



THE CASE STUDY OF 8 UNSUNG HEROES IN CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Abstract:

In this globalized era, we are only talking about climate change, Global Warming, safeguarding our natural environment, preservation of biodiversity and conservation of our depleting earth. But practically nothing much is done. But time has now come to think, re-think and do something ourselves to save our earth. The history speaks about the work of stalwarts in environmental movement like Wangari Mathai for Green Belt Movement, Dr. Al Gore from USA for An inconvenient Truth, Sunderlal Bahuguna for Chipko movement, Ramkrishna Hegde for Appico and Dr. Rajendra Singh for water movement and Sadguru for his Global save soil movement. So this paper is an attempt in this direction depicting the case studies of five unsung heroes from India who are trying to conserve and preserve biodiversity, fight the pollution and the effects of global warming by small gestures in their day to day life without expecting anything from anybody in return. They are just interested in making all of us aware about it. The lesson for us to learn is that we should not ask the govt. to do something for us, rather we should do something to save ourselves. We should change our Environment Harming habits.

Key Words: *Global Warming, Preservation, Biodiversity, Green Belt, Inconvenient Truth, Climate Change, Tree Doctor Etc.*

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Introduction:

Environmental protection, environmental management, sustainability of the environment are commonly used words not only by the media but also by the common man, nowadays. Increasing population and the ruthless attitude of the exploitation of the environment, knowingly or unknowingly; is resulting in depletion of resources leading to Global warming, acid rain, cloud burst, heavy rainfall, pollution, ozone layer depletion. Students are also told about them in Geography or in Environmental studies. So everyone is aware about what are the mishaps with the

environment. But very few people are bothered about it. There are stalwarts like Dr. Wangari Muta Mathai who started planting saplings wherever needed since her college days and could avoid deforestation happening not only in her country Kenya but also in nearby countries. So she could plant more than 3 crore saplings in 30 years and that is why her name was nominated for the Nobel Peace prize and she received the prize in the category of protection of Environment, for the first time. But there are few people who also are helping the environment to restore it in their own way and who work as the unsung heroes of the environment. Maybe



the work is in a small portion, but they have contributed and hence can be called as the Unsung Heroes of the ENVIRONMENT.

Hypothesis: Individual efforts of common men are also praiseworthy in environment protection.

Methodology used: Secondary data collected through different books on environment, website, videos, documentaries, films, and articles in newspapers etc.

They are enlisted as follows. These names appear to be not familiar and famous. But the work they are doing for the protection of the environment is really praiseworthy.

1. Vava Suresh – Kerala –Rescuing poisonous snakes
2. Dinesh Goswamy- Factory worker- Saving the sharks
3. Marine conservationist and saver of Mangroves: Mr. Deepak Apte
4. Vijay Nishant : Urban conservationist
5. Yoganathan: Bus conductor: saving the trees and sapling
6. Tanvi Vaidyanathan, Ph.D. student , saving the seahorses
7. Pamela and Anil Malhotra : SAI sanctuary
8. Aviram Rozin: Sadhana Forest near Auroville

1. Vava Suresh from Kerala

Vava Suresh from Kerala born in 1974 is a wildlife

conservationist and snake expert. Till date , has saved 116 King cobras, considered the deadliest among snakes and allowed them to live happily in the jungles and also saved the common man from their deadly biting. He also educates the people about the role of the snakes in the ecosystem. He also says that the snakes are the friends of the farmers. He hosts the show entitled as Snake Master on Kaumudi TV to popularize his statement that the snakes are the friends of the farmers.He denied the job offered to him by the state Forest Department. He received the Vocational Service Award from Rotary club in 2011.Even Prince Charles met him in 2013 on his way to India.

2. Dinesh Goswami from Gujarat runs the NGO “Prakruti”. Since 1977 he has rescued over 500 sharks . He is just a normal factory worker.But understands the need to conserve this shark to save the ecosystem. He accidentally met award winner of films Mr. Mike Pande and got influenced to conserve the marine creatures like Dolphins, crocodiles and sea turtles with his friend.
3. Deepak Apte is the Director of Bombay Natural History society and also a marine conservationist. Since last 30 years, he has also devoted time for the study of mangroves which protect the sea coast from flooding.



Mangroves are the gifts of the sea as they are salt-tolerant, self-maintaining forest ecosystems of tropical and subtropical intertidal regions on the coastal belts. They occur along sheltered shores, estuaries, tidal creeks, backwaters, salt marshes and coastal mudflats and save the coast in flooding. The mangroves also play a crucial role in holding coastal soil and silt, and preventing erosion. The total area of mangroves in India is about 6,740 sq. km, which is about 7 per cent of the world's total

area of mangroves. We were saved on 26th July 2005, only because of Mangroves.

4. Tanvi Vaidyanathan is pursuing her Ph.D. on conservation of seahorses at the Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries , The University of British Columbia, Canada.

She was fascinated to do this project as the Govt. of India has imposed a ban on smuggling of seahorses. So she is thrilled to do this project on seahorses.



In 2001, in India, seahorses were placed under Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 that prohibits their catch and export. It is economically viable for the fishers to trade seahorses, which means that they continue to do so despite the bans trying to look at how current policy measures impact the conservation status of the seahorse.

The main aim of Project Seahorse is to protect seahorses, and through seahorses, they support conservation of the entire marine ecosystem.

She says the Bans put by the Govt. of India, really protects the wildlife and helps in conservation of biodiversity on the globe.

5. Vijay Nishant : A Tree Doctor

1. A tree doctor who tries to save the trees being killed by the contractors and builders in Bengaluru by poisoning them in the trunk.
2. People call him a “ Tree Doctor”.
3. He and his team has completed the census of trees in Bengaluru in 2010.
4. He tries to find out the problem the tree has, whether the tree is suffering from any bacterial or fungal infection.
5. He also helps the govt. to transport and migrate the tree from one area to other to help the govt. to adjust the route of the Metro line. So that he does not allow any single tree to die, rather to protect and conserve them.



He is the founder of **Vruksha Foundation**. It is engaged in scientific tree census and creating a biodiversity portal. A computer science dropout, has got interested in conservation of trees when the tree felling started faster in Jayanagar where he lived.

6. Pamela and Anil K Malhotra

Pamela and Anil Malhotra , are the owners of SAI sanctuary .They have bought 55 acres of land 23 years ago in Karnataka's Kodagu district, and today

they have converted it into a beautiful forest of over 300 acres. The forest in Brahmagiri, a mountain range in the Western Ghats, houses the Malhotras' **Save Animals Initiative (SAI) Sanctuary**.

It is a first Private wildlife sanctuary in our country.

It has more than 300 kinds of birds as well as many rare and threatened animal species.



The couple had a love for nature from their childhood. When the Malhotras came to India in 1986, the pollution in Haridwar horrified them. They thought it must be because of the ruthless cutting of trees leading to pollution. So both decided to do something to reclaim the forests in

India.

7. Yoganathan Marimuthu : Conductor turned a Tree Man

Yoganathan, born in 1969, is a common man working as a conductor on a Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation Bus in Chennai. In

his school days he used to write and sing poems in Kotagiri Forest. He is a member of Tree Trust and fought against the Timber Mafia for felling trees. He uses 40% of his monthly salary towards buying

saplings an educating children. But during his free time he has been planting saplings for the past 32 years and has planted 4,20,000 saplings till date.



He has single-handedly planted more than 38,000 trees in last 32 years. He is called a **Green Crusader** in a **CBSE class V** General Knowledge textbook. He received Eco-warrior award from Vice president of India and also Real –Hero’s award from CNN-IBN, and also Suttru Suzhal Sevai Veerar Award.

8. Aviram Rozin: An immigrant who created Sadhana Forest near Auroville

Aviram Rozin and his family came to India from Israel in 2003. With wife Yorit and daughter Osher, he tried to transform a seventy acre barren land with the help of local volunteers into a lush green patch near Auroville in Tamilnadu. They planted seeds of endangered species and edible plants. Now after 19 years there lies a forest, teeming with life and greenery. They call this land as **Sadhana forest**.

Today, it has turned into an eco-friendly settlement with thatched houses, wind pump, solar powered LED lighting, compost toilets and a kitchen with energy efficient stoves. Some 18000 indigenous trees have been planted so far on 70 acre mostly eroded land.

Conclusion:

1. All of them are simple common men working in their own way.
2. They don't know each other.
3. They have started their work as per their own willingness and interest.
4. They belong to different parts of India.
5. Their educational background also differs.
6. The only common thread between them is: all of them love nature.
7. Their efforts have started showing results, slowly but steadily.
8. They have set the examples as trendsetters for all of us.
9. We can consider them as our role models and start working for environmental conservation.

Lesson to be learnt from them:

1. Don't wait for the Govt. to do something for you.
2. It is the time for you to do something for nature.
3. You should become your own Torch bearer, as there is a dire need to protect and conserve nature.
4. They are walking on their path so that we can take some guidance from them.
5. Gandhiji has rightly said,



“The earth has enough to satisfy our need ,but not to satisfy our Greed.’

Refereces and Bibliography:

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