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## Theme of science technology and environment in Russell's essay 'science and human life'

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**Abstract**

Science has made life super easy. Man has highs of luxurious articles with him and he is enjoying them. But at the cost of the environment, science and humans both didn't consider nature in the right way, they pretend that they are the preservers of the environment, in-fact they are destroying it with the help of science technologies. Russell has concerns with all the objects of environment like soil exhortation, using raw material and uranium warfare. Problem of raw material is much larger than the problem of food. He is a man of scientific method even though he denies unwanted use of natural resources. He also favors science technology by saying that it is a kind of glorious knowledge achieved by man's wisdom, a scholar can understand that knowledge is dynamic and cannot say how much beneficial or harmful it will prove in future. Modern literature has done much to protect the environment. He congratulates those who want to travel in space, trying to make themselves poets or composers because they advance the techniques. Lastly, he rests the decision on humans, how they will cope up with the environment and Science Technology.

**Keywords:** Science technology, environment, resource, humanity

**Introduction**

Since man has thought agriculture destruction of the environment started but in the past it was just bearable and the planet earth was able to survive but at the present we cannot say how long we survive because we have lost the credibility of our environment. Numerous Summits and conferences held in the past, many agreements and deals have signatures but no concrete result came out. Environment and its sources are reducing and man is not capable enough to collaborate with nature. There are a number of laws and rules to protect the natural environment but violation of the rules and laws are very common, whether they are related to industrialization, agriculture or technology. The Government of India also includes laws of protection of the environment such as The Wildlife protection Act 1972, The Water prevention and Control of Pollution Act 1974, The Environment Protection Act 1986 and so on.

Literature can get affected by Nature and affects it also, it means writers have pen like sword works implacably. Essayists have their own role to play to save our environment through the genre (Essay) that is moderate in length, has qualities to develop thought processes among readers and writers. Among those essayists, Russell observes that modern society is inevitably scientific and industrial, along with scientific wisdom and the socio-political organization. Russell in his remarkable essay 'Science and Human Life, writes about changing the environment through science and the question of stability came within. He mentioned the example of Dinosaurs; they could not adopt themselves and extricated themselves. Man had also adopted many changes but somewhat he succeeded to adopt the changes through his scientific skill. Adoption and stability both are threatened by uncertainty of the future. Russell is trying to show the facts how technology and science impacted the environment.

He considers the problem of soil exhaustion and raw material emerged by scientific technique. "One of the most obvious problems raised by a scientific technique is that of the exhaustion of the soil and of raw materials." (Science and Human life, p.700). Few governments are taking good steps, but they may get any purpose fulfilled is a question again. Soil pollution affects the quality of food that is mandatory for human survival.

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Population pressure also affected the environment, usages of natural sources increased, “by spendthrift use of fertilizers, food production in the present can be increased at the cost of food production in the future.” (Science and Human life, p.700). He concerns that world supply of oil is exhausted, and atomic power has taken its place. Means we are sitting at the bulk of uranium.

Dystopia of E.M. Forster expresses directly to the twenty first century predicament. The Environment Justice Movement has various points to track; we could not consider any one reason to set its journey. Various facts are here to show the beginning of the environment justice movements. For the protection of the environment people have walked with bicycles and bare feet in India also. For instance chipko movement was conducted to save the trees in different places of our country. Land ethics is also one of the ways to show love towards the environment where we protect the land from destruction. Aldo Leopold has his own view to express ‘land ethic’ as man has changed a lot in the biotic pyramid. He observes, “A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.” Relative question of soil exhortation is the use of raw material that is more important than the question of food.

Russell was not against science he himself counts many experience of science as technique, and himself as beneficiary or sometimes feels cheated. He compares America to England and that America is in better condition in every sense today. He discusses different kinds of freedom and kind of organization and has nothing to bring about their work. With the advancement of science, growth of health facilities, amusement and other fields have gone high, even though Russell maintains scientific technique is a kind of oligarchy. Oligarchy has the history of selfishness; it wants its own benefits than that of the rest of the community, but now it is a revolt against the selfishness of past political oligarchy.

Russell is the honor of “admirable and lucid English style may be attributed to the fact that he did not undergo a classical education at a public school.” He is a believer of scientific method but not at the coast of nature’s destruction. He wishes to those who want to travel in space, busy to make themselves poet or a composer, because all these advance the limits. More importantly, he raises the question of stability and social duty of the scientific world and the answer of the question is not easy. All above, he considers scientific knowledge is one of the glories of man’s wisdom. He remarks “I think we must retain the belief that scientific knowledge is one of the glories of man. I will not maintain that knowledge can never do harm.” (Science and Human Life, p.704) Scholars can understand knowledge is dynamic and continuous, researchers can also know that discovery can be harmful but it is much difficult to see future impressions on society. Besides general duties, science has its critical role in the modern time; all men of science who studied thermonuclear warfare know very well, it can be the reason for world destruction. Russell was very much aware of the catastrophe of war. Only the solution of this problem resolves the futile conflict of the concerned and will become willing to give and accept convincing assurance of their mutual determination to preserve peace.

Environment, science and humans, they are bound to coordinate in their relationship. If humans follow the proper ways of nature and use the natural sources in limits, it will

be good for this relationship but humans are selfish, they used the natural sources within their demand for example, five lakhs whale fish have been slaughtered for the making of vaccine of coronavirus. Humans are never seeing what will be the consequence for their act, they harm the environment for their benefits. When humans show their selfish way to draw unwanted favor from the environment and cross their boundaries, nature also shows her danger site to humans. This is an indication towards the starting of destruction. A new chapter has been added in scientific warfare that is organic war, including various viruses in it. Within a few months organic war can destroy the whole world without using nuclear power. We are in that situation today, for fulfilling our purpose we can go at any stage of inhumanity and in that science is helping us to a high degree. Russell has also assimilated science with philosophy to understand the basics of science. “Russell was a believer in the scientific method, that science reaches only tentative answers, that scientific progress is piecemeal, and attempts to find organic units were largely futile. He believed the same true philosophy. Russell held that the ultimate objective of both science and philosophy was to understand reality, not simply to make predictions.”

### Conclusion

Concluding above points, Science has two sides and it is up to humans how they are using science for the benefit of human welfare or destruction of the human race. He is aware of the fact, science has delivered power to us, often the power is used in the opposite direction to insist on human welfare. Science became the nurture of malefactors. Inventions are inevitable, but more essentials are protection of our nature and environment, until they are not safe the human race is also in danger.

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