

Impact of plants: Centre of attraction for Eco-tourism Development

Pampi Ghosh

Department of Botany, Seva Bharati Mahavidyalaya, Kapgari,
Jhargram-721516 (India)

Abstract

Eco-tourism is an interesting field generally applicable to generate income for the inhabitants and organizations. It emphasized on developing interest to the tourists on ecosystem particularly on natural and scenic environment. Plants are the only and unique producer of our global ecosystem. They nourish all the creatures of earth since the time immemorial. We owe to plants in every respect. The present society humiliates them knowingly or unknowingly and ultimately dwindle the ecosystem day by day. As a result we are going to the verge of extinction through the process of eco-degradation. By saving the plants in their own habitats, we will not only save the nature and natural resources but also save us. Ignorant activities of tourists destroying the overall ecosystem, so days are come up to promote eco-tourism. We, the citizens therefore should be more thoughtful about eco-tourism. Plants are the ornaments of any habitat and tourist spot; they may be natural or artificially planted. Plants make world green, lovely, beautiful, scenic, and amazing for long years. So, the special, generous, curious creature of God who protect the earth need protection, love and nourishment to restore biodiversity and make centre of attraction for eco-tourism.

Every human being is traveler knowingly or unknowingly. They consciously and un-consciously dream about heavenly place to abode. They want to escape from the congested city life and heavy work load. To refresh the mind and soul they try to abscond from intermingled situations of social and family problems. Some people like enjoy life in their own way and choose various artificially recognized tourist spots. True tourists like to enjoy the beauty of nature are bold to face obstacles from journey and unsuitable harsh

environment. Now-a-day money is not a matter to reach the harsh but beautiful spots of nature. The main problem is maintenance of ecosystem and stop eco-degradation while flourishing tourism. So, the concept of ecotourism comes in mind of thoughtful people. Ecotourism is now defined as “responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education” (TIES, 2015).

Plants evolved earlier than human

being and manifest the world for survival of fauna. Plants are produceras of our global ecosystem. Plants nourish all the creatures of earth since the time immemorial²⁻¹². We owe to plants in every respect. But present society humiliates them knowingly or unknowingly and ultimately disturbing the ecosystem. As a result we are going to the verge of extinction. So, think and try to protect plants to save the earth as well as ecosystem of tourist spots. Lord Buddha told that, “*A tree is a wonderful living organism which gives shelter, food, warmth and protection to all living things. It even gives shade to those who wield an axe to cut it down*”.

For the preparation of the manuscript relevant literature¹⁻¹² has been consulted.

Plants are the first living being come to earth, 3500 million years ago as God’s gift. They are special, generous, and curious creature. Plants are independent and can make their food by own through photosynthesis with the help of chlorophyll, something special. Like God, they are creator of good environment to abode in peace. During the birth of earth there was no free oxygen. Plants first evolve oxygen to the environment to develop oxygenic environment. In tourist spots tourist spend time to enjoy in fresh air. Plants produce fresh air (Fig. 3) and reduce the pollutants through their leaves. Natural forest and manmade plantation should be maintained properly and some rules and regulations should be adopted as it as in Andaman Islands of India. So that plants could be conserved for present and future. Consequently, the biodiversity of above ground and below ground organisms of the said ecosystem may be maintained.

Chloroplast organelle contains

chlorophyll which performs the function as a machine to produce food for all plants and animals directly or indirectly. So, destruction of plant is equal to destruction of food and its sources of a particular place.

Plants are generous *i.e. noble or liberal* in all respect. Plants show this character in every respect. Plants can stand still in a place for several years as good observer. They are witness for several historical events but never utter a single word like a monk.

We never think about plants hospitality, never cares about their wounds but they are not ruthless like us. Plants giving shelter for several creatures, created by God because they know by heart that, ‘Jibe Prem Kare Jei Jan—Sei Jan Sebiche Iswar’. They are giving shelter to human, as tree houses directly built upon tree branches, without any protest. Plants also give shelter to cattle’s and others during scorching heat of summer days and also protect them from downpour.

Plants offer shelter for other brotherhoods like Lianas, Creepers, Epiphytes, Parasites etc. are found in different micro climates (Fig. 1, 2). Plants never fight with each other for tiny interest. Plant not only gives shelter to bigger creatures but also to small creatures like Bacteria (*Rhizobium, Bradyrhizobium* spp.), fungus, Lichen, mosses and small ants. Through symbiosis they help each other in terms of shelter and food.

Watery environment is evolved by some communities of plants coherently with animals. Within the water bodies like ponds, lakes, rivers and seas there are so many floating, sub-merged or merged plants which



Fig. 1 Dhupi tree sheltering flora and fauna



Fig. 2 Plant used as Food and fodder



Fig. 3 Clean and Green environment of Hill,



Fig. 4 The Kanchenjunga from Darjeeling

directly or indirectly become producer of all living beings and try to maintain the ecosystem fresh. This ecosystem is well maintained by algae, bacteria and hydrophytes. They are providing shelter and food to the big and small creatures of water directly or indirectly through re-cycling of nutrients.

Plants never forget their duties. To protect human beings and other animals, they are producing medicine for all of us. Herb like pashanbheda (*Bargenia ciliata*, Fig. 5) of Saxifragaceae is used in dysentery. Several lichens, mosses, herbal plants and gymnosperms are used in homoeopathy treatments. A

common example is *Lycopodium* and *Selaginella*, common inhabitants of cold hill like Darjeeling Himalaya.

Plants are always uttering “Sakaler tare sakale amara Pratyek amara Parer tare” ...Kamini Roy. All plants have medicinal properties and always trying to save human beings and other animals by sacrificing their organs like leaves, flowers, fruits, buds, roots, stem barks, root barks and seeds. So, they are really generous.

You may say that they are speechless, so they are remaining like this, but scientists



Fig. 5 Pakhanbet (Nepali), Fig. 6 Lajjwati (Hill), Fig. 7 Cobra lily (Snake hooded aroid)

and plant lovers say they are expressive like us. Common people may take this example from sensitive plant (*Mimosa himalayica* - Fig. 6), Hill Lajjabati which always show their shyness. Plants make mimicry, to protect them. eg. Snake hooded aroid (Fig. 7). This property is rare and like a wise one, they are trying to avoid worse situation to live long. Protection of plants like these will attract visitors of several kinds such as normal tourists, ecologists and students including researchers.

From the above study we can say that plants make world green, lovely, beautiful, scenic for long years and they are really special, generous, curious creature of God to protect the earth. So, love plant- love God, protect plant-protect planet- the house of God, *i.e.* **worship of plant is equal to worship of God**. This is the theme to protect environment through eco-tourism development.

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