

What is environmental movement? How it evolved through the course of history? What measures do you suggest to strengthen the voice for green drive?

1- INTRODUCTION:

Environmental degradation is the burning question of this century & started after industrial revolution in 18th century, but did not show its effects till 19th century, when the negligence of human started showing its effects, people started movements to protect environment and natural resources. These efforts were called environmental movements. The movements gained momentum in mid 20th century and world leaders expedited the process of conserving and protecting environment. The movements are still the part of efforts to save environment. Green politics is also part of environmental movements. However, there are still some loopholes that need to be plugged.

2- ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS:

The exploitation of environment by human after industrial revolution is no longer a question therefore, people started showing their grief over the degradation

of environment. These demonstrations were called environmental movements. These movements can be defined as.

"The social, political and scientific efforts to protect the environment are called environmental movements."

These movements evolved with the passage of time and address the specific issue of the respective time.

3 - EVOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS THROUGH THE COURSE OF HISTORY:

When people started realizing the adverse impact of industrialization they started uprising that led to political and scientific efforts of the leaders.

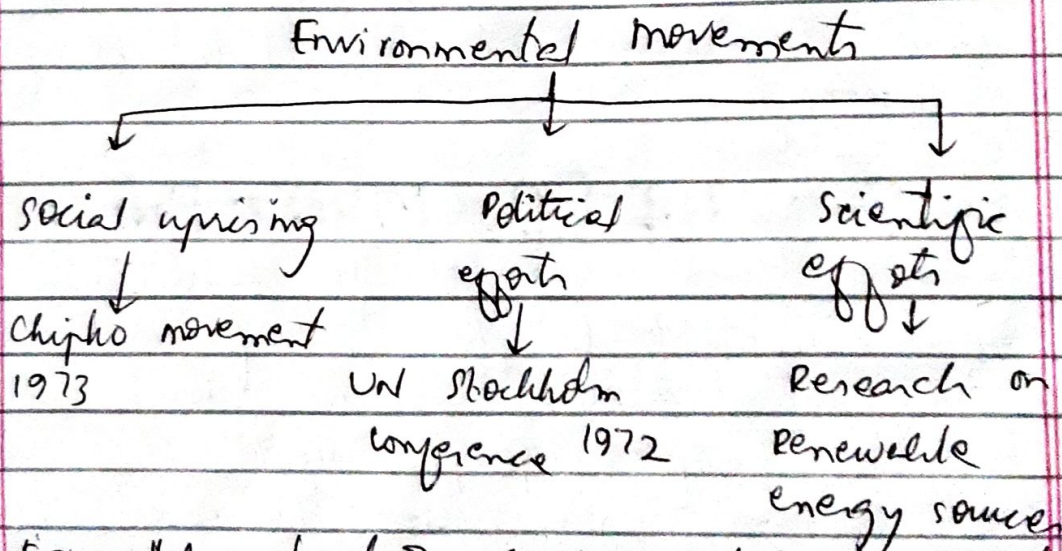


Figure #1: Tools of environmental movements

The flow chart show the roots of environmental movement. These movements evolved with the passage of time and percolated almost every field of life. A timeline of environmental movements and all the political steps is shown below.

- 1863 — Alkali Act was passed in UK
- 1869 — Protection of Sea Bird act of UK
- 1961 — World Wildlife Fund
- 1962 — Silent Spring by Rachel Carson
- 1969 — Greenpeace and Friends of Earth organization was formed.
- 1970 — First Earth Day was celebrated
- 1972 — Stockholm conference.
- 1973 — Chipko movement in Bhopal, India
- 1973 — Silent Valley
- 1979 — Beginning of Green politics, values party of New Zealand was formed
- 1980 — German Green Party was found
- 1987 — Brundtland Report and concept of sustainable development
- 1992 — Rio Summit and Agenda 21
- 2000 — Millennium Development Goals
- 2015 — Sustainable Development Goals
- 2015 — Paris Climate Accord
- 2022 — COP27 and Damage and Restoration Fund
- 2022 — Green Politics is also in and onwards continuation

Timeline of evolution of environmental movements.

4 - PHASES OF ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS:

The timeline shows that the environmental movements are in continuation since more than a century. These years can be divided into phases.

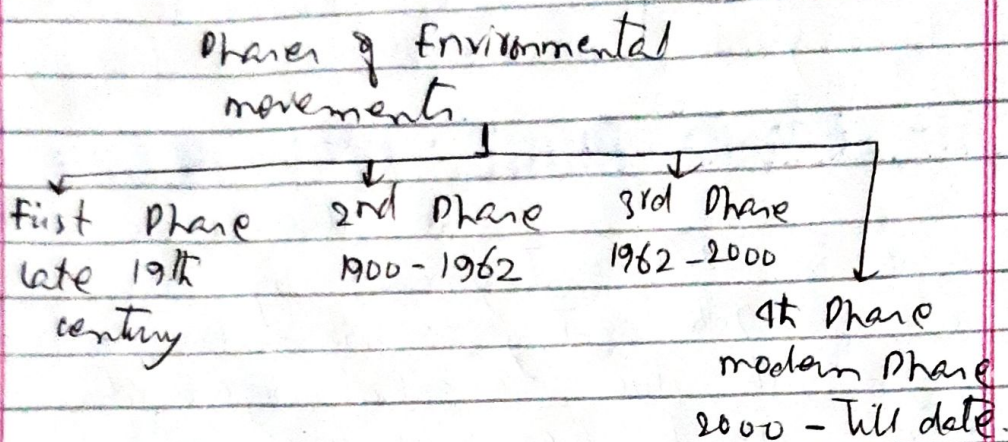


Figure # 2: Phases of environmental movements

I - FIRST PHASE: 19th CENTURY:

Industrial Revolution expanded to whole world by mid of 19th century. The adverse impact of the exploitation of resources such as fossil fuel and water bodies were also observed then.

a - Alkali Act of 1963:

In 1963, UK passed the Alkali Act. It was passed to curb the discharge of dangerous gases to air.

to prevent air pollution.

b - Protection of Sea Bird Act of 1869.

The hunting of sea birds was at its peak in 1860s in UK. There was a serious threat of extinction of these birds. Therefore, the parliament imposed a limitation on hunting to prevent loss of biodiversity.

ii - SECOND PHASE: 1900-1962:

The situation was worst in 20th century and by the mid of 20th century environment was given its due attention. Organizations were found, Green political parties were found, people started protests and political leaders started taking steps.

1961

a - Formation of organizations:

in 1961, World Wildlife Fund was found. Its main aim was the preservation of wildlife but today the aim has expanded. Hereafter in 1969, Greenpeace and Friends of Earth was also founded.

b - Intellectuals started writing:

writers and authors of that time took notice and wrote

about the damage human had done to the environment. In 1962, Rachel Carson wrote *Silent Spring* and set the theme on fire. Moreover, Ralph Nader wrote *Unsafe at any speed* in 1965.

iii - THIRD PHASE: 1962 - 2000:

c - Social uprising:

After the publication of *Silent Spring*, people also started uprising. Chipko movement was run in Bhopal, India in 1973 to prevent deforestation. Another such event took place in India in 1973 named Silent Valley.

d - Political aspects and environment began to be on the agenda of Global leaders:

In 1972, first conference on the theme of environment, was held in Stockholm named UN Conference on Human Environment 1972. Hereafter, a series of conventions, protocols and accords started such as Rio Summit 1992, Agenda 21, MPOs and SDGs.

e - Beginning of Green Politics:

It was in 20th century, when Green Politics began. In 1979, the first ever Green Party

was formed in New Zealand named
Value Party. Hereafter, German
Green Party was formed in 1980.
These parties' main agenda is
protection of environment.

IV - 4th PHASE: MODERN PHASE: 2000 - TILL DATE:

By the end of
20th century, the efforts to conserve
and protect environment were
expedited. The question is still
open today and consequences of
human's negligent behaviour can
be seen in terms of disaster.

a - Efforts at international level:
In 21st century, political
leaders are doing efforts to reverse
the damage their predecessors have
done to environment. For example,
Sustainable Development Goals of
2015, Paris Climate Accord 2015 and
COP 27.

b - Social Uprising:
Society there are uprisings
and demonstrations. There are
environmental activists. Some of the
leading names are Greta Thunberg,
Anna Core and Diha Ravi. Moreover,

the protest of underdeveloped and poor countries to demand the damage is also another kind of environmental movement.

c- Green Politics:

Countries are practising Green Politics. Current President of Chile, named Gabriel Boric is a member of Green Party. Gustavo Petro is also a Green Party leader in Columbia. Both of these leaders are pursuing Green Politics.

The above analysis shows that with the passage of time, environmental movements have gathered momentum and expanded globally.

5-MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE VOICE OF GREEN DRIVE:

The world realized the environmental degradation in 20th century, but the situation is out of control even today. It simply means that there are some loopholes in the way human is dealing with problems. These problems need to be solved to take full advantage of these initiatives for the preservation of environment.

i - PENALTIES ON THE COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE AGREEMENTS:

In history, there have been times when some countries withdrew from the agreements that were done for the protection of environment. For example in 2000, US withdrew from Kyoto Protocol. To prevent this there should be a penalty so that the advantage of these agreements could be observed. It will help the Green Drive.

ii - SUPER-POWER TAKES LEADERSHIP:

To steer whole world to the right path, superpower should take the responsibility and it should bring all the nations on one page to strengthen the Green Drive.

iii - MAINSTREAM UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES:

Developed countries must mainstream underdeveloped countries, and their grievances must be listened to strengthen the green drive. Financial and technical assistance must be given to these countries.

IV - GREEN POLITICS:

"There is no left or right wing now,
it is politics of life and
politics of death"

Giustino Petio
(President of Columbia)

Giustino Petio emphasizes that there are more important and dangerous phenomena happening than mere international rivalries. Therefore, to save the planet global leaders must let go on the past and join hands to save the earth. US and China are rival countries and two biggest economies of the world. To strengthen the green drive in the world all nations must add environment to their political agenda and must adopt green politics.

V - EDUCATE AND MAINSTREAM LOCALS:

In addition to adopting green ways at industrial level, the locals who are the end-users must also be educated to prevent all the habits that degrade environment. It will strengthen green drive the most.

6- CONCLUSION:

In short, environmental movements started more than a century ago and have been instrumental in making people realize the importance of preservation of environment. Still, there are many things that have not been addressed. Environment is still pleading with human to stop its degradation and there are many issues to be resolved. There is still a need to avert the acts of human and find more ways to protect environment.