

DEEP ECOLOGY AS A PART OF ECOLOGICAL CULTURE

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The aim of Deep ecology is to analyze the complex inter-relationships between the existence of living organisms (man inclusive) and others in the ecosystem. The present day generation must study in details the relevance of living organisms within the ecosystem. They must also learn ways of improving the environment and know the effects of man's activities in the eco system.

Deep ecology argues that the natural world is a subtle balance of complex inter-relationships in which the existence of organisms is dependent on the existence of others in the ecosystem. It argues that the living environment deserves respect, has legal rights and can flourish.

The phrase "deep ecology" was coined by the Norwegian philosopher Arne Næss in 1973. Also called etymology, Deep ecology is not concerned with conservation of the environment only for exploitation by and for human purposes (Anthropocentric environmentalism) but it goes a long way to view the world human beings live in and seeks to apply to life the understanding that the separate parts of the ecosystem (including humans) function as a whole.

Deep ecology has 3 basic principles:

➤ Wilderness preservation: Several measures have been taken to preserve the wilderness areas around the world for example the wilderness act of 1964 written by Howard Zahnier.

➤ Human population control: This is the practice of artificially altering the rate of growth of a human population.

➤ Simple Living: This refers to a number of ways practiced in order to simplify one's life.

This theory has recorded some practical successes over the years some of which are as follows.

Denmark's wind farm which serves as a source of generating electricity has proven to be more environment friendly. Countries like the US, Spain, China etc has provided jobs to over 2 million of it's populates through this invention.

The sea snake which is still undergoing tests in the U. K. will also serve as a source of generating electricity.

There are no armies in Puerto Rico because she has decided to invest more in educating her citizens and protecting her forest areas.

Let's look at some disadvantages of this theory:

➤ Interest in nature: in the sense that the interests that a deep ecologist attributes to non-human organisms such as survival, reproduction, growth, and prosperity are really human interests

➤ Misunderstanding scientific information: Deep ecology can be likened to its antithesis i.e. it misunderstands scientific information and then arrives at a conclusion based on their misunderstanding, which are in turn used as justification for their ideologies.

➤ Deep ecology is not “deep” enough: Deep ecology has failed to link environmental crisis with authoritarianism and hierarchy.

➤ Shallow view superior: seeking to develop a non- anthropocentric set of values is “a hopeless quest”.

In conclusion, I believe that the knowledge of Deep Ecology to an extent will guide and direct us in being environment friendly and moreover will challenge each and everyone of my readers in devising ways of relating with our ecosystem.

Економіка для екології: матеріали XIX Міжнародної наукової конференції, м. Суми, 30 квітня – 3 травня 2013 р. / редкол.: Д. О. Смоленніков, М. С. Шкурат. – Суми : Сумський державний університет, 2013. – С. 117-118.