

A brief history of the Environmental Movements IN INDIA

The green politics or green movement or environmental movement can be defined as a social movement for the conservation of the environment or for the improvement of the state policy especially inclined towards the environment. In other words, it is the movement to protect the environment through changes in public policy. Here we are giving a brief history of the 'Environmental Movements' in India.

BISHNOI MOVEMENT :- Bishnoi is a religious sect found in the western Thar Desert and northern states of India. It was founded by Guru Maharaj Jambhaji in 1485 A.D. in the Marwar (Jodhpur) desert region of western Rajasthan India. It is a non-violent community of nature worshippers. This movement was started by Sage Sombhaji around 1700 A.D. against deforestation. After that Amrita Devi forwarded the movement. The 363 people from the Bishnoi community were killed in the protest when the king of this region came to know the protest and killing them he rushed to the village and apologized and declared the region's protected area. It was noteworthy that this legislation still exists today.

CHIPKO MOVEMENT :- It was launched from Gopeshwar in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand in 1973. The movement was to prevent illegal cutting of trees in the Himalayan region (Uttarakhand). Sunderlal Bahuguna and Chandi Prasad

Bhatt were the leaders of this movement. The most notable characteristics of this movement were the involvement of women.

3. APPIKO MOVEMENT: — In 1983 on the lines of Chipko movement, Pandurang Hegde launched a movement which is come to known as Appiko movement in Karnataka. Its main objectives were afforestation as well as development, conservation and proper utilization of forest in the best manner. The meaning of Appiko is to express one's affection for a tree by embracing it.
4. SILENT VALLEY MOVEMENT: — It is an area of tropical evergreen forests in Kerala. It is very rich in biodiversity. The environmentalists and the local people strongly objected to the hydel power project being setup here in 1973. Under pressure, the government had to declare it the national reserve forests in 1985.
5. JUNGLE BACHAO ANDOLAN: — The tribal community of Singhbhum districts of Jharkhand (Previously it was a district of India during the British Raj, part of the Chotanagpur Division of the Bengal Presidency) agitated against the forest policy of the government in 1982. The Government wanted to replace the natural soil, forests with the high-priced teak. Many environmentalists refer to this movement as 'Greed Game political Populism'.

6. NARMADA BACHAO MOVEMENT: — The environmentalist and the local people started protest against the building of Dams on the Narmada for the production of hydro-electricity since 1985 which was popularly known as Narmada Bachao Andolan. Medha Patkar has been the leader of this Andolan who got support from the Arundhati Roy, Baba Amte and Aamir Khan.
7. TEHRI DAM CONFLICT: — This movement was started by the local people around 1980s and 1990s because the Dam Project would be constructed in the seismic sensitive region and people think that it causes submergence of forest area along with Tehri town. Despite of protest the construction of the Dam is being carried out with police protection as Sundarlal Bahuguna is sitting on fast unto death. After assurance from the government to review the project Bahuguna ended his fast but construction goes on, though at a slower pace.

Hence we can say numerous grass root environmental movements were started against the developmental activities that have endangered the ecological balance that changes the public policy more inclined towards the environment.