind of preservation. There is a great need of educating the people to achieve their participation. The methods adopted are 1) celebration of wild life week every year, 2) publicity through media and films shows, 3) holding conduct tours, essay competitions, lectures, seminars etc, 4) Setting up nature clubs in educational institutions, 5) Publication of wild life books and journal, 6) Establishment of Natural History Museums etc.

References

1. Yajur Veda, Maha Maya Publications, Sakhuja, Market, Jalandhar City, Punjab.
2. Wild life Ecology Conservation. 2nd Edition, PhD, CSIRO Canberra, Australia
3. The preservation of wild life in India Bio tech Books, 1.04.2008