

Journal of Digital Economy



DEEP ECOLOGY- A DEEP GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Mayuri Barman

Associate Professor Department of Philosophy Pandu College, Guwahati

Bitupon Borah

Research Scholar Department of Philosophy Gauhati University

Abstract:

Deep ecology designate as a unique perspective on the environment is based on a new perception of reality that has profound implications not only for science and philosophy but for everyday life. The concept of the independent human self is transformed by deep ecology, which views the self as a vital part of the larger ecological system and emphasizes how interconnected and mutually dependent all living things are. This approach sees the self as a point of connection in the vast network of energy interaction an exchange permeating the natural world, rather than as an isolated entity. From this angle, the self can be thought of as analogous to energy since it symbolizes the life force that is always flowing through and across ecosystems and species. All living things, from the largest ecosystems to the smallest microbes, contain the energy; humans are not the only creatures that do. The force behind evolutionary processes and the keeper of the precarious balance that life on Earth has is the energy of development, change, and adaptation. Thus its involvement as energy transition shall benefit from a deeper recognition of the intrinsic value of nature with a shift from anthropocentric view to eco-centrism.

Key words: Deep- Ecology, Self, Intrinsic Value, Ecosystem, Energy, Anthropocentric.

Introduction:

Our planet is currently experiencing an ecological catastrophe. The ecological integrity and natural balance are being severely harmed by unsustainable development patterns, growing industrialization, the unrelenting burning of fossil fuels, massive deforestation, unparalleled biodiversity erosion, and severe environmental degradation. The contemporary environmental problem is thus a result of the world's population expansion, the dominant power-driven society,

anomie, individualism, and limitless material and energy consumption. Human actions have been so heinous and inconsiderate of the natural world because they are driven by a mind-set of unbridled consumerism and an unsustainable pattern of production and consumption.

Problem:

The devastation of the natural world and the misery of people everywhere are related to environmental issues. Numerous ecological concerns are posing a growing threat to our modern societies. However, it is unexpected that there will be a range of viewpoints in the upcoming years that can be used to move toward better sustainability in the face of the global ecological crisis. The components of the environment work together as an integrated system to ensure that a constant state of balance is maintained. The need to protect the environment is evident due to the strains caused by the ecological crises.

Objective:

- 1. Examining the philosophical foundations of deep ecology and how they apply to current environmental issues..
- 2. Assessing modern green energy methods and technology from the deep ecology prism.
- 3. Determining how to incorporate profound ecological concepts into development frameworks and policies for energy.
- 4. Evaluating the possible effects on social justice, economic resilience, and environmental sustainability of a profound green energy transition.
- 5. Making practical recommendations that communities, industry stakeholders, and legislators may use to support a comprehensive and sustainable energy transition.

Analysis:

Deep Ecology:

Considering deep ecology in contrast to its "shallow" counterpart may make it easier to understand. Deep ecologists argue that pollution and resource depletion are the main concerns of shallow ecology, which is anthropocentric. So, one may consider shallow ecology to be very much the mainstream environmental movement. While adopting a "total-field" worldview, deep ecology rejects anthropocentrism. In other words, the goal of deep ecologists is not to develop environmental morals that will complement our current ethical system. Rather, they require a completely different kind of thinking and worldview. To counter the damaging philosophy of contemporary industrial civilization, deep ecologists support the creation of a new eco-philosophy, or "ecosophy".

Specifically within the context of deep ecology, transmuting the energy of ecological selfrealization is a profound process that entails actively cultivating a sense of reverence, stewardship, and responsibility towards the environment in addition to realizing our interconnectedness with it. Here's how one can accomplish it and impart other people about it:

Insight into Deep Ecology and Ecological Self-Realization:

In deep ecology, self-realization entails realizing how interconnected one is with the natural world. It's about realizing that we are essential components of nature, not something distinct from it. This insight frequently results in a greater appreciation for the diversity and complexity of life on Earth as well as a deeper sense of duty and care for the environment. It may also encourage a change in attitudes and actions toward more peaceful and sustainable living. Deep ecology stresses the need for a fundamental shift in consciousness towards a more ecocentric worldview, going beyond surface-level environmentalism to address the deep psychological and philosophical foundations of our ecological crisis.

Cultivating a relationship with Mother Nature:

Spending time in the environment and establishing a close, intimate relationship with the natural world is one of the most effective methods for cultivating ecological self-realization. involving in adventures in nature like hiking, camping, gardening, or just spending time in nature allows us to directly witness the intricacy, beauty, and interdependence of all living things. We can develop a sense of present and appreciation for the natural world by engaging in meditation techniques like meditation or mindful stepping in the natural environment. We can strengthen our connection to and appreciation for the diversity and beauty of the Earth by taking the time to slow down and observe the sights, sounds, and sensations of the natural world. Raising awareness and teaching people about environmental challenges and the value of living in peace with nature is a crucial part of sharing our ecological self-realization with others.

To truly cultivate a meaningful relationship with Mother Nature, one must have a strong sense of duty and connection to the natural world. Different exercises and philosophical meditations can help to cultivate this bond. taking part in mindfulness exercises to improve your awareness of the natural world. To do this, one must be in the moment with nature, paying attention to its cycles and enjoying its beauty. Ecological education: Acquiring knowledge about species, ecosystems, and environmental concerns to enhance comprehension of how human activities affect the natural world. adopting zero-waste, permaculture, and minimalist lifestyles that lessen their influence on the environment (Orr, 1992). Deep ecologists, who see the Earth as a living being (commonly referred to as Gaia) that merits respect and care, frequently argue for a spiritual bond with the natural world (Lovelock, 1979).

To encourage environmental sustainability and a closer relationship with nature, a number of programs and groups have embraced the Deep Ecology tenets. Communities created to minimize their ecological impact, promote a strong feeling of community, and maintain a connection to the natural world (Dawson, 2006). endeavors to preserve and replenish natural environments, permitting ecosystems to operate independently of human intervention. Foreman (1991) lists national parks, wildlife reserves, and rewilding initiatives as examples of this. campaigns and movements motivated by the ideas of Deep Ecology that push for changes in policy to safeguard the environment. Greenpeace and the Sierra Club are a couple of examples; they address topics including deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change (McKibben, 1989).

With a focus on the necessity of significant adjustments to our beliefs and way of life, Deep Ecology presents a revolutionary viewpoint on human interaction with the natural world. We can endeavor to create a more sustainable and peaceful lifestyle on Earth by appreciating the inherent worth of all living things and cultivating a close relationship with the natural world. A basis for developing a loving and respectful relationship with Mother Nature is provided by the ideas and methods of Deep Ecology, which can be adopted by both individuals and communities.

Promoting Ecological Sustainability:

Transmuting energy to others also involves living in accordance with ecological principles. This entails lowering our environmental impact through resource conservation, waste reduction, selection of sustainable goods, and encouragement of green initiatives and behaviors. Encouragement of people to take up environmental stewardship and conservation is another aspect of transforming good energy. We may inspire and enable people to make positive changes in their own lives and communities by setting an example and highlighting the advantages of living in balance with the natural world.

To preserve biodiversity and ecological equilibrium, natural habitats must be preserved and damaged ecosystems must be restored. The preservation of isolated species should not take precedence over ecosystem integrity in conservation efforts (Leopold, 1949). Because they coexist peacefully with natural processes, techniques like agroecology, organic farming, and permaculture are compatible with Deep Ecology. According to Altieri (1995), these techniques lessen chemical inputs, improve soil health, and encourage biodiversity. It is imperative that we move away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy sources like hydro, wind, and solar power. According to Jacobson and Delucchi (2011), renewable energy technologies help ensure a sustainable energy future by reducing pollutants and mitigating climate change. It is essential to spread knowledge about sustainability and the tenets of Deep Ecology. Sustainable living behaviors are encouraged by environmental education and the development of an ecological consciousness (Orr, 1992). Promoting environmental policies that give ecological health the upper hand over immediate financial benefit is essential. According to Meadows et al. (1972), policies should support sustainable resource usage, control pollution, and save natural areas. A stable and peaceful coexistence with the natural world can be promoted by adhering to the philosophical principles of Deep Ecology. Individuals and organizations can strive toward ecological sustainability by adopting its tenets, guaranteeing that the earth will continue to be thriving and home to life for future generations.

Promoting Community and Connection:

In order to create a collaborative and supportive environment for positive change, it is imperative to establish relationships and cultivate a sense of community around shared ecological ideals. Community gardens, eco-villages, grassroots projects, and collaborating with already-existing environmental groups and movements are some ways to achieve this. Within the framework of deep ecology, transmuting the positive energy of ecological self-realization entails developing a

close relationship with nature, engaging in mindfulness and gratitude practices, living sustainably, teaching and raising awareness, motivating action, promoting community and connection, and pushing for systemic change. We can build a more resilient and sustainable future for all life on Earth by cooperating with one another to foster a more harmonious connection with the planet and by sharing our ecological insights and values with one another.

The deep ecology theory argues that nature is valuable in and of itself, independent of human need. Many tribal worldviews, which frequently consider humans as a part of a broader natural network, are closely aligned with this concept. Leading deep ecology proponent Arne Naess, for instance, contends that humans are only a small portion of the biosphere and that all life has inherent value (Naess, 1989). Traditionally, tribal communities—like the Ojibwe people of North America— have seen nature as a relative rather than a resource. As noted by Hallowell (1960) in his anthropological research on the Ojibwe tribe, this viewpoint promotes a profound regard for and connection to nature. A foundational element of deep ecology, conservation-oriented behaviors flow naturally from such an approach.

Tribal societies clearly have a strong ecological emphasis on constructing communities based on natural principles. For example, "*Kaitiakitanga*," a Maori term from New Zealand, represents environmental conservation and care. According to Marsden and Henare (1992), this idea unifies environmental care with communal obligations. These customs serve as an example of the fundamental ecological principle that a community's ability to thrive depends on its ecosystem. Deep ecology relies on a direct, reciprocal relationship with nature, which is fostered by a tribal community's sense of belonging and guardianship. Tribal groups' customs and rituals frequently express a strong ecological ethos. One of the Lakota Sioux's profound expressions of their connection to the soil and the universe is the Sun Dance (Powers, 1986). The interconnectedness of humans and nature is reinforced by these rituals, which are not just symbolic but also an essential part of the community's social and ecological fabric. The holistic viewpoints promoted by deep ecology support the reintegration of spiritual and cultural aspects into environmental efforts. This supports the theory that, similar to many tribal traditions, sustainable environmental stewardship necessitates a significant cultural transformation.

Result and Discussion:

One especially pertinent element is "Deep Ecology" by Arne Naess. This deep ecological approach to spirituality may place an emphasis on our connection to the greater whole and seeks to address ecological challenges by creating a method for illuminating the purpose and reality of our existence. It suggests the growth of spirituality, a higher awareness or consciousness that would acknowledge and integrate spiritual values towards nature.

If checks and balances are not put in place, human society is rapidly outgrowing the planet's carrying capacity and its environmental resources, with grave repercussions. The basis of international stability is under jeopardy as the future of humanity is retaliated against by a wounded nature. Thus, it is imperative that we cultivate an ecologically conscious culture that includes duties and responsibilities such as protecting the ecosystem that supports all life, refraining from

contaminating the air, water, and soil that support life, minimizing depletion, and maximizing efforts to replenish and incorporate all life into our understanding of the universe. In light of this, environmental ethics must motivate us and teach us how to embrace an all-encompassing Ecocentric perspective for the sustainability of humankind and the planet as a whole.

Human quality of life is ensured by a healthy environment, which emphasizes the necessity of protecting the environment at all costs. It is important to prioritize environmental quality, conservation, and preservation even in cases when the advantages to humans are not taken into account. Since environmental demands influence the quality of human existence, they are more significant. Future generations will be more impacted by a number of environmental issues than current ones, including resource depletion, altered weather patterns, and deforestation.

Humans therefore have an ethical duty to stop such from happening. The world can be saved and environmental issues resolved by environmental ethics. Environmental ethics awakens us to the heinous and indiscriminate actions of humankind. We learn to respect different life forms and develop moral ideals towards nature through environmental ethics. Environmental ethics are vital to modern civilization and cannot be overstated. As long as we continue to coexist peacefully with the natural world, we cannot see how human existence may possibly be conceivable in this Ecocentric cosmos. Therefore, ecological consciousness contributes to the welfare of everyone in our environment in terms of environmental ethics and nature. For this transformation to ecological consciousness a shift is needed which will help to develop a sustainable environment.

The shift to a sustainable energy regime is going to be one of the most significant worldwide socioeconomic issues of the next few decades. Many technological developments are underway, but a superficial assessment of all that is tagged as "green innovation" lacks the processes to ascertain whether these developments are both sufficient and required. Our recommendation to bridge this gap is to develop an energy philosophy. Its task is to explore and clarify the region where the so-called energy transition is taking place. Burning fossil fuels is currently an essential part of the energy system in Western society. This energy is used for heating, transportation, food production, and the manufacture of consumer products, among many other things. This dependence is under threat from anthropocentric climate change and the depletion of easily accessible fossil fuel supplies. Numerous innovations, including as bio fuels, bicycle infrastructure, advancements in energy efficiency, and renewable electricity sources, have been sparked by these two problems in recent years. Although these technologies don't all deal with the same problem, it's generally accepted that they all help to establish a sustainable energy regime.

An anthropocentric mindset on human dominance on Earth is at the core of the ecological problem. According to the deep ecology position, these exploitative attitudes cannot be eradicated without societal changes because these changes are ingrained in lifestyles. Only a philosophical or religious foundation that fosters a sense of personal responsibility—not only to present-day humans but also to future human generations, wildlife, and plants—can give rise to such transformations. In many countries, there are already too many people living there, which will negatively impact both human and animal species' quality of life. Numerous issues can be resolved with a holistic approach and

spiritualism. Most people believe that ecology, and deep ecology even more so, are quite comprehensive.

Deep- Ecology- A Deep Green Transition:

One could think of deep ecology as the "spiritual" facets of the environmental movement. During the latter part of the 20th century, three distinct perspectives that relied on a comprehensive approach emerged: First, give the non-human world solely a utilitarian or instrumental worth. Second, give elements or inhabitants of the non-human universe an inherent worth. Thirdly, give credit to the comprehensive integrity approach and the life-based approach. Deep ecological awareness is therefore spiritual awareness when the human spirit is understood as the consciousness mode in which the person experiences a sense of connection and belonging to the universe at large, and it becomes evident that ecological awareness is spiritual at its core. People who practice deep ecology are better able to cultivate an "ecological consciousness" and a "expansive self" that welcomes all life. Thus, the new reality that is beginning to emerge that is grounded in ecological consciousness aligns with the so-called spiritual traditions.

Conclusion:

Deep Ecology highlights the inherent worth of all living things, regardless of how useful they may be to human needs. It promotes ecological harmony, sustainability, and biodiversity by calling for a fundamental change in how people interact with the natural environment. This viewpoint has the power to deeply unite people with nature, especially tribal people. Here is an investigation on the relationship between tribal groups' relationship with nature and deep ecology. The deep ecology theory asserts that nature is valuable in and of itself, independent of human need. Many tribal worldviews, which frequently consider humans as a part of a broader natural network, are closely aligned with this concept. Arne Naess, for instance, contends that humans are only a small portion of the biosphere and that all species has inherent value. Tribal societies' traditional ecological understanding and deep ecology work in remarkable harmony. Both viewpoints support sustainable living, an in-depth, respectful relationship with nature, and acknowledging the inherent value of nature. By incorporating these ideas, contemporary society might gain important insights from indigenous tribes about coexisting peacefully with the environment.

In conclusion it can be said that the deep ecology principles offer a fundamental and comprehensive way to accomplish the deep green energy transition that is necessary for sustainable development. Deep ecology underscores the need for a fundamental change in humankind's relationship with nature by acknowledging the intrinsic value of all living things and ecosystems. Redefining our relationship with the environment, encouraging conservation, and cutting back on consumption are all part of this shift in addition to using renewable energy sources. Putting long-term ecological health ahead of short-term financial profits is necessary for implementing a deep green energy transition. In addition to promoting an ethically and environmentally conscious society, it asks for laws and procedures that assist renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable land use. This transition has the potential to improve human well-being by fostering

resilient communities and economies that coexist with the natural world, in addition to mitigating climate change and reducing environmental degradation. Deep ecology's vision for the deep green energy transition is ultimately a revolutionary movement toward a sustainable world, not just a technological change. We can build an ecologically balanced, socially just, and economically sustainable future for future generations by acknowledging the interdependence of all species and placing a high priority on the health of the earth.

References:

- 1. Naess, A. (1989). *Ecology, community and lifestyle: Outline of an ecosophy*. Cambridge University Press.
- Hallowell, A. I. (1960). Ojibwa ontology, behavior, and world view. In S. Diamond (Ed.), Culture in History: Essays in Honor of Paul Radin (pp. 19-52). Columbia University Press.<u>https://www.scirp.org/reference/referencespapers?referenceid=2082522</u>
- 3. Ferguson, T. J., & Hart, E. R. (1985). A Zuni Atlas. University of Oklahoma Press.
- 4. Berkes, F., & Folke, C. (1998). *Linking social and ecological systems: Management practices and social mechanisms for building resilience*. Cambridge University Press.
- 5. Marsden, M., & Henare, T. A. (1992). Kaitiakitanga: A definitive introduction to the holistic worldview of the Maori. *Ministry for the Environment*. <u>https://www.howtokit.org.nz/component/advlisting/?view=download&format=raw&fileI</u> <u>d=303</u>
- 6. Powers, W. K. (1986). *Sacred Language: The Nature of Supernatural Discourse in Lakota*. University of Oklahoma Press..
- 7. Devall, B., & Sessions, G. (1985). *Deep Ecology: Living as if Nature Mattered*. Gibbs Smith.
- 8. Sessions, G. (1995). Deep Ecology for the 21st Century. Shambhala.
- 9. Naess, A. (2008). The Ecology of Wisdom: Writings by Arne Naess. Counterpoint.
- 10. Leopold, A. (1949). A Sand County Almanac. Oxford University Press.
- 11. Altieri, M. A. (1995). Agroecology: The Science of Sustainable Agriculture. CRC Press.
- Jacobson, M. Z., & Delucchi, M. A. (2011). Providing all global energy with wind, water, and solar power, Part I: Technologies, energy resources, quantities and areas of infrastructure, and materials. *Energy Policy*, 39(3), 1154-1169.<u>https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0301421510008645</u>
- 13. Orr, D. W. (1992). *Ecological Literacy: Education and the Transition to a Postmodern World*. SUNY Press.
- 14. Meadows, D. H., Meadows, D. L., Randers, J., & Behrens, W. W. (1972). *The Limits to Growth: A Report for the Club of Rome's Project on the Predicament of Mankind*. Universe Books.
- 15. Dawson, J. (2006). *Ecovillages: New Frontiers for Sustainability*. Chelsea Green Publishing.

- Devall, B., & Sessions, G. (1985). Deep Ecology: Living as if Nature Mattered. Gibbs M. Smith.
- 17. Foreman, D. (1991). Confessions of an Eco-Warrior. Harmony Books.
- 18. Lovelock, J. (1979). Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth. Oxford University Press.
- 19. McKibben, B. (1989). The End of Nature. Random House.