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## INFLUENCE OF NATURE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LITERATURE-SELECT STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

The millennium Eco Systems Assessment Report titled “Eco Systems and human well-being” backed by UN and Studies in history reveal the fact that the people in India are basically worshippers of nature. However it is the hour of the need to contemplate on the fact that Development should not be at the cost of environmental degradation. We need Sustainable development which means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable national development is the aggregate financial buoyancy as well as the education and involvement of the citizens in activities that will lead to the nourishing of a country’s economy. This can only be possible when people understand the impact of nature on man in character formation and personality development to promote sustainable development. With reference to selected works in literature an attempt is made in this paper to show how nature plays a pivotal role in human efforts to develop an understanding of the emerging concept of sustainable development as it possesses three special characteristics: joy, tranquility and harmony that deeply influence human character, wisdom and moral health etc. Furthermore, safeguarding nature is considered to be indispensable for human capital development and sustainability today. It is on the fore-going that we think any serious discourse on sustainable human development should take into account the paramount importance and emphasis laid upon the moral influence of Nature and the need of man’s spiritual discourse with her

**Keywords:** Nature’s influence in Human Development, understand the impact of nature on man in character formation and personality development in promoting sustainability, E S D (Education for Sustainable Development)

### INTRODUCTION

Nature is not only alive, but has personality of her own. It is animated by soul or a universal spirit which runs through all things. Nature possesses three special characteristics: joy, quietude and harmony that deeply influence human character, wisdom and moral health which profoundly impact in retaining sustainability. There is a soul and living principle in all the forms and shapes of nature’s myriad objects. The humans have the moral and spiritual influence of nature. Wordsworth regards her as a great moral teacher, as the best mother, guardian and nurse of man, and as an elevating influence. He believes that between man and Nature there is mutual consciousness, spiritual communion or ‘mystic intercourse’. He initiates his readers into the secret of the soul’s communion with Nature. According to him, human beings who grow up in the lap of Nature are perfect in every respect.

Wordsworth believes that we can learn more of man and of moral evil and good from Nature than from all the philosophies. In his eyes, **“Nature is a teacher whose wisdom we can learn, and without which any human life is vain and incomplete.”** He believes in the education of man by Nature. Wordsworth stressed upon the moral influence of Nature and the need of man’s spiritual discourse with her

There is a divine spirit pervading all the objects of Nature. This belief in a divine spirit pervading all the objects of Nature may be termed as mystical Pantheism. Have a keen eye and ear and touch to a conveying sense of the energy and movement behind the workings of the natural world. Have a keen ear too for all natural sounds, the calls of beasts and birds, and the sounds of winds and waters; Nature is “both law and impulse”; and in earth and heaven, in glade and bower. As Wordsworth believes that the company of Nature gives joy to the human heart. He looks upon Nature as exercising a healing influence on sorrow-stricken hearts. **Lutheran mystic Martin Buber believes that “The beating heart of the universe is holy joy.”** **Philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardon similarly acknowledges: “Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God.”**

According to C. Forrest McDowell, Joy grows out of practicing reverence for life, and in embracing the inherent beauty that permeates all beings and nature. Joy often has a kinship with awe and wonder, characterized by a feeling of in separateness with the object of our admiration. The joy of witnessing life is different than doing something to life. The joy of just being in the presence of a flower, sunset, hummingbird, child, person of different ethnicity — this type of joy precludes any desire to act. The philosopher/poet Theodore Roethke talks about such joy:

**“I have merged, like the bird,  
With the bright air, /  
And my thought flies to the place by the boo-tree.  
/being, not doing is my first joy.”**

Do you make time in your day to simply be — to bear witness and merge with your surroundings so that a renewed sense of awe and wonder gives you joy?

Joy is one among many in the list of benefits that nature provides to people — also called **“ecosystem services”** — is long Understanding that these services are vital for human well-being to preserve the healthy ecosystems and healthy, sustainable societies.

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Ralph Waldo Emerson records his own feelings with reference to the objects which stimulate him and call forth the description. His unique apprehension of Nature was determined by his peculiar sense-endowment. In his own words

**“In the woods, we return to reason and faith. There I feel that nothing can befall me in life, -- no disgrace, and no calamity, (leaving me my eyes,) which nature cannot repair. Standing on the bare ground, -- my head bathed by the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space, -- all mean egotism vanishes. I become a transparent eye-ball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or particle of God . . . .”**

. According to him, one can get rest or comfort in the lap of nature. He says that we should not reject the beautiful sights of nature. He has a profound affection and faith in nature. He says that we should not pass our time in the company of money or physical object. He wants to bring a bright future for everyone. He, therefore, rejects all the materialistic objects and wants to receive the bliss of Mother Nature.

One of the ancient Apostles in speaking of our relationship to God, says **“These are some of the objects of our existence, and this is the reason we are gathered together in these valleys of the mountains so that we**

**might learn the laws of life and the word of God, and that we might comprehend the duties and responsibilities that devolve upon us—that we might learn.”**

As Emerson observes **“Man is conscious of a universal soul within or behind his individual life; a man's power to connect his thought depends on the simplicity of his character. When simplicity of character is broken up by the prevalence of secondary desires, the desire of riches, of pleasure, of power, and of praise, — and duplicity and falsehood take place of simplicity and truth, the power over nature as an interpreter of the will, is in a degree lost.”**

Emerson obviously states the fact that that simplicity of character and austere life may indirectly bring sustainable development (SD) which is a pattern of resource use that aims at meeting human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for generations to come The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WECD) Encyclopedia Britannica (2002) in its 1987 report **“Our Common Future” defines Sustainable Development as “Development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”**

Robert Frost expresses in his poetry his love for Nature and pastoral life of farming communities in the lap of Mother Nature which seemed less complicated and yet more meaningful than the life of a city dweller who had neither peace nor harmony nor certitude. The farmers whom Frost describes in his poetry have a unique perspective on the world as well as a certain sense of honor and duty in terms of their work and their community.

Frost has more opportunities to find metaphysical meaning in everyday tasks and explore the relationship between mankind and nature through the glimpses of rural life and farming communities who find joy, quietude and harmony that deeply influence human character wisdom and moral health etc. the poet abhors the ugliness and squalor of city life that is menacing the environment.

Man's continuous exploitation of nature, industrial activities and the fast depletion of natural sources with out any concern for the future generations rightly reminds us of the World's fate as Frost mentions in the following lines in which he introduces the two sides of the debate on the world's fate. The narrator reveals the fact that this is not an expression of an individual opinion, but rather a universal understanding. The world must end in one of these two contradictory ways - or at least that is what the reader is expected to believe.

**Some say the earth will end in fire,**

**Some say in ice.**

**"Fire and Ice"**

Nature is perfectly fitted for human beings, as Emerson said: **“All the parts incessantly work into each other's hands for the profit of man. The wind sows the seed; the sun evaporates the sea; the wind blows the vapor to the field; the ice, on the other side of the planet, condenses rain on this; the rain feeds the plant; the plant feeds the animal; and thus the endless circulations of the divine charity nourish man”.**

Emerson seems to have an idyllic vision of nature does not reject industry as being in contradiction with nature: for him, both are complementary. Humans do need development but the development should not be at the cost of nature. They must adhere to the laws of nature and adopt themselves to nature without posing any threat to it like the true children of Mother Nature whom we may find in the country. Else we have to pay a heavy penalty and the poet's prophesy will become true.

#### **Conclusion**

Nature can be a perfect educator of man. It highlights the fact that its chief aim is E S D (Education for Sustainable Development). As our present Government rightly lays an emphasis on swatch Barth every person on Earth deserves a healthy environment and hygienic society. Man's greed and obsession for power is depriving many people to have the fundamental benefits that nature provides. Population explosion and fast

consumption of natural resources are rapidly changing the planet. For people to thrive, we need to act now to preserve not just the tangible benefits, but also the inspiration, wonder and awe by which nature transforms us all.

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