



Research Paper

Man And Wildlife Conflict:- A Case Study of Dhenkanal District, Odisha

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Abstract:

The turbulence of the wild animals aggravating the man-animal dispute to a higher level day by day. The agro-economy at the village level and the livelihood is getting disturbed due to the nuisance of the wild animals and it's direct impact upon the agriculture as well as livelihood. While the destruction made by the wild elephants coming in front the deeds of the monkeys both red and black faced along with the wild boar increasing the headache of the nearby and affected people. Though the destruction made by the wild animals making the adverse impact upon the village economy the compensation made by the government is not in the easiest reach of the affected people. It is a case study how the man-animal conflict influencing the village level economy.

Key Words:

Turbulence, Wildlife, Animal, Aggravating, Disturbed, Compensation, Primitive, Conflict, Environment, Elephant, Agriculture.

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I. Introduction :

The primitive man living in caves and Jungles was a wild animal. First man was a simple minded food gathered and hunter. He hunted wild animals for food (meat) and clothing (skin). Later, with the development of agriculture, man becomes a farmer. Next man started domesticating other wild animals like Oxen, Buffaloes, Camels, Horses, Dogs and Elephants for a variety of purposes. Man started living in groups in societies. He began to exploit his environment to meet various needs. Over exploitation and heavy demand on natural resources has led to depletion of wildlife. Many wild animals and plants have become extinct due to human interference with nature. Man as the highly evolved species encroached over the rights and privileges of other species. Instead of fulfilling its basic needs, man became greedy. This had led to conflict between man and wildlife. Man himself is often a victim of his short sighted activities. From the time man began to use his super intelligence, he became progressively self centered and in the process started degrading and destroying the natural environment. His attempt to dominate nature, shape the environment to suit himself for his own benefit has led to the present, precarious condition i.e. a conflict between man and wildlife.

Man And Wildlife Conflict in Dhenkanal :

The wild animals including elephants are rushing to the locality now-a-days due to the severe food crisis in their natural habitat. The man made deforestation causing the devastation of their food and shelter and compelling them to enter into the human habitation and for which the man-animal tussle is growing day by day. The man-animal wild encounter taking their life in vice-versa now-a-days. In this tussle the elephant the only but the precious animal in the Jungle is compensating a lot. For the easy survival of elephants there is a requirement of a huge plantation of pipal, banion, wild banana, and bamboo trees. Illegal mineral blastings in the forest areas should be banned, industrial establishment in the elephant corridor should be banned, under pass and by pass should be made near the train lines, speed limit should be controlled near the elephant corridor and speed limit instruction board should be installed. There restriction on the movement of heavy vehicle, especially trucks and other transport

vehicle should be done on the elephant cross corridor in the national high ways. The save wild life awareness should be created among the people. To decrease the tussle between man and elephant especially happening since last five-six years in Dhenkanal district a special debate is required by which a proper plan could have been made to eradicate the problems arising to save the wild life in the forest range of Dhenkanal district.

Conflict Between Man and Wildlife :

A. Once, crocodiles were listed as critically endangered species. But in recent years, due to conservation measures, their number has increased dramatically. Often, they invade into places of human habitation and pose a great threat to their lives.

B. Tiger is the national animal of India. It is a threatened species, several tiger projects have been under taken for their protection and conservation. Native people enter into forests to collect fire woods, food and other forest products. Local people staying near Sundarban National Park often fall victim to the Royal Bengal Tigers.

C. Every year, thousands of Olive Ridley sea turtles comes to Gahirmatha (Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary) for mass nesting. Fishing by the local people in the coastal waters has been banned by the state government. The natives face difficulties to earn their livelihood due to ban in fishing.

D. Urbanization necessitates construction of new roads, dams, bridges, water reservoirs, new buildings, which puts an adverse impact in the wildlife. Often due to habitat loss and disturbance, the wild animals enter into human settlements in cities and townships creating problem for the local people.

E. Due to over exploitation of fishing zones, government has banned fishing in the sea up to a certain depth during monsoon. This is aimed at restoration i.e. to improve the productivity of fishes. But the local fishermen are affected by such actions.

F. Many times in the past, elephants have come out of the Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary and strayed into the capital city of Bhubaneswar and nearby villages, mainly due to the loss of their habitat. They destroy crops and cause human casualties.

It is an unexpected headache for the army, an unlikely embarrassment for the government and an unwelcome challenge for the railways. Elephants in India are on the rampage, coming into conflict with man frequently. In Assam elephants have been raiding army depots, eating rations and drinking liquor, leaving a trail of destruction. There are instances of stray elephants terrorizing villagers, destroying home and crops. Human - elephant conflict is at a peak now in the forests of Assam, Meghalaya and Odisha. Probably, the elephants are showing their expression of protest, but still we don't understand their language.

So what is the link between a villager's life and a predator ? "The tigers and the leopards are the apex of the food chain. They are the equalizer's, the balancers of the forest ecosystem". They do not let the population of monkeys, deer and other animals go out of control. For example, look in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where the leopards have been killed and the populations of monkeys and wild boar have exploded. And now they are coming into farms and destroying farms and for local communities, farming has become impossible 3,000 to 5,000 farmers in one area have stopped farming. Had the leopard been there it would have kept the populations (of the marauding animals) low. So this is an environmental issue we have caused by our own activity. Though ignorance of what role the predator actually plays.

We need the tiger," the hydrological cycle of the planet is controlled by our forests and that is very important for people to understand. We need the forest, and the forest is protected by the tiger and it has to have a chain. The grass needs to be trimmed so you need deer to eat that, you need the pollination so you need the butterfly". The local communities that live around the sanctuaries, their livelihood, their concerns, have to be taken into consideration. They have to be involved if we want to protect the tiger."

He notes that information on tiger's habits, movements and territory comes from the local people and they are very poor and I think it should become mandatory for resorts and people who charge thousands of dollars for (lodgings and safaris) to take 70 to 80 percent of their staff and work force from the surrounding area. Train them, empower them and make them partners and once the local communities begin to derive a benefit from the Sanctuaries you will have all the villagers turn into policemen to safeguard their own interest.

II. Conclusion :

Education and information, particularly through the medium of film, are the keys to drawing ordinary people into finding solutions that will protect the environment and animals, while respecting human's needs to procreate, survive and lift their standard of living.

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