

# EXPLORING THE CATASTROPHIC EFFECT OF HUMAN INTERVENTION IN THE ANIMATED MOVIE “MY HOME IS GREEN”

Dr. Gladin Rose  
Assistant Professor on Contract  
Department of English  
Sree Kerala Varma College  
Thrissur, Kerala.

**Abstract:** The causes and effects of climate change have been a much debating issues in the contemporary scenario. Human beings, the one and only rational being on earth, have started thinking about the pros and cons of the unsteady and fluctuating nature of climate change. In ancient times, human beings were in harmony with nature and they were preserving the eco system. As time progresses, modern man has started destroying the ecosystem by adopting various ways which annihilate the ecological balance. Ecological harmony has been destroyed by man-made environmental changes and human interventions like habitat destruction, deforestation, destruction of wild life etc. In recent years advanced technology has added more perils upon nature like the development of chemical pesticides and herbicides in agricultural operations. This paper seeks to analyse the much acclaimed animated English movie “My Home is Green” by Sajan Sindhu. The film deals with the hazardous impacts and precarious consequences of the spraying of Endosulfan pesticide. This movie has won many awards, including Best Animation movie Award at the third international short film festival of Kerala film academy. Through an ant’s perspective, this animation movie details the dangerous aspects of the use of pesticides and how that brings unpredictable and culminating effects upon diverse species’. Mapping out the various phases of human interventions, this paper seeks to explain how human beings can destroy and preserve our biosphere.

**Keywords:** Ecology, Climate change, Human intervention, Habitat destruction.

In the contemporary world, modern man is budging after innovative techniques and highly sophisticated technologies. Equipped with these advanced life styles, man has become a self-centered being on earth. Man is unaware of the adverse effects of the technologies that have been making his life a comfortable one. Human beings are not the single species exist on earth. Though human beings hold a supreme position among other creations, we are linked in a circle of life which we cannot deny. In ancient times, man led a perfect harmonious life with nature and he was not only a link in the bionetwork but also a keen preserver of the biosphere. As time progresses, men have started destroying the ecological balance due to his selfish motives by adopting various hazardous technical innovations.

This paper attempts to probe one of the human interventions that depicted in the animated English movie “My Home is Green” by Sajan Sindhu. The film invites our attention to the dangerous consequences of the spraying of Endosulfan pesticide. This animation movie has been selected for the best animation movie at the third international short film festival of Kerala film academy. It portrays the developing friendship and mutual care of an ant and a caterpillar. Director selects a petite ant to describe the whole narrative and through this ant’s perspective the story develops. Through a smaller version of the Endosulfan episode, he explicates the unending, pathetic sufferings of those people who have been living as the victims of Endosulfan tragedy.

The film commences with the narration of an ant. It recollects its childhood and the happy old days with its family and community. It shares the story of how its happy life changed completely all of a sudden. It happened on a celebration day and the entire ant hill was destroyed. Everyone died on that spot due to the poison rain. Entire species were badly affected and died. An Ant, a little creature of the life cycle, reminds us that each species has its own life and ways of living. The ant is the only survivor of that poison rain.

Snakes, scorpions, lizards, flies, spiders, etc. were all killed. After the disaster, it begins to rebuild its habitat and starts to live a sociable life by befriending with a caterpillar. Ant takes care of the caterpillar and saves its life from a bird, which comes to eat the caterpillar.

Through the picturization of the story of an ant and a caterpillar, director foregrounds the dangerous issue of the use of pesticides and herbicides in farming operations, especially the aerial spraying of Endosulfan pesticide in Kasaragod district in Kerala. The intention of the director of this short film is to make aware of the adverse effects of man-made technologies and innovations. The director dedicates this short film to those children who lost their lives in the Endosulfan mishap in Kasaragod district in Kerala. Endosulfan tragedy is one of the examples of human interventions in nature. The Plantation Corporation of Kerala has its cashew plantations in Western Ghat hills in Kasaragod district in Kerala. It was run by the state government. The chemical pesticide, Endosulfan, was used over twenty years for aerial spraying on cashew plantations in Kerala and other neighboring states like Karnataka etc. In 2001, after the detection of many health disorders and health hazards in this arena where this pesticide had been using widely, the Centre for Science and Environment conducted Endosulfan tests in Kerala villages and announced the health hazards associated with Endosulfan pesticide. Many cases were reported like the disorders of the central nervous system, cerebral palsy, retardation of mental and physical growth, epilepsy, congenital anomalies like stag horn limbs in children; infertility and undescended testis among men; miscarriages and hormonal irregularities among women; skin disorders, asthma, many cases of cancer of the liver and blood etc (Misra). These are the biological changes evident in man as a consequence of his selfish motives.

It is evident from the above mentioned factors that modern man lacks an environmental consciousness and he does not acknowledge the vital significance of nature in his life. The interrelationship of man with other animals is essential to sustain the ecological balance. It is a fact that the life of human beings cannot be separated in any means from other beings. We are living in a nature's cycle where human beings are just a link to complete that structure. In the modern era, the advanced technologies and communication devices are badly affecting our natural resources. We consider our lives as more significant and at a more accelerated pace men build his habitat by destroying the habitats' of other beings who consider nature as their home.

This animation movie reminds us through detailing the subtle and diverse aspects of nature. We least consider nature's tiny, little creatures like the ant, caterpillar etc. But, this short film explicates the tiny little world of each creatures'. When the caterpillar comes out of its cover, it enjoys the nature's beauty. It views the bright blue sky, plain water etc. joyfully. Through this, we can recognize the fact that the earth is not man's own space. Other creatures of earth also have the same right as a man. The transformation of caterpillar to that of a butterfly in this short film indicates the nature's vivid ways of nurturing its creations. Another beautiful episode in this short film is about the love and care relationship between these two creatures. When the ant hears about the voice of the poison rain i.e the aerial spraying of pesticide, it saves the caterpillar by putting it to a cobweb net and covers it with leaves. Finally the caterpillar turns into a beautiful butterfly and soars up to the sky. Towards the end of the film ant, the only survivor of the poison rain disaster gets entrapped again in the poison rain, then the butterfly comes to help its playmate and flies away taking ant on its back.

Man has designed and developed many equipments and advanced technologies to achieve his purposes. In the olden days man worshipped nature and in return nature provided all its resources to man. On the contrary, in recent years man uses pesticides and other chemicals to accelerate the productivity and thereby tries to accumulate profit. Man has become a mere greedy person forgetting the interconnectedness with other beings of nature.

The ant in this short film tells, "Pesticides at spraying is going to affect him too. This world is home to all creatures. We live in harmony can humans survive too. I hope they soon will realize this truth someday" (38:52). After flying up with the caterpillar from the land where humans spray pesticide, ant says, " we are flying to a new place. We are all set to live in a new home where there will be no human intervention and no machines and no pesticides. With a hope to make a better world to ourselves, here we go" (38:54).

Man's arrogance and greedy nature led to the disastrous impacts of Endosulfan in Kasaragod district in Kerala. Consequently, the Supreme Court banned its production and distribution. After the aerial spraying

of this deadly pesticide, a new category called ‘children of Endosulfan’ was emerged. Physically deformed children were born and innumerable lives are still suffering because of this hasty step of man.

The usage of chemical pesticides would diminish the fertility of the land and subsequently, it will lead to the environmental degradation. Man’s intervention in the biosphere is evident in the pollution of air, water and soil. It has started affecting man’s life badly. Habitat destruction, deforestation, and extinction of other animals lead to innumerable challenges like famines, scarcity of water resources, global warming etc.

This movie can be viewed as an eye opener or as an indication to modern man to stop following blindly the highly advanced technologies without discerning its impacts. If man is not ready to discipline himself and stop intruding into the soul of the nature, no one can avoid the impending ecological disaster towards which man is journeying in haste.

#### Works Cited

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