

Editorial

We are living in a corona pandemic environment. Despite this, we are going ahead. Let us hope for a coming future. The current issue of BJB is designed by the articles on the ethical issues in the environment. Following is a brief sum-up of each paper:

The article by Akim M. Rahman and Saadi Islam entitled ***“Effluent Gases Emission from Brickfields in Bangladesh: Policy Guidance Underpinning Bioethical Grounds Mitigating Emission Levels”*** shows how CO₂, SO₂, NO_x, CH₄, CO, etc emit from brickfields in Bangladesh for using faulty technology. They survey how does old wood-coal burns technology causes environmental pollution? They conclude Government should underpin bioethical grounds in the management of brickfields in national strategies and policy actions.

Kenyan philosopher Henry Odera Oruka proposed that punishment should be abolished as punishment does not reform a person who commits a crime. The paper by Besong Eric Ndoma and Egbonu John Okwuchukwu entitled ***“Oruka’s Punishment Abolition as a Challenge to Environmental Ethics”*** propose that if Oruka’s punishment abolition theory is practiced in environmental issues that will be a great challenge to human society. According to them Oruka’s punishment theory should be abolished and should not be implemented in the environment.

Elizabeth Okon John and Nelson Robert Enang in their article entitled ***“Revisiting the Discourse on Human-Nature Relationship in African Traditional Religion and the Responses to Environmental Change”*** propose that the African traditional religious belief is human-nature centered. However, some authors criticize human-nature-centered African traditional religious beliefs as anthropocentric. This article tries to simplify this complex issue.

In the article entitled ***“Towards Curbing Environmental Degradation in Contemporary Africa: Reverting to Traditional Conservation?”*** written by Godwin Adinya Ogabo, Salifu Joyce Mary suggests that the dangerous threat posed by environmental degradation signals the worse doom for future generations. Though significant attention has been laid down to find out the solutions to environmental degradation, not much seems to have been achieved, especially in Africa. It has therefore become pertinent and urgent to backpedal down memory lane to how the environment was conserved in traditional African societies.

Ojong, Lawrence Odey in the paper entitled ***“The Effects of Man’s Activities on the Environment and Humanity: The way forward”*** shows how man's activity negatively impacts the environment. This work emphasizes that we should love nature, respect nature, and limit the use of nature for future generations.

Environmental ethics is currently getting importance in academic considerations. Various public and private institutions such as universities and research centers output throughout the world are now paying attention and seriousness to the environment. The article entitled ***“What ought we do to bring back environmental integrity”*** written by Samson Eliudi Kyejo and Shamima Parvin Lasker focus on what mankind ought to do regarding the cross-cuttingness of environmental problems.

The article by Olaniyan Adeola Seleem and Shamima Parvin Lasker entitled ***“Theocentrism is not Anthropocentric: An Enlightened Environmentalist Reading of the Holy Qur'an”*** looks for the philosophy of the Quranic explanation of environmental ethics. Humans should

come down from their destructive arrogance stool to take the best cognizance of the fact that nature is a sculptural work of God. Their failure to realize this fact has been responsible for their formulation of the secular environmental theories e.g. anthropocentrism, zoocentrism, biocentrism, ecocentrism, and the hybrid eco-feminism. Romanced with these theories the Holy Scriptures are implicated by reading in the light of one of these theories and considered anthropocentric. As a matter of fact, the best of these secular theories should never be taken to be representing the theocentric view of the environment.

Hope you enjoy reading articles on environmental ethics issues.

Warm Regards

Arif Hossain PhD

Professor & Course Coordinator, Human Rights

Vice President, Bangladesh Bioethics Society

Member, Editorial Board, Bangladesh Journal of Bioethics