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ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS IN INDIA: A STUDY IN GANDHIAN PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Environment Hazards are natural phenomena that have always been prevalent on the surface of the Earth. But, in recent years, there is a constant rise in environmental concerns throughout the World which is mainly due to human activities. It has not just led to a rise in the frequency and the magnitude of the natural hazards but has also raised new concerns which are evident in the form of climate change. The rise in environmental problems has also led to raising the discontent among the environmental scientists, academia, social scientists and media which can be seen through the debates and the conferences in India and across the World. These developments do not only contribute to the awareness among people but have also led to raising the voices in case there are apprehensions about. In India, environmental concerns are mainly attributed to natural factors and development paradigms. The developmental Paradigm in India has been a very widely discussed topic that has its roots in the past. It is also evident through the writings of Gandhi who was the critique of modern civilization which is dependent upon the industrial development; he argues it to be the root cause of the environmental problems, which is raised due to overexploitation of the natural resources. Gandhi was in favor of the sustainable development which he perceives through the self-reliant villages with small scale and the cottage industries. The environmental concerns in India have also led to rising voices in the form of movements from time to time. The most exemplary among these are the Chipko movement, Narmada Bachao Movement, and the Silent Valley protests. These movements aroused out of the unjust development practices which do not have implications on the natural surroundings only but also risks social life, cultural heritage and the livelihood of the tribal groups. The movements though aroused at the different locations and different periods, but they have one similarity that they use the Gandhian methods for struggle.

KEYWORDS: Environmental Hazards, Development Paradigm, Rising discontent, Gandhi.

INTRODUCTION

Environment! In a simple term may be described as 'surrounding'. And surrounding is, in which all the interactions among the life-forms and non-life forms exist. The environment can be classified into natural or physical and human environments. The natural environment comprises of land, water, atmosphere, soil, vegetation, mountains, oceans, flora, fauna, etc. it includes all the relationship that exists between the biotic and abiotic component in the natural surroundings. Whereas the Human environment comprises of the environment which man has created for his needs and has modified based on his requirement. With the advancement in technology, the human started changing and modifying the environment to fit according to his needs. This advancement has over time lead to serious implications on man-environment relations. When we talk about man-environment relations, this brings us to the debates and ideas which have emerged over time. The

major among them are the Deterministic school of thoughts and the other was the School of Possibilism. Most of the earlier philosophers are the proponents of the deterministic approach toward the environment but later the Possibilism developed in response to the deterministic thought that establishes the man as supreme agent for change. The concept was criticized by the scholars who argue 'Possibilities are limited' man chooses, but only from the range with which nature presents him' (Jones, E. 1956, p.369), this as a concept later developed as Neo-determinism. Thus, the debate goes on; and in the present scenario has become a burning topic among researchers and environment activists throughout the World. If we closely relate the modern development process we can argue that the ideas of the Possibilists remain quite effective, this concept believes that, there is always room for man, and man through his attitude and technology influences nature (Fekaadu, K. 2014, p.136). But, such development has created a wide range of problems which are now threatening the whole planet. The industrialization, mechanization and technological advancement have made people fall victim to a wide range of problems which comprises pollutions, climate change, loss of biodiversity, etc. The means of development we had followed in the past decades has now brought its repercussions which are quite evident in the form of associated hazards.

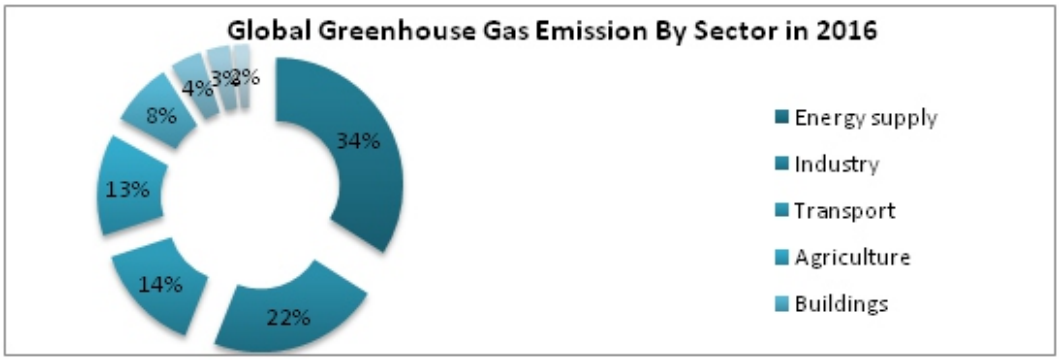
In India, the concept of environmental problems and degradation is not new; it has its roots in the past. The evidences are present in the form of writings and one such writing is of the Gandhi who had predicted the environment problems as a threat for the future. Gandhi was a big critique of industrialization; in 1909 in his book '*Hind Swaraj*' he cautioned mankind against unrestricted industrialism and materialism. He argued in 1909 that industrialization and usage of machines have an adverse effect on the health of people. Gandhi has also held industries and mills responsible for pollution in the air and creating noise pollution (Kaushik, A. 2010). Gandhi had foreseen the result of the materialism and industrialization and he argued of the time when the resources on the Earth will not be enough to meet the growing needs of people (Kaushik, A. 2010).

RECENT TRENDS AND RESOLUTIONS

Contrary to Gandhi's idea of development, technological development has led to a very rampant change over the Earth's surface. The industrialization and the market economy have demolished the villages; it does not have its impact on the economy of the rural areas but also has its socio and demographic impact. The young population got migrated to cities for the search of employment which sometimes also leads to abandoning the villages. Migration also impacted the urban areas; it leads to the burgeoning of the city with the influx of the laborers as more and more people migrate to these places. In the cities, it led to the development of slums which are marked by the poor environment and bad living conditions. This happens because the city could not carry such a massive population in terms of accommodation and employment.

The industrialization and the modern development trends though sought for development but have serious implications associated with it. The biggest is climate change as we are facing today. The main contributor to climate change is Greenhouse gases which are produced or enter the atmosphere from the industries, automobiles, energy plants and marshy areas, agricultural fields, etc. **(**In 2016 GHG emission reached 31.2 percent above 1990 level, with an average annual increase of 0.9 percent since 2010. The sectors contributing the largest shares of the emissions are energy supply (34 percent), industry (22 percent) and transport (14 percent), which has also contributed the most to the emission increase since 2010**) (**United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, 2019, p.6**)**. Detail analysis can be seen below :

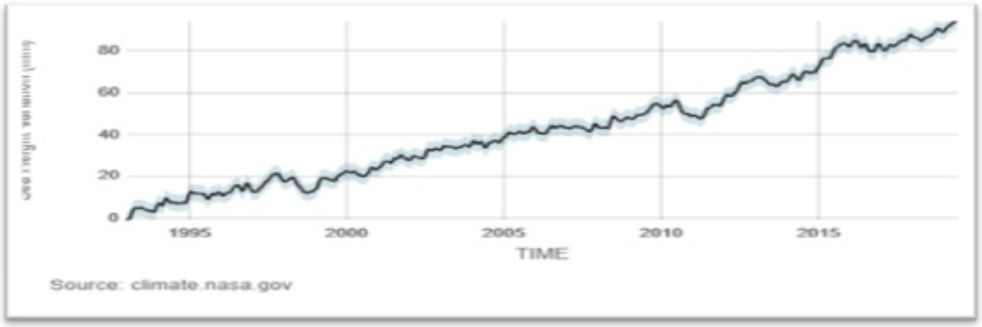
Figure: 1



Source: UNFCCC

Climate change is the main factor which attributes for the rise in susceptibility and fragility to natural hazards and disasters and also led to the rise in atmospheric temperature, along with the rise in the sea level. In recent decades, there is a constant increase in the rate of melting of the huge reservoirs of the ice in the Arctic and Antarctic, other than these two poles "The Third Pole" which comprises of the Himalayas-Hindu Kush-Karakoram ranges is also facing a tremendous challenge. The mountain's glaciers are retreating at the alarming rate some glaciers melt at the rate of 1m/year and some are retreating at the pace of 60m per year, and some small glaciers have even disappeared (Samjwal, R.B. Pradeep, K.M. and Shrestha, R.B. 2008, p. 28). It is also estimated that if the same pace of melting continues the Himalayan glaciers will meltdown by 2035 (The Economic Times, Dec 23, 2018). In the recent studies conducted by the NASA and NSIDC *National snow and ice datacenter*, the article says the year 2019 is marked as the year of the highest decrease in the sea ice extent in the Arctic. And through the satellite observation, the fact also came up that Arctic ice is not only shrinking in extent but is also becoming younger and thinner. The temperature at the arctic has grown two to three times the global average. It is estimated that the average rise of the temperature in the Arctic 2019 summer is 4-5 degrees Celsius (NASA Arctic sea ice, 2019, Sept 23).The melting of the ice sheets is the major cause of the rise of the sea level along with the expansion of seawater caused by the warming of the oceans. The sea level is constantly rising at the rate of 3.3mm per year (NASA, Global climate change, 2019), which is quite evident through the help of graph.

Figure: 2



Climate change does not only have impact on the ice and snowfields but has affected almost all the aspects of the planet e.g. Biodiversity, cropping pattern, frequency of disasters, natural ecosystem, health, weather phenomena, etc. If one would ask who is responsible for this change on the planet the answer is the human. Humans have changed the space according to their needs and greed. Massive usage of natural resources, fuels and minerals have led to many types of climatic hazards. Major among them are Ozone depletion, the rise of Greenhouse gases. (Carbon dioxide CO2, Carbon monoxide CH4, Nitrous oxide N2O, Hydrofluorocarbons HFCS, Perfluorocarbons PFCS. etc.), Deforestation, Desertification, Urban Smog and Air pollution, Soil contamination, Water pollution, Biodiversity losses, Droughts, etc.

In the recent period the various organization's researches, academia has come forward which has helped to spread awareness among the people regarding climate change and natural disasters and, risks and hazards associated with it. Conventions and conferences took place from time to time to discuss the matter and to find out the measure to cope up with the hazards and how to build up the resilience to these eventualities. Some major UN summits and resolutions are as follow:

- The **World Conference on the human environment** held in **1972** which is also known as the Stockholm conference. This conference led to the formation of the United Nations Environment Program. (UN Doc).
- **World commission on environment and development** was set up in 1987, based on the General assembly resolution passed in Dec 1983, entitled "*Our Common Future*" The report prepared is also known as '*Brundtland Report'*. The report emphasized the theme of Sustainable development and developed its concept. (UN Doc).
- **Rio summit 1992**- this summit held at Rio De Janerio 3-14 June 1992. This summit is also known as the Earth Summit which was convened based on the UN resolution of 20 Dec 1988.
- **Commission for Sustainable Development** (CSD) was set up to monitor the implementation of the Earth Summit agreements.

Several agreements came forward as a result of the conference which are:

1. Rio's declaration of environment and development, this declaration sets up the principles which define the rights and the responsibilities of the member states.
2. For promoting Sustainable development the Global plan on action was set up which is known as **AGENDA 21**.
3. The principles were set up for the sustainable management of forests worldwide known as-**Statement of Forest Principles**.
4. Treaties were signed for the setup of **CBD-Convention on Biodiversity** and **UNFCCC-United Nations framework convention on climate change.** (UN Doc).
5. **General assembly special session on the environment**. This session held in **New York 1997**, for the review of the agendas set up in the Rio declaration 1992. This summit is also known as Earth Summit +5. The resolution was adopted for the further implementation of AGENDA 21. (UN Doc).
6. In 2002, the **World summit on sustainable development** took place in **Johannesburg, South Africa**, from 26 August to 4 September 2002. The review was done on the progress of Agenda 21, since its adoption in 1992. Several resolutions were also passed

for achieving sustainable development goals through constructive partnership and to bring solidarity through dialogue and communication among the world civilizations and people. The resolutions passed at the summit also provides for strengthening the implementation of the Agenda 21 and Millennium Development Goals and plans for implementation of the summit. This summit is also known as RIO+10. (UN, World summit on sustainable development, 2002)

7. **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** was called by the General Assembly in **2012** which is also known as Rio+20 and held at **Rio De Janerio** June 20-22. The outcome report was entitled, "*The Future We Want*". (UN Doc).
8. **United Nations Sustainable Development Summit** held in 2015. This summit sets up the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. (UN Doc).

Ramsar convention was held in 1971 at Ramsar, Iran for the conservation and the sustainable usage of the Wetland. India was also the signatory to the convention and today there are 27 Ramsar sites in India and 10 are recently announced to be joining and adding up the number to 37 (PIB-GOI, 2020). **Vienna convention** of 1985 held for the discussion and for the adoption of the measures to reduce the damage to the Ozone layer and to protect the layer. Later in 1987 **Montreal protocol** held for controlling the substances which leads to the damage to the Ozone layer. The Montreal Protocol is a legally binding treaty whereas the Vienna convention does not provide for any such measure for action. **Kyoto Protocol** was adopted on 1st December 1997 at Kyoto (UNFCCC), Japan, to deal with Global Warming and climate change. This protocol came into force in 2005 and recognizes the developed countries as responsible for the current level of the Green House Gases because of their long industrial history. And thus provides for the heavy burden on these countries. Period of the commitment setup under the protocol was 2008 to 2013 and later through the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol the period was further set up for January 1st, 2013 to December 31st, 2020.

COP 21, Paris Agreement 2015, aims at limiting the global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level, and further putting the effort to limit the temperature limit even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius (UNFCCC). Other than these the World conventions on disaster risk reduction (DRR) held at Yokohama (Japan) in 1994 and Kobe (Japan) in 2005 and Sandai (Japan) in 2015 which were coordinated by United Nations UNDRR. These developments and awareness regarding the environment have spread throughout the globe over recent decades. Treaties were signed, conventions were held and protocols were set up throughout the World. India is also the member and signatory to almost all the treaties and protocols which were set up and has participated in the effort through the different means.

INDIA AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

India is located in South Asia which comprises of the countries falling under a low per capita income group. These countries are developing countries with a huge combined population of 1.8 Billion (2018) and an average growth rate of 1.2% (World Bank, South Asia). The huge population and the developing nature of these nations with a low-income group make the whole region more vulnerable to environmental hazards. The region falls under the threat of a variety of geological, hydro-meteorological hazards which are often cross-boundary in nature (Mall, et al, 2018, p.15).In recent years, the frequency of the calamitous events has increased to a great extent due to the change in climatic, weather, physiological or anthropogenic factors and also raises the susceptibility towards the environmental hazards in the future.

India is a large country that stands 7th in the World in terms of its geographical area and 2nd with a population of 1.37 Billion (India Today, 2019, June 18). The massive extent, varied topography, and climatic variations make the country unique which provides diversity to the nation. The variedness of the country, on the one hand, provides the identity to the nation on the other hand also makes it vulnerable to the multiple types of the hazards, specific to the region or of cross-boundary type in nature. The physiographic composition of India comprises the mountains, plains, plateau, coastal areas plains and other varied types of the topographies. The Himalayas are extended from the northwest in Jammu and Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast for about 2400 km. The entire region of the Himalayas is very prone to geological and hydro-meteorological hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, floods and cloudbursts, avalanche, etc. If we consider the only landslide it alone causes the damage that comprises 30% of the worldwide losses due to the landslides in the Himalayas (Wester, et al, 2019). The floods and the cloudbursts are also the reoccurring phenomena that almost every year causes the losses worth millions. The cloudbursts are the other phenomena that have a huge impact on the life; it mainly affects the high mountainous regions of the Himalayas and brings the huge damages to the life and the economy in the associated regions. The states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand, and Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the NW India are the most susceptible to the cloudbursts which in recent years has increased in its frequency. In 2013 Kedarnath floods and the Kinnaur Satluj floods are the events that had mainly occurred due to the cloudburst and did the massive damages in the area. The entire region is also facing the consequences of the change in the climate which has created the new risks through LLOFs and GLOFs in the areas of the Himalayas. In the North East, the entire region is vulnerable to multiple types of environmental hazards. The region falls under Zone V of the seismic zones which makes it very vulnerable to the earthquake and the region also receives the very heavy rainfalls during monsoons that bring the heavy amount of the water into the streams and cause the flooding in the low-lying areas. The Brahmaputra is the major river that almost every year submerges the vast tract of the land underwater. The floods in the region also cause massive damage to the floral and the faunal diversity of the region which threaten the ecosystem.

The Great Plains region extends from the Indus River in the west to Bangladesh and Assam in the east and Deccan in the south. The plains are formed by the rivers from the Himalayas over time which brings the sediments along with it and deposits it in the plain which was initially considered to be a geosyncline. The plains of Ganges and Brahmaputra River are very prone to the floods and during the Rainy seasons i.e. Monsoons and almost every year it causes the losses of life and property. The entire plain region is also very highly concentrated with the population which makes the people more vulnerable to the hazards. India also shares the massive coastline with the sea which is about 7516.6 km. Mainland 5422.6 km and island 2094 km with the total population living in the coastal states of 560 million and 171 Million in the Coastal Districts (Center for coastal zone management and coastal shelterbelt, 2019). The coastal plains are more susceptible to cyclones and Tsunami. Cyclones originate in both sides of the Indian peninsula in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

In the southern part of India, the Western Ghats are the major upland area which has its distinctive character and is among the major hotspot region of the world. In recent years these areas have faced challenges due to the expansion of the urban areas and due to the extraction of the resources. The construction of the dams and reservoirs also led to the demolition of the forest areas which are threatening the environment. The southern peninsular part also comprises of

Deccan which was the part of the ancient landmass of Gondwanaland spread mostly along with the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh. The entire region is a highland 600-900m of altitude and the major part falls in the rain shadow region of the Western Ghats. The major part of the region remains deficient in rainfall and the famines and droughts are quite reoccurring phenomena in the area. The region though generally falls in the moderate and the low probability zone to the earthquake but it has the history of the major earthquake events e.g., Koyna earthquake of 1967 and Latur earthquake 1993. The rivers of South India mainly originate through the Western Ghats region which flows to eastern direction these rivers are very susceptible to the floods. The rivers are adjoined by the seasonal streams which bring the huge volume of water in the monsoon season and often cause flooding. The floods are mainly limited to the months of monsoons which begin in late May and end at the beginning of October. The recent floods which cause the massive damage are of 2019 Kerala; the floods submerge the massive tract of the land and lead to the huge losses for the locals, the entire tourism industry of Kerala went on to halt, which also affected the regional economy.

The western parts which include the state of Gujarat and Rajasthan have a vast tract of land that is devoid of vegetation. The western Rajasthan and the Kutch is mainly uninhabited part and the eastern parts have the major concentration of the population. The major part of the region falls under zone II and III except Kutch and the adjoining region of the Gujarat which falls under zone IV and V. The region of Kutch is located in the active fault region which has caused the devastation in 2001 in Bhuj. The region is also fragile for the droughts and the other hydro-metrological hazards which comprise of the heat waves and the high temperature. Thus we can conclude that India with its vast extent and topography and varied climate, is vulnerable to the variety of environmental hazards.

In the past decades, we have followed the approach toward the hazards that were post-disaster centric but need shows to shift toward the pre-disaster phase which comprises preparedness and mitigation rather than rehabilitation and reconstruction. The planning processes are now more concerned with the risk factors involved and include the DRR and CCA analysis that helps in building up resilience and increasing the coping capacity to the hazards. The Preparation of Standards and norms in construction (BIS) and regulations, early warning, dissemination of the information, advocacy and awareness are the tools for achieving the pre-disaster management and DRR goals and make the planning more resilient. Thus, planning with involving the DRR practices and CCA would help to a great extent to build up the capacity against the environmental hazards.

DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM AND HAZARDS

In the present scenario, the man on the earth's surface has become a major factor for the change. Man with the rise in technological know-how has influenced nature which has created a negative impact on the environment. The human activities have caused massive devastation to the natural surrounding which is affecting the normal life of the people and is threatening the biodiversity in the regions. In India, the hazards originated due to manmade activities comprises of pollution, accidents, Industrial hazards, constructional hazards, Fire, Plastic waste, and CBRN, etc. These hazards are the result of industrialization and mechanization which in recent decades has risen to a great extent. The development of technology, on the one hand, has eased life and on the other hand, it has raised the dependence of man on it. The technology and industrialization have also created the economy which is based on the industrial good and the markets which leads to the overexploitation of the natural resources for the monetary gains and has eventually resulted

in the environmental concerns. In the big cities, pollution is the main concern that can mainly be attributed to the industries and vehicles; the smoke coming out of the industries and the automobiles have led to rising in the harmful gases in the atmosphere which is even damaging the ozone. With the rise in automobiles, there is an increase in the deaths and economic losses due to accidents. It was estimated in the study conducted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) that the road accidents in India cause losses of about 3 percent to the GDP every year (The Economic Times, E Auto, 2016 Nov 30) which costs around 58 Billion dollar annually. If we talk about the human losses it was estimated that one person dies due to road accidents every 40 second. The railways in India has also been a major factor causing the losses to life; between 1990-1995 there were about 500 cases of the railways' accidents reported every year which took 2400 lives, and between 2013-1918 the human losses were counted to 990 and the accidents were counted to be about 110 annually (The Economic Times, 2019, Dec 29).

The big cities in India are considered among the worst polluted cities in the World which have raised the concern of the model of development we have followed over the years. Similarly, the countryside is also facing the consequences which are evident if one looks at the development process going on in these places. The industries and the urban areas constantly require the resources and the raw materials, which are derived out of the hinterlands and also affect the ecology and environment of these areas. The construction of the hydro plants, dams, and reservoirs, mining are the activities of the major concern which has impacted the rural and tribal areas across the country. It has not only deteriorated the environment in the area but has also made many people landless and homeless. The development has created the problem of not just of economic concerns but has also disturbed the socio-cultural relationships supporting the ethos and the way of life (Kumar, S. Mishra, A.J., 2018, p.82-92). If we take the displacements resulted from the construction of the dams it accounts between 11 million to 18.5 million from 1951 to 1990 (Kumar, S. Mishra, A.J, 2018, p. 82-92). Thus the number that is permanently uprooted from their homes is more than the population of many small nations (Mohanty, B, 2005, p.1318). So we can say that the development paradigm we have followed has resulted to the transfer of the resources from the marginalized and the weaker section of the society to the more privileged ones (Mohanty, B, 2005, p.1320).

In India the extraction of the resources which includes the coal, metals, and minerals has also created a major challenge for the indigenous populations; it has led to the destruction of their forests and land which they are using and where they inhabit since the generations. The development model we adopted, until now has thus proven to be inefficient if we take the environment into the consideration, it uses the unjustified means which makes the people and the local inhabitants fall victim to it. It destructs their entire life that comprises the socio-cultural and economic life of the locals and has also resulted in environmental injustices. The environment movements which has emerged over the time in India like Chipko, Narmada Bachao, Silent valley, Chilka lake, etc., shows the ecological concerns that are arousing out of the activities and shows how the development model has until now has proved to be against the one section of the population which is mainly the weak and marginalized. Thus if we look such a model through the Gandhi perspective it goes against the principle of the *Sarvodaya* and *Antyodaya* because it leads to the destruction and deprivation of the ones who are weak and shifts the ecological burden upon them.

GANDHIAN PERSPECTIVE

In recent times, the different ideas have developed in the context of the environment which has ideological and Sociological bases. These ideas have become the topics that are deriving much heat day by day among scholars and Gandhian Environmentalism is the ideal one among them. Gandhi, however, never specifically refers to the issues related to environmental problems (Kaushik, A, 2010)**,** but his writings and his life manifests his ideas of the Environment. His popular phrase "*The Earth has enough resources for our need but not for our greed*" and his concepts of a simple life, labor life, sustainable development without doing any harm to nature and the environment also show his concern to the environment. Gandhi was also a big critique of industrial civilization; he believes that modern industrial civilization has a great impact not only on humankind but also on the environment. The industrialization has made few peoples the caretaker of the resources and the huge population has been deprived of it. Gandhi believes that machinery which represents the symbol of modern civilization is, in fact, a big sin (Sasikala, A.S., 2012, p.57).Thus, Gandhi through his writings has raised the concern about Environment very before these were raised through the various Earth Summits e.g. Stockholm 1972, Rio Summit 1992, etc. (Tiwari, R, 2019, p. 141).In the present scenario human is inflicting great damage to the environment and nature is being considered as a man's property. This is the idea in similarity to the Possibility ideas which make the man an active agent on the Earth's surface. Gandhi opposes such idea. He believes such idea has led to the violence against the animals, ruthless exploitation of the natural resources, and destruction of the environment. Gandhi asks us to rethink the model of the development which is causing the threat to the environment and leads to the plundering of the natural resources (Sasikala, A.S., 2012, p.53).

The idea of the Gandhi environmentalism do also has its glimpse if one looks at the life of Gandhi, the ashrams where Gandhi resided are based on these principles which advocates for the simple life and the life of labor. Gandhi quote '*life of the laborers is the life worth living'* also signify the importance he gives the local craftsmanship and the life of the tiller. He was the proponent of the small scale industries which are based on the local goods and the economy which is based on the villages rather than the industries and the big markets. To tackle the problems which are the outcome of the modern development and the industries Gandhi advocates for *'rebuilding the villages*' and '*going back to the villages*' (Sasikala, A.S., 2012, p.58).

In recent decades there is rising discontent among the people against the environmental issues arising out of the developments which include the construction of dams, reservoirs, mining works, and the industries, etc. These activities threaten the local environment and led to the woes of the people that come out in the form of the movements and the protests. In context of India, the development activities have also aroused the question of environmental injustice many times; this is because the projects have its impact on the local inhabitants who in the majority of cases comprise of the marginal and the tribal populations. If we look at the major movements which have taken place in the past or the recent decade are the struggle against the injustice which threatens the life, livelihood, socio-cultural aspects and the entire environment and ecology of their concerned area. E.g. Chipko movement was the first major movement that involves the people of whole strata of the society which includes men, women, local groups and organizations (Moolakkattu, J.S, 2019, October 1). Similarly, the Narmada Bachao movement was led by Medha Patkar and Baba Amte. The Silent valley protests which started against the dam proposed on the Kunthi River in the 1970s in Kerala mobilized the activists and the conservationists

throughout the country and also at the international level (Warrier, S.G, 2018, February 1). According to Gandhi, the environmental injustice and marginalization are considered to be instances of structural violence. Structural violence was well amplified by Gandhi in his writings which is not inflicted physically on another but is hidden in the structure (Gandhi Political Thoughts, n.d.). Johan Galtung an eminent peace researcher has studied the Gandhian idea of structural violence and argues that it is a violence that does not kill or hurt like guns and bombs but it kills through creating the social structure that produces poverty and is exploitative (Gandhi Political Thoughts, n.d.). In the case of such a model of development Gandhi proposes thought that advocates for the peaceful means for resolving the issues through Ahimsa and Nonviolence and the usage of the powerful tool of Satyagraha. The methods of Gandhi have widely used in the environment struggles in India and have proven its efficiency and worth not just in India but in such struggles throughout the world. Thus, the Gandhian environment thought, on the one hand, sets up the value system and develops the awareness regarding the protection and conservation of environment and on the other hand, also paved the way for the resolution of future conflicts which may arise in the context to the environment, thus helps in lessening the threat to the environmental hazards.

CONCLUSION

In present times, environmental hazards have become a major contagious issue behind the World. It is leading to the destruction of the natural environment which does not have its implication only on humans but also threatens the entire biodiversity. It has also led to the extinction of many species across the globe and has a severe impact on the climatic factors of the Earth Surface, which is evident in the form of rising temperatures, melting of the Glaciers and the sea level rise. In India, the environmental hazards create huge losses to the surroundings and it was estimated that in the previous 20 years, India lost about 79.5 billion to the climatic related disaster alone (The Hindu, 2018, October 11). The climatic hazards are mainly the outcome of the human activities which arises due to the unchecked development practices which also leads to the rise in the natural hazards. In the previous years, there is also a rising discontent among the people against the developmental activities which have brought attention towards the environment. The conferences and the meetings are going on which seeks for effective measures for containing the changes which are leading to the degradation of the environment. The arguments favor for sustainable development which does not have its origin in the present but was even evident in past living and was advocated by Gandhi as a means for overcoming the environmental concerns originating from the industrial and the modern economy. To achieve the sustainable living Gandhi proposes for the ideal villages and the economy based on the small scale and the cottage industries.

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