

Research Paper

Revival of Sacred Grove Notion in India for Challenging Climatic Modification Issues

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ABSTRACT

Now, our planet is feeling in a deep unhealthy environmental condition in respect of its unfruitful climatic modification. Greenery-perception of man's & civilizations are being moving to concrete unscientific norm. With a round table, we-all the geographers are thinking how we will cope and restrain the harshness nature of climatic alternation. - Right steps. A revival scenario comes up, i.e. in India as elsewhere in many parts of the world, a number of communities practices forms of nature worship- one such significant tradition is Sacred Grove – a natural hospitable patches of forests dedicated to deities and or ancestral spirits. The estimated number of Sacred Groves in India is about two lakhs. These lungs of climate are protected by local community as the abode of gods and goddess. On the basis of this eco-wisdom belief, practically we- specially the geo-environmentalist can refine our eco-climatic domain, understand the climatic-alternation and restrain the rigidness status in recent time.

Being a geographer, researcher will like to accentuate on the reviveness of the Sacred Grove traditionality to stop vis-a-vis to pin down the harshness condition of the climatic modification through the writing and application of the aforesaid title.

Key Words: Sacred Grove, eco-wisdom, eco-climate, geo-environmentalist.

Climate change is a natural predictable phenomenon. To explain it, being a geographer, I will deliberate the glaciations and pre-glaciations cyclic rhythm respectively. Climate change is not a most important view point but in this changing, the rate of its, is modified and climatic extremity is being moved to most extreme way and which is the result of human's unscientific vision-mission & implementation of planning about Prithivi. So, recently the Holocene climate period and its characteristics are unpredictable and it becomes an emerging issue; we are worried about it. At the onset of 21st century, we are felling that, our mother is sickness; she is not tolerating with our obnoxious activities. And rampantly, she gives us a revenge environment i.e. changing climatic status - extreme climatic condition vis a vis ecological disaster. Now a days, India as well as total globe is experiencing with frequent unexpected splash flood, dead soil (lack of organic states) status, average global temperature rising, dearth of sporadic biotic species, changing Monsoon behavior, ozone depletion, glacial retreatment, excessive green house gases concentration and sea-level rise etc.

Being a Geographer how you will tackle Climate change problem?

We will follow our ancestral traditional vista like Revive of Sacred Grove Eco-wisdom & Belief in locally, regionally, nationally and finally globally. To generalize it at first we should know about the concept

of Sacred Grove.

Sacred Grove Notion:

The word sacred means: considered to be holy or connected with a god and the word Grove' means small area of land with trees of particular types grown on it. Sacred groves can be defined as an area with particular types of trees dedicated to local deities or ancestral spirits that are protected by local communities through social traditions and taboos incorporating spiritual and ecological values are called as sacred groves. It's a place to settle into the quiet, listen to the birds, watch the trees sway In the wind, re-establish connection with God, goddess, great spirit, great Mystery or whatever it is you call that ineffable power that underlies all of life. In situ sacred groves can be placed in this category. Sacred grove is a mesmerizing world of eco-destination in nature's museum. These are a social institution, which permits management of biotic resources through people's participation.

Sacred Grove in India: Recent Profile

India is the one of the world's top 12 mega biodiversity countries with rich variety of biological community types that includes coral reefs and alpine meadows, rain forest s and desert scrub. Many traditional society all over the world a large number of plant species from the wild for a variety of reasons, for food, fiber, shelter or medicine. The practice of nature conservation is a very ancient tradition. Sacred grove is one of the first instances of traditional conservation. The tradition is very ancient and widespread in most parts of the world

the estimated number of sacred groves in India is about two lakhs (Malhotra, Chatterjee and Gokhale, 2007). Groves are rich heritage in India and play an important role in religious and socio-cultural life of the local people. It is believed that sacred virgin forests date back to several thousands of years when human society was in the primitive state. Gadgil and Vartak (1976) have traced this historical link of the sacred groves to the pre-agricultural, hunting and gathering societies. In India, the earliest documented work on sacred groves is that of the first Inspector General of Forests, D.Brandis in 1897 (Gadgil & Chandran, 1992). After this, in the year 1973, Prof.Madhav Gangil and Dr.V.D.Vartak conducted floristic and ethnobotanical studies on the sacred groves of Maharashtra. Burman (1992) has reported the existence of sacred grove all along the Himalaya from the north-west to north-east, western Himalaya of Kumaun and Garhwal, Darjeeling and Meghalaya.

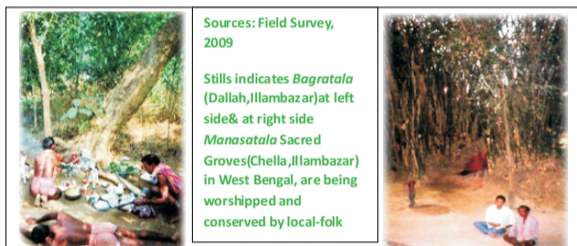
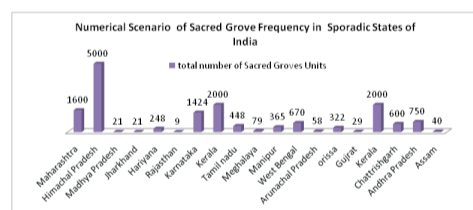


Table: Recent numerical scenario of sacred Grove in India.

States	Numerical Scenario of sacred Grove
Maharashtra	1600
Himachal Pradesh	5000
Madhya Pradesh	21
Jharkhand	248
Haryana	9 sacred groves across 241 hac.
Rajasthan	1424 sacred groves across 5947 hac.
Karnataka	2000
Kerala	448
Tamil nadu	79 sacred groves across 26326 hac.
Meghalaya	365
Manipur	670
West Bengal	58
Arunachal Pradesh	322 sacred groves across 30 hac.
Orissa	29
Gujrat	2000 sacred groves across 500 hac.
Kerala	600
Chattisgarh	750
Andhra Pradesh	40
Assam	

Source: www.sacredland.org



Climate Change problem in Micro level situation:

Mosaic of micro level climate condition support regional climate and ultimately regional climate mosaic support planetary climate. In a developing and densely populated country like India, climate change puts additional burden on an already overstressed ecological and socio-economic dimension. At a micro level, a citizen of a developing nation emits approximately 5.5 tons of carbon per year, against the rate of 0.25 tons by that of an Indian. But the three main categories of impacts are-

- 1. Impacts on agriculture
- 2. Impacts on sea level rise; leading to submergence of

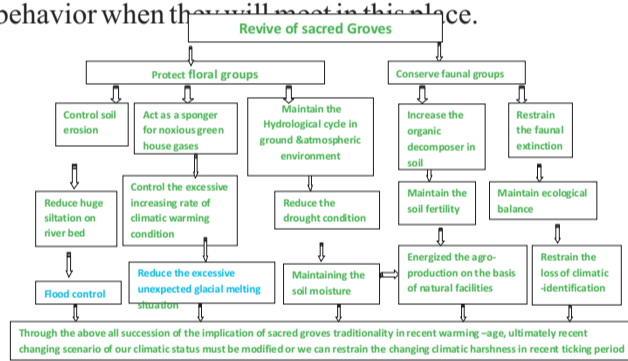
coastal areas

3. Most recent; increased frequency of extreme events. To understand about the all key impact points we should elaborate a statistical geography in references with some examples. Considering a range of equilibrium climate change scenarios which project a temperature rise of 2.5 degree C to 4.9 degree C for India, Kumar and Parikh (2001) examined that without considering the carbon dioxide fertilization effects yield losses for rice and wheat vary between 32 and 40%, and 41 and 52%, respectively; on the other side, GDP would drop by between 1.8 to 3.4%. they also estimated that with a temperature change of +2 degree C and an accompanying precipitation changes of +7%, farm level total net revenue would fall by 9%, whereas with a temperature increase of +3.5 degree C and precipitation changes of +15%, the fall in farm level total net-revenue would be nearly 2.5%. A curtailed crop cycle amounts to a lower yield per unit area that an overpopulated country like India can't afford.

Surface air temperature is rising alarmingly at a rate of 0.4 degrees Celsius per century and The most worrying part of the prediction is the estimated increase in winter and summer temperatures by 3.2 degree and 2.2 degrees Celsius, respectively, by 2050. If a one-meter sea level rise were to take place today, it would displace 7 million persons in India. People think that, how it is possible? Simple relation, if one-meter sea water rises then 35% land of Bangladesh would be submerged under sea water (Parikh, 2002) and which ultimately generates a huge refugees and many of them could spill over into interior India. On the other side, coastal ecology would be highly destroyed. Moreover, a constantly rising temperature can induce faster glacial melting in the Himalayan and Hindu Kush mountain ranges resulting in 40 centimeter rise in the sea level. This will inundate low-lying areas, swallow coastal marshes and wetlands, erode beaches, exacerbate flooding and increase the salinity of rivers, bays and aquifers. Deltas like the unique Sunderban will be threatened by flooding, erosion and salt intrusion. Loss of coastal mangroves will not only endanger fisheries but also expose the inland areas to the onslaught of cyclones and tsunamis. Thus, a huge population reliant on riparian resources will be affected by the alteration of water regimes, saltwater intrusions and land erosion. In last 15 years, India is experienced with much devastation unexpected splash floods (like-leh in 2010, Bagmundi in 2004, Rajasthan in 2008, Mumbai in 2009) super cyclone (like-Andhra Pradesh in 1996, Orissa in 1999, Aila and Lyla in 2010, J & K in 2004). These all the results of climatic modification. After the experiencing from these extremities, India has realized the losses scenario in respect of wealth and resources. For instance, in the super cyclone in Andhra Pradesh in 1996, more the 1000 people died and there was huge property loss (Parikh, 2002).

Revival of Sacred Groves and its Eco-application for challenging Climate Change Issue:

Though the sacred grove is tiny in appearance, but in India its number is around 16000 in promptly. If we count all the minutes sacred groves then it become a large body. By revival of it we can paint our forest map with thousands and thousands green stars. For sacred grove revival, at first we should renew it in micro level, if we do it, then a meso level conservational scenario comes up and ultimately from this a global level renewal concept could be improved. So as likely through this Root to Top conservation we can check climatic harshness from local level to regional to planetary level. To explain it, a simple example can be elaborate here that single industrial chimney can polluted local environment, aggregates of local effect generate regional and ultimately global. To access the fruitful condition of these Sacred Groves we should need to curtail the sacrifice system and should not try to amalgamation of your culture with from sacred grove traditionality and should not cutting or cyclic running or clearing the ground grassroots level vegetation, climber, herbs, shrubs, because it is also the part of sacred groves and regeneration of trees in sacred ground. Tourist people should follow the eco- friendly behavior when they will meet in this place.



Concluding Annotations being a research scholar:

Climate change occurrences are positive phenomena in our civilization. Because they are knocking the door and tell us that, interior of the house is full with fullness. It helps us to rethink that, what we are thinking vis a vis doing? Our every development would have to bear erosion in environment. And ultimately we are facing, realizing & experiencing with changing extreme events in climate. Our ancestors were fully aware that the natural resources that sustained them must be conserved for the sustenance of future generation. But in present, growth of infrastructure facilities and on-farm activities are the prime causes of deteriorating quality status of the groves. Human interference should be regulated by encoding various indigenous practices along with scientific implications rather than only sold religious prescriptions and proscription and finally we can control our recent changing issues in climate. Though it has micro impact but we should think that, aggregates of micro impact generate or create macro

result. So, if we 'Save Sacred Grove; will See eco-climate', if we 'Protect Sacred Grove; that will Prevent climatic harshness' and finally if we 'Conserve Sacred Grove; that will Conquer fruitful weather'.

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