



Environmental Movement in India

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ABSTRACT

The scholarly study of environmental movements has several facets. This article compares the success and failure of environmental movements in India throughout the colonial, post-independence, and contemporary liberalisation eras. Except for Kumaun and Garhwal, which was repressed by the British colonial administration owing to its strategic significance as a border area. Similarly, early post-independence India's democratic state repressed several movements. Various national and international human rights organisations, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), and activists started to support environmental movements in the mid-1970s. The democratic state repressed movements in the 1960s and 1970s because they lacked such backing. The reasons that made the environmental movements successful in the late 1970s and early 1980s have not worked as well in the post-liberalization age. Recent environmental movements have been suppressed, and those that have succeeded have garnered substantial backing from opposing political parties. Ecological deterioration, environmental movements

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I. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research is both descriptive and analytical in nature. The completion of this project was primarily aided by books and other references (including various websites) as directed by sociology faculty. Wherever possible, footnotes have been included.

OBJECTIVES

The project seeks to the answer of the following questions:

1. What is the concept of Environmental movement?
2. Brief Elaborations of various movement
3. How NGOs helps in prevent environment thought Environmental movement

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Environmentalism: A Global History

Ramachandra Guha, a distinguished environmental historian, builds on years of study on three continents. He describes key global environmental trends, concepts, initiatives, and thinkers. Among the ideas and movements he examines are John Muir, Mahatma Gandhi, Rachel Carson, and Octavia Hill. Environmentalism: A Global History illustrates the cross-cultural exchange of ideas that has energised or revolutionised the environmental movement in one nation. It explains why the green movement is absent in some circumstances (like the previous Socialist Bloc).

This book gives a complete description of a key social movement of our day, and will be of interest to both academics and non-academics. The author has updated the prologue to relate the book's ideas to current arguments regarding global economic development's environmental implications.

Environmental Science

Environmental Science is a critical multidisciplinary field of study that has emerged with enormous promise for the whole human race during the last several decades. Given its widespread use in the modern world, the current book is extensive in scope and well-documented with up-to-date facts and data. This book may be used as a reference for the core module of Environmental Education at the undergraduate level for students of all disciplines and as a standard text for postgraduate students studying Environmental Science and Engineering.

III. INTRODUCTION

In order to survive, the environment in which we live has a significant impact on us. Everything in the environment is considered to be a part of the environment. We owe it to future generations to safeguard natural resources. However, for a variety of reasons, natural resources are being misused in ways such as deforestation, water pollution, air pollution, and so on. All of these elements contribute to the depletion of our natural resources. People have made many attempts to recover their environment via environmental volunteer groups. People have rescinded aggressive environmental protection campaigns in favor of nonviolent ones. As far as environmental movements in India are concerned, we'll focus on concept of Environmental Movements in India and various movement in India

- ξ The movements emphasise environmental preservation via changes in public policy.
- ξ Environmental movements favour sustainable management of natural resources.
- ξ Ecology, health, and human rights are all hot topics right now.
- ξ Various environmental movements span a wide geographic area, from the local to almost worldwide.

ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT MEANING AND DEFINITIONS

Meaning: An environmental movement is a social or political movement aimed at preserving or improving the environment. Currently, environmental groups in India are focusing on dams, displacement and relocation, and have begun protesting against the forces of destruction.

Hinduism's ethnic customs of worshipping plants and trees represent the natural and social spheres, and the wisdom of perceiving oneness in the living and non-living worlds. Environmental movements in India include all caste, class, race, religion, country, species, and organic/inorganic global distinctions.

Definition of Environmental Movement:

⌚ **Rootes, Christopher (1999):** Environmental movements are seen as vast networks of individuals and organizations committed to collective action for the sake of the environment. Environmental movements are widely recognized to be extremely diverse and complex, ranging in organizational structure from highly organized and formally institutionalized to radically informal, in spatial scope from local to almost global, and in nature from a single issue to the full panoply of global environmental concerns. This expansive view is congruent with how environmental activists themselves use the word and allows us to analyse the connections between the many levels and manifestations of what activists refer to as 'the environmental movement.'¹

⌚ **Almeida, Paul and Linda Brewster Stearns (1998):** Collective action occurs on three levels: 1) at the grassroots level; 2) at the social movement level; and 3) in a cycle of protest. A Local Grassroots Environmental Movement (LGEM) is an organisation dedicated to combating a specific kind of pollution in a geographically defined territory. Local Grassroots Environmental Movements have a restricted number of particular pollution-related aims. A social movement is a larger conflict that incorporates either official organisation or a federation of loosely linked networks. Social movements pursue a diverse array of objectives aimed at achieving fundamental social and political transformation. Finally, a cycle of protest refers to a concentrated phase of protest including a number of social movements distributed over several geographical regions and sectors of society. It is vital to understand the political climate in which a Local Grassroots Environmental Movement functions by identifying each level of movement activity.²

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MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT IN INDIA

BISHNOI MOVEMENT

CHIPKO MOVEMENT

SAVE SILENT VALLEY MOVEMENT

NARMADA BACHAO ANDOLAN

BISHNOI MOVEMENT: Bishnoi is a religious group that is prevalent in western India's Thar Desert and northern states. It was created in 1485 AD in the Marwar (Jodhpur) desert area of western Rajasthan, India, by Guru Maharaj Jambaji. It is a peaceful community of nature lovers. Around 1700 AD, the sage Sombaji began this effort against deforestation. Following that, Amrita Devi propagated the movement. The demonstration claimed the lives of 363 members of the Bishnoi community. When the monarch of this region learned of the protest and killing, he immediately travelled to the hamlet to apologies and proclaim the location a protected area. It's worth noting that this law is still in effect today.

CHIPKO MOVEMENT: The Chipko is a well-known Indian environmental movement. The Chipko campaign brought global attention to the Alaknanda watershed basin in the western Himalayas. Preserving Himalayan forests has been a part of the Chipko movement since before independence, according to Reddy (1998). During the early twentieth century, several campaigns were formed against colonial forest policies. The major demand of the protesters was that the forest's advantages, notably feed, belong to the locals.³

In 1960, a massive network of roads was built in this region for border security purposes, in addition to other initiatives. This was devastating for the woods and the whole ecology. The removal of trees and dragging them down slopes loosened the top soil, which eroded further during rains, causing the devastating flood in the Alaknanda in July 1970. The Dasholi Gram Sarajya Mandal (DGSM), Gopeswar, was involved in social activities in Uttarakhand during the 1970s floods. The Mandal volunteers discovered the interconnectedness between the forest, land,

² úwĜšĚĂ WĂZŭ ĂŸĚ >šŸĚĂ đĜ||ĚtĜđ ^tĜĂđŸĚ ;&Ĝđ'ĕĕĕθ □ WŹŭštšđĂŭ KĐĐŹđHŹŸštšĜĚ ĂŸĚ >ŹĐĂŭ 'đĂĚĚđŹŹtĚ Ÿ|šđŹŸŵĜŸtĂŭ ĐŹ|ĜŵĜŸtĚ đŚĜ ĂĚĜ ŹĪ ĐšŸĂŵĂtĂ ^ŹĐšĂŭ WđŹđŭĜŵĚ sŹŭ ħq ĚŹ ģ ĐĐ' jj-60

³ Reddy, Ratna V. (October-'HFHPEHUμ(QYLURQPHQWDOORŸHPHQWVLQ,QGLD 6RPH5HIOHFWLRQV¶I-RXUQDORI,QGLDQ6FKRRORI3ROLWLFDO(FRQRPŸRO No. 4, pp. 685-695

and man. Then they began educating the public on the effects of deforestation on the hillsides, eventually becoming a movement.⁴

The forest service gave a private enterprise ash tree. This occurrence prompted the Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangha (DGSS), a local cooperative group, to protest the injustice by burning resin and wood stores, like in the Quit India campaign. When these measures failed, one of the leaders, Chandi Prasad Bhat, advised embracing the trees. As a result of its success, the movement has become recognised globally as the Chipko movement.

7KHPRŸHPHQW VQDPH&KLSNRLVGHULŸHGIURPWKH+LQGLZRUGμHPEUDFH 7KSHRSOHDŌOHJHGŌ\ **clutched or caressed trees in the forest to prevent contractors from felling them. On April 1, &KDQGL3UDVDĜ%KDWWSURSRVHGWKHDSSURDFKRIμHPEUDFLQJ WUHHVWRRSSRVHWUHHFXWWLQJ 7KHWHUPμ&KLSNR FRPHVIURPWKHQRQ-violent direct-action method of hanging to trees.**

The Chipko movement has six demands, one of which is the full cessation of commercial tree cutting.

Other requirements include the following:

- ☺ A restructuring of traditional rights should occur on the basis of the people's bare needs.

- ⌚ Arid forests should be regenerated via community involvement and expanded tree cultivation,
- ⌚ Forest management committees should be constituted in villages.
- ⌚ Small-scale forest-related enterprises should be established, with raw materials, funding, and technology made available.
- ⌚ Depending on the local circumstances and needs, native varieties should be prioritised in afforestation.

SAVE SILENT VALLEY MOVEMENT: There are 89 sq. km of tropical virgin woods on the lush undulating hills of Kerala's Silent Valley. The Kundremukh project included a 200 MW hydroelectric dam on the crystal pure river Kunthipuzha. The planned project will submerge an important piece of the valley's rainforest, endangering endangered species of both flora and wildlife. The Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP) has been working for environmental awareness for three decades. In many ways, the fight to rescue Silent Valley was a public education effort. The movement protects the Silent Valley habitat.

⌚ **It is a network of rural school teachers and local individuals that support environmental science initiatives in communities. The movement recognised Malbar's apparent economic**

⁴ Santra, S. C. (2000): Environmental Science, New Central Book Agency, Kolkata.

requirements but believed the Silent Valley Project would only make a small contribution to regional development. In response, the organisation launched a campaign highlighting the project's impact. The campaign started to question whether the dam's electricity would assist Kerala's rural residents. The project's electricity was destined for Kerala's industrialised regions and neighbouring states. The organisation claimed the profits would flow to Trivandrum, the state capital.⁵

The Silent Valley demonstrations focused on protecting the tropical rainforest and maintaining ecological equilibrium. Campaigns and petitions were the movement's key techniques, based on Gandhi's non-violent ideology. resistance to deforestation, opposition to unsustainable development, and preservation of ecological balance⁶

NARMADA BACHAO ANDOLAN: The most popular environmental movement in India is the opposition to the Narmada Valley Project. The Narmada is India's greatest west-flowing river. The Narmada flows 1,312 kilometres to the Arabian Sea, passing through gorgeous wooded hills, fertile plains, and tiny rocky gorges.

The valley is home to almost 21 million people, largely in villages. The Bhils and Gonds inhabit the woody uplands. The Narmada River Development Project, which includes the building of thirty big dams and several lesser ones on the river and its fifty-one main tributaries, is located in the Narmada valley. The initiative would improve food production and hydropower generation in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Dam and reservoir development will displace 1 million people, sink 350,000 ha of forest and 200,000 hectares of farmland. The Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat is being opposed by tribal tribes who hunt and graze in the forest gorges and peasants displaced by the reservoir's flooding of about 40,000 hectares of land and 250 villages.

According to Nepal Padam (2009), the Silent Valley demonstrations were about protecting the tropical rainforest and maintaining ecological equilibrium. Campaigns and petitions were the movement's key techniques, based on Gandhi's non-violent ideology. resistance to deforestation, opposition to unsustainable development, and preservation of natural equilibrium.

⁵ <ĀđĂŶ W' W';:ĂŶZĂđLJ бєєη□ Ŷ|śđŽŶwĜŶ†ĂŰ DŽ|ĜŵĜŶ†є śŶ /ŶĔŚĂ 'ĜŽŌđĂĐŚ\$ĐĂŰ ZĜ|śĜ|| sŽŰ' Өᄁ EŽ' б ĐĐ' j†-41.

⁶ Nepal, Padam (2009): Environmental Movements in India: Politics of Dynamism and Transformations, Authorspress, Delhi

raising public awareness of the significance of balancing environmental and development concerns;

Organizing demonstration projects that demonstrate non-bureaucratic, community-based natural resource management systems;

opposing destructive development projects that disregard social and environmental concerns.

"Environmental movements arose in India after the 1970s. As a result of shifting their emphasis from fundamental survival requirements to ecological issues, certain modern movements have gained the status of eco-or environmental movements.

Reasons for Emerging Environmental Movement India:

The major causes for the rise of environmental movements in India include the following:

command of natural resources the government's erroneous developmental plans, and socioeconomic factors.

degradation/destruction of the environment; and, Public awareness of environmental issues and media coverage of environmental issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS AND NGOS:

The most notable element of environmental movements in India is the engagement of local non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Many instances exist. In the legendary Chipko movement, the activity of Dasholi Gram Swarajya Mandal (DGSM), Gopeshwar, was noteworthy. The DGSM volunteers understood how intertwined the forest, land, and man were. In the following years, they educated the public about the dangers of deforestation and eventually joined the cause. The Silent Valley Movement is no exception. The Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP) has been working for environmental awareness for 30 years. This non-profit group promoted research and suitable technologies while opposing ecologically damaging development initiatives. The KSSP attacked the Silent Valley Project. Many NGOs support the Narmada Bachao Andolan.

"Voluntary groups have become more important in India's development process." Hundreds of NGOs labour at the local level, and environmental concerns are a new phenomena. Almost all Indian NGOs have been working on environmental concerns since the early 2000s. Local rights and the environment have spawned community groups. NGOs are non-profit organisations that help communities safeguard their rights and the environment.

IV. CONCLUSION

Local environmental efforts are common, even when national environmental concerns are not prominent. But their connection to trans-local environmental challenges has been overlooked. Local environmental initiatives are tied to national and local groups in a variety of ways. But campaigns give places meaning, and communities form identity even as they organise to survive. Local movements typically mix problems of ecology, economic justice, and democracy, mirroring the expanding agenda of international environmentalism. The preceding comment highlights the need of studying local environmental NGOs and organisations and their actions in a democratic nation like India where such research is lacking. Thus, systematic study of these grassroots local environmental NGOs and groups might be considered one of the fruitful research fields in environmental sociology.

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