

Ecological Significance of Buddhist Social Philosophy

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Introduction

The environmental ethics is concerned as the mutually beneficial behavioral process occurring between the human and the environment. The Buddhist attitude about the environment can be seen throughout the Buddhist doctrine. The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates is called environment. Erosion of the quality of natural environment caused, directly or indirectly, by human activities is called environmental degradation to stop the environmental degradation or to decline the negative human forces to the environment two new concepts came into application as environmental conservation and environmental preservation. But both these terms we use today interchangeably. Beauties of environment rely on the beauty of human.

Methodology

As the beauty of human it explains how human behavior becomes a serious factor in enjoying the environment beauty. This explains that environmental conservation methods should be introduced through a mental transformation of human.

The oxford dictionary defines the environment in two ways.

01. Incidents and standers which are effected to human life
02. States of nature or earth, wind, water, humans, animals, etc.

In this case according to our topic about humans or society, we expect to point out how natural environment has effected to develop human mind.

Discussion

There is no any other one who has interested in and felt the environment as the lord Buddha. Especially many significant incidents of Buddha's life have occurred connecting with environment. Birth, enlighten, passing away, first

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Dhamma preaching, etc. have happened related to the natural environment. The main reason for it is Buddha loved the environment. He has identified it as a worth that humans have.

The most vital fact for controlling mind is calm environment. Every situation that talks about meditation in Tipiṭaka (the books which have included the Buddha's doctrine) has considered two special words.

01. Araññagatovā (in a jungle)

02. Rukkhmūlagatovā (Under a tree).

These two words (concepts) denote the importance of natural environment for balancing and development of mind. Actually, it is hard to control our mind while living in noisy and complex society. Because of that, if someone wants to make the purification of mind he or she has to find a calm place. Natural environment (a Jungle) is the most suitable place for it.

In addition to that there are some stanzas (lyrics) Theragathā Pali and Therīgāthā Pali about the environment. There can be seen some stanzas which talk about beauty of nature and how it has helped to control of human mind. And also when the lord Buddha explains some deep doctrinal facts has used natural objects such are trees, rivers, stones.

Ex:	Wroth	=	Bamboo cluster
	Saṃsāra (existence)	=	Sea
	Body	=	Cart. Etc.

According to this it is clear how close the natural environment is to human being to understand the doctrine. Deep Dhamma facts can be understood by understanding environment.

The lord Buddha has stabilized some rules and regulations in Vinaya Piṭaka about the behaviour of Bikkhus' on nature. According to this monks should not destroy the nature (vaṇaṃ chindatha mā rukkhaṃ). And also must not pie and split on turf and water. These facts show the importance of nature. Not only that but also Buddha says that thinking of our selves (Attānaṃ upamaṃ katvā), that means the emotions, feelings, expectations, etc. should not be bothered to other. It is not only upon human beings but also other animals. We should continue the path of loving kindness to word every being.

Conclusion

Actually we all are also a part of natural environment. We cannot live without

support of its. And also the environment is also not worth without human beings. As finally, although Buddhism tries to end this Saṃsāra (existence) eliminating lust it had shown how people act with themselves and natural environment. According to the Buddhism environment is also like some kind of being. It is also suitable to have affection, kind and mercy. It has indicated by the lord Buddha through his own life by having shown the respect to the 'Bo tree' which was helped to attain Nibbāna. So we should protect this natural environment. Then it will help us to make peace, calmness, gravity, happiness and rest of our mind.

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