

Buddhism and Inter-Relationship between Man and Environment.

Jayawardena, R. G. D.

Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya

rgdijaya99@yahoo.com

The objective of this study is to examine the inter-relationship between man and environment as discussed in the Buddhist literature. It intends to investigate the way man should practically relate to the environment. The endeavor of this paper is to disclose the facts that the Buddha highlighted towards the relationship between man and environment. According to the Buddhist literature, there is an essential link between the man and the nature. The first precept, not to kill living beings, saves the bio structure on the earth. Due to growing human population, the process of searching natural resources and consumerization have damaged the resources and break the inter-relationship between the man and the environment. Thus, the current circumstance of human behavior seems to be as moving away from environmental ethics and eco-philosophy which they have received from Buddhist tradition. Apparently, these two aspects are based on the love and sympathy towards the plants and living beings. There is a need to practice moral values and eco-philosophy towards the nature. The moderate life saves the condition and balance in the nature. When the condition is abruptly changed the balance of nature is also in danger. The guidance presented by Buddhism in this regard could be applied to conserve the bio structure, flora and fauna, soil, water and etc.

The present study is based on literature survey in that the collected data from the discourses, and Pali commentaries are studied comparatively for exposing the way of Buddhist teaching that build up inter-relationship between the man and the environment. The frugal lifestyles discussed in the Buddhist discourses helps develop inter relationship between the man and the environment. The guidance derived from this study can be discussed under three categories: the relationship between the 1) man and physical environment, 2) man and mental environment, 3) man and social environment. What is crucial for the survival of the man and the environment is the relationship of these three areas by keeping good conduct as human beings. Therefore, the present seeks to examine how the man's moral and immoral behavior affects the natural environment under the current life style.

Keywords: *Buddhism; Environment; Ethics; Relationship; Resource.*