

Ecocritical Reading of Thomas King's Select Novels

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Chapter VI

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Summation

A balanced ecosystem comprises of various species of flora and fauna which are interdependent on each other. Polluting the earth by dumping waste materials into the natural environment happened after industrial revolution. Though it increased the production of commodities and services, indiscrete pollution has resulted in tremendous increase in waste as byproducts. The haphazard discharge of unprocessed industrial and biohazard wastes into ocean, disgorging green house gases into the atmosphere, nuclear waste disposal and landfills have paved way for the environmental disasters worldwide. Along with industrialization, discovery of fuel powered vehicle and increase of human population led to intensive pollution of the environment.

In ancient times, the First Nations people used primitive eco-friendly boats that helped people to navigate river routes. The early colonial settlers used canoes which were invented by First Nations people to trade from one colony to another. Thomas King gives the reference of canoe in the novel *Medicine River*. Harlen asks Will to buy a canoe in a big estate sale in order to revive the memories of his ancestors. Will who has spent most of the years in town, is not willing to spend so much of money on the canoe. He says, “The Blackfoot didn’t use canoes” (King, “Medicine” 241). Harlen explains the fact, “Sure they did. Some of the world’s greatest canoeists” (King, “Medicine” 241). Will is not convinced so he asks Louise’s suggestion and she supports Harlen. After buying they go canoeing and after reaching the deeper part of the river, heavy waves throw them out of the canoe. Will loves the adventure and they plan to do it every weekend. Thomas

King brings out the fact that ancient culture is deeply linked with nature. The increased production of vehicles and commodities made people lose their connection with local waterways transport.

Thomas King brings in a similar incident in the novel *Truth and Bright Water*. Capitalists manipulate Native people by making use of their poverty. They employ Tecumseh's father to dispose bio-hazardous wastes into the reserve. Tecumseh's father has no option but to dispose them in order to get rid of his poverty. When Tecumseh looks at the barrels he is shocked, "Each barrels is made out of yellow plastic, and each has a red and white sticker that says Bio-Hazardous Waste" (King, "Truth" 82). He asks his father whether it is killer viruses for which he replies, "It's the junk hospitals can't toss down the sink" (King, "Truth" 82). These wastes pollute the land and bring great threat to the environment.

Landfill is another issue in which most of the solid wastes are dumped together in the same area. Thomas King has mentioned about the landfills in his novel *Truth and Bright Water* and he reveals the fact that most of the landfills are in the reserve where native people are relocated. The reservation is the land allotted for the Native people and most of the reserves are far from the main town so the government selects these reserves to dump solid wastes. In the novel *Truth and Bright Water*, Lum shows Tecumseh the area which is used for landfill. The edge of the coulee near the river has collapsed and a part of the mud has cut into the river bottom.

I look again, and now I can see that it's not a slide at all. The coulee hasn't fallen away. It's been cut back and leveled off, the dirt pushed over the sides and down the hill. Along the edges of the cut, you can see thick tire ruts in the soft earth... As we watch, the bulldozer drags the pile into the

light, and for a moment, I can see the boxes and plastic sacks and the drifts of loose debris, and then the machine stretches, effortlessly, and shoves everything over the edge of the slide. The seagulls rise up in a cloud, screaming, and the bulldozer backs up, thrusts its blunt nose into the earth again, spreads a blanket of dirt over everything, and buries it whole.

(King, "Truth" 152-153)

The continuous dumping gives room of emission of green house gases and a few contain extreme amount of toxins. In addition to that, the construction of landfills has environmental effects. The landfill construction alters the landscape which results in adverse loss of habitats and the animal species are displaced. Socio-economic impacts of landfills include public health issues and groundwater contamination.

Plastic waste deteriorates the environment. The production of plastic has increased in the recent years because of its convenience. Thomas King elaborates upon plastic debris polluting the river. Soldier, Tecumseh's dog finds something floating on the river and runs to the spot. Tecumseh chases Soldier and after reaching a certain distance, he is able to see something pale blue and swollen bobbling up and down in the water. Initially it appears to be like a body. Soldier dives into the water and drags the object and Tecumseh realizes that it is not a body but some plastic trash.

It looks like one of those thin plastic tarps you see on the back of pickups, only it's much smaller. But when I try to lift it, it's heavier than I expect and it feels soft and swollen, as though it's been filled up with thick cream or jello. Soldier watches me as I turn it over. While the one side is blue and feels cold and slick, the other side is white and thick and feels more

like cloth. There are stains on this side, yellow and brown bruises that float in circles and fans on the surface. It's a pad of some sort, but what it reminds me of most is a heavy blanket or a wet diaper. (King, "Truth" 172)

When the plastics are burnt, they release harmful chemicals which are highly toxic. Most of the toxins mixes with food supply and becomes highly concentrated as they mix up with the food chain.

Environmental impacts have direct and indirect effects. The direct effects include aquatic lives which are highly affected due to such debris. The aquatic species happens to eat the debris mistaking it for food and suffer ingestion and in many cases they die. The indirect effects are seen while removing the debris from the seashore. Mechanical beach raking is the common thing used to collect the debris from the shore. This process might harm the habitats at the seashore and can cause beach erosion. The recent study shows that small particles of plastics are found in salts that people consume. In the novel *The Back of the Turtle*, Thomas King explains about the debris at the seashore through Sonny.

Throughout the novel, Sonny salvages things from the seashore.

Each day on the beach, the world begins anew. Fresh. Clean. Full of salvage. Sonny bends down and rakes the hammer through sand. He likes the designs that the claw makes, and sometimes he finds things people have lost.

Eyeglasses.

Rings.

Baby soothers.

Car keys. (King, "Turtle" 51).

Sonny creates a lighthouse using all the collected debris to create hope and to bring back their people to the Smoke River reserve.

The economic growth of the world is highly reliant on power sectors. Consumption of non-renewable sources is inevitable as electricity is very much needed to almost all the industries. The major issue with the nuclear plants is the accidents which result in nuclear spill. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has given the reports of two major accidents such as The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident and the Chernobyl accident. In the novel *The Back of the Turtle*, Thomas King lists out the manmade disasters through Gabriel. Gabriel gets depressed after knowing that the defoliant he discovered had killed his own community along with the other species. Gabriel prepares a record of all manmade disasters.

“Chernobyl. Idaho falls. Chalk River”. Dorian read the names on the screen. “Pine Ridge, South Dakota?”

“It’s an Indian reservation,” said Winter. “it was used as a bombing range during World War II.”

“Rokkasho and Lanyu?”

“Nuclear and biological waste dumps.”

“Renaissance Island.” Dorian’s face softened, as though he had run into an old friend. “The Russian anthrax facility.” (King, “Turtle” 23)

Thomas King gives the list of nuclear accidents around the world through Gabriel. The Chernobyl disaster was a nuclear accident that took place in Pripyat, Ukrainian in 1986. This accident happened during the routine check for safety purpose. Due to the

negligence of the test supervisor, the amount of energy increased all of a sudden and the reactor ruptured. Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories was started in 1942. Since then, nuclear accident became a common thing as it occurred twice. The first accident took place in 1952. Then the second one was in 1958. In 1961, another nuclear accident occurred in Idaho National Engineering Laboratory as the control rod was removed manually. The whole desert area was destroyed near Idaho Falls, United States. Rokkasho Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing facility construction was started in the year 1993 but it is still under the process and the expected time of completion is 2021. Lanyu is an Island in Taiwan which is home for Tao, the indigenous people. However, the government set up The Lanyu Storage Site, a storage place of nuclear waste produced by the nuclear power plant in China. Most of the nuclear power plant is either located or dumped in the place where indigenous people live.

Fallouts of nuclear weapon experimentation in the atmosphere, nuclear disasters and discharges from the nuclear reprocessing plant have created environmental ruin. As Lasse Ringius states, “There are basically two sources of high-level waste: unprocessed spent fuel assemblies from nuclear power plants and the highly radioactive waste from reprocessing plants” (23). Thomas King depicts environmental ruin due to nuclear waste in the novel *UFOs That Crashed to Earth*. When Jake discovers the storage place of radioactive waste, he feels the extreme level of heat. Later he realizes that the heat comes from the underground pipeline through which the wastes are disposed. He finds that there have been many accidental nuclear spills during transportation with the help of a chart. “I count 45 red stars. That means that 45 transports of nuclear waste were either spilled or leaked or something. That’s terrific... huge spills of this waste has gone into lakes and rivers.

That stuff can be stolen and ‘Dirty Bombs’ made” (King, “UFOs” 110-111). The other major issue is nuclear wastes and its emission of harmful radiation in which unstable nuclei split up and emits ionizing radiation. This radiation consists of alpha, beta and gamma rays which are extremely dangerous. These harmful particles have the capability of penetrating into the several layers of tissues and can cause skin burns. They cannot be broken easily and they stay for thousands of years. There are two ways to manage the radioactive wastes. The first one is to concentrate the wastes and stock them up. The other way is to dilute them and dispose it in the environment.

Nuclear accidents at atomic power plant have created great disasters and have taken away many lives. Disruption of nature due to such nuclear spills is a matter of grave concern. Thomas King explicates the fallouts of nuclear weapon experimentation in *UFOs That Crashed to Earth*. U.S. Military experiments their reverse engineered nuclear weapons on different landscapes in the isolated Indian reserves. “The military and government scientists had been blowing the world all to hell with nuclear weapons for the same length of time” (King, “UFOs” 89). Jake finds out that there are several Air Force bases where the officials experiment the atomic bombs. “Davis-Monthan, near Tucson, Williams AFB, 30 miles from Phoenix, Kirtland near Albuquerque, Holloman near Alamogordo and Cannon near the Texas pan handle” (King, “UFOs” 114).

Technology plays a significant role in everyone life and its dependence is increasing in day to day life. Nuclear power plant’s impact on environment is extremely high due to the radioactive waste. The risk factor is more while generating electricity from nuclear power plants. Though the improved technology provides safety measures against further

accidents, there are still chances for a catastrophe to occur. Nuclear accidents that occurred in the past had taken toll of many lives and the survivors suffered from serious illness and damage, the harm done to the environment is unimaginable. The saddest part is that the impact still continues. The routine emission of nuclear power plant might cause cancer to the local community people who dwell there. Thermal discharge in the water which is used to cool the plant is again recycled and sent back to the environment. The recycled water might change the temperature of the water in the local body and kill aquatic lives. In India there are seven nuclear plants among them twenty one are active nuclear reactors produce more than thirty lakh gigawatt of electricity per hour.

Farmers were introduced to the application of chemical fertilizers. Later the pesticides were used in order to control insects. Thomas King explains about the effects of defoliants. Dorian browses the information about SDF 20 bacterium and how it affects the environment. He finds out that the discovery of SDF 20 has given rise to the genetically modified crops. The defoliants are capable of killing plant life, the birds and insects that feed on the crops in which the defoliants are sprayed. The soil loses its fertility due to the toxic fertilizers and the defoliants sprayed on crops.

Dorian had seen the studies. Most of the soil in the world was exhausted. In California's central valley, on the northern plains, and in the Midwest, it was dead. Years of pesticide use and agricultural stress had stripped the land of all its nutrients and its disease-suppressing bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and nematodes. The only way these soils could support any kind of growth was through the extensive use of artificial fertilizers. (King, "Turtle" 43)

Large scale farmers rely on defoliants to control the growth of weeds that grow in their farmland. The continuous usage of defoliants makes the landscape a barren one. The crops that grow on the land become poisonous and the defoliant stays for a longer period and the impact is everlasting.

The continuous toxic discharge into waterways creates threat to marine lives. Dumping toxic chemical sludge or biological material into waterways would result in ground water contamination. These toxic wastes pollute many rivers as it release oxygen-depleting contaminants like phosphorous, sulphates and chlorides. When these toxins are released in high concentration, it allows excess algae growth which puts marine lives under risk. Thomas King highlights the environmental disaster that kills many animals and marine species in the novel *The Back of the Turtle*. The Domidion produces tar-sand with the help of seven dams. Two of the dams break due to the negligence and the viscous tar contaminates the Athabasca River. The impact is beyond imagination that it kills many species. “The fish kill is massive. There are dead animals as well-fox, raccoon, deer, moose, bear, coyote-along the banks of the river for seventy kilometers downstream” (King, “Turtle” 383-384).

Exploitation of natural resources is considered to be significant for human survival and it helped human being to develop since civilization. There are two types of resources: renewable and non-renewable. Water and forest comes under renewable as the earth has the capacity to renew itself. Minerals and fossil fuels come under non-renewable resources as it cannot be brought back once removed. However earth has a limit to sustain the living beings with the fewer amounts of its resources. When the limit exceeds the earth loses its power of renewing itself. Man’s need for energy from the earth’s limited fossil fuels is

also insatiable. The changes in the landscape due to impact of continuous exploitation remind people of the impending apocalypse. Geologists divided time based on the recoded shifts in Earth's present state. Recent worldwide environmental transformation proposes that Earth might have entered the new geographical epoch called anthropocene which is completely human-centered. The shift of landscape is clearly brought by Thomas King in his trilogy: *UFOs That Crashed to Earth*, *Martian Fever* and *Message From Titan*.

In *UFOs that Crashed to Earth*, the landscape changes due to nuclear warfare. Continuous experimentation of nuclear weapons completely altered the landscape. "A large area was on fire off to the east of their campsite. There was debris all over about a 100 yard area with fires and black smoke billowing out into the morning air. Several fire trucks were spraying foam on the fires and an ambulance was loading the airman's bodies onto stretchers" (King, "UFOs" 121).

Thomas King brings in the shift of landscape even on another planet in the novel *Martian Fever*. Thomas King warns the readers that human's thirst for power and wealth is unquenchable. As soon as people discover that the new planet is filled with precious metals, people from Earth rush to Mars. Pollution begins on Mars as they start digging for gold and silver. The Pioneer 1 team argues with the Major to replace things they took from underground as people fall sick. "But, you can't deny that none of this Martian fever happened until we started digging these things up from underneath the City Square" (King, "Martian" 120).

In the last novel of Thomas King's trilogy, *Message From Titan*, the author describes the earth's complete destruction. With no ozone layer to shield people from deadly rays, earth burns up slowly and harmful rays enters the atmosphere. Eventually earth collides with sun.

It appeared that the end had finally come for all life on Earth. Unknown to the settlers on Atlantis, the moon was breaking up and bits of it were on a collision course with Earth. Huge chunks of the Moon struck the Earth six days later and threw it out of orbit. These giant pieces of solid rock from the Moon jarred the Earth loose from its orbit around the Sun. The Earth was now on a collision course with the Sun and was doomed to burn up in a fiery hell! Desperate to escape the calamity, the few thousand remaining people underground on Earth attempted to reach Mars. Three months later the Earth burned up in a fireball explosion on the Sun. (King, "Message" 92)

Human cultures attribute meaning to the natural systems such as livelihoods, worldviews and spiritual beliefs. These cultural understandings fundamentally govern and shape the nature and composition of landscape. "Nature and culture converge on many levels that span values, beliefs, norms, livelihoods, knowledge and languages" (Milton 34). The natural environment offers the sufficient space for cultural processes, the belief systems to enhance their understanding of the relationship between nature and life. Eventually landscapes form a varied cultural archive of human endeavours. The bond between culture and environment are revealed in physical convergence. As Skutnabb-Kangas states, "Many of the world's core areas of biodiversity are also important for cultural diversity, represented by density of ethnic groups and linguistic diversity (frequently used as proxies for cultural diversity)" (102). Human communities have unique ways of interpretations towards the world and all the interpretations come from the relationship they have developed with the physical environment. Thomas King highlights the First Nations community's ritual practices are designed to connect people with nature. One such incident takes place in

The Back of the Turtle. Mara practices a ritual that her mother and grandmother had taught her. After their death, she follows it regularly in order to continue her cultural belief which is entwined with nature.

Mara has risen early that morning to go down to the river. It was an old ritual. Her mother and grandmother had begun each day in this manner, standing on the bank, touching the water, sprinkling tobacco on the current. It was a reminder of the relationship that human beings had with the world, as well as practical routine for ensuring that everyone got out of bed in good order. (King, "Turtle" 45)

All the actions, knowledge and perceptions of mankind eventually evolved through the lesson they had learnt from nature. As Milton states, "Human communities can be divided according to the strength of their feeling of oneness with nature" (102). Knowledge of physical environment is built up within a society and is transferred through the cultural modes of transmission like storytelling, observations and self experience of travelling through the landscape.

There have been unparalleled losses in biological and cultural diversity in recent decades. Privatization of lands and urban migration are the two important factors that shifted people away from their cultural moorings. This eventually would lead to the loss of cultural ethos as the migrants are physically away from their homeland. Thomas King depicts the manner in which the influence of western culture changes Native people in the novel *Truth and Bright Water*. Lucy Rabbit is the one who has been completely influenced by the modern culture. She colours her hair blond in order to look like Marilyn Monroe. She sacrifices her own identity to resemble the Americans. But the hair colour looks

funny on her as it does not suit her. Tecumseh says, “My mother tells Lucy that she doesn’t think Lucy’s hair will ever go blonde, that it’s so black to begin with it probably hasn’t got a clue what blonde looks like. And even after my mother has cut Lucy’s hair so it has the right general shape and set, it looks more like a spool of copper wire or a rusty scrub pad” (King, “Truth” 19).

The capitalists kept producing new things that they did not give room for the people to think about their broken ties with both culture and nature. As the days passed by people adapted to the instant products and their environmental knowledge were erased gradually. Eventually technology overtook everything. The possible solution for the contemporary ecological crisis is to cling on to the cultural ties which can help mankind to revive the polluted earth. Disconnecting ourselves from technology is impossible in the current scenario as everything is digitalized. Sparing some time for nature can at least reduce the risk to a certain extent. People should take initiative to plant a tree in each house and the younger generation should be taught the importance of safeguarding natural resources and the responsibility should be instilled from the young age. Changes cannot happen overnight but reducing further damage will help earth to revive itself. The wastes from home should be categorized into biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste before disposing. This helps cleaners to segregate the domestic waste and dispose it properly.

Ecocriticism has changed the perception of literature. It has offered new methods of teachings in the classrooms. Thomas King’s novels reflect the sensuous relationship between the Native Americans and nature. He has brought out the oppression, relocation, encroachment of land, poverty and environmental ruin through his novels. Though Native people are oppressed, they keep protesting against the environmental degradation that

takes place in their reserve. The native people have emotional and spiritual connection towards their land. American Indian Movement (AIM) is an organization founded in 1968 by Dennis Banks, Clyde Bellecourt, Eddie Benton Banai and George Mitchell. The members of AIM protested against the oppression of Native Americans. Thomas King explains the protest and resistance of First Nations in his novels. In the novel *Truth and Bright Water*, Cassie has a tattoo on her knuckles which reads AIM, denotes American Indian Movement. Towards the end of the novel *Medicine River*, the struggle of First Nations against their oppression is brought out through David Plume. He is one of the members of AIM who protests against government's oppressive measures. He asks Will to accompany them.

We're on our way to Ottawa... Government wants to cut the money for Indian education. They're always trying to do that. You should come along, Will. You could take pictures. I don't know why government does that. I meet a lot of Indians, you know, who are sorry they didn't go to Wounded Knee. That's what they tell me. They feel like they got left out. It feels good to be a part of something important. (King, "Medicine" 199)

Cultural Anthropology in *Medicine River* and *Truth and Bright Water* briefs about the culture of the First Nations people and their behaviours and beliefs that are inextricably connected with nature. Thomas King clearly points out the cause and effects of assimilation that the colonial legacy had imposed on indigenous people. Eco-socialism in *Green Grass, Running Water* analyses how imperialism paved way for the expansion of capitalist's economy by encroaching the lands of Native people and building a dam. Thomas King brings in both social and ecological crisis such as poverty, social exclusion and environmental

disruption. Ecopedagogy in *The Back of the Turtle* creates awareness about the defoliant called Green Sweep created by a corporate company that took away many lives. Thomas King inculcates the environmental consciousness by exposing the darker sides of genetically modified organisms and weight loss supplements which has adverse effect on both environment and people. Apocalypse and Post-apocalypse in *UFOs That Crashed to Earth*, *Martian Fever* and *Message From Titans* portrays the horror of advancement in technology that has the potential to bring an end to this earth. Thomas King depicts the pollution created by nuclear weapon and the bleak possibilities of life after destruction.

Biodiversity includes all life forms on earth including plants, animals and micro-organism. Due to the mismanagement of natural resources by human being, the whole biodiversity has lost its ecological balance. This has created a great threat to the sustenance of all lives. To stop the further damage, many conservationists have started organizations to protect mother earth. The conservationists concentrate on preservation, safeguarding by continuous maintenance, restoration and enrichment of biodiversity. The conservation for biodiversity began in the year 1972. During 1973, UNEP understood the necessity of conserving biodiversity and it paved way for opening Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992. Later Rio de Janeiro started a convention with the concern for biodiversity worldwide with the help of the United National Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and Earth Summit. The objectives of the conviction were “Conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and a fair and equitable share of its benefits” (Mutia 5). There are many international biodiversity conservation organizations in which the most important ones are UNESCO programme and Man and Biosphere, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and International Union of Conservation of Nature. As one of the measures

to protect biodiversity, UNESCO has made Western Ghats in South India as World Heritage Centre as the mountain's ecosystem influence the Indian monsoon weather patterns and brings rain to southwest region.

The biodiversity organization formulated by the Government of India is The National Biodiversity Authority under the Ministry of Environment in the year 2003 to cater the objectives of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The organization acts as a facilitator of the government of India to conserve the natural resources. In Tamil Nadu, the Department of Environment and Forest was started in 1995 as the Nodal Department for environmental management of the state. Tamil Nadu government has made many protected areas within the state. These areas comprises of five National Parks, fifteen Wildlife Sanctuaries, fifteen bird sanctuaries and two conservative reserves such as Thirupudaimaruthur Birds Conservation Reserve and Suchindrum-Theroor-Managudi Conservation Reserve. Lastly, there are four tiger reserves: Anamalai, Kalakkad-Mundanthurai, Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam.

ASLE, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment has different affiliated organizations in the world in which India has two organizations: The ASLE-Delhi and OSLE-India, Organization for Study of Literature and Ecology. These organizations conduct conferences and publish papers and newsletters related to the environmental issues and measures taken to overcome the issues. Murali Sivaramkrishnan, head of the department of English, Pondicherry Central University is the president of ASLE-India. In 2017, ASLE-Delhi is renamed as FSLE-India, Foundation for the Study of Literature and Environment-India and got its international affiliate status by ASLE-US. Murali Sivaramkrishnan strives to bring in ecological approach as a core course in literary studies. Dr. Nirmal Selvamony is the president of, OSLE-India. He is the head of the department of English

Studies and Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Central University of Tamil Nadu. OSLE-India is now called as tiNai. According to tamil literature, the term ‘tinai’ is closely associated with the landscapes of Tamil Nadu; Kurinchi-Mountains, Mullai-Forests, Marutham-Cropland, Neytal-Seashore and Palai-Desert. It is Nirmal Selvamony who named it as tiNai based on the theory of Classic Tamil Literature. Nirmal Selvamony has won many awards in which the important one is Lifetime Achievement Award by North East Ohio Tamil Sangam, United States. Green Tribunal Act is an act of the Parliament of India which came into practice in 2010. It helps to resolve the cases related to environment issues. Justice Lokeshwar Singh Pant was the first chairman of the Green Tribunal. The acting chairman of the Green Tribunal is Justice Jawad Rahim. The tribunal’s ultimate motive is to provide justice for environmental issues within six months of filing the case.

Coimbatore is situated on the banks of the River Noyyal. Noyyal River is connected with cultural practices and is considered as a sacred one by our ancestors. The Noyyal River begins from the Western Ghats and flows hundred and eighty kilometers, joining the Kaveri River at Karur. There are thirty two lakes benefitted from this river. Many dyeing and bleaching companies poisoned the river which directly affected the agriculture in that region. In Tamil Nadu, Aadi Perukku festival is a traditional thanksgiving festival to the rivers especially River Kaveri. River Noyyal is a tributary of River Kaveri. It is celebrated to remind people about the values of water bodies. Almost all cultures have certain practices that are deeply rooted with nature. Trees like Banyan, Neem and Peepul are considered as sacred and are worshipped in Tamil Nadu.

There are various NGO, Non-Governmental Organizations around Coimbatore with the motto of environmental protection such as Siruthuli, Kovai Kulangal Padhukaapu Amaipu, OOSAI-Environmental Conservation Group (ECG) etc. These organizations play a vital role in protecting the environment by creating awareness and by involving public in conservation of the ecosystem. Siruthuli has distilled many Lakes in Coimbatore such as Krishnampathy, Narasampathy, Selvampathy and Kurichi Kulam. Siruthuli, with the help of Coimbatore Municipal Corporation, drilled hundred and fifty bore wells along with recharge pits and filter chambers to harvest rainwater from roads. On World Environment Day, around thirty Non-government organizations conducted a rally titled 'Nizhal Thedi Nadai' with the help of school and college students of Coimbatore to express their views to protect the earth.

Kovai Kulangal Padhukaapu Amaipu is formed to restore wetlands with the help of Government officials, private organizations and volunteers. They have planted more than one lakh palmseeds with the help of five thousand volunteers. Kovai Kulangal Padhukaapu Amaipu has planned to clean two tanks: Kurichi and Ukkadam in Coimbatore to reduce drought. The lakes like Vellalore Lake and Perur Lake in Coimbatore were cleaned up as the water bodies are filled with debris of wastes. Vellalore Lake was very dry even during rainy season. Kovai Kulangal Padhukaapu Amaipu along with public work department (PWD) desilted the channel and connected it to Noyyal River. Tons of plastic debris and household wastes were removed by City Corporation and other volunteers. Volunteers along with City Corporation cleaned the sludge that was more than three feet and the blockages were cleared. Now Vellalore Lake is completely filled after twenty five years. The Noyyal River rejuvenating processes are planned by many organizations.

P.S.G.R Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore, has made it compulsory for each student to involve themselves in thirty hours of community service which include conservation of environment as a mandatory component of their U.G. degree program. On July 25, 2019, hundred student volunteers' volunteers planted nearly 10,000 saplings as a part of the creation of the "Bharathi Vanam", at Bharathiar University to mark the 4th death anniversary of Former President of India A.P.J Abdul Kalam.

The present generation has started to realize the real threat of environmental degradation as they have lost the environmental knowledge instilled by the ancestors. People started to care for their cultural values and regain their environmental knowledge they had obtained through agricultural practices. One such person is Suresh Babu, a software engineer who quit his job in Australia and returned to his native land, Coimbatore to continue his father's agriculture. He belongs to an agricultural family and has witnessed his father and grandfather tilling land. One day he realized that if he continues his job in Australia, then the farming techniques would end up from his generation. He returned home and successfully produces organic crops. He was awarded 'Young Farmer Award' by the farmers association, Chennai.

Water ATM is introduced all over India to cater the need for pure drinking water. Water ATM is in the form of a vending machine placed at public places. A coin is needed to get water from the dispenser. It works on solar energy incorporated with reverse osmosis. Private companies are involved in commoditizing mineral water. These companies take tons of water from the catchment area. Water is being commoditized and this would lead to water scarcity in future as the ground water level keeps decreasing.

All forms of life for its existence and nurturing depend upon a bounteous nature. Human being should derive sustenance from earth and should not deplete, exhaust, pollute and destroy it. A new environmental ethics has to be inbuilt in the psyche of the future generation and that should make people use the resources wisely. This understanding is possible when people reestablish themselves with their old cultural heritage. Environmental inquiry and sensitivity plays a significant role in addressing environmental concerns. Culture plays a vital role to inherit human beings relationship with the natural world. Once the dynamic relationship between nature and culture is established, it can revive the imbalanced ecology created by the mankind.

Thomas King through his novels creates awareness about the environmental conservation and the current shift of the geographical epoch towards anthropocene which stands as a great threat for the future generation. He insists that loss of cultural ties paved way for the rise of capitalism which again created threat for the ecosystem. He highlights the First Nations people's culture and reminds people about their own cultural identity which helps them understand the interrelationship between the physical environment and human beings.

The value system of a society is based on its culture which is always sensitive to the natural world. The different elements of society are inter-reliant. Rituals and symbols in the culture can renovate the traditional environmental knowledge. Ecocritics focuses on the modern consumerism as it reflects on the economic and social crisis. Changing the perception from economic sense to environmental sense would bring about change in our attitude and our environment will remain healthy.

The research infers that the exploitation of nature occurs due to the broken cultural heritage which is deeply intertwined with the physical environment that supports and sustains all lives. The rapid growth of capitalist economies urged for homogenization of cultures and landscapes. The combined loss of cultural and ecological knowledge led mankind to exploit nature; the implication of which is evident today. Reestablishing the inherent knowledge imbedded in every culture can help people broaden their understanding of wholeness and interconnectedness that balance all life forms.

Nature is a wonderful presentation conferred to human beings by God. In the past people lived in accordance with nature. At present, the whole world is under the fear of nuclear weapons. Having drastically polluted the five elements on earth, it is high time to bring the true facts regarding the current environmental crisis to lime-light. Awareness among the public to respect and conserve nature is instilled through literature. Many researchers and conservationists are involved in finding a suitable solution to revive the pristine purity of mother earth. Time brings roses but first of all buds. Let us all join together and give a helping hand to those who pioneer this social change. Change has to begin from home and from an individual.