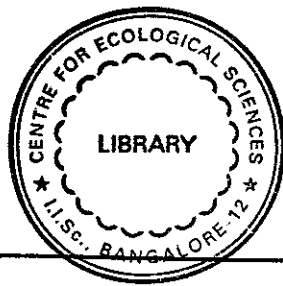
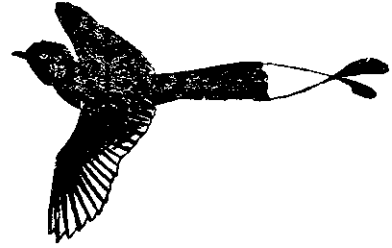


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The hitherto neglected field of ecology has started in the last decade and has been intensively studied recently. The study ~~is~~ reveals many bad effects on man by his own indiscriminate use of natural resources and nature. This recalls the words of Gandhiji "we have enough resources to fulfill the needs of all, but not for selfish needs".

Man lives if he continues to keep his environment clean. In order to control pollution, many measures are taken to create an awareness of the environment. This is one such attempt. Here we use slides from Father Cecil J. Saldanha's collections to illustrate certain examples in this show. (The numbers indicated here are the slide numbers).

Agajanana Padmarkan, Gajanana Maharnishan

Ekadantan Shaktanam, Ekadantan Unasmahe

(Salutation to Lord Ganesh, the elephant headed god)

11-5 Vrukshamule Sthitho Brahma, Vruksha madhye Janardhana

Vrukshagre Shankara: Prokto Vrukshorujayate Namaha

(Brahma (God of creation) lives at the base of the tree, Janardhana or Vishnu lives at the heart of the tree and Shankara (God of destruction) lives at the top of the tree. Therefore salutations and respects to the tree)

Any person would desire to be respected and praised by people. It is not wrong to respect people who are generous. So in this poem he salutes trees and plants, and gives his humble thanks to trees and their usefulness to man.

Ehagavan Gautan Buddha has praised the importance of forests. He says "Forests are special entities; their generosity is unbeatable. They give everything for the benefit of man nothing expecting nothing in return. They give shelter to those who come even to cut them". Hence, ancient people saw the holy trinity (Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara responsible for creation, preservation and destruction respectively) in trees and forests and respected them.

In the following text we shall see how the forests are being destroyed due to the indiscriminate felling of trees, and also measures to prevent the destruction of forests.

1-30 Our land was rich with a variety of tree species, various crops, bamboos, streams, ponds, tanks, lakes. There were many birds, and other animal species, which lived happily dependent on them. Our land had beautiful valleys, hills and mountains (Virupaksha Pandita).

1-25 The ponds with lotus flowers were beautiful. Donot cry of being poor, when you have such rich nature, and beauty created by God. (Ishvara Sanakal).

1-3 In the foreground you have the ocean. In the background, fragmented lands. In the middle you have a golden shore. This is Suratkal Seashore.

1-21 This is the beautiful seashore near Someshwara. This may also be destroyed due to human interference. The change in season will also bring changes in nature, which are new everytime.

1-20 A scene during the autumn season in Mangalore

1-19 Deciduous forest

11-28 A scene of leaves falling in day.

11-3 I was born on top of the Sahyadri Mountains

I lived a sweet life in my early days

I felt the thrust of the boulders (Minakara Kesai)

11-31 The beauty of these Sahyadris is explained by Kuvempu as follows:

"In this 30 odd mile or stretch or view, mountains competed to show themselves in a circular fashion on the horizon. In the ocean of clouds and sunlight; amidst the sunset mist settled over the trees, green tree tops looked like islands. The gardens, cultivated lands and houses were not to be seen amidst these mountain ranges.

Pampa, one of the renowned Kannada poets, has eulogized beautifully grown mangoes, fragrant champaka, singing cuckoos, and flying butterflies.

Looking at naturally growing plants, man started agriculture.

111-8 Areca gardens of North Kanara. In one field areca, pepper, banana, cardamom and cocoa are grown and these are at different stages of growth.

111-5 Tea estate made by felling forests

111-6 Coffee estate in flower

1-17 Low land areas being cultivated

Rivers were flooded, tides foamed, streams grew to maturity: Forests grew fertile, and people became happy as wealth filled the tanks and cultivated lands. The golden harvest came as an invitation to feasts of the harvest season.

As a shower of sandal perfume, the rains came over the lands.

It is good to have a better ecosystem to get better yields in agriculture. But due to illegal cultivation and extension of

land, a lot of forests are destroyed.

Many of our basic necessities are met by forests and forest-based industries. But in so doing, man became a voracious feeder on forests, rather than a judicious user. 1-41 Heap of fuel wood

111-13 During the last several decades, logs have been cut and smuggled out of forests without forethought.

111-14 Both the forest department and contractors are cutting trees and trading in timber.

1-41 Devagi tile factory. These tile factories are responsible for a lot of fuelwood

11-34 By constructing dams, large areas of forests are inundated.

1-37 Forests are cut while making rail ways, and

111-40 While laying electric lines. These are some examples where forests are cut in the process of development. A quote by the late Smt. Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister, is remarkable in this context. "It is a bad thing that countries are beginning to think that invading nature is itself progress".

111-19 Forests of Kemannaundi-before mining.

111-20 In the mining process the trees are the first to be affected.

111-26 After mining, this area has become barren. It is not productive anymore.

River is flowing, grass is growing

No limit to the growth of man

Why destruction in the name of development?

There is no sorrow in poverty

(D.R. Bendre)

111-27 The continuous invasion of man on nature has caused the drying of streams, erosion of soil, formation of gullies and

ravines, and land slides, and loss of fertility of soil. It seems nature is taking revenge on man.

O Lord, why are you losing rhythm of your steps?

Heaven has become hell; please stop your dance

What sin has the committed?

The human is crushed under your feet

Please stop your rivalry with us

(Siddaiah Puranik)

1-40 forests lost due to intensive degradation.

111-25 Soil from degraded forests eroded and settled over cultivated lands

111-37 Siltation of dams due to erosion of soil from open land

111-47 Landslide

111-48 Siltation of river beds & river bottoms. Due to increased open land, the absorption capacity of land decreased. Hence water runoff increased, leading to erosion of the soil.

111-49 Flood situations near sea shores.

111-35 Area that gets inundated due to dam construction.

111-42 People feared inundation

1-43 No grazing land for cattle

11-46 Tiger, 11-47 - Macaques, and other animals had no shelter
All these changes also affected man.

1-49 Today's children are tomorrow's citizens. Will these children hold us responsible for all these bad effects?

111-21 At Haleshwar, 1968.

I spend my life, somehow,
Mourning the lost day
With a broken heart.

(D.S. Karki)

111-22 At Maleshwar, 1978

What is this difference between yesterday's wealth
and today's poverty?

The golden castle has been dislodged and the skeleton
buried in soil

Life has gone, rays have faded, smoke has covered the scene
On this burning scene the dry wind blows.

(Dr. U.S.Karki)

Man has also been seriously affected due to the imbalance created
in our ecosystem. We still do not know the inter-relations of
organisms, and their interdependence. Not knowing about this
crucial net-work, we disturb the equilibrium which nature has
maintained for many years. Resources are not everlasting on this
earth. So we have to use them carefully and prudently.

"If you destroy one species of organism on this earth, it is like
destroying a small part of an aeroplane. You can expect danger
anytime" - Les Talbot. For this reason, scientists and other
rationalists started thinking about their environment.

This land belongs to the Lord and he ploughs it

You and are hoes and ploughs

Victory is certain, so

Do not lose heart.

(D.N. Mendira)

111-18 Can we not take up forestry?

111-44 Can we not stop destroying forests in the name of development?

1-47 In this work of saving our environment, the struggle by single individuals will not work. Public and voluntary organizations, and educational institutions should come forward. The plant protection project of the Basur High school students is one such attempt.

1-46 Social forestry programme

111-11 Soppina Betta - rejuvenated

111-8 Agriculture and horticulture in hills and valleys

111-45 Can we see this again?

(Sharavati)

111-32 Joy falls

Is this water or milk? The Sharavati is like the Ganges earth leaving her owner's head falling sequentially to his feet and the ocean. I stand in awe before it

Smt. Tojare Sarvamantalamba

Such exclamations have gone down in history. We do not see such falls today. We would like to have such scenes back. Realising the usefulness of forests, and that destroying them would create deserts, Kadavondlu Shankarabhatta wrote this:

I like the forest rather than the dwelling land

The sound of the flow of water is my praise

Shadows of the clouds are the limits of my country

Growing red buds and branches of the mango tree are my

victory. I am the only king in my world and birds

and animals are my people. Is not this happy forest heaven?

11-48 It is our responsibility to realise the dreams of today's children or tomorrow's citizens.. We should set right that which we have destroyed. Do we have that enthusiasm and desire?

111-50 Will you be part of the solution or part of the problem?

Mangalam-

Wish all good to Ganapati, the elephant-headed god

To Gowrisutha, who lives in flowing water

To Shambhusutha, who gave the fruitful environment

To one who gave us Ficus, neem and mango

To one who gave teak, rosewood and nandi

To one who created lands and gardens

To one who fills in coconut, rice and sugarcane