

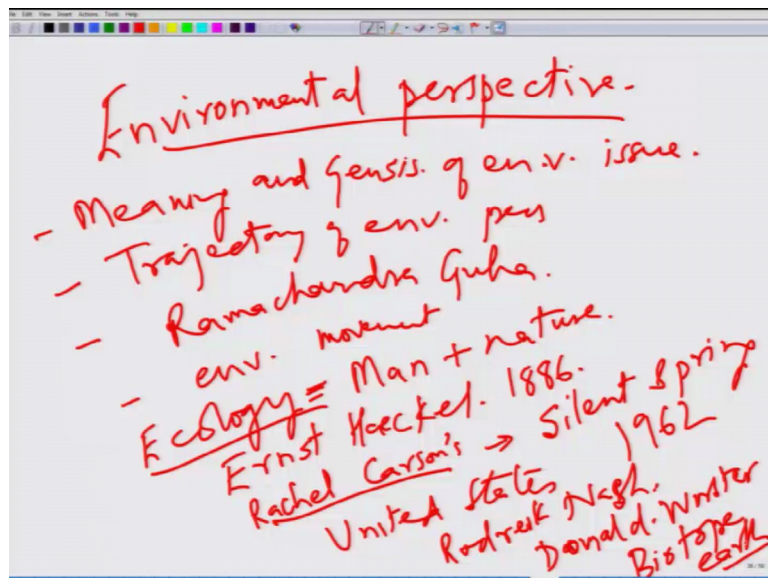
**Development of Sociology in India**  
**Prof. Ashish Saxena**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur**

**Lecture – 13**

Good morning friends. Today, we are going to start up with another perspective. I think we all have talked about the issue of Development of Sociology in India. And in that context, we try to see that there are various ways in which we can see the Indian social phenomenon. Especially, when we try to speak about the various aspects, we try to see that there are different perspectives which are meant for understanding the Indian society.

And in that framework, we try to find that there is certain new perspective, which are coming up, which are giving a new direction to the understanding of Indian society. And in that context, here we can locate another prominent perspective, which of course has its visibility not very old, but it is going to be very contemporary and relevant, when we try to speak about the functioning and the existence of society in India.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:19)



And here of course I am speaking about the issue of environmental perspective. I think when we try to speak about this issue of environmental perspective; many things comes in our mind that why we want to study that, how we can see it sociologically in that

sense, and apart from that, what is the relevance of this perspective. So, this lecture is basically dealing with the basic issues pertaining to the environmental aspect, especially we try to speak about the meaning and genesis of meaning and genesis of environmental issues. I think that is the area of concern for many.

Then second thing in that sense, which we can see is basically cracking the so called environmental perspective. So, we have to see a sort of a trajectory of the environmental perspective, which will basically speak about the historical way in which the perspective has emerged as a sharp discipline. And also it speaks about the various conditioning, which has led to the emergence of this perspective. And then, I think since we try to make it more sociological or discipline specific, so in that context, we will be basically speaking about the contribution of the significant scholar, who has made understanding of environmental perspective in a particular framework.

And for that, we have a celebrated name that is Ramachandra Guha. He is a prominent Gandhian critic scholar. And he has been celebrated, I think you might have heard about him, he is writing into various what you can say weeklies, and also into the various newspapers as a columnist. So, in that way I think Ramachandra Guha's understanding about the contemporary issues is very vibrant.

And also somewhere, we will also try to locate the various environmental movement, which have been the part of Indian society. I think this all makes up this package of the environmental perspective, but before that I think when we try to speak about the environment; the environment is not seen as an entity, which is in isolation. Rather we try to see that the environment has to be seen in relation to the masses in relation to the people. And for that, we have a specific term that is the ecology. Now, ecology when we try to see, it is basically seen as the relationship between the man and nature.

So, what ecology means to us is the interaction the inter-relationship, which is there between the man and nature in the various historical phases. And especially, if we try to see in terms of its origin, so the word ecology has been given by or coined by the German natural philosopher that is Ernst Haeckel. Ernst Haeckel has talked about this specific term of ecology. And that, which he is trying to speak about in way back 1866. When he has coined the term ecology which basically speaks about the scientific study

of the relationship between the organism and also the surroundings; that is the environment.

So, in that way, I think, when we try to see with regard to the origin and the existence, we try to find out that there is a specific concern about, how we have to or what motivate us to study the environment, because ecology definitely plays a crucial understanding of the relationship between the man and the nature. But, somehow, we also try to be or we are more worried about that, why this particular issue came into existence or why suddenly the issue of environment has become so lively.

So, one thing that comes up in our mind, of course is that it has come into the prominence because of the project of modernity and when we try to see that the project of modernity, it tries to see the age of enlightenment which speaks about the liberation of man. And this liberation of man has to be seen in terms of how the individual has been seen, as the man has been seen as an individual. And it was a period, which also saw certain amount of disenchantment with the lively world. And we also try to see that there was the phase, where we have the advent of the scientific temper.

So, I think this all notion of scientific temper, the whole notion of development with regard to the modernity, all these things has led to certain amount of intermixing or the sort of relationship between the man and the ecology. And in that way, we try to see that the man tries to treat nature with his own rationality, because everybody have their own rational about, how we can deal with the nature and in that way, we try to see that the rationalization which has no limits; the rationalization which can be seen in terms of the myths, the rituals. It can be seen in terms of the bureaucracy. It can be seen in terms of the capitalism in that sense as such or it can be seen in terms of the path of development.

In either way, we try to see, we try to find out that there is certain amount of logic, which was involved, which has basically been concerned or which has basically emerged with regard to this project of modernity. And such an approach method or such an approach has basically led to the human being for thinking and acting. And here, lies the imagination about the environment the environmental perspective, because everything has to be seen in terms of coherence, everything has to be seen in terms of systematic planning, efficiency, calculations, are involved in that sense as such.

So, all these things were required to be part of rationality and how man has to deal with the rationality in the different phases of time because the rationality of capitalism would be very different from the rationality of the, so called bureaucracy or the rationality of the science. So, in that way we have the different ways of interpretation of the rationality, which has given rise to the different ways of looking to the nature. And at this juncture, we try to see that there is an emergence of the new discipline like ecology, which basically has shifted our attention towards the new form of conceptualization. Especially, when we try to see that who is responsible for that and what has made the ecology, so prominent.

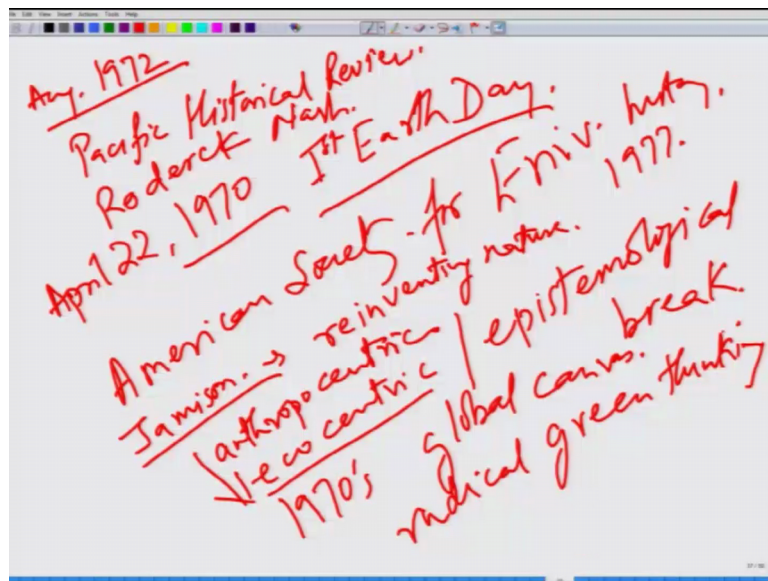
And for that, I think we try to have a very famous environmentalism issue the writing by Rachel Carson's. And his prominent work, which of course is known for the emergence of the whole debate of environmental issues that, is the silent spring. Now, this issue of silent spring, which was published in 1962, is a remarkable contribution, which has led to the understanding of the environment in a new way. I think, the title itself speaks about that spring is always full of what you can say joys, it is full of the playful activities, it is full of the confidence, and lots of music.

But, the title itself is saying it is a silent spring, which basically means that the spring, which is part of the nature is not happy or sometimes we can say that the silence is seen in terms of that it has not come out with the full joyfulness. And that is how we try to see that certain problems are there. And these problems are to be understood in terms of what one can say trying to really cool into the nature, trying to understand the relationship between the man and the nature. And in that way, we can have the real understanding of the various seasons. So, I think the work itself is speaking about the silent spring is by Carson, which of course is a remarkable contribution in the field of environmental issues.

Now, I think when we try to see that, how or where it has come into prominence. The environmental issues, if you try to see, if you try to have the environmental history, we try to see that, it can constituted basically in the United States. And as we know that, United States has reached to level of development at certain period of time. And in the 1960s, we try to see that the climatic influence has started affecting certain amount of history, political activism, the young historians, which are trying to see the things in a new way.

Especially, if you try to see certain names, we have Roderick Nash looking to the new ways of political activism. And they are basically trying to see, that how a specific class is going to oppose what you can say or not only oppose, but also trying to raise the voice. And that is when we try to see, that earth is been seen as a bio type. And this biotope earth the earth as a biotope is basically trying to speak about the fact that it is going to bring about the new level of debate.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:12)



And here, we try to see that the environment of history has come into prominence. Especially, we have the significant contribution, which was visible in August, 1972. And August, 1972, we saw a special number of pacific historical review pacific historical review. And this pacific historical review was basically a famous article by Roderick Nash, and which has made a appeal for the special amount of political activism on the issues of environment and that is how we try to see the debates on the environmental issue has come into prominence.

Like I said that we have Rachel Carson's silent spring that was in 1962, but apart from that, we also have a very significant attempt, which has been made. Especially in April 22, we have in 1970s the very prominent contribution or we try to see it as a special day, that we have the 1st Earth Day. And this 1st Earth Day itself speaks about that we are concerned about our planet; we are concerned about our understanding about the nature. And here, we try to see that on this particular day on the 1st of April 22nd, we try to see

that around 20 million people in the United States. They came together and they had a large demonstration over the issues of development, which are going to be drastic and detrimental to the human race.

And later on we tried to find out that the American society; we try to find out that the American society for the environmental history was framed. American society for environmental history was flame frame in 1977 keeping in view these demonstrations, and in order to address and tackle up the issues of environment. So, this particular society was basically working for or concerned about the environment.

Now, it is also seen as a sort of a turning point in the global framework, because it was not an area of concern for America alone. Rather we try to see that it was a turning point for having the new understanding about the ecology, the new way of looking to the ecology. Especially, when we try to see, we try to find out that somewhere it also tries to hint that or it is an alarm for that something, which is unintended for the wildlife for the plantations, for the human health, all these things are going to come up.

And as we all know, that we had the two world wars. And these two world wars the first and the second. It speaks about the catastrophic effect on the human population, on the environment, on the plantation, and also on the natural resources in general, because all both these world wars. If you try to see, they were at the cost of destroying the nature, human race is fine, but it also has affected drastically the nature, which could have been a source of survival for the future generation. And that is what make the people concerned about the way to contest, politically, legally, and also in terms of popular culture, to save the earth, to save the environment.

And in that way, we try to see that in the last 50 years there has been series of environmental disasters, which happened throughout the history of the world. And they basically try to have the non-human nature as the issue of concern. Now, the point of course is that when we try to see, these issues I think one important work, which we can refer to is the work by Jamison. And Jamison was trying to see the issues in terms of reinventing nature.

Now, this issue of reinventing nature, which was basically seen as those issues, which are going to be challenges to the humanity. Basically, the non-human spheres of existence are to be redefined or we try to see that the need for protecting the nature for

transforming the society. All these things were part of this whole debate, which Jamison has read with regard to this issue of reinventing nature.

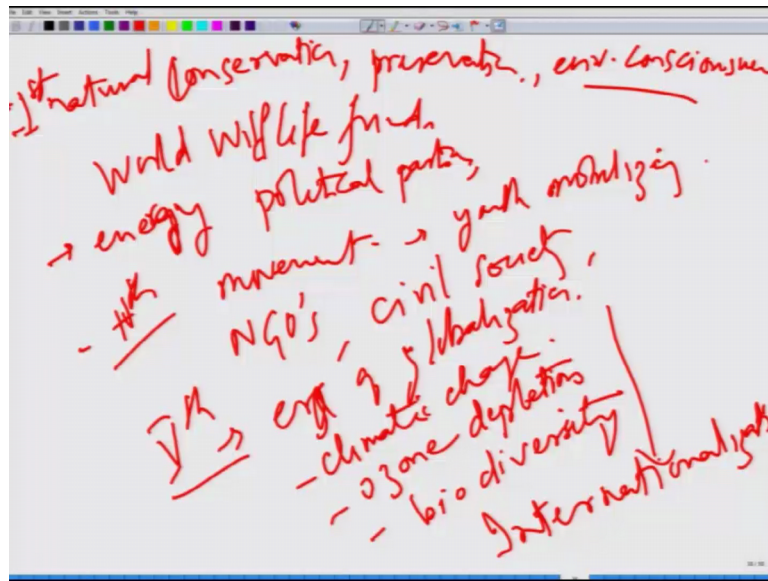
Basically, we try to see that we have the new way of looking to the anthropocentric issues. Anthropocentric concern, where the human being is at the center, and also we try to have that how environment can be seen as an important issue, like we try to become anthropocentric to eco centric. Now, this is a gradual shift. If we try to see, the man centric issue is now going to be eco centric issue because, if you can preserve the environment then definitely we can sustain many societies.

So, in that way, we try to see that the human societies, which are to be seen as transforming they are to be seen in terms of eco centric understanding. So, it is a gradual shift, which we can see in terms of a debate. Especially, we try to see that this is to be seen as an epistemological break, because a shift from man to the environment to the eco was a significant issue. And we try to see that by 1970s lot many debates have been raised, which basically were trying to see the environment, environmental problems, pollution, also certain other issues of what you can say the extent traces, the depletion of the natural resources. These things were going to be part of the global canvas.

So, by 1970's the new form of global canvas was emerging, which tries to debate upon these issues, which were pertaining to the environment. Now, we try to see that there is a also an amount of the radical green thinking. Now, this radical green thinking, basically tries to see that how we can have the new way of protecting the trees, the green plantations in that sense as such. And it was basically many organization the organizations, which were not in the main streams they were been put together, they were been organized, so that they can raise these issues.

And we have a proper disciplining of the environment, which is I think we all know that we have the environmental science is, which tries to see, so called environment, community, ecology, climatology, oceanography, and many other issues, which are part of the environmental problems. But, the point is that these tremendous initiatives, which have been taken in the 1950s to 70s they were trying to make a gradual shift in the ecological model.

(Refer Slide Time: 19:52)



The first phase if you try to see, the first phase was basically trying to see the traditional mode of understanding the natural preservation. So, the first phase, the first phase was basically trying to have the new way of the natural conservation and preservation that was an important concern. Basically, we try to see that new kind of environmental consciousness has come into picture. And also we try to see that the new institutional formation like the world wildlife, world wildlife fund and we have many other issues, which become prominent with regard to the environmental consciousness. So, this is the first wave, which we try to see.

And there we also try to see that the science, which was been reoriented, we have the radical technologies, which are trying to preserve and conserve the nature in that sense as such. Parallely, we have certain other issues, where the small is beautiful. The basic idea in that sense of course is that the small is beautiful by smutcher is not something, which is significant, but every entity is going to be important as such, so that small is beautiful does not mean that we are trying to ignore the big issues. But, the more important issue in that sense of course is that the smallness or the small entity also can play a significant role when we try to see with regard to the understanding of the existence of the society.

Then I think another growing concern was the issue of energy the energy issues. Now, energy issues I think is always a major concern, because it was seen as a important issue the priority agenda for the political parties or even we try to see the nationalistic



ideology, where we have the national political parties whose concern was to have a control over the energy in that sense as such. And these energies are to be seen in various ways, which are to be derived from the natural resources.

Like we try to see that in many parts of the Europe, we have the new research centers, we have the government departments, and also we have the new organizations, whose basic concern was to have a kind of service culture among the students and the faculties. Then we also have the 4th phase. The 4th phase basically, which is seen in terms of the movement and the movement which is basically seen as a sort of an organization the organizational learning in that sense as such and basically the role of youth. So, the youth mobilization was also an important concern, which was been visible by the end of these environmental issues in the last phase. And here, we try to see that there is certain amount of crystallization of the institutional interest.

We have not only the government or the organizations, which are responsible or which are concerned for the protection of the environment, rather we have the role of the NGO's the non-governmental organizations, the civil societies, and also we have the parallel parties the parallel play partners, which also try to see the preservation of the environment. So, I think all these things basically try to see that whatever the transformations, which took place with regard with regard to the environmental issues.

And finally, the era in which we are putting up is the era of globalization. And that is basically the part of understanding, how the era of globalization is going to be significant with regard to this issue of environment. Now, here there is one important issue that comes into prominence that is we had the regrouping. The regrouping of the nations, we have what you can say countries, which are coming together on common front for a common issues.

Like we all have certain issues, which are quite prominent like the climate change. The climate change was one of the important issues, which has been area of concern in the field of globalization. Because, we try to see that this climatic change is definitely is a growing concern, and pertaining to how we can have the new waves, the new way to bring back to the old climatic conditions. Then another significant issue of which we all are aware is the ozone depletion and that is again a area of concern for everybody.

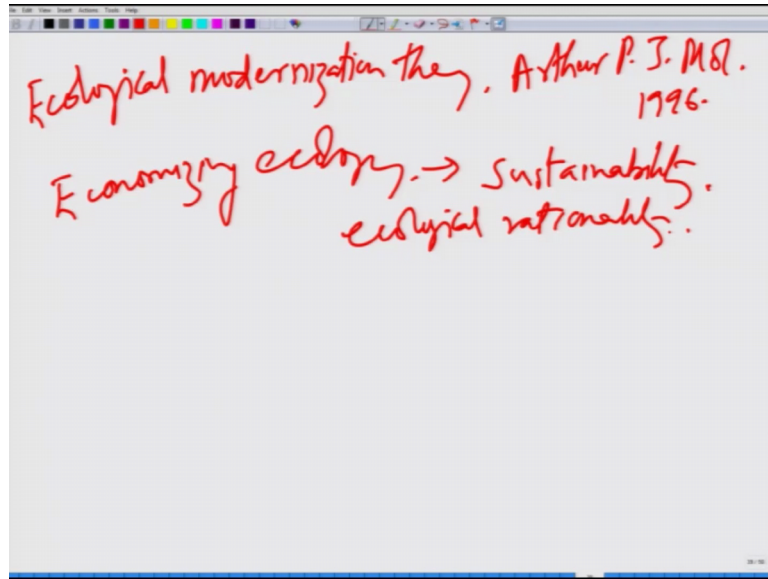
Then also we have the so called preservation of the biodiversity that is another important issue in that sense as such, which are going to have an impact on the human society. So, all the three issues: climatic change, ozone depletion and also the biodiversity. All these things were quite, what you can say appealing to most of the masses. Now, we have the government, we have the business workers, we have certain other parties in that sense as such, and all of them were trying to work together.

So, virtually we try to see that the environmental issues, which are to be seen as the localized and entities. Now, there is the internationalization of the environmental issues. And this internalization internationalization of the environmental discourse, basically it involves the foreign funding transfers, the foreign aids in that sense as such, the technology transfers, and many other things as such. Like, some sometimes in India we try to see that the new biodegradable mechanism are there like in railways, I think the bio tile toilets are coming up as such.

Now, this is basically how we are trying to borrow the new technologies from the other countries. Similarly, we have the biodegraded degradable products in that sense as such we have the ways of not only what you say putting the things into garbage, but more important in that sense of course is that how they are to be destroyed also. So, that they could not have the sustaining effect in the future generation.

So, virtually this intern internationalization of the environmental issues had made us everybody alarmed, and sensitive about this particular issue. And in that way we try to see that this has basically led to a great epistemological, what you can say transfer or we try to see that the new wave of or the new consciousness has started emerging with regard to the environmental issues.

(Refer Slide Time: 26:58)



Now, we also have with this the aspect of ecological modernization theory, which is basically by Arthur P.J Mol. And this is basically a theory of modernization that came in 1996. And the main concern was or the argument was that valuable beginning point for analyzing the contemporary reflexive reorganizations and transformation of the production into the ecological criteria.

So, the ecological modernization theory was trying to make what, it tries to make the contemporary reflexive reorganization and transformation of the production. And what was the center, the center was the ecological criteria. So, one can interpret this reflective reorganization of the industrial society, and attempt to conquer the ecological crisis. So, virtually we try to see that although the capitalism, the industrial society is meant for production, but on the same side it is also trying to preserve the environment, so that is how we try to see.

So, it is not the profit interest of the organization of the industrial society, but their interest also has to be to have or to overcome the ecological crisis. And that is how we try to see this ecological modernization theory. And these ecological reforms, which has been because of the modern science and the technology, it was trying to replace the new what I can say technologies, which are going to be more ecofriendly or meant for the ecological conservation.

Now, we also have the so called economizing ecology. Now, this is again important economizing ecology, which is basically having certain amount of what you can say economics and the market dynamics in the ecological reforms. We are talking about not only saving or we are trying to have the calculations with regard to the production, rather we are trying to have the issues, which are pertaining to the ecology, that is economizing ecology of course is that at the lesser cost of protect of the ecology or what you can say effect on the human population, and the natural resources we can have the production.

So, virtually the economizing ecology has an appeal for the sustainability. It is not that the all the products are to be what you can say manufactured, and utilized in one go, rather it should have a parameter of sustainability. And that is how we can have the issue of the ecological rationality, which has been the part of the debate, which is meant for economizing the ecology.

Thank you.