

Science Serial Based on Sustainable Development

Let's Come Again

Episode-6

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Artists : Rajesh-----Father
Vasudha : Mother
Mansi : Daughter (10 -14 yrs)
Sarthak : Son (12 -17 yrs)
Mrs. Sonali : Sister of Vasudha ,who is an environmental expert and Advisor and Consultant at UNO headquarter.....posted in New York ,but is in India on vacations.

Title Song

In this episode we will discuss and talk about sustainable development. It is a way of development and progress in which we take care of our environment & surrounding without spoiling it. A progressive path without destroying our habitat and mother Earth.

Part of title song

Scene:-- All members of the family and relatives are chatting in the drawing room .

Musical Effect

Vasudha: Sonali, you are here in Delhi after two years. Do you ever remember us? Don't you miss your country?

Sonali : My sweet sister it is not so. Who is happy to be away from home and sister like you? But the work load and problems are so much to spare time. It became impossible to be back in India every year. When and how the time passes, very difficult to remember.

Sarthak: Mausi(Aunty) I was of the view that you might forget us, while working in New York.

Mansi: MausiMausi..... Sarthak think everybody is like him (laughing). He can't realise the burden of work on you. He doesn't know much about the UNO. It is an international organisation which is dealing and co-ordinating all countries

of the world. Even he can't realise the importance of environment, which our Mausi ji is heading. The whole world is facing the problem of environmental pollution. Am I right Mausi Ji?

Rajesh: You are right my sweet daughter. It is very difficult to spare time when you are dealing such an important portfolio and that too in UNO.

Sarthak: (Laughing) It is a vague excuse. If Mausi ji is so serious, then she should first think about India and Delhi. First we should think of our own country. It is better to correct our own house rather to think of others.

Vasudha: My son this is the blunder that we are doing. We should think one and all ,rather than to be selfish. In our culture we teach and believe in, 'universal brotherhood'. This Planet Earth is our mother.

Rajesh: My young friends! Your mummy is right. This environment is our common heritage and we should care for it.

Mansi: Papa ...papa....You know ...what happened in Delhi just after Deepawali festival. It was too much pollution to breath. Such a thing never happened earlier.

Sonali: Mansi , it is not only in Delhi but one can find such problems worldwide.

Vasudha: Sonali,it is time to do something. We have to take all necessary steps to control pollution. We have to curtail it at any step to save our planet.

Rajesh: This problem can't be solved by a single person or by one country. The whole world should put efforts together. We should come together to fight this problem. It should be our priority agenda.

Sarthak: That is why ,we are saying to our Mausi ji. She is working at the UN headquarter. All countries have to follow the guidelines of United Nation.

Sonali: Sarthak...do you know ? This problem can't be solved by any single person or any single country. The whole world have to work together to solve this problem. We have to change our strategy for development. The new mantra should be sustainable development rather than exploitation of natural resources.

Sarthak: Mausi ji , you are talking of sustainable development. What is this sustainable development?

Vasudha: My son ! It is a form of development, which does not destroy or spoil our Natural environment and planet Earth. It means, you take from Nature what is essential for your own survival rather than exploit it for your luxuries.

- Rajesh: It is not a new concept for us. In our civilization and culture we always talked of it.
- Sarthak: Mummy and Papa bothYou are confusing me.(Laughing) Mummy is talking of future and Papa you are telling aboutpast civilization.
- Mansi: Sarthak ! You are always confused. It is difficult for you to understand mummy and papa. Only Mausi ji can teach you (laughing).
- Sarthak: Sister please leaves it. You can't understand what I want to know? Even when you failed to understand some question, you always say in tune with mummy –papa.
- Vasudha: You are too jealous of each other. Don't have such type of leg pulling. What will your mausi ji say?
- Sonali: Sarthak! Do you know? Both your mummy and papa are right. They are correct in their respective views. The concept of sustainable development says that we should learn from our past experience and proceed on the road of future development.
- Sarthak: Mausi ji ! You are talking like a Philosopher. All these things are beyond my grasping power. Very difficult to understand.
- Sonali: O.K. Sarthak ! I hope you may know who the apes were and how the ancient civilization was thriving? What were they eating and where were they living?
- Sarthak: Yes !I know.....they were living in forests. Their staple food was wild fruits and rootsof herbs and shrubs. They were also praying wild animals for their food.
- Mansi: And slowly men learned how to cultivate crops and fruits. They started social life and settled on the banks of river, lakes and other water bodies. Am I right?
- Rajesh: O.K. child ! Now it may be clear and I hope you may understand it. Human being is thriving on Natural resources since beginning. While living in forests, he learnt to collect and eat wild fruits and roots. He was taking from Nature only that much amount, which was essential for his survival. Due to lack of knowledge, he started believing in miracles and wrong belief. But his attitude towards Nature was constructive and positive.
- Sonali: It is interesting to know that for thousands of years, human beings have been worshiping and enjoying this universe as a wonderful gift of God. He respected and worshiped it for its benevolent gifts to him. Our ancestors were of the views that mother Earth is not for undue exploitation. It is a living process. They loved it and had deep affection for it. That is why they were worshiping it as mother goddess.

- Rajesh: In our country, we were worshiping Planet Earth and other heavenly bodies since long back. Our land, our forests, our rivers, our lakes and oceans were symbolic gods and goddess. Our ancestors were worshiping all these bodies as a gift of God.
- Vasudha: With the passing of time the concept of society was there before us. Man started cultivation of crops. Round the year use he started storage of grains. Food grains, pulses, cloth etc. became important constituents and components of trade.
- Rajesh: In due course of time, men framed many rules and regulations for conservation of his surrounding and natural resources. He had deep affection with fellow living beings and was kind to them.
- Sonali: These were the facts of mutual respect and give and take in earlier days. What a great harmony? It was this harmony that created nice and gave birth to great eco-systems. Under such conditions our environment and eco-system were perfectly protected. In other words, this gives way to sustainable development.
- Sonali: In most of the ancient civilizations, there was perfect harmony between man and Nature. Earth was treated and worshipped as mother Earth. It was reflected in their festivals, folk songs, traditions, culture etc. Even today, such type of examples you can find in tribal societies.
- Rajesh: Do you know? In our Vedic literatures you can find such types of references. I still remembered the story that I had narrated to you about King Dushyant and his queen Shakuntla. Do you remember?
- Sarthak: Yes.....yes...Papa....we remembered. In their Ashram there were so many wild animals and birds. Shakuntla loved and cared for them too much.
- Vasudha: From that story you can understand the relationship between men and animals and the love that was shown to wild animals.
- Mansi: These days there are many Government and non-Governmental Organizations working on the conservation of wild life. Whereas in earlier days, every human being was of the view that it was his natural duty to protect and conserve the wild life. They were treated as their friends rather than enemies.
- Rajesh: Yes Mansi ! It was this reason that we were part and partial of our environment. It was in our blood to protect and conserve our forest, our wild animals, our rivers and other natural resources. We had adopted all these good things in our folk music, culture, traditions, festivals and customs.
- Vasudha: In our ancient literatures harmony between man and Nature is well explained and this harmony is must for sustainable life. In our Vedic literatures it is clearly written that this universe is created for the well-being of all living creatures. Live and let live was the basic concept of society. It was mandated not to encroach on the basic living rights of other living organisms.

Sonali: My children ! It is not only among the plants and animals. You can find such type of harmony everywhere in the Nature.

Rajesh: Yes Sonali ! You are right. Kalidas the great poet of medieval period has beautifully described such sentiments in his great epic...Meghdoot.

Mansi : Oh Papa! You are talking about Meghdoot. One of my friends was saying it is unique piece of literature. There is beautiful message of love. Clouds had played great role to convey the message.

Sarthak: Papapapa.....you are saying something about clouds and see outside. What a fine weather it is. Let's come outside and enjoy it.

Mansi : Yes papa, that will be good....."Aamke am and guthalikedam"(laughing)

Sonali: What a beautiful idea by the children? Better to sit in the open and enjoy the discussion.

Scene Change: ----

Door opening/ Noise of chairs shifting/birds chirping etc.)

Mansi: Mummy you were talking about Kalidas. What is that?

Vasudha: Yes my child. Kalidas had written one more epic known 'AbhigyanShakuntlam'. This is also a great work in which Kalidas has narrated the story of Shakuntla and King Dushyant. Bharat was their son who unified our country. Our country name was given Bharat after his.

Sarthak: Vow....what an interesting story? Papa had narrated this story to us.

Sonali: My children you will be surprised to know that there are many literatures, where one can find interesting stories based on relationship and friendship.

Sarthak: Whatwhat..... Mausji Jiwhat relationship?

Sonali: Yes in Panch-tantra and Hitopadesh there is beautiful description of this relationship.

Rajesh: Similar description you can find in wall paintings. Bhimbetka near Bhopal is very famous for such wall paintings. In these paintings beautiful descriptions of the relationship between men and animals have been shown.

Sonali: Not only in our country but in other parts of the world, men have been worshipping plants, trees, animals, rivers, oceans, seas, mountains, air, Sun and Moon as Super powers. In our country there are so many objects which have been associated with religion or some gods and goddess. They have been worshipped since long back. Similarly many animals and birds are considered sacred and thus protected.

Vasudha: Not only animals but in India, there are protected and sacred forests known as , 'Devban'.

There are thousands of such forests in our country which have been worshiped by local people. No body cuts tree or wood from these forests. You might have heard the name of 'BaangarBani' in Aravali Range near Delhi on Gurgaon and Faridabad Highway.

Sarthak: Yes mummy one of our teacher had told me about it.

Rajesh: Yes Sarthak. This is the same Devban

Sonali: There are so many Devban throughout the country known by different names. For example ...Devrai or Devrahatti in Maharastra, Ourans in Rajasthan, Sarna in MP-Jharkhand-Bihar, in kerala it is Kaboo, in Tamilnadu it is known by the name of Kovilkaiddu and in Manipur it is known by the name of Lai-Umang.

Rajesh: You will be surprised to know that in Karnataka alone there are 1424 sacred forests. The local people called them Devraban....Devrakaadu or Naagban.

Mansi: Mausi ji are there any sacred forests in North-Eastern states?

Sonali: You know our North-Eastern states are covered with thick forests. Even there are so many Devban. In the Jayanti Hills of Meghalaya there is sacred forest of 30 acres known as , 'Ravla-Balai'. You will be surprise to know that nobody can enter in this forest with their shoes.

Sarthak: It may be due to so many spiny shrubs or trees.

Sonali: This may be the reason that such social rules have been framed to forbid the entry in these Devban. Nature has been preserved there in its original forms. Snakes are there. Different kinds of insects and beetles one can find in these forests. You can see colourful birds there. Rare trees and herbs coexist in these forests.

Rajesh: Since centuries our ancestors were aware about the importance of these forests. Different kind of bio-diversity is of great importance. Rulers of different states had framed rules to protect and conserve these forests. Even the great emperor Ashoka was of the view that it is the duty of the rulers to protect and conserve our environment and ecology along with wild life and forests. One can find such inscriptions on the pillars and stupas erected and installed by him. This was one of its kind work by a ruler that you can't find anywhere in the world.

Vasudha: It is believed that Ashoka the Great got inspiration from the writings of Chankaya, the great economist of his period. Chankaya had written about the conservation and protection of environment in his book 'Arthashashtra'. He had written how to penalise those who spoil and destroyed our environment.

- Rajesh: Vasudha, here I would like to narrate about Shivaji Maharaj. The great Peshwa ruler issued orders not to harm wild lives. He asked his people to conserve water and adopt water harvesting techniques.
- Mansi: Yes Papa, do you know there is one chapter in our Social Studies book on Ahilya Bai the popular ruler of Malwa. She planted trees on both sides of highways in her territories, to provide shelter to the travellers.
- Sarthak: Didi, I too had read somewhere the same thing (laughing).
- Mansi: Sarthak, you might have read about Gautama Buddha in your History book. He preached non-violence and love for living beings.
- Rajesh: Yes my daughter. You are right. Buddha preached non-violence in all form. He asked his followers and taught his pupils to conserve soil, water and forests. Similarly Jain religion also believes in non-violence and peace. In short, all religions including Sikhism, Islam, Christianity and Parsi teach us to protect our environment.
- Sonali: Children ! You might have heard about the incident of Khejarli village of Rajasthan. The followers of Vishnoi cult protected trees and wild animals, even on the cost of their own lives. The Vishnoi Samaj is truly dedicated for protection of wild lives and forests.
- Sarthak: Mausi...Mausi....Pleasetell us the whole story of Vishnoi. I have read somewhere in our textbooks about them, but don't remember.
- Sonali: It was the time when the Fort of Jodhpur was under construction. In the Killen furnaces wood was required to make lime for construction. The king ordered his people to arrange wood from village Khejarli. They started cutting living trees from their farmlands. When Amrita Devi of Khejarali village saw it, she asked the jawans to stop. But it went on. She and other residents of the village stood like rocks to protect the trees. The Jawans of Jodhpur didn't stop and killed all those who came in their way. Such was their sacrifice.
- Rajesh: Similar story you can find in modern India in Gadwal region during 'Chipko Movement'. Gaura Devi and others villagers of Tehri didn't permit the contractors to cut their forests. They hug with the trees to protect them and that is why this Movement was named Chipko Movement.
- Vasudha: The process of destruction of our forest is still going on. To protect them we need such type of campaign. Strong will power and sacrifice is very important to conserve our Nature.
- Sonali: Environmentalists like Chandi Prasad Bhatt and Sunder Lal Bahuguna are playing great role in social awareness towards forests protection and environment conservation.

Rajesh: Even today there are so many people working on environmental conservation. Under prevailing circumstances the importance of soil, water and forests conservation is gaining strength.

Vasudha: In our country there is very old tradition to save water. Ours is a Hydrological society where every drop of water has been saved and stored in ponds, tanks, Bawari, wells etc. Rivers have been worshipped as Goddess Rivers throughout the country. It is this mind-set that people of Southern India collect water from the rivers of Northern India and keep it in their houses as symbol of goddess. This shows their mind set towards rivers conservation.

Mansi : (Laughing) Mummy please it is time to change your mind set and have some snacks and coffee.

Sarthak: Vow....what a good idea.....Didi ...first time you have say something good.(laughing)

Vasudha: O.K.....O.K.....You will get very soon.

Rajesh: We the Indian are of the view to preserve even a single grain. We never believe in food wastage. Kannad Rishi was known for his respect to food grains. He used to collect food grains from fields to survive. That is why his name is Kannad from kan....that mean grain. It was a great message to convey the importance of single grain to the society.

Mansi: Papa....papa.....Let Sarthak understand it. He leaves so much food during his meal and even never finishes his school Tiffin.

Sarthak: Mausi ji.... see.....didi always indulge in such think. She enjoys such petty matters.

Rajesh: Sarthak....it is not so. Your sister wants that her brother should be a perfect gentleman. It is in your interest.

Sonali : Mansi is right. Nobody should waste food in any form. Every single grain is precious. There are millions of people who sleep hungry. It is difficult for them to meet their both ends.

Mansi: Mausi Ji ! If our ancestors were so wise then why such an inequality. Leave the food; it is difficult to have pure water and even air.

Sonali: My young friends.....this is the problem and a matter of grave concern. Due to consumerism and materialistic ideology, we are leaving our ancient traditions and culture. In present times we simply exploit our natural resources. The same is going in the whole world. It is a matter of grave concern.....O.K....look.....your snacks and coffee is coming

Sound effects of cups and plates

Rajesh: That is why the whole world is talking of sustainable development. So that there may be complete harmony between development and environment.

Sonali: The world leaders started to give some thought on this gigantic problem to save our planet and to minimise the negative effects of pollution. Keeping all these problems in mind an international conference was held in Stockholm in 1992. During the same period a high level meeting of world leaders and environmental scientists/experts was held in Rio-De-Jenerio of Brazil to discuss the problem of pollution and global warming. After this conference the concept of sustainable development became very important worldwide.

Rajesh: Sonali..... after Rio conference, it has been realised to accept and adopt the best things of our old tradition in developmental process. In fact all great civilizations always stressed on Natural harmony. All great civilizations have taught how to co-exist in harmony with our Nature. Our thoughts and ideology teach us to protect our environment, our forests, rivers and bio-diversity. Not only we can save our environment but can have a good lifestyle. This creates conditions for sustainable development and environment protection.

Sonali: There is one good thing .The world is realising the importance of great ancient Indian civilization and culture. This can lay the path of progress in different ways. It is very difficult to find such traditions of mutual co-existence in any other civilization or culture.

Rajesh: Sonali.....You are 100% correct. Our values and traditions can give a new highway for sustainable development to the present world. It can guide and act as a catalyst to present society..... so called civilised world.

Sonali: Yes Rajesh! We have to understand and adopt all good things from our past. It is not good to discard our old traditions completely. Our experience from our past traditions and culture can play great role to achieve the purpose of sustainable development. It is not necessary that good ideas of sustainable development can only be given by developed society. We can learn such things from our tribal societies and from those who have yet to taste the meal of modern civilization. What may be the ways, we have to make our world a better place to live.

Rajesh: Sonali well said. Here it would be better to quote our Bapu.... I mean Gandhi Ji the great saint of modern period. Once he said, "Our mother Earth is good enough to feed one and all, but difficult to meet the greed of any human being living on it".

Vasudha: Greed.....I mean Laalach.....is very difficult to meet. Even God can't do that.

Sarthak : (Laughing)Laalach boori bala....hain.....

Rajesh: Greed in any form is dangerous. We should not exploit our Natural resources beyond a certain limit. Take from it what is necessary for our survival. You

must give what you take from it and that is only to care it for your own existence.

Vasudha & Sonali: Only than we can say that our future is safe and we can leave a beautiful world for our future generations. Live and let live should be our motto and our Mantra.....for a peaceful coexistence.

#####Title Song #####

Science Quiz :--

Question 1: Name any Devban or sacred forest that you have ever come across? Or what is name of the Devban that is found near Delhi.

Ans: BangarBani on Gurgaon –Faridabad road.

Question-2: Where is Khejarli village and what was the incident associated with it ?

Ans: Jodhpur (Rajasthan).....Amrita Devi and her fellow villagers were killed by the jawans of Jodhpur ruler while protesting against the cutting of green trees of khejari.