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RESEARCH ARTICLE

REVISITING ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY: ITS BEGINNING TO PRESENT STATE.

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Abstract

Sociology has not appeared as one of the core environmental sciences like geography, even though it is one of the social and human sciences. It makes important contribution considering the interest shown by the founders like Durkheim, Weber and Marx in the relationship between human societies and their environment. The direct effect of human activity on the natural world which influences the social realm raised concerns at practical and theoretical levels with issues of hazard, risk and the environment. This desk top case study therefore reviewed literature on the concept and principles and the ways in which environmental matters are discussed within everyday life and sociology. This paper deals with themes of environmental sociology's key concepts and debate on the role of classical theorists in the discipline. It specifically focused on the larger theoretical and conceptual challenge on how the discipline of sociology can usefully address questions of nature and the physical environment and what would this in turn mean for sociology.

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Introduction:-

“Environmental problems are considered to be the social aspects of natural problems, and the natural aspects of social problems. The word environment, then, entails both natural and social dimensions.”

Jean Guy Vaillancourt.

Sociology emerged in response to social problems due to industrialization, urbanization and political situation in the nineteenth century Europe. The discipline has covered every aspect of societal problems to provide better solutions for society. The social practice theories bring to the fore the critical role of the body and material things in all social affairs' (Nicolini, 2012; Shove, Pantzar and Watson, 2012). So social and environmental performance standards specific to distinct sectors like manufacturing, agriculture, fisheries and forestry take a number of forms (Boström et al. 2015). For the pioneers of environmental sociology, nature was primarily considered a sustenance base for human society and defined in accordance with the natural sciences (Schnaiberg 1980; Dunlap 1993; Dickens 1996; Spaargaren 1997; C.S.A. (Kris) van Koppen 2017). However, many scientists claimed that it did not address nonsocial conditions such as environmental quality (Dunlap & Rosa, 2000, p.800). Dunlap and Rosa stated that environmental sociology emerged from societal attention to problematic conditions including poverty and inequality, racial and gender discrimination and crime and delinquency (Dunlap & Rosa 2000, p.800). This suggests

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