

## AN INVESTIGATION OF ECOLOGICAL CONCERNS IN THE SELECT POEMS OF K. V. DOMINIC AND BALDOON DHINGRA

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### Abstract

Technological advancements have really brought the reduction in the duration of time which is required to finalize any project or work in any field of the world. It is undisputedly a surface reality that the technological progress saves the precious time of the humanity and brings the moments of satisfaction and happiness in their domestic as well as professional works. But any types of mechanized progress are temporary in nature because of the environmental crisis which is mounting up day and night. Aspiration for enjoying a prosperous life with sufficient amount of money and goods does not indicate the immorality or uncivilized attitude of the inhabitants of the Earth. Mother Earth, too, does not think about any injustice in offering her natural assets to the human beings who promise her to utilize or consume them sensibly. But when a person's aspiration crosses its limit or boundary, he/she is automatically entrapped in the layers of selfish lusts for becoming the sole authority to plunder the treasures of the Earth's environment. This type of mindset definitely puts the landscapes, birds, species in utmost dangers which cause their degradation and extinction. The present paper investigates some of the major ecological issues in the select poetic works of K. V. Dominic and Balloon Dhingra and tries to bring out the best solutions hidden in them to counterbalance the damages which have already been done to the Earth's ecology.

**Keywords:** Ecology, imbalance, over-exploitation, crisis protection, harmony.

### Introduction:

The word 'Ecology' refers to the world of all living organisms and their physical environment. In 1978, William Rickert made the term 'Ecocriticism' in vogue and introduced it to the whole world in his very remarkable essay entitled 'Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism'. In other words, he was the first person to popularize 'Ecocriticism' in literature and wholeheartedly strived hard to link the relevant ecological

concepts with the study of literature. The professor Laurence Bull, teaching at Harvard University, writes the definition of 'Ecocriticism' in the following words:

“Study of the relationship between literature and the environment conducted in a spirit of commitment to environmental praxis”.

'Mother India, I weep', is a powerful and remarkable eco-poem by K.V. Dominic; this poem undertakes a satirical note in unavailing modern people's anti- nature attitudes and karmas. Even the beginning portion of the poem unfolds the poet's heartfelt worries about the drastic and uncontrolled disappearance of birds from nature. According to the poem, the birds are good omens and awaken the human beings from their night sleep so that they will perform their sacred daily rituals or prayers to the Gods and Goddesses without any delay.

“We used to wake up greeted by  
music of birds like crows and cuckoos  
Nature's hymns at dawn to the creator  
Gone are those birds and music now" (18 - 21)

Birds are, of course, a reliable medium to remember the almighty divine powers for one's harmonious and blissful life on the Earth. Plunging deep into the initial lines of this stanza, a reader develops a concrete and complete understanding of the advantage of having a healthy number of different kinds of birds in the natural environment. Hence birds like crows and cuckoos play an important part or role to enliven people's lives with freshness and energy. The birds make the human beings conscious of their daily hymns(prayers) to the omnipotent power, the creator of all forms of life in nature. If the birds of different colors and sizes, are doing the environmental services to please God, the humanity, too, representing all the cross sections of society must not forget their obligations to God and nature. Even God and Nature are not two different entities, they are as a whole in the poet's Eco spiritual eyes.

The humanity is blindly running after the accumulation of power and wealth which only sanction temporary happiness to them. The exploitation of any life form of the environment of nature directly brings unwholesome effect on the entire human race. K.V. Dominic in one way or other exposes the bitter reality of the exploitation and killing of even tiny birds in hands of the business minded people, for the extinction of birds from the global environment is not the result of a single day of a man's materialistic mindset.

It refers to day and night atrocity done to them even at the cost of their lifetime extinction from the planet. Hunters are hunting various kinds of birds for making unproductive money; they entangle them in their nets and the birds struggle hard to get rid of its suffocation, but their whole toil goes in vain after being carried away from their nest and put in a market place for their auction by the money minded hunters. The selfish greediness

for obtaining the colorful feathers of birds, too, contribute to the extinction of birds from the natural world.

The poem is definitely the outcome of the poet's own experience of not listening the melodious shivering and picturesque flocking of birds of the familiar/ domestic birds and also some birds that come to his place from far-reaching regions with the changing of the new season. A minute or close reading of the lines of the poem make a fact clear that the poet is really pained to observe his place being empty with utter silence all-around in the absence of friendly birds. The poet experiences the continuous boredom remembering his sacred companionship with the tiny creatures of God. It means that the poet got inspired for his poetical creative writings by the soothing presence of birds who did also charge him up with new positive ideas for the welfare of the whole mankind. The missing of the gentle company of birds compels the poet to compose an eye-opener poem which unearths the real cause of their untimely disappearance from his environment.

K. V. Dominic's other poem 'I Can Hear the Groan of Mother Earth' establishes him as an eco-poet of international reputation. In this poem he brings to light the realities of the pathetic condition of mother Earth as a byproduct of repeated exploitation and injustice She faces in the hands of the mechanized humanity. Any jolt to the element or object which is in her possession is metaphorically described as the cutting of her bodily vein. The poet in order to make the human beings have a live experience of the deplorable state of mother Earth, incorporates poignant words in the stanza of this eco-sensitive poem.

"I can hear(earth's) shriek for help  
 when they cut each other vein  
 and drain all brooks and rivers  
 can't you hear your mother's wail  
 when they pluck her hair after hair  
 felling trees and plants which protect them"?( 5-10)

The poet does expect from the social masses to relinquish their unfruitful materialistic thoughts as the degradation of mother Earth is in way or other a dangerous threat to their own survival. The beauty of the poem is reflected in the fact that the reading public begin to correlate the plight of the Earth with their own lives. K.V. Dominic is a practical eco-poet and he tries his best to make the humanity gain a sound ecological wisdom through the magical composition of the eye-opening eco-sensitive words in his eco-poetry. The ecological wisdom helps each and every human creature reach an elevated state of mental transformation and he/she becomes capable of reciprocating the Earth's urgent call for ecological balance.

K.V. Dominic always believes in the lively or straightforward depiction of an event or activity which happens on the Earth. It means he showcases the things as they are in their exact forms at the time of his observation. His eco-poetry is free from the layers of artificiality. The people of the present time are over-consuming and damaging the brooks, rivers, lakes, etc. One can never imagine the smooth and healthy circulation of life on this planet without the existence of these much needed sources of water. But in the recent times the huge storage of plastic made garbage in these water resources coming from the industrial regions and the metro cities has generated the whole mess in the scarcity of sufficient water in these natural resources of water.

All the major environmental issues have been dealt by the poet to make the people cross check their activities towards the Earth's ecology. The demolition of trees and plants naturally ends any chance of healthy rainfalls and there becomes the uncontrolled increase in the presence or storage of poisonous pollutants in the air. Modern people have become so selfish and mechanized that they often overlook or neglect the blessings of nature. K.V. Dominic successfully convince the mankind that mother Earth is in pain and her pain is quite unbearable in face of environmental tyranny. The poet attributes the Earth as a living soul or organism in his whole poem. The tribal people are very much friendly towards the Earth's environment. These people "believe all nature is sacrosanct, that the Earth itself as a living organism is capable of experiencing pain and pleasure"( Chandra and Das, P. 32.)

Therefore, each and every people residing on this Earth must abide by the ethics her environment and stop plundering her precious assets in name of enjoying a lavish life. The poet Balloon Dhingra in his 'Factories are Eyesores' raises the environmental issue of the continuous pollution of the air through the existence of factories in bulk.

"The factories, eyesores as you say  
 Make iron lines against the sky.  
 Standing to eastward, gaunt and high  
 They belch black smoke by night and day,  
 Blots on the landscape, as you say".(5)

The lines of the poem refers to the poet's eco-centric thoughts which compels the over-ambitious people of this technological era to ponder over the present and prospective dangers of the increasing smoke which has only one tendency to be dissolved in the air of the natural environment. Over-pollution of the natural air is one of the primary reasons for respiratory and skin related infections and the victims can be the entire living beings of nature. The initial lines of the stanza expose the bitter truth of the intensity of the release of suffocating smokes which even form a thick layer across the sky. Smokes are the main cause behind acidic rainfalls over a particular area because of its formation in succession. The poet, Balloon

Dhingra, might have observed the pathetic condition of the atmosphere while spending his time near by the factories.

"Weary and desperate with toil  
Man labors in that acrid space,  
Time and again he turns his face  
Away from grimy smoke and soil  
To pray he shall have done with toil".  
(6 -10)

The above lines of the poem dig the reality of the pitiable condition of the factory workers. Their lives are on the threshold of unpredictable dangers. Factories or industries demand heavy labor from the workers. Accordingly, the workers wholeheartedly try their utmost to finish the work within the fixed or stipulated time so as to please their masters. In the midst of the ongoing strenuous toil they even forget that anyhow they are living beings made of flesh and blood and are not the robots which never experience bodily fatigue and pain. Balloon Dhingra is really perturbed to observe the employees working under unhealthy and adverse conditions. They get victimized with prolong illness because of the over-generation of black smokes which increase the temperature of the workplace and the air becomes toxic.

### **Conclusion:**

Both K. V. Dominic and Balloon Dhingra have composed their eco-sensitive poems with commitment and honesty. These poets also represent the human species who reside in a large number on this beautiful planet named the Earth. That's why they have a strong sense-perception of understanding the main causes of the environmental crisis. In addition to this, they are very much practical in their creative writings and have minutely observed the modern people selfish conduct towards their physical environment. The select poems of these two poets disclose that any ecological imbalance has a direct or strong connection with humans' boundless aspirations. The exploitations of forests, rivers, brooks, mountains, wild animals, birds, etc., can never bring an evergreen and permanent satisfaction, peace and prosperity in the lives of the technocrat people.

Installing the factories or the industrial premises in a chain on a particular region of the natural landscape often proves unproductive in terms of its severe impact on the health and hygiene of the working people and the other creatures residing the nearby area. The increasing pollution in the air and the extinction of even a bird from the natural environment will be responsible for the ecological unrest across the Earth. Something is better than not doing anything. In this regard, the owners of the factories have to ensure the proper purification of the natural air and take a concrete initiation to minimize the discharge of

harmful gases and smokes in order to counterbalance the present ecological imbalance of our mother Earth.

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