

‘Land Ethics’ and Tagore’s Vision of Ecological Harmony in Modern Environmental Policy-Making for Improvement of Quality of Life

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KEYWORDS Environment. Land Ethics. Leopold. Tagore. Environmental Policy

ABSTRACT In the 1930’s Aldo Leopold, one of the first scientists to raise the issue of ‘Land ethic’ became one of the founding stones for future ecological preservation. The philosophy of land ethic changes “the role of Homo sapiens from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it”. With the help of such conscious effort and through ethical consideration we will be able to build a sense of mutual cooperation among the members of our biotic community. By creating a harmonious relationship among the fellow members of the biotic community it will help to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the land. Rabindranath Tagore’s vision of harmonious relationships between man and nature recreated a unique place called Santiniketan. Tagore’s philosophy of beauty in nature has numerous academic institutions and influenced the lifestyle of common people throughout Bengal and rest of the country. Santiniketan is a place where nature is in perfect harmony with human beings. Creation of Santiniketan stands as a unique example where environmental philosophy is synthesized with the practical execution to create a perfect harmonious relationships between man and environment. Thesis of this paper is to examine the recent failure of various ecological policies in light of Leopold and Tagore’s work. The researcher proposes that the policy-makers are needed to be trained through environmental philosophy and environmental ethics in order to execute a plan successfully.