
Human relation towards environment "moral and ethics"

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Abstract

Environment is the basic need for all the living beings because every necessity for them depends upon it. Unless the environment is protected, the existence of life on the planet would be impossible. That is why environmental issues have become so sensitive and globally important. All people must give their contribution for the betterment of environment. Environmental ethics help define man's moral and ethical obligations toward the environment. But human values become a factor when looking at environmental ethics. Human values are the things that are important to individuals that they then use to evaluate actions or events. In other words, humans assign value to certain things and then use this assigned value to make decisions about whether something is right or wrong. Human values are unique to each individual because not everyone places the same importance on each element of life. The rapid expansion and new breakthroughs in the arena of science and technology have taken humankind into a new age. The developments have both pros and cons. On the one hand, while technological developments have affected almost every aspect of human life, at the other, it has its devastating effect on the nature itself. Thus mankind faces double challenges from modern machines and from saving the nature, the mother earth. All people need to have a common understanding of the role played by human beings in reducing or worsening environmental deterioration. How do people out of different cultures perceive these problems? How do they react to them? The aim of this study is to figure out what factors are most important in explaining different levels of awareness concerning environmental problems and to compare the level of environment related human values as well as the actual behaviour towards environment.

Keywords: Environment, Human Behaviour, Ethics, Earth, Life.

Introduction

Did you notice that the world is getting smaller? I don't mean it is physically shrinking in size, but there's no denying that in today's modern world we are more keenly aware of the fact that an event or action that happens on one side of the globe can impact what happens on the opposite side.

Things like the Internet, a more globalized economy, and widespread changes in climate draw our attention to events happening around the world, and with this new awareness comes some ethical questions regarding the responsibilities humans have with respect to the care of the planet. In this paper, we will discuss environmental ethics and human values and describe how they affect our ability to deal with the environmental problems that our world faces.

Everyone needs to understand that, among other things, this environmental crisis is a result of unwise use of natural resources and unplanned development projects, promoted by rapid population growth. As a result, many countries have, over the last few decades, experienced a serious degradation of natural resources and damage to the environment and human health.

Environmental Ethics & Human Values

While ethical issues concerning the environment have been debated for centuries, environmental ethics did not emerge as a philosophical discipline until the 1970s. Its emergence was the result of increased awareness of how the rapidly growing world population was impacting the environment as well as the environmental consequences that came with the growing use of pesticides, technology, and industry.

Environmental ethics helps define man's moral and ethical obligations toward the environment, how environmental ethics and human values affect our ability to understand and solve environmental problems. But human values become a factor when looking at environmental ethics.

Human values are the things that are important to individuals that they then use to evaluate actions or events. In other words, humans assign value to certain things and then use this assigned value to make decisions about whether something is right or wrong. Human values are unique to each individual because not everyone places the same importance on each element of life. For example, a person living in poverty in an undeveloped country may find it morally acceptable to cut down the forest to make room for a farm where he can grow food for his family. However, a person in a developed country may find this action morally unacceptable because the destruction of forests increases carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, which can negatively impact the environment.

Technology And Environmental Ethics

Technology often begins with a near-term, and often short-sighted response to a human need or want, and while it addresses the immediate need, often causes long-term consequences that are deleterious. This is most evident in the state of the environment, and in the rise of chronic diseases such as cancer, and reproductive and immune dysfunction.

In a book on ethics of technology, philosopher Hans Jonas states: "Modern technology, informed by an ever deeper penetration of nature and propelled by the forces of market and politics, has enhanced human power beyond anything known or even dreamed of before. It is a power over matter, over life on earth, and over man himself; and it keeps growing at an accelerating pace".

It is becoming increasingly apparent that a wide range of global environmental problems- such as global warming, depletion of energy resources, water resources and natural resources, and the loss of biodiversity- are rapidly worsening. With the world's population continuing to grow, the expansion of the global economy, and the ever-increasing globalization of human activities, there are growing threats to the very foundation of human existence on Earth, and such issues will have a major impact on the future sustainability of human society.

At the United Nation's Conference on Human and Environment (UNCHE), in 1972 in Stockhome (Sweden), here was agreement that the majority of environmental problems were earlier understood as local phenomena. But at this conference, however, their global nature become evident.

We are the environment and the environment is us: We are united and identify with nature Control Human Population Growth and Improve the Quality of Human Life.

The environment is important because it is connected with the people, with present and past generations

It is important to follow the teaching bestowed from ancestors, so as to respect traditions and take adequate care of the environment.

Our health and well-being are intimately connected with the environment and dependent on it.

The environment provides sustenance, in terms of subsistence and wage-based activities, but we need to use it appropriately, and so in sustainable ways.

Three factors-environmentally sound decisions, economically viable decisions, and socially equitable decisions-interact to promote sustainable development.

Need Of Hour

Even using the best technologies imaginable, Earth's productivity still has its limits, and our use of it can't be expanded indefinitely. Sustainable development can occur only within the limits of the environment. To live within these limits, population growth must be held at a level that we can sustain, and the wealthy must first stabilize their use of natural resources and then reduce this use to a level that can be maintained. For this all people need to have a common understanding of the role played by human beings in reducing or worsening environmental deterioration.

As people adopt new lifestyles, they must be educated so that they understand the reasons for changing practices that may be highly ingrained or traditional. Formal education and informal education are both important in bringing about change and in contributing to sustainable consumption. If people understand the way the natural world functions, they can appreciate their own place in it and value sustainable actions.

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