

Course: MA Communication, Culture and Media

Module: M84MC – Applied Communication

Group Project (Coursework one and two)

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Project Topic: Environmental Activism: A Study on Coventry Tree Warden Network

Overview of our report

This module M84MC - Applied Communication, focuses on six areas of activism and amongst the six is Environmental Activism. Our group considered environmental right because of our interest in environmental issues. We found a UK-based environmental right activist group, which interest is on tree protection and did a study on their activities. This analytic report highlights our findings and recommendations.

Our analytic report is divided into two sections. In the first section, we present the views of some theorists on the definition and history of environment. Theories backing this subject have been

included to give voice to our report. Then, the case study on Coventry Tree Warden Network is presented from their profile, campaigns, challenges, prospects and our recommendations.

In the second section (coursework two), we examined the theme of our study on our various countries – Nigeria, India, China and Ghana. With the case studies in our respective countries, we did a comparison with our findings in the Coventry Tree Warden Network.

COURSEWORK ONE

Definition of environment

There are loads of definitions of the environment, however, one definition that captures our interest is that suggested by Cudworth (2003) who says the environment is that which “provides the conditions for the existence of the human species, and for the multifarious other living creatures and vegetation” (Cudworth 2003:2). Cudworth definition suggests that the environment is significant because it provides habitation for all creatures and not only human beings. However, do humans take into consideration that the environment does not only belong to them but to other species too? This question continues to inspire environmental right activists who are not comfortable with the increasing rate of environmental issues.

Theoretical standpoint

According to Sandbach (1980:1), the concern on environmental issues such as pollution, ecology movement, urban planning, technology choice and deforestation may have begun in the 60s and in the 70s. The author reminds us that we may understand environmental issues when we link them to the social, economic and political organisation of the societies. This view underscores the idea that social science theory continues to influence the study and interpretation of environmental issues. One school of thought identified as the pluralists are of the view that individuals as members of the environment possess the right to express their “economic interest

and political power” by identifying with a social movement or an association (Sandbach 1980 cited in Chokor 1992:169) However, Marxist and the materialistic concept suggests that social issues are triggered by production, distribution, exchange and consumption, considered as separate parts linked together into a system. This implies that policies on environmental issues are designed by class interest (Chokor 1992). We found out from Marxist that policies are inseparable from the relations of production and production has great impact on the environment. For instance, the exploration of mineral resources leads to oil spillage and gas flaring, the government embark on deforestation to construct roads and parks; industries generate power, pollute the air, and dumps waste in rivers; individuals cut down trees for domestic and industrial use while western nations depend on timber from developing countries for various use.

The environmental damage caused through the production and consumption system, continues to attract environmental rights groups to question and challenge the growing devastation on the environment. For instance, the Coventry Tree Warden Network raises awareness on the benefits of trees and seeks to protect them; the American Bear Association provides the well-being of the black bear, other wildlife and natural resources; A’ Pas de Loup ‘Volunteers for Nature’ supports local organizations in developing and implementing their programmes towards environmental care; India Agroforestry aims to stop the loss of manure by the creation of firewood resources within the farm itself; Biker Guangzhou City, China promotes green travel by encouraging people to travel using bicycle; Qadiriyyah Movement, Nigeria promotes environmental care through a religious approach vested in communal responsibility; Friends of the Earth, Ghana helps protect the forest through education and training on sustainable forestry management. (CTWN 2015, Ausenda 2009, Pant 1980, Bike Guangzhou 2015, Qadiriyyah Movement 2011, Friends of the Earth 2015). In this report, we present a study on a UK-based environmental pressure group, the Coventry Tree Warden Network.

Coventry Tree Warden Network Profile

The Coventry Tree Warden Network (CTWN) is a tree conservation group formed on March, 2014. It is an organisation that is set up by the tree council which is a sponsored government

organisation and set up in conjunction with the city council but it is basically run by volunteers. With over 18 months of operation, this group has over 80 volunteers working as Tree Wardens in various wards of Coventry City. The CTWN is headed by Secretary Ann Wilson, Chairman Jim Passmore and Treasurer Terry Little. The groups hard work and presence at different public forums led to it being officially recognised and associated with the Tree wood network that operates all over Britain. CTWN logo shows the city divided into political wards and an apple has been placed to represent the tree warden in each ward. CTWN officially connects on www.ctwn.org.uk. The tree wardens are involved in various practical works on tree conservation throughout the year. Their aims and objectives are:

- To gather and disseminate information about trees and hedgerows to aid proper management and maintenance.
- To promote the benefits of trees and hedgerows by raising awareness and through education.
- To liaise with statutory bodies and other organisations to influence policy and decision making.
- To encourage, promote and support practical projects associated with trees, woods and hedgerows.

Collaborations

The CTWN also approached for the help of various environmental bodies, CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Warwickshire, British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Bat Conservation Trust, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, RSPB (Royal Society for Protection of Birds) and our local MPs. They also consulted the Warwickshire Ecologist and commissioned a second opinion on the condition of the trees.

Campaigns

Coventry Tree Warden, still in its embryonic stage, has made significant strides as a tree conservation activist group towards realizing the dream of a having a safe pollution free future .At the Godiva Festival, the London Road Cemetery during the Heritage weekend and the Ward Forums the Coventry Tree Warden managed to increase their membership. As their membership

increased, CTWN in collaboration with other tree wardens, environmental activist groups and school children embarked on campaigns to promote the importance of tree conservation.

Some of the specific tree conservation campaigns included:

- A walk at Coombe around the ancient trees and the meadow.
- An informative guided tour of London Road Cemetery, with Derek Robinson;
- A 'Work in progress walk' in The Kenilworth Road Spinney with Ray Wilson.
- A ramble through Canley Woodlands with Michael Wileman
- A walk in the War Memorial Park, which was preceded by an illustrated talk on how the park has developed over the last century.
- Walks in Warwick Castle grounds and Leek Wootton Pinetum with the Warwick Wardens.
- Attended the Midlands Tree Warden Forum at Packington Hall and met the members of Tree Council as well as the local warden groups.
- An annual Christmas party at Lord Leycester Hospital with the Warwick Wardens.
- Planted 300 young trees in Tutbury Fields during last year National Tree Week and took part in the Great British Elm Experiment.
- Tea with the Lord Mayor because they raised £500 by selling mistletoe that had been cut to reduce the weight on the Warwick Road lime trees.
- A meeting with members of the Planning Department and removing old collars from the trees in Millennium Wood.
- Hosted the Tree Council's annual Midlands Forum.
- Planning to plant trees with a local car part manufacturer who is looking to reduce their carbon footprint which called Denzo.
- Starting to clear a 200 year old orchard and plans to plant community orchards in order to pass their ideas to the next generation as well as draw people's attention to the trees.
- Organize a campaign to against the Coventry Council's decision which is deciding to cut the hedgerow along with other memorial trees in the city's main cemetery and crematorium at Canley.

Cutting of memorial trees in Canley Crematorium by Coventry City Council



Road to Canley Crematorium that has not been affected by deforestation

Challenges:

As CTWN is in its infants stages, they are facing some challenges. The single most pressing challenge is to try and make the council understand how important tree conservation is and this is probably their greatest quest is to make the city council pay more attention to tree related issues although the city council keeps quoting that they will plant the trees again.

Years ago, the city council pulled out and repaved the city center which used to be full of trees for events. Instead of considering how important to reduce the pollution, the city council decided to make the place flat for economic reasons. It is hard for the group to convince the council how important trees are for the citizens to being healthy. One of the talks they had at the conference recently was called “Tree-economic”. The conference showed people how important trees are by how much healthier the babies are if the mother has lived within trees because of the oxygen and the relaxation.

Coventry Tree Warden Network view of environmental issues in UK

Secretary Ann Wilson pointed out the environmental issues in Britain. She mentioned the massive tree felling and destruction in Bickerton Hill, Cheshire to provide sustainable heating fuel in log burning stoves. Britain's appetite for green wood sourced energy has led to massive tree felling to provide wood chips and pellets. She also mentioned that Coventry city center was once a lush green area, however the City Council fell trees to pave the area and create commercial spaces. While the planting of trees are beneficial, it is sad to have these go unnoticed for wants of spaces and commercialization. Ann Wilson, also pointed out how the trees not only benefit mother and child but also hospital patients for speedy recovery. Researchers have shown that investors and consumers prefer green spaces to brick spaces.

Prospects

- In the near future, the Coventry Tree Warden Network plans on planting trees with a Japanese car manufacturing company who are looking to reduce their carbon footprint in Coventry.

- Kingsway orchard: This is an old orchard which has been neglected for many years by the council. The orchard is overgrown with brambles and the trees are being strangled with ivy. Next year, members of CTWN and local residents will go there on regular basis to clear the paths, cut through the ivy on the trees and remove the dead ivy to allow the old trees rejuvenate.
- Finham Community Orchard: This is a more recent project in which it is proposed that a plot of land be planted with fruit trees to create a Community Orchard. The project is projected to take place during 2016, from around January/February involving the community in Finham.

Recommendations

1. Education and Awareness Creation

Tomorrow's leaders need to be equipped for tomorrow's challenges and it is therefore imperative that we fully prepare our children for the future they will inherit – the earth. This requires a strong commitment on the part of tree conservation activists like the Coventry Tree Warden Network to embark on a series of environmental education campaigns, mainly targeted at the youth. We as friends of Coventry Tree Warden Network propose that together, we launch an environmental literacy month programme where we visit local communities every month to talk to children about impacts of environmental degradation and the need for tree conservation. Fisman (2005) found that environmental education programmes targeted at children increase significantly their awareness and knowledge of the local environment. Given children's strong ability to absorb information, we believe that children's understanding of tree conservation will shape the entire community's perception through the interactions and discussions among the children, parents and other indigenes.

As part of the environmental literacy month, we recommend that Coventry Tree Warden Network organizes workshops and seminars to sensitize participants particularly farmers on the use of alternative appropriate farming and forest management technologies.

2. Participation in Tree and Conservation Management

It is important for all of us to ensure that the right mix of policies is instituted to help conserve our natural resources, particularly forests and woodlands. We therefore recommend that Coventry Tree Warden Network liaises with other tree conservation pressure groups in the country to petition government to involve them in the design and implementation of policies and laws regarding tree conservation. As pointed out by Banerjee, Campbell, Cruz, Davis, and Molnar (1995), the importance of local community participation in environmental decision-making cannot be overemphasized. According to them, stakeholder participation in environmental decision-making enhances environmental sustainability, in the sense that local communities who through representatives agree on tree conservation laws are more inclined to cooperate in enforcing the set rules.

We acknowledge that the participatory approach would require time and resources to build consensus among stakeholders, that is, local communities and government. However, as highlighted by Banerjee et al (1995), when government works with local communities on matters concerning the environment, the net effect is always greater—poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability and easier enforceability of environmental laws. Introducing this local participation management approach, for example, would help to prevent a situation where service guards are constantly deployed to police the forest; this can be ineffective and costly. On the other hand, local involvement means local accountability. “Social fencing” undoubtedly yields more effective tree and forest conservation outcomes. For example, in Mexico and Zimbabwe, stakeholder workshops on forestry reforms resulted in “easier identification and introduction of critical reforms in forest tenure policy and delineation of protected areas for biodiversity conservation” (Banerjee et al, 1995).

3. Provide Up-to-date Data

Accurate, up-to-date data information is needed for forest management and the overall planning process. We recommend that Coventry Tree Warden Network undertakes intensive research activities that will enable them be abreast of environmental trends and developments and thus allow them provide accurate and current statistics that could be relied upon by government during environmental planning and policy making. This will also go a long to provide landowners, land managers the information they need to make sound decisions regarding tree conservation.

4. Fundraising

Last but not the least, as part of our contribution to the already existing efforts of Coventry Tree Warden Network, we propose to jointly embark on a fundraising campaign in Coventry University and surrounding local communities. Many such environmental lobbyists cite lack of funds as a major constraint to their operations. One can never discount the importance of sufficient funding in advancing and championing such a noble cause which usually receives very little budgetary support from government.

COURSEWORK TWO: COMPARISON BETWEEN UK, NIGERIA, INDIA, GHANA AND CHINA

CASE STUDY IN NIGERIA

Introduction

In this case study about environmental issues in Nigeria, we present a brief profile of the country and examine major environmental issues affecting the nation. Two studies on environmental protection are reviewed and we look at the government (Lagos State Government) and activists (Qadiriyyah Movement, Kano State) engagement in protecting the environment.

Profile of Nigeria

A recent article published by BBC (2015) indicates that Nigeria which gained independence in 1960 from her British colonial master remains the most populous nation in Africa. Nigeria is divided into six geo-political zones with 36 federating States and Abuja being the federal capital (Blurtit 2015). The country boasts of about 250 ethnic groups with diverse languages, customs and religions (InterNations 2015). Christianity and Islam are the two major religions in Nigeria; and Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba are the three major ethnic groups. According to OPEC (2015), Nigeria with about 178 million people, is one of the top 10 oil producing countries in the world. Many environmental activists are of the opinion that this enviable position the country occupies is a threat to the sustenance of her environment because there are various international and local economic interest in her mineral resources. This is causing a lot of environmental crisis to the country.

Environmental issues in Nigeria

Although Nigeria is blessed with mineral resources, this wealth continues to create environmental problems for the rich African nation. Environmental pollution is not only caused by oil exploration and exportation (it is believed that oil spillage and gas flaring are the major environmental pollution in Nigeria), but also through industrialization, deforestation, and production by industries. Arguably, forest industries in Nigeria contributes to economic growth

by way of producing consumption and commercial goods usable in homes, organisations and industries (Westoby 1987). However, the author draws our attention to the fact that “forestry is not about trees, it is about people. And it is about trees only insofar as trees can serve the needs of people” (Westoby 1987:ix). Deforestation reduces the number of trees meant to absorb carbon dioxide, process and produce oxygen for the well-being of humans. In a feature story titled “A Plea for Action against Pollution in Nigeria” and published by the World Bank (2015), shows that in 2012, an estimated seven million inhabitants died through diseases from air pollution. We think that if there are more trees within the environment, it will reduce the rate of air pollution and as such, reduce the death rate in the country.

Studies around Environmental issues in Nigeria

Several studies have been conducted on environmental issues around Nigeria. For instance, Anongo (2012) did a study with the theme “Tree-planting in Nigeria” and examined the subject within a collective responsibility perspective. Anongo found out that the idea of planting non indigenous tree species in Nigeria is an act of “invasion biology” and this act is capable of displacing indigenous tree species and make them nonexistent and this affects the ecosystem. To correct this environmental issue, the author suggested that the nation should adopt an active and collective participatory strategy where all individuals, corporate organisations and the government should be involved in tree-planting. He pointed out that tree-planting could help save the ecosystem, reminding us of Professor Charles Perrings advice that “there is quite a bit to be done to lessen the effects of climate change in our own backyards. The trick is to work locally to diversify our ecosystems to make them more resilient for what is to come” (Anongo 2012:1424). Concluding, he notes that climate change remains a global problem but that Nigeria could adopt a collective sustainable initiative to protect her environment.

Another study with focus on “Protected areas for environmental sustainability in Nigeria” was conducted by Imasuen et al. (2013) and their interest was to find out the areas that were and still protected in Nigeria. Some of the areas identified by the authors in an earlier study conducted by Erebor (2003) are Shasha River forest reserve, Omo forest reserve, Sakpoba forest reserve, Okomu forest reserve, Mamu River forest reserve, Afi River forest reserve, Oba Hills forest

reserve, Sanga River forest reserve, Anara forest reserve and Zamfara forest reserve. The authors rightly observe that these reserved areas continue to witness disturbance from acts of hunting, farming and timber work which is affecting the “Biodiversity value” of the forests. They recommend a strategic development and implementation of Protected Areas Law to save the cultural heritage areas, natural habitats and ecosystem from further environmental damage (Imasuen et al. 2013:56-57).



Environmental damage caused by oil spillage



Environmental damage caused by oil spillage



Deforestation for commercial use



Shipping of timber for production



Movement of timber for domestic use



Former Lagos State Governor, Babatunde Fashola planting tree



Environmental right activist movement planting tree



Environmental right activist students planting tree



Environmental right activist movement displaying on environmental care their banner in a forest.



Lagos State Government greening initiative project



One of the reserved forest in Nigeria

Government and activists' engagement towards environmental care in Nigeria

The Federal government and most State governments are initiating environmental sustainable programmes. For instance, the Lagos State Government launched a greening initiative project in 1999. The government continues to raise awareness of the project's goal which is being spearheaded by the Lagos State Parks and Gardens Agency. The agency recently (17 November 2015) held a Stakeholders Forum with corporate bodies on "Sustaining Our Green Lagos" where the government solicited the support of the private sector towards achieving a sustaining greener Lagos (Vanguard 2015).

Activist movements are also contributing towards protecting the environment in Nigeria. For instance, one of such group with a clear vision is Qadiriyyah Movement in Kano State, at the northern part of the country. Qadiriyyah Movement founded by His Eminence, Sheikh Qaribullah Kabara, may have become popular at about 1958 in other parts of the country with the leadership structure in Kano superintending over other branches (Kanoonline 2015). The movement is a religious oriented-focused environmental group whose activities cover seven key areas: theology, economy, education, energy, media, horticulture and lifestyle. Concerned about its vision that "environmental care is a religious duty as well as communal responsibility" that requires urgent implementation, the group in 2011 launched a seven-year (2011-2018) "Environmental Action Plan". The document which was made public highlights the aims and objectives of the plan taking into consideration the cost of implementing each of the campaigns/ programmes.

Campaigns/ programmes

Development of Tree Seedling Nursery project

Under this project, Qadiriyyah Movement plans to establish 250,000 capacity tree nursery in Kano State. The programme will recruit three personnel with the support of consulting firms. It hopes to acquire land and some tree nursery equipment for the project. The project will be completed in 18 months and will require the sum of £35,000.

Tree Nursery Management Training

Training of personnel is crucial to building the capacity of any organisation. In this regard, Qadiriyyah Movement hopes to collaborate with the Federal Forestry Research Institute, Kano State and some private environmental consultants to train some recruits who will handle the tree nursery project. The training will run for four weeks and will cost £7,000.

Customisation of ESD Curriculum and Teacher Training

The group plans to adopt the popular curriculum on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and implement it in Qadiriyyah primary schools across Nigeria. The implementation will kick off with an annual training of 25 teachers selected from Qadiriyyah schools and by 2018, about 175 teachers will have benefitted from the scheme. The training is estimated at £10,000 yearly.

Instructional Materials

The group hopes to purchase ESD teaching materials for her primary schools. The materials include, books, projectors, posters on ESD themes, and multimedia instructional video clips. The project will last for three months and will cost £25,000.

School Gardens and Orchards

Qadiriyyah Movement hopes to establish gardens and orchards in Qadiriyyah schools with the purpose of improving the greening of the schools and providing fruit and vegetables for her food kiosks. The budget for this project is put at £2,500 for one school.

Clean and Green

In 2010, the leader of the group, Sheikh Qaribullah Kabara launched the clean and green project in two primary schools. The project encourages pupils to pick-up used sachet water bags in their environment and submit in the school. The pupils' involvement in this task is their contribution to the clean and green project and grades were awarded to those who complied.

Environmental Seminar and Tree Planting

Under this programme, the leader of the movement, Sheikh Qaribullah Kabara, will deliver seminar in private and public schools to educate teachers and pupils on the significance of “environmental care and responsibilities”. During the visit, Sheikh will donate tree seedlings and plant a commemorative tree in the school. The project is put at £10,000 annually.

Community visit

Qadiriyyah Movement understands that environmental care is a collective responsibility and as such, plans to collaborate with other environmental groups to create awareness about its vision and solicit support of the communities. During the visit, the leader will deliver a lecture and plant a commemorative tree. The budget for this programme is put at £10,000.

Community Weather Station

Concerned about the increasing rate of pollution, Qadiriyyah Movement, plans to establish a local weather station with air pollution meters. The weather station is expected to monitor and capture weather changes, evaluate the impacts of the environmental changes in the society, and serve as local weather information facility. This project is estimated at £10,000.

Environmental Care Workshop for Muqaddams

Qadiriyyah Movement has local and foreign representatives referred to as “Muqaddams” (spiritual leader). The group hopes to conduct seminar for the Muqaddams for them to transmit same knowledge to their different places.

Environmental Care Guide for Muslims

The leader of the movement, Sheikh Qaribullah Kabara is preparing a Theological Guide on environmental issues for Muslims. The document which will focus on the “Islamic values and responsibilities” towards a healthy environment, will be presented to the Muqaddams and teachers in Qadiriyyah schools. Copies will also be distributed to some government and private schools. The project will be completed within six months and will cost the sum of £25,000.

Street Tree Planting

To address the issue of tree cutting, Qadiriyyah Movement plans to raise awareness on the significance of tree preservation by planting of trees in urban and rural areas. The group hopes to monitor and nurture every tree planted for a period. To execute this task, the group will collaborate with Kano State Government and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for tree seedlings. The group hopes to plant about 350,000 trees and the project will cost £75,000.

Greening of City Cemeteries

Qadiriyyah Movement hopes to plant trees in seven selected cemeteries in Kano City. This project is significant for its “spiritual and environmental connotations” because Qadiriyyah being a religious group believes that beautifying the graveyard will bring joy to the living and comfort to the dead. An estimated 350 trees will be planted in each cemetery by appointed care takers. The project will cost the sum of £5,000 yearly.

Blessed Tree Seedlings

Trees are a living specie and may flourish when prayers are offered on them. This is the view of Qadiriyyah Movement as the leader of the group will bless fruit bearing seedlings which will be distributed to Muqaddams for them to plant in their various locations.

Promotion of Sustainable Living

An engaging system to share the ideas of an organisation is through the media and Qadiriyyah Movement has identified the radio to disseminate “Islamic wisdoms on environment and sustainable life”. The group hopes to engage the services of artists to produce jingles and songs that will reflect the group’s vision. The jingles and songs will be aired in the radio. The movement has earmarked the sum of £50,000 for this project.

Sustainable Electricity

A major challenge in Nigeria is the inadequate supply of electricity. To address this challenge, Qadiriyyah Movement hopes to install a hybrid solar and wind power system in the group’s headquarters. The solar system is expected to replace alternate power generators which causes air pollution. When developed, the solar system will be released to the public and raise more funds to the movement. The project is put at £50,000 annually.

Sustainable Energy

In most rural areas across Nigeria, and in Kano particularly, firewood continues to be a major source for domestic and industrial cooking. This implies that trees have to be cut down to be used as firewood. This trend affects our forest and causes air pollution. Qadiriyyah Movement understands the dangers of using firewood and hopes to enlighten the public on the use of alternative energy sources for cooking. The group is working on a local fabricated energy saving firewood and solar stoves. The project is estimated at £100,000 annually.

Youth Economic Empowerment

Concerned about youth empowerment, Qadiriyyah Movement will support her youth to establish orchard trade by organising yearly “Orchards Business & Management”. To execute this project, the group will collaborate with the Kano State Government and corporate bodies. The project is put at £75,000 annually.

Green Grocery

To keep its orchards and gardens running, Qadiriyyah Movement hopes to establish “Green Grocery” shops to sell her products. The project is estimated at £25,000.

Media Campaign

The group’s media campaign will focused on:

Cleaner air; Islam and your environment; your faith and your carbon footprint; war against refuse; war against bush burning.

In the future, the group hopes to establish a “Green FM Radio” to broadcast religious and environmentally oriented programmes.

Partnership/Fund Raising

To raise the required funds to execute her projects, and get support for her programmes, Qadiriyyah Movement will collaborate with:

Kano State Ministry of Agriculture & Natural Resources;

Kano Agricultural & Rural Development Authority;

Kano State Ministry of Environment;

Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria;

National Horticulture Research Institute; and
Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Comparison between Nigeria and UK

Findings from this study shows that individuals could contribute towards environmental care by involving in tree-planting. Anongo (2012) describes this approach as a collective sustainable initiative to protect the Nigerian environment. The study demonstrates this collective sustainable strategy as it gives an example of the Lagos State Government greening initiative project and its implementation. Interestingly, the former Governor of the State, Babatunde Fashola was involved in tree-planting and this goes a long way to show how serious the government is towards the projects goal which is “Sustaining Our Green Lagos”. Moreover, the activist environment right group mentioned in the study, the Qadiriyyah Movement with her vision “environmental care is a religious duty as well as communal responsibility” demonstrates a practical involvement in the environmental care programmes.

Comparing the Lagos State Government greening project with what obtains in the UK, we found out that the efforts of the Coventry Tree Warden Network towards tree promotion and protection is being hampered by the Coventry City Council as the Council continues to uproot memorial trees at the in Canley Crematorium. This implies that the Coventry City Council is not interested in a collective sustainable greening programme.

Comparing the Qadiriyyah Movement of Nigeria and the Coventry Tree Warden Network of UK, we found out that Qadiriyyah Movement has a seven-year Action Plan which highlights all her programmes and campaigns. Also, the Coventry Tree Warden Network has various plans on tree conservation in the future, although we were not given any single document that contains all the programmes. However, they have an annual report which highlights previous programmes and campaigns. Comparison on some of the programmes and campaigns are presented in the table below:

Programmes and Campaigns	
Qadiriyyah Movement	Coventry Tree Warden Network
Religious group	Non-religious group
Has branches in other parts of the country.	Currently operates within Coventry.
The group hopes to plant about 350,000 trees, monitor and nurture every tree planted for a period.	Planted 300 young trees in Tutbury Fields during last year National Tree Week and took part in the Great British Elm Experiment.
The group hopes to conduct Environmental care seminar for the Muqaddams for them to transmit same knowledge to their different places.	Attended the Midlands Tree Warden Forum at Packington Hall and meet the members of Tree Council as well as the local warden groups.
Qadiriyyah Movement has local and foreign representatives referred to as “Muqaddams” who are expected to promote environmental care in their respective places.	Has tree warden in every ward in Coventry that takes care of trees assigned to them.
Plans to collaborate with other environmental groups to create awareness about its vision and solicit support of the communities. During the visit, the leader will deliver a lecture and plant a commemorative tree.	Starting to clear a 200 year old orchard and plans to plant community orchards in order to pass their ideas to the next generation as well as draw people’s attention to the trees.

Collaboration	
<p>Kano State Ministry of Agriculture & Natural Resources;</p> <p>Kano Agricultural & Rural Development Authority;</p> <p>Kano State Ministry of Environment;</p> <p>Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria;</p> <p>National Horticulture Research Institute;</p> <p>and</p> <p>Federal Environmental Protection Agency.</p>	<p>The CTWN also approached for the help of various environmental bodies, CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Warwickshire, British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Bat Conservation Trust, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, RSPB (Royal Society for Protection of Birds) and our local MPs. They also consulted the Warwickshire Ecologist and commissioned a second opinion on the condition of the trees.</p>

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that in Nigeria there is a collective sustainable initiative on tree-planting to protect the environment. It further shows that the country previously had “Protected areas” of some forests which is being affected by production and consumption system. It recommends a strategic development and implementation of Protected Areas Law to save the country from further environmental damage.

CASE STUDY IN INDIA

History

Bishnois of India is a religious group present in the Western Thar Desert of India. The name is derived from *bis* meaning twenty and *noi* meaning nine, which is the followers of 29 principles given by Guru Jambheshwar. Guru Jambheshwar gave the message to protect wildlife and trees around 540 years ago, therefore tailoring a society that lived an eco-friendly life. In 1730, around 360 Bishnoi men, women and kids were killed in Khejarali village of Jodhpur, Rajasthan when the king ordered felling of trees. Led by Amrita Devi, the villagers risked their lives to protect the trees. Following the Gandhian principles of non-violence the Chipko Movement was thus formed. Prominent Chipko leader like Sundarlal Bahuguna went on a 5000 Trans Himalayan foot march to spread the message of tree conservation. The Chipko Movement has inspired several environmentalists in recent years to work for the conservation of water, energy, land and forests (Shiva and Bandyopadhyay 1986). The eco socialism and eco feminism theories are hence the outcome of the Chipko Movement. Like the Bishnois, the Birhor of Jharkhand are forest people. The primitive subsistence of the Birhor had been based on nomadic gathering and hunting. Encouraged by the government officials, the Birhors today have settled into agriculture, rope making and collecting honey and selling them for minor economic gains.



Bishnoi



Chipko Movement

Followed by the success of Chipko Movement, on March 20, 1987 four truckloads of armed men rampaged the Sinsiaru Khala camp of the Chipko volunteers who were continuing their struggle against ecological devastation by limestone quarrying in the Doon valley. Itwari Devi and

Chamandai who led the movement were stoned and Ramesh Kukreti and his colleagues received serious injuries in the conflict. The limestone quarry at Nahi Kala regions the locale of the struggle has been the cause of the ruin of the precious and dense forests and vital water resources which support the livelihoods of the villagers in the Thano-Malkot area (Shiva and Bandyopadhyay 1986). The 60 acre of quarry area given on a 20 year lease was in a reserved forest. The lease having expired in 1982, the operator asked for an extension of another 20years, despite the forest conservation act of 1980 being in force. Despite the refusal by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to continue quarrying, the local civil court allowed the continuation of the process. Quarrying destroyed rich forest cover and topsoil over large areas in the catchment. The combined effect had been in the destruction of the hydrological capacity of the hill slopes that reduces instant run off and absorbs more water in the topsoil thereby recharging aquifers in the Mussorie hills. The destruction of the hydrological system was reflected in the fact that the villages surveyed had 50% decrease in the discharge of water during lean periods. Administrative ineffectiveness led the people of Nahi Kala to resort to the non-violent resistance to limestone quarrying under the activism of the Chipko Movement. The villagers and the Chipko activist's joint efforts had been successful in bringing to halt the quarrying activities after six months of struggle.

Environmental Issues in India

Habitat destruction is identified as a major threat to biodiversity conservation. Pressing needs of food, fiber, shelter, fuel and fodder trigger enormous pressure on the natural resources and the resultant loss and fragmentation of natural habitats affect all animal and plant species. Various plants and animals are on decline largely due to habitat fragmentation and overexploitation, example habitats of Great Indian Bustard in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan. Population driven pressures on croplands, pasturelands and forests coupled with rural poverty have triggered mass migration to urban areas in search of employment (Umesh Babu and Nautiyal 2015).



courtesy :The Tribune

In a recently published article by The Tribune, the illegal and rampant felling of Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh has been brought into limelight. The original Act fined the offender Rs 500 and up to three months of imprisonment. However, the Act encouraged people to cause more offences as the fine was merged. The Municipal Council Act was therefore amended in 2010, which fines the offender Rs.5000 along with imprisonment of three months. In order to provide greater control over offenders, the state government has issued a notification to turn the council into corporation thus bringing efficient supervision (Service 2015).

Hindustan Uniliver Limited's factory at Kodaikanal became the center of attention on March 2001, when Greenpeace brought into limelight that glass scrap containing mercury had been sold off to a scrap dealer about three km's away from the factory. Investigations revealed 5.3 tons of toxic glass scrap sold off without decontamination. The mercury contamination in Kodaikanal originated at the factory owned by the Hindustan Unilever and the exposed the negligence of the factory. Mercury, dangerous to flora and fauna were imported from the United States to export finished products to markets in US and Europe. Several workers of the Kodaikanal factory complained of kidney and related ailments as the company did not follow the proper rules for disposal. An investigation led by the Government of India found out that the level of mercury present had been 1000 times more than normal conditions. Amidst raised concerns of the environmental activist group Greenpeace led into the decontamination of the site and disposed off the scrap to industrial recyclers (Yamunan 2015).

Efforts of environmental conservation

Green Cover Management: - Under this programme, the department raises plantations in the designed watershed areas and distributes seedlings to farmers to be planted in their farmyards and homestead lands. The department considers both public and private lands and supplies seedlings/plants to beneficiaries free of cost and the benefits from the plantations during the harvest period are shared by farmers equitably (Umesh Babu and Nautiyal 2015).

Farm forestry: - Farm forestry envisages the introduction of green revolution in Indian agricultural economy. Cow dung mixed with litter and green leaf makes an organic manure which serves as life-blood to the soil. Its scarcity or absence from the field deprives the soil of phosphorus, potash and nitrogen and seriously impairs soil fertility. According to estimates, over 458 million metric tons of wet dungaree diverted annually to the rural hearths. At 5 metric tons/ha this amount could fertilize 91 million hectares of land. Farm forestry therefore aims to stop this loss by the creation of firewood resources within the farm itself, and the release of cow dung for its legitimate fertilizing use constitute the main objectives of farm forestry (Pant 1980). The author observed that the farmers are benefitting both economically and ecologically through the process, as the farmer gains self-sufficiency and can sell the extra wood for revenue. The trees planted on the farm boundaries also serve as shelter belts. An impressive example is found in the Mohindargarh district of Haryana, where the creation of systematic windbreaks has practically stopped sand intrusion from Rajasthan. Spectacular work in this sense has also been done in the states of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.

Campaigns

Center for Science and Environment is a public interest research and advocacy organisation headquartered in New Delhi. This group strongly relies on knowledge based activism to make a difference. Centre for Science and Environment recognises Social Impact Assessment (SIA) as an important tool to inform decision makers, regulators and stakeholders about the possible social and economic impacts of a development project. CSE has developed a five-day training programme aimed at giving practical exposure to participants with specific reference to infrastructure, mining and other industrial projects.

Small hydro power plants are growing up in India at a rapid pace. They are promoted by the government as 'green energy' but in reality the projects are causing ecological imbalances. The CSE held a conference in Dehradun to talk about these and how to combat the effects without disrupting the growth of the sector.

Eco socialism and Eco feminism

Eco socialism is an ideology merging aspects of Marxism, socialism and liberation socialism with that of green politics, ecology and anti-globalization. Eco-socialists generally believe that the expansion of the capitalist system is the cause of social exclusion, poverty, war and environmental degradation through globalization and imperialism, under the supervision of repressive states and transnational structures. Eco-socialists advocate dismantling capitalism, focusing on common ownership of the means of production by freely associated producers, and restoring the commons. Most eco-socialists are involved in peace and antiwar movements, and eco-socialist writers, like Kovel, generally believe that "violence is the rupturing of ecosystems" and is therefore "deeply contrary to eco socialist values".

The term eco feminism is believed to have been coined by the French writer Françoise d'Eaubonne in her book *Le Féminisme ou la Mort* (1974). Ecofeminists believe that the connections between women and nature are illustrated through traditionally "feminine" values such as reciprocity, nurturing and cooperation, which are present both among women and in nature. Women and nature are also united through their shared history of oppression by a patriarchal Western society. Vandana Shiva claims that women have a special connection to the environment through their daily interactions and this connection has been ignored. The social benefits and sustenance needs are not recognized by the capitalist reductionist paradigm, because it fails to perceive the interconnectedness of nature, or the connection of women's lives, work and knowledge with the creation of wealth. However, feminist and social ecologist Janet Biehl has strongly criticised that fact as it focused too much on the mystical connections and not the actual conditions of women.

In an article published by the Aljazeera, villages of Rajasthan, India have been reportedly embracing eco feminism. Faced with an alarmingly skewed ratio of boys to girls, villagers in the

dusty and arid region surrounding Jaipur, the state's capital, are turning their backs on female foeticide rooted in cultural tradition. The birth of a baby girl is as welcomed as the birth of a male child. Linking to environmentalism and gender activism, these villages' plant trees to celebrate the birth of daughters. The village of Piplantri has been turned lush green thanks to the initiative, and now boasts 270,000 trees - a rare sight in the desert state - largely due to the efforts of former sarpanch (headman), Shyam Sundar Paliwal (Akhtar 2014).

Comparison of Environmental conservation on India and the U.K

Efforts of environment conservation

One advantage claimed for agroforestry is that it can bring onto farmland some of the biodiversity benefits associated with woodland (Stamps and Linit, 1998). Because trees are larger, live longer, and have a greater variety of tissues and structures than herbaceous plants, they can provide niches for a wide range of organisms. The two major forms of agro forestry in U.K are Silvopastoral and Silvoarable.



Agroforestry in UK



CTWN activists protest



Agroforestry in India



Community protest against Coca Cola

Environment Campaigns in India	Environment Campaigns in U.K
<p>Rural development Ministry has decided to tackle the problems of youth unemployment and air pollution together by planting 2billion trees along the highways. This would provide jobs for the unemployed youths and also provide a green cover on vast stretches of highways (Huffington Post 2014).</p> <p>Farm forestry envisages the introduction of green revolution in Indian agricultural economy. The farmers are benefitting both economically and ecologically through the process, as the farmer gains self-sufficiency and can sell the extra wood for revenue.</p> <p>Center for Science and Environment is a public interest research and advocacy organisation headquartered in New Delhi. CSE has developed a five-day training programme aimed at giving practical exposure to participants with specific reference to infrastructure, mining and other industrial projects.</p> <p>With sale of crackers down by at least 30 per cent this Diwali, the levels of noise and air pollution in the city were significantly less than the previous years. People getting more conscious about 'green' Diwali, the data collected by the Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board (CECB).</p>	<p>Impressive example of forestry and protection is seen in the efforts of the CTWN (Coventry Tree Warden Network), which promotes the plantation of community orchards for the benefit of all.</p> <p>The two major forms of agro forestry in U.K are Silvopastoral and Silvoarable. One advantage claimed for agroforestry is that it can bring onto farmland some of the biodiversity benefits associated with woodland (Stamps and Linit, 1998). Because trees are larger, live longer, and have a greater variety of tissues and structures than herbaceous plants, they can provide niches for a wide range of organisms.</p> <p>Greenpeace campaigned to prevent E.ON from building a new coal power station at Kingsnorth in Kent. The government has announced that coal power stations, like Drax, will close by 2025.</p> <p>With the help of local residents, schoolchildren and councilors, Brighton & Hove Friends of the Earth planted a new Bee World. They used 2,000 wildflowers to turn a grass verge into a haven for the city's bees.</p>

Conclusion

In a densely populated country like India, managing environmental degradation and conservation requires task force and research. The Government has developed efficient programmes like agro forestry to provide a sustainable socio-economic life for the people. The residents of rural areas are widely effected by deforestation as the trees provide them timber, fuel wood and fodder. The development of agro forestry encourages plantation of trees by the communities in the rural area to not only provide timber but also help them economically by selling excess firewood. The development programmes hence are an indication that the government is taking up issues concerning the environment seriously for the benefit of common man.

CASE STUDY IN GHANA

Profile of Ghana

Ghana, the country geographically closer to the centre of the earth than any other country, can be found on the West Coast of Africa, with its bordering neighbours being Togo, to the east; Ivory Coast, to the west; Burkina Faso to the north and the Gulf of Guinea to the south. According to the 2012 Population Census the population is 25,000,000 with 51.4% female and 48.6% male. Its total land area is 23.85 million hectares. Annual mean temperature ranges between 25-27 Degrees Celsius and this remain fairly constant throughout the year.

Ghana's main exports are gold, cocoa beans and timber. Agriculture which includes forestry contributes immensely to Ghana's economy and account for almost half of the country's GDP and export earnings. Also a very large part of the population depends on the forest for food, furniture, meat and water supply sources.

Overview of Deforestation in Ghana

The major environmental issue in Ghana is Deforestation. Ghana has one of the highest deforestation rates in Africa at two per cent annually (UN 2007). Between 1990 and 2000, Ghana lost an average of 135,000 hectares of forest per year, amounting to an average annual deforestation rate of -2% (FAO 2007). Between 2000 and 2005, Ghana's forest decreased by a further 115,000 hectares, with a rate of forest change of -2% per annum. In total between 1990 and 2005, Ghana lost 26% of its forest cover or around 1,931,000 hectares (UNEP 2008). The highest of these deforestation rates was 2.24% between 2005 and 2010 (UNEP 2008)

Deforestation in Ghana has primarily been as a result of timber harvesting (logging), slash and burn agriculture, mining, wildfires and fuel wood. However, according to Yiridoe and Nanang (2001), logging is the most important factor that contributes to deforestation in Ghana. Ghana is losing most of its forest due to the excessive harvesting of timber which exceeds the annual allowable cut by far. These logging activities are having a massive toll on the resource base in Ghana.

Slash and burn agriculture, another major contributing factor to deforestation, is the process of cutting down the vegetation of land, setting fire to it and using the ashes to provide nutrients to the soil for use of planting food crops. The persistent adoption of these farming methods in addition to the ever growing population has forced the farmers to seek more and more land to their food and fuelwood needs. This process has resulted in substantial degradation of land, gradual disappearance of forest cover, decline in soil fertility-and an anticipated land crisis (Seini, 2002; Anim Kwabong, 2004).

Environmental degradation in Ghana can also be largely attributed to mining activities. Open cast mining activities for gold and diamond, especially those by the small-scale operators and large-scale mining for bauxite, manganese and gold, jeopardizes the survival of trees and vegetation in the forest regions of Ghana. Iron ore extraction around Awaso (Afaso hills) and bauxite mining at Atewa and Tano-Ofu and surface mining in the Western and Ashanti Regions have also threatened the forest reserves in the country. In light of this, the recent national development policy proposes to place 2% of its production forest reserves under mining (FAO 2001).

Fuel wood constitutes two-thirds of the total energy consumption in Ghana and is estimated to 25-28 million m³ of raw wood annually (Grados and Janssen 2008). Approximately 84% of household use firewood as their main source of fuel, primarily in the form of dead wood collected on farm and fallow land (Wiafe, 2005). Substantially the cutting down of trees for fuel contributes greatly to deforestation but adequate data to document its relevance is lacking.



Example of Slash and Burn Agriculture in Ghana.



Illegal Mining activities in the Ashanti Region of Ghana

Government policies and Deforestation in Ghana

Until 1994, there were no detailed and clearly defined forest policies specifying goals, objectives and strategies for development of forest and the future direction of the timber industry were not in existence (Ministry of Lands and Forestry, 1996). Even after the introduction of the 1994 forest and wildlife policies, these policies have ironically contributed to the uncontrollable felling of trees in the country. The Annual Allowable Cut before the passing of the 1994 forest and wildlife policies was 1.2 million m³ (FD/FIMP, 1995). However, increased earnings from the exportation of timber, which led to an improved terms of trade compromised government's efforts to effectively monitor logging activities in the country. This led to excessive exploitation way above the Annual Allowable Cut.

Another major factor to deforestation has been the alienation of forest communities from policy formulation although such communities are expected to help in protecting the forest (Ministry of Lands and Forestry 1996). There is very little or no proper legal sanctions; low fines do not deter offenders from continuing perpetrating the acts of deforestation. It is therefore not surprising that in less than 50 years Ghana's primary rainforest has been reduced by 90% (UNEP 2008).

In conclusion, environmental laws and policies have to a large extent been ineffective. Government's conflict of interest and tight budgetary constraints have led to weaker monitoring of lumbering activities in the country. For Forest Law Enforcement and Governance to be improved, there is the need for private-public partnership. Also, the individual role of civil society groups and other environmental activists are paramount in promoting sustainable forest management. Following the introduction of the forest and wildlife policies in 1994, many of these environmental pressure groups sprang up to contribute in diverse ways to improve forest governance and champion the sustainable forest management agenda.

Environmental Activism in Ghana

Over the years, there has been an increasing need for environmental protection groups to help squash the problem of deforestation in the country. According to USAID/Ghana (2006), there are over 1000 organizations registered as environmental NGOs. However, a greater proportion of these organizations champion social and cultural agenda more than they propagate matters of environmental concern, thereby rendering them ineffective as an environmental activist group. A table summarizing the most recognizable and functional environmental pressure groups and NGOs and their activities in Ghana is presented below.

NGO/Pressure Group	Geographic Focus	Subject Focus	Type of Organization
International Conservation International	Upper Guinea Hotspot, Western Region, mines at Ahafo, Akyem, Atewa, and Nyinehin	Biodiversity conservation, mitigation of mining impacts, encouraging shade cocoa rather than full sun.	Implementation
Nature Conservation Research Centre	Volta and Eastern Regions; nature-based tourism sites throughout Ghana	Nature-based and cultural tourism; shade grown cocoa and cocoa tourism	Implementation

CARE	Western Region		Implementation
World Conservation Union (IUCN)		Sustainable forestry, good governance	Implementation, umbrella organisation
National			
Ghana Wildlife Society	Ramsar sites, coastal lagoons	CBNRM, Important Birds Areas, Ramsar sites, marine turtles, shorebirds	Implementation, membership organisation
Forest Watch-Ghana	Nationwide	Coalition of environmental NGOs	Umbrella organisation, advocacy
League of Environmental Journalists	Nationwide	Coalition of journalists	Umbrella organisation, membership organisation
Ghana Wildlife Clubs	Nationwide	School-based	Education, membership organisation
Friends of the Rivers and Waterbodies	Kumasi	Tree planting, erosion control	Implementation
Ghana Heritage	Ghana's slave forts	Conservation of	Trust, capitalized

Conservation	and Kakum National Park	cultural and natural sites	by USAID, implementer
The Green Earth Organisation	Nationwide	Westland Conservation and reclamation	Advocacy, education, implementation
Friends of the Earth-Ghana	Nationwide	Sustainable forestry	Advocacy, education and Implementation
Ghana Association for the Conservation of Nature	Kumasi	Tree planting, Sacred Groves	Implementation
West African Primate Conservation Action	Upper Guinean rainforest	Primate Conservation	Implementation
Wasa Communities Affected by Mining (WACAM)	Communities affected by mining	Watchdog on mining issues; education	Advocacy

Source: USAID/Ghana Environmental Threats and Opportunities Assessment, 2006

However, for the purpose of this report, I focus on Friends of the Earth, Ghana given the wider coverage of their geographic focus, their direction of environmental campaigns and continuous partnership and collaborations with other environmental activist groups and government to protect the environment.

Friends of the Earth, Ghana

Right after being formed in 1986, Friends of the Earth, Ghana (FoEG) became a member of [Friends of the Earth International](#) (FoEI) — the world’s largest grassroots environmental network with over 76 independent environmental organizations across the globe. FoEG, a non-governmental environmental organisation, primarily aims to protect further environmental degradation by providing education and training on sustainable forestry management, creating environmental awareness and working closely with government to improve forest government in the country.

Projects and Campaigns

1. Friends of the Earth, Ghana has been successful in obtaining funding from the European Union to embark on a 3-year (2013-2016) environmental project: **Strengthening Civil Society Informal and Private Sector Participation in Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (SciPFLEG)**. Friends of the Earth, Ghana in conjunction with the Working Group on Forest Certification Ghana would seek to improve forest governance by reducing illegal logging and other corrupt practices in the forestry sector. Friends of the Earth, Ghana believes the project will contribute enormously to promote sustainable management of Ghana’s forest reserves (Friends of the Earth 2015).

2. **Enforcement and Governance for Sustainable Forest Management (CiSoPFLEG)** is also a 3-year EU funded project to support progress with the Voluntary Partnership Agreements between the EU and partner countries towards implementation of the EU’s Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan for improved the forest governance. Both Ghana and Cameroon have signed VPAs and are now developing systems to control, verify and license legal timber in the two countries

3. **Biodiversity Conservation and Community Ecotourism Development of the Tafi Atome Wildlife Sanctuary:** FoE-Ghana, with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP), in conjunction with the local authorities of the Tafi Atome Township worked to preserve the endangered species, the Mona monkeys (*Cercopithecus Mona*)

and the 98 hectare natural habitat. The move was to reemphasize the importance of preserving and enhancing biodiversity and the potential of such wildlife sanctuary in promoting ecotourism.

The environmental campaigns embarked upon by Friends of the Earth, Ghana borders on issues such as the negative impacts of large-scale gold mining on the environment, sustainable forest management practices, environmental awareness in local schools and communities to encourage community-based environmental monitoring and management. To operationalize their campaign messages, FoEG led the establishment of four nurseries with about 17,000 tree seedlings on school lands in some communities in the Volta Region of Ghana. In consultation with local authorities, traditional bye-laws were drafted and subsequently implemented. Members of these communities were also educated and trained in organic farming, environmentally friendly farming practices and other livelihood activities such as bee keeping and grasscutter rearing. Training in grasscutter rearing was particularly welcoming as it was not atypical of farmers in these communities to use bushfires to drive out grasscutters.

It is safe to say that all these projects and campaigns are geared towards sustaining the very environment that all lives depend on.



A Delegation from the Eu/Foe Ghana the SciPFLEG project site



One of the four tree nurseries with about 1700 trees in total established on school land and communities in the Volta Region of Ghana to be replanted by the community with the help of Friends of the Earth Ghana in the Tafi Atomi Wildlife Sanctuary.



A Mona monkey in the Tafi Atome Wildlife Sanctuary in Ghana

Comparison between Ghana and UK

Ingleharts theory on post-materialism suggest that industrialised and wealthy societies like the United Kingdom are more likely to be concerned with environmental issues (1970).His theory further suggested that developing countries (such as Ghana) will lack environmental values .Prices further explain that for the majority of these developing “concern about employment, infrastructure, services and political repression takes precedence over environmental activism” (1994:42).The main point these theories seek to bring out is that poorer countries have too much on their plate and are struggling to meet their basic needs to be bothered by environmental issues.

However the Health of the Planet Survey claims that conventional wisdom is wrong about the major differences in levels of environmental concerns in citizens of rich and poor nations. Environmental problems are salient in both wealthy and poor nations and residents of poor nations express as much concern about environmental quality as do those living in wealthy nations (Dunlap 1993:8). The environment is not a post-materialist quality of life issue, but instead it is a concern for human survival (Dunlap and Mertig 1995).

The universe is inter-connected in such a way that everything including the ecological system and the atmosphere are joined and interlocked. This connection concludes that global environmental issues such as pollution, deforestation and global warming are trans-border issues meaning that both the developing countries such as Ghana and developed countries like United Kingdom are affected. Environmental Issues are therefore global.

“In every country, economic growth and development is always accompanied by increased use of natural resources and intensified environmental degradation” (Commoner 1993:520). Our insatiable thirst for wealth and development is rapidly killing the earth and destroying the earth and the world as a whole. Every country has at least one major pressing environmental issue that needs to be addressed with absolute attention. The major environmental issues in the UK are air pollution and climate change (Atkins et al 1989) while the major environmental issue in Ghana is deforestation (Kuwornu et al 2011).

Since it has been established that environmental issues are global there is a need to for there to be bodies such as the government, the community and pressure groups to help in solving these issues. Pressure groups like the Coventry Tree Warden Network in the UK and Friends of the Earth Ghana represent viewpoints of people who are dissatisfied with the current conditions in society, and often represent alternative viewpoints that are well represented in the mainstream population (EPH).

The only clear cut difference between the CTWN and Foe-G is the aims and objectives which are peculiar to their respective communities. The CTWN's main aim is to protect and promote hedge grows in Coventry and beyond whiles Foe-G main aim is to create awareness and promote sustainable forest management practices in the rural areas of Ghana.

It is clear that they both use similar strategic procedures to achieve the universal aim of creating a safe and healthy environment for the future. The method of creating awareness in the community is clearly recognizable in both CTWN and Foe-G. Also a clear strategy in both group is getting the government to understand the harmful effects of cutting trees and creating stricter tree conservation laws to solve this issue .Again another way both the CTWN and Foe-G is planting trees and they both do this by involving the community and also schools.

Conclusion

In conclusion the environmental crisis is a global issue therefore every society and country has a responsibility to keep it safe.

CASE STUDY IN CHINA

Introduction

In this case study about environmental issues in China, we present a brief profile of the country and examine major environmental issues affecting the nation. We especially focus on the air pollution as it is becoming a major environmental problem of China. And then we look at a new grass-root environmental activism which processing in green travel in order to reduce air pollution.

Profile of China

According to Zheng (1998), China has many kinds of great potential and abundance of natural resources.

China has a land area of 9.6 million square kilometers. It makes 22.1 per cent of the land area of the Asian continent, 6.4 percent of the world's land area, which is one of the world's land area top 3. China is rich in land resources and has two significant geographical features: First, high altitude, undulating mountains (including hills, mountains and plateaus) occupied an area of over ground (plains and high plains), into 2/3 and 1/3 ratio; the second, in the complex and diverse ecological environment, the formation of steppe, less arable land, the proportion of small forest, difficult to use a large proportion because of land characteristics. At present, accounting for 37.4% of the total prairie land area, arable land accounted for 10.4%, accounting for 12.7% of forest land, while land deserts, the Gobi, alpine desert, rocky mountain, glaciers and permanent snow and so difficult to use the total accounted for 20.5% . Nevertheless, the potential of China more fully rational use of land resources is still very large, in addition to the existing lawn, farmland and woodland, China is estimated there are about 33 million hectares of wasteland suitable for agriculture, 60 million hectares of grazing land and over 9000 million hectares of barren hills, wasteland and woodland to be exploited (Zheng 1998).

China now has 124 million hectares of forest area, although it accounted for the first eight in the world, but the forest coverage rate is only 12.98 per cent, ranked 121 in the world; forest volume 9.141 billion cubic meters, ranking 5th in the world, which have a variety of materials and high economic value species.

Environment Issues of China

The reckless expanding of modern industrial, has brought about the rapid economic growth at the same time, the environmental issue restoration capacity is in jeopardy. With the social economic and industrialized development especially during the recent 30 years, the ecological problem in China has become very prominent. Problems involved such as destroyed natural resources, the deforestation problem, air pollution, food supply problem and the environmental issues etc. which are seriously threaten human existence and development.

Studies on Environmental Problem of China

Because of the rapid growth of economic and industrial developments, China is now considered to be the engine of the world's economic. Although China has experienced a fast economic growth, air and water pollution is now threaten the country itself along with other environment issues such as accelerated deforestation, climate change (Xie 2011). As the expansion of economic has grown, the energy consumption has increased (Chan and Yao 2015). The growing demands of industrial needs which use for producing coals and bricks and timber cause of deforestation. As we all know, deforestation will lead to lose of agriculture land, land desertification and air pollution. Air pollution is mostly cause by not enough



trees to absorb the waste in the air (Likens n.d.). “China now is facing a fact that air pollution has become one of the top environmental concerns” (Chan and Yao 2015).



Government policy

Chinese authorities are clearly concerned. In the Twelfth Five-Year Plan explicitly proposed the calls of “To build a resource-saving and environment-friendly society and improve the ecological civilization and green development” (Zhang 2000). In response to global climate change we will also enhance resource conservation and management, vigorously develop the circular economy, and intensify environmental protection efforts, and promote ecological protection and restoration. The Twelfth Five-Year Plan also stressed that peace and development remain the main themes of the present era, and pursuit of peace.

Activism

In the past decades, China’s grass-root environmentalism has grown steadily, despite the specific structure and official ideology of materialistic historicism. Nowadays, non-governmental organisations and social activism in environmental protection is becoming more and more mature and reaching a climax level of the history compared to the other fields (Wu 2009).

“Transnational environment groups contribute to addressing global environmental problems by heightening world-wide concern for the environment” (Wapner 1996). Like the famous NGO—Greenpeace, China’s environmental activism also make their offer to disseminate what (Wapner

1996) call “ecological sensibility”. Established in 2011, a group call “Biker GZ” is making their progress in disseminating the green travel ideation to the public.

In Guangzhou, the right of cycling groups is widespread violated. Travel by bicycle is often neglected in the construction of bridges and roads in the government’s plan. Lack of attention to the public bicycle system and other issues need to be solved. Biker does in-depth research in biking travel groups. The research results that was published by the media has aroused widespread concern. And they appeal to the relevant government departments through workshops and seminars. Also, they organize volunteer ride campaigns to show the public how they can benefit from the green travel. Increase the attention and support for the cycling group at the policy level to improve the cycling environment which can efficiently disseminate the idea of green travel in order to reduce the air pollution.

Campaigns/Programs

The Happy Ride

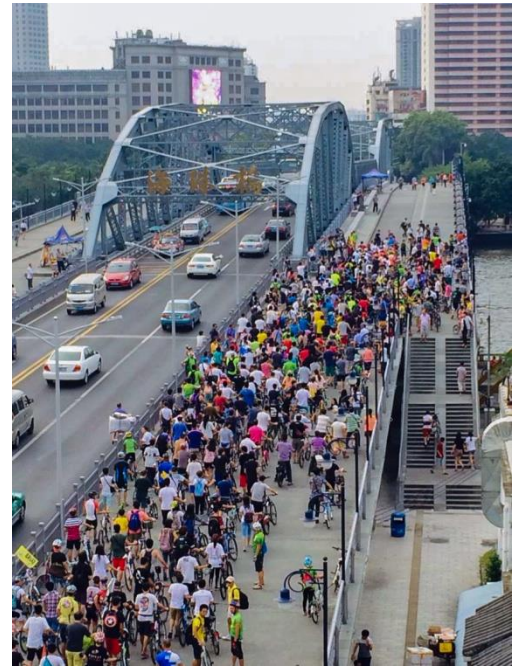
Combined with the "happy", "good", "riding" three elements together, Biker GZ organized a campaign named “Happy Ride”. The participants in a group of 3 people to rode around the Haizhu Lake which is the “Green Heart” of Guangzhou City. While having a low-carbon green outdoor experience, they approached five different children experience zone and played games with the children who needed help and spread the idea of reducing air pollution. Also, they held a welfare carnival for children and the public to educate them on the care service program in Guangzhou City.

The Earth Hour Ride

As a green organization, they responded to the call of Earth Hour positively in 31/03/2015. They organized a charity ride around Guangzhou Tower which is a location mark of Guangzhou City. By the time of 20:30pm which is the beginning of the Earth Hour, they rode together to disseminate the idea of saving the earth by reduce the air pollution.

The Haizhu Bridge Ride

In order to draw attention of the public and the government on the effects of air pollution caused by cars, they did a campaign on the historical Haizhu Bridge in Guangzhou City. They recruited 100 volunteers to ride across the bridge to show the public the significances of travelling by bicycle and public transport instead of cars, to help reduce air pollution.



Public Bicycle in-depth Research

In 2014, an in-depth research was carried out by Biker GZ, the organization found out that although there are many public service bicycles points in the metro stations, main roads and other significant place all round the Guangzhou City, its utilization is surprisingly low. The reason for bicycles being underutilised are because although there are bicycle points to pick up bicycles dropping points are highly inconvenience, and also there are lack of sufficient bicycle paths for riders. To solve this problem, they associate with the media to publish a report to send a message to the government to appeal to them to focus on this problem.

The University City Ride

Biker GZ is targeting university students to educate them on the advantages of green travel as they are the next generation to help reduce the air pollution. In order to let them realize the importance of environmental protection, the Bike GZ organized a bike campaign which recruited the students from different universities in the University City in Guangzhou. They rode in a line to ride around the University City. This campaign has made a successful implication to the students, it leads the beginning of Night Ride which is a popular activity in the students now.

The” Biker GZ” Weibo

As a new media platform, the Sina Weibo has been popular in China since 2010. The Biker GZ has created an account to disseminate the green travel idea to the public. They created some interesting ways to draw people’s attentions through the internet, such as voting, drawing cartons, outstanding copywriting. Many of their works attract people’s attention, especially teenagers. It makes the weibo an efficient and effective way to publicize their idea.

The Healthy Ride

In order to carry forward the idea of green travel and reduce air pollution, the Biker GZ



organized a ride along the Pearl River. This event is aimed at the middle age. Since middle age group is more likely to care about their health problems, the theme of this campaign is “keep exercising, keep staying in healthy”. The organization told the public how enjoyable to ride along the mother river of Guangzhou and keep healthy at the same time. This campaign is the beginning of creating an

aura of “ecological sensibility” in the public.

Comparison

Although China’s economic has a great growth in the past 30 years, it came with a price. In order to provide the wood in coal making industry, timbers and farming land, lots of trees has been cut which leads to air pollution.

In the Twelfth Five-Year Plan explicitly proposed the calls of “To build a resource-saving and environment-friendly society and improve the ecological civilization and green development” (Zhang 2000). Also, the activism, Biker GZ, is making its offer to help to reduce the air

pollution. They organize riding campaigns to encourage people travel by bicycles and public transports. Do in-depth research of air pollution to draw people's attention to care the environment. And spear the green travel idea to the public.

In the UK, the CTNW is doing their jobs to tell the public and the government how important trees are. They work with the tree council and do campaigns such as walking protest and plan trees with local car company. Also they are passing the tree protecting concept to the next generation.

Conclusion

The reckless expanding of modern industrial, has brought about the rapid economic growth at the same time, the environmental issue restoration capacity is in jeopardy. Environmental issue like air pollution is within the whole world, especially development countries like China.

Base on the study, it demonstrates the Biker GZ has done a successful influence in spear the idea of traveling by bike and public transport. It is a way to reduce the CO2 produce by cars. In further, green travel is a good way to help to solve the air pollution.

Comparison between Nigeria, India, China and Ghana

Nigeria	India	China	Ghana
Government is involved in tree-planting (Lagos State Government greening initiative)	Government is involved in tree-planting in rural areas	Government is involved in reducing air pollution through the green travel	Both Ghana and Cameroon have signed VPAs and are now developing systems to control, verify and license legal timber in the two countries.
Qadiriyyah Movement in Kano State believes that “environmental care is a religious duty as well as communal responsibility” and they are creating awareness of environmental care through tree-planting.	Center for Science and Environment, New Delhi recognises Social Impact Assessment (SIA) as an important tool to inform decision makers, regulators and stakeholders about the possible social and economic impacts of a development project.	Biker GZ is making huge progress in disseminating the green travel idea to the public by encouraging them to travel on bicycle.	Friends of the Earth, Ghana in conjunction with the Working Group on Forest Certification Ghana would seek to improve forest governance by reducing illegal logging and other corrupt practices in the forestry sector.
Recommendations			
Government should enact a law on collective sustainable initiative on tree-planting to protect the environment. Government should also consider a strategic development and implementation of Protected Areas Law to save the country from further environmental damage.	Based on the case studies of India, the Government should impose strict rules against environment offenders in order to stop people from disturbing ecological balance. The collective efforts of the government and the citizens can help reduce environmental degradation and devaluation in the years to come and provide us with a cleaner environment to survive in.	Government should create more awareness on the green travel by educating the public that green travel is a good way to help solve the air pollution in China. Government of China should keep encourage the availability of eco-friendly vehicles to reduce CO2 emission that is major air polluter in the country.	Government should understand that the environmental crisis is a global issue and ensure the environment is safe by enacting laws on environmental care. In addition, Government should provide stricter sanctions and also be more active in educating the people especially those in the rural areas about different sustainable farm methods

Final note

Our study based on the environmental policies and campaigns of four countries reveals the fact that the present global environmental crisis can be improved if government, activist movements and individuals work collectively and efficiently in utilising the resources, without degrading it.

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