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## Comparative note on Environment and its relevance: On the Basis of Manu

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Generally natural surroundings is called 'Environment' It includes water, Soil, man, trees, rivers, air, animals, birds, insects etc. But this environment today faces critical crisis. In ancient times people were conscious of the environment which we came to know through Manusamhita. Environment today is in great danger for the whimsicality of men and his misuse of machines.

With the destruction of the environment the flora and fauna face crisis of existence. Is it for this god has created this beautiful environment? In Mahabharata there is a beautiful quotation "न मानुषात् श्रेष्ठतरं किञ्चित्"।

In ancient India men heartily prayed for the all round development of mankind and the environment, "द्यौः शान्तिः । अन्तरीक्षं शान्तिः । पृथिवी शान्तिः। आपः शान्तिः। ओषधयः शान्तिः। वनस्पतयः शान्तिः। सर्वं शान्तिः। शान्तिरेव शान्तिः। सा मा शान्तिरेधि। "but in recent times people are so engaged in satisfying self interest that they have lost receptive and appreciative power about environment. On the other hand, man is destroying the various components of natural environment indiscriminately.

In Vedic age and during the composition of religious books, the deep relationship between men and nature was omnipresent. During DurgaPuja while worshipping with the branches of wood-apple, the worshipers thought that they did harm to the wood-apple trees by cutting their branches. So, while cutting the branches they politely said-"Don't feel sorrow because we worship with your branches.

"विल्ववृक्ष महाभाग सदा त्वं शंकरप्रियः।  
गृहीत्वा तव शाखां च देवीपूजां करोम्यहम्॥  
शाखाच्छोदोद्भवं दुःखं न च कार्यं त्वया प्रभो।  
गृहीत्वा तव शाखां च पूज्या दुर्गेति च स्मृतिः॥" "(निर्णयसिन्धु)

Today these men are destroying the beautiful environment too great extent and the necessity of preserving the environment by men is felt throughout the world. The retaliation from nature/environment is shaking the roots of civilization. The whole environmentalists of the world are trying their best to save the valuable gifts of nature.

In recent times a new branch of study called environmental science is created. In ancient India too different branches such as ornithology, botany, and Zoology were studied. This Prove that the ancient people were very conscious of the environment and then the thought full persons thought a lot about the environment. The men who were one day conscious of the environment are now busy destroying the environment to satisfy their personal interest. As a result this very person have to suffer various hazards, so some people are today engaged in studying environmental science with a view to saving the environment. The man made causes of Environmental Pollution are as follows. (I) Growth of population, (II) Technology, (III) Consumption, (IV) Industrialization, (V) Receptivity, (VI) Forest depletion, (VII) Poisonous chemical waste.

But it is true that there is a great difference between present times and that of Manu.

During Manu's time population was comparatively smaller and then food were more available than the present time gone are the days Manu, people have no fight for every grain of food, every drop of water, every inch of space leaving hardly any space for nature or environment but at the same time if we carry out the instructions given by Manu and sustainable use, we may be able to overcome the present situations. If we deeply follow the written information in the first chapter of Manusamhita, the instructions of Manu regarding environmental protection would be useful in present perspective. Manu's environmental consciousness has under gone a

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great change with the passes of time. It is not realistic to expect the present trend of environmental thought in a book, which was written in the beginning of A.D. This is needless to say that we cannot expect how to get rid of the chemical waste or how to dispose them of or how to check the smoke emitted by diesel or petrol run engine in Manusamhita. But the real position of man among the whole creations of the world and regarding the establishment of men's relationship with lower animals or plants the informative discussion of Manu in Manusamhita proved the transparency of Manu's idea. In 1902 Jagadish Chandra Bose composed a Book title "Response in the living and non-living" where we come to know first that a tree has a life, but two thousand and one hundred years ago this scientific truth was stated clearly "अन्तःसंज्ञा भवन्त्येते सुखदुःखसमन्विताः।" (मनुसंहिता 1.49)

That is to say like men trees have the capacity to feel and through minute study. It is realized that at times trees feel weal and woe of men. This fact easily proves that Manu did not approve any harm done to the trees such thought of Manu regarding trees struck the botanists with wonder even today whether the process of inhalation and exhalation of trees was known to Manu or not is also unknown to us. But the carbon-dioxide produced by tree at night was harmful to man Manu and the contemporary people knew that that is to say, at night abstain from roots of trees and do not take shelter under trees. "रात्रौ च वृक्षमूलानि दूरतः परिवर्जयेत्" (मनुसंहिता 4.73)

During Manu doing any harm to nature was regarded as a sin their life style was quite different from the whimsicality of present city life. At that time if people caused any harm to nature, they had to face the wrath of the king but people have no thought regarding the increase of pollution. Government is also silent spectators.

By showing little care of the law, people are engaged in various destructive activities. Consequently, the balance of nature becomes whimsical and sometimes violent. Green house gases are increasing day by day, Temperature is increasing. Here we can mention Uttarakhand which fall a prey to nature wrath. The temperature of America during winter is lesser than the Mars. Wild animals have to leave forest and go outside in search of food. But instead of solving their problems, men beat the helpless animals to death. Such days are likely to come when there will remain big houses, sophisticated motor cars but there will be no animal or even man to enjoy them. Today water pollution, air pollution, soil pollution, and sound pollution are taking dangerous forms. We do not know whether Manu thought about today environmental pollution but there were certain rules or instructions written by Manu was so, keen to preserve to the natural resource that he laid down some rules "the man who breaks the banks of ponds. Rivers from where people collect water for domestic uses will be put to death either by drowning or any other means. Those who contaminates or takes away the water of the reserve or creates artificial dam to obstruct the course of the rivers should be imposed upon financial penalty". Besides Manu forbid to cast down stool or urine in to the drinking or useable water. He also forbade to makes the drinking water with blood or poisonous material

"नाप्यु मूत्रं पुरीषं वा शीवनं वा समुत्सृजेत्  
अमेध्यलिप्तमन्यद्वा लोहितं वा विषानि वा।" (मनुसंहिता 4.56)

But today the river has lost their natural courses. So many dams have been erected that the rivers have to change their natural paths. Artificial canals have been made by erecting dams on the course of the river. That is why the rivers are

lacking sufficient water where as at the time of Manu contamination of water by public in general was strictly prohibited but in recent times chemical waste from industries, polluted water are contaminating the Indian rivers the Ganga is the longest and holy river in India but its water is being polluted day by day. 50 cities are located on banks of the Ganga, 2724 million liter excretions in Ganga at per day from that's cities. Also, per day 1779 million liter corrupted water are incurring in Ganga from 54 Gutters. (National Pollution Board)

At that time to make the roads in rural or urban areas was regarded as an offence. Manu advices people to defecate or pass urine at a distance from house.

"दूरादावसथान्मूत्रं दूरात् पादावसेचनम्।  
उच्छिष्टान्नं निषेकञ्च दूरादेव समाचरेत्॥" (मनुसंहिता 4.151)

This proves Manu's scientific outlook.

In many places Manu told about agriculture which proved that the then people were familiar with advanced agricultural science In Madhyandina of yajurveda there is the quotation. "कृषिश्च मे, वृष्टिश्च मे, मरुतश्च मे यज्ञेन कल्पताम्।" (माध्यन्दिन संहिता 18.9)

Animals were the most useful to enhance agricultural production. Manu told to look after not only the animals used for agricultural operations but also all other animals. To neglect the domestic animals was considered as an injustice. If a domestic animal suffered anal injury or died a premature death, the responsive person for this was punished. Manu said a wide land around the village should be kept for the grazing of the animals as in urban areas the times of the said land should be kept for the grazing land. About the diurnal and the nocturnal the following mantras were chanted "दिवाचारिभ्यो भूतेभ्यो नमः।" "नक्तचारिभ्यो नमः।" (मनुसंहिता 3.90). Besides killing donkeys, horses, camels, deer, elephants, goats, sheep, snakes, buffalos, cows such animals unnecessarily was regarded as a sin.

"खराश्वोष्ट्रमृगेभानामाजाविकवधस्तथा।  
सङ्करीकरणं ज्ञेयं मीनाहिमहिषस्य च ॥" (मनुसंहिता 11.69)

To kill cats, dogs, owls, ducks, and herons for no reason was also disapproved.

But today people are killing animals mercilessly. In India there are 350 species of mammals but out of which 81 species are endangered. (Forest & Wildlife of India)

In our country though there are 2100 species of birds, 2200 forms, 3200 species insects many species are today going to be extinct. (Wildlife Information in India) This civilized man is taking hold of the free world of the animals. Do we think about the death of the animals caused by the running trains through the forest? Though, the mob beat the leopards to death, in front of the forest guards, who play the role of silent spectators. In this connection the Govt. and the concerned authority seemed to be helpless, there are certain rules and regulation such as wild life Conservation Act 1972 and wildlife conservation Amendment Act, 1986. This Acts Should be more effective, In recent times there are more or less 49 National Parks and 497 sanctuaries in India. (Ministry of Environment & Forests) The total area of National Park and sanctuaries is approximately 1,03,356 sq.km, which occupies 3.3 percent of total land of India. But it should be 4.6 percent of the total land. (Forest and Wildlife of India)

Manu advice to plant trees which shows his idea of clean environment and the concept of green vegetation is vividly described in Manuaamhita. It is no doubt unwise and selfish Act to destroy natural resources to satisfy one's own interest Manu repeatedly put emphasis on this matter. Today many steps have been taken combat the environmental pollution. But Manu and his contemporary learned

Persons realized then how this beautiful environment would be polluted one day, how people could exist peacefully with his near and dear one's in this environment with the other animals, how this natural environment would be destroyed, and how to overcome the impending danger. Manu instructed the people to perform their own duties. This is Manu's Principle.

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