



St. Joseph's Journal of Humanities and Science

ISSN: 2347 - 5331

<http://sjctnc.edu.in/6107-2/>



Sustainable Development in the Select Novels of Amish Tripathi

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable development became a key socio-political issue in the contemporary era. The literary critics were vehemently persistent with the environmental-based analysis. The paper focuses on key issues relating to the concepts of development, sustainability and sustainable development with the context of Amish Tripathi's Shiva trilogy: The Immortals of Meluha, The Secret of the Nagas and The Oath of Vayuputras. The Meluhan people were so developed and organized. They had brilliant architecture, organized towns, and systematic houses. On the other hand, they were dumping gigantic amounts of Somras by products in the river water. The ill effects of their dumping were so horrible that a new generation of Nagas had come into existence.

Keywords: Sustainable development, ecocriticism, existential crisis.

Indian English Literature has been developed widely and seen in various dimensions from colonial theories to postmodern studies. At the beginning, Indian writers and in English imitated the works of western writers and later they adopted their narrative style that could blend with the cultural contexts. In recent times many theories like postmodernism, feminism, subaltern studies and ecological studies have occupied a major part in Indian English Literature. Ecocriticism is

the critical approach towards ecological studies that focuses on the existential crisis which is led by ecological anxiety and climatic distress. Since there was an imbalance in the ecosystem, people are very much concerned about spreading awareness through literary and non-literary forms. Sustainable development is an alarming term that has been overly used when discussing ecological studies.

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Sustainable development is an idea that the human race should meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to converge their own needs. Specifically, sustainable development is a way of organising society so that it can exist in the long term. Sustainable development is a standardizing idea that gets along with the human development goals while at the same time sustaining the ability of the natural system to provide the resources that the society and economy depend on. The term 'sustainability' means to conserve what the human race acquires from natural resources without depleting the resource. The word 'development' meant the process by which an entity potentially becomes an entity in actuality. For example, a seed is a simple product of nature but inside the sea, there is a tree that is waiting to grow, if the seed sprouts it will grow into a little plant and it will develop into a huge tree. To grow a tree from seed requires suitable conditions like the right place, water, nutrition, etc, And not too many competitors and predators. If the variety of trees is diverse and the conditions are good a thick forest could grow. To guarantee the development of complex systems such as forests, diverse inputs are required to permit the sustenance of an equilibrium of the complex ecosystem of a forest. A similar concept of equilibrium sustains the prosperity of human society. Development is a process by which a community actualises its potentiality and improves its economy, culture and political process.

The concept of sustainable development is often interpreted by literary and non-literary sources. Literary critics specifically view sustainable development through the lens of ecology. The literature presented here mainly focuses on sustainable development from a holistic point of view. The literature often describes a brief history and the emergence and importance of the concept, as well as further possible solutions to major environmental and sustainability problems. The focus is often, but not always, on ecological sustainability. Many literary critics

have contextually drawn references to ecology in literature to promote sustainable development because literature does not float above life; He has a role in this. Solidarity is only a relationship between literature and the current environment. Although for a long time, nature was not given due consideration by literary critics, broadly oriented literature requests for a better understanding of nature in its broader significance. This eco-oriented study of literature brings a psychological literacy among readers, who faint in the process, leading to the care of nature monolithism, which was synonymous with American nature writing as well as British romantic literature, has now gained momentum with eco-literature around the world. It has changed its colour from a local to a global perspective because of the current ecological crisis worldwide. Humans have only one Earth to live on and we are on the verge of our impending destruction until we are wary of the blue planet. India is a country of rich biodiversity. From the Himalayas in the north to Kanyakumari in the south, from the Bay of Bengal in the east to the Arabian Sea in the west, the country has a multifaceted physical environment that leaves a deep impact on humans. Literature is no different. A good number of authors relate to ecological texts.

Amish Tripathi is a great writer in contemporary Indian literature who re-publishes mythology in new perspective correspondence with the contemporary era. His first work, "The Immortals of Meluha" made him the most famous writer of the twenty-first century. Amish Tripathi's use of the Shiva myth and his compelling narrative style makes the trilogy a unique one in mythology. Here the hero Shiva, a tribal chief, arrives at the Suryavanshi kingdom at the request of Nandi. All the people of the Suryavanshi kingdom believe in the myth of Neelkanth. When Siva reaches Meluha, his throat turns blue after Somaras and the people of Meluha believe that he is their saviour. Shiva's search for evil begins. At first, he misunderstood it Chandravanshi then realizes his mistake and suspects the Nagas as evil, but with

the Naga leader Ganesha, Shiva finds Somaras as evil. Brahaspati tells Shiva, "yes. You're sweet if particularly dangerous the first time you drink the somaras. Having said that, remember, Sweat and urine released from the body even after a person has drunk the Somras for years remains toxic. So, you have to eject it from the body and make sure that it does not affect anyone else" (Tripathi 135). Shiva went to different places in search of evil and met many rivers and forests.

During his travels, Amish portrayed the beauty of nature and the importance of nature. Not only Shiva but other characters also protect nature in this trilogy. Ganesh, Sati, Karthik, Kali, Nandi etc. always protect nature. Because they knew the value of nature and necessity of a good ecosystem.

In the mythical framework, Amish look deep into social issues. With the help of Ganesh Shiva realizes the sufferings of Nagas and he too realized the evil behind the deformities of the Nagas. Their deformity is the aftermath of the Somaras. "One can realize that the majority of the Nagas are from Meluha." (Tripathi 16-17). The sufferings of the Brangan's are also because of Somaras. "The plague of Branga." (Tripathi 18), the Brangan's tragedy is the result of the water pollution caused by the dispersal of waste produced during the manufacturing of Somaras. "The Somaras is not only difficult to manufacture, but it also generates large amounts of toxic waste." (Tripathi 18-19). This issue of environmental pollution has been raised in the text. Environmental pollution is one of the primary causes of diseases, health issues, etc. The contamination of water with harmful products while manufacturing Somaras causes serious diseases like cancer and other problems. The extra growth in the Nagas is because of these kinds of diseases.

Any kind of pollution has adverse effects on flora and fauna. The disposal of different kinds of waste products in the environment badly affects the ecology or ecosystem. Gradually it leads to the degradation of the ecosystem. In the trilogy water pollution caused by the manufacturing Somaras

result in the sufferings of Brangans and also lead to the extinction of a great river. Meluhans prepare Somaras by using the waters of the river Saraswathi. Because of the excessive use of water of Saraswathi, it reaches its extinction. Meluhans unknowingly destroys the river Saraswathi for their personal benefit that is Somaras, which reduce ageing and after having Somaras everyone looks young.

"Once Somras was being created for simply some thousand, the amount of Saraswati water used didn't matter. But once we started mass manufacturing Somras for eight million individuals, the dynamics modified. The waters started getting depleted slowly by the giant manufacturing facility at Mount Mandar... It's a matter of time before the entire river is destroyed" (Tripathi 17-18).

And having the somaras by women cause the birth of children with deformities are the Nagas living away from their parents. Somaras cause excessive growth of sales and thereby lead to cancer into the infant. Even though the somaras protect the mother it causes the child's pathetic situation. Shiva and other characters realized the bad aspect of the somaras and ordered king Daksha to stop.

Shiva finds out the evil and moves against King Daksha. When Shiva was compelled to use Brahmastra destroys everything. He thinks of the entire earth that is why he is in search of some other option and the end, he used pashupatastra, a controlled weapon. Even though the situation demands big destruction he tries to protect the maximum he can. He even protects the secret of the Somaras for the good of the people as it has some medicinal power. Naga medicine cures the plague of Branga. It is produced by some plants in the deep forest. Combining ancient literary methodologies with ecological views, ecocriticism is most appropriately applied to a work in which the landscape itself is a dominant character when a significant interaction occurs between author and place, character(s) and place.

Amish's attempt to remind the people about our past ecosystem and the relevance of protecting it for the present day is deserving appreciation. Shiva Trilogy is depicted past India with its plants, soil, rivers, animals, air and human beings with the help of myth. Even though the prime importance in this trilogy is Shiva myth, he gives the very same importance to nature too. So it is clear that Amish's narration is eco-friendly and he reveals the necessity of protecting nature from the evils of society. Here the hero Shiva is against the evils that destroy man and nature. And he gives the idea that protecting nature has much relevance in protecting human life. The care that our ancestors showed towards nature and ecology should be maintained by us.

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