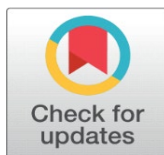
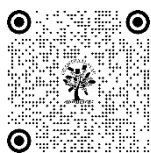


ECO-INNOVATIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW: A STUDY ON KIM STANLEY ROBINSON'S *SIXTY DAYS AND COUNTING*

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DOI

[10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.i5.2024.4598](https://doi.org/10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.i5.2024.4598)

Funding: This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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ABSTRACT

Green initiatives prioritize the healthy atmosphere of the planet and lead to a sustainable future. Inventions, nowadays, find their next phase with a concern for green environmental ideas. The green initiatives ideology includes renewable energy projects, using organic, eco-friendly products, energy-saving equipment, and many more. A harmonious life with nature is possible with eco-friendly approaches. This article focuses on the green harmonious initiatives in Kim Stanley Robinson's science fiction *Sixty Days and Counting*. It also attempts to show the possible ways to use trees as carbon sinks, use clean, pollution-free energy, and all the possible ways that help in using eco-friendly alternatives to induce a harmonious life with nature. It also points out that the technologically dependent and economically successful country is not a successful country until it gets connected to green initiatives. Also, this paper examines the ideas that have to be in practice to achieve clean air, water, and land which is the need of the hour to promote harmony with nature.

Keywords: Green Initiatives, Sustainable Future, Renewable Energy, Eco-Friendly Approaches, Clean Energy

1. INTRODUCTION

Green initiatives are humans' giant step towards protecting Mother Earth from drastic changes it has been undergoing since industrialization. The development of civilization is associated with fertile land that is nearer to water bodies. It shows the development of human civilization which has its root in nature. Every living creature on earth is dependent on nature. In recent times, it seems to be that, humans have lost the sense of understanding their dependence on nature and this made them corrupt the land and atmosphere like they have another planet to live on if the earth destroys. This is because of the interruption of modernity that insane humanity as if though they were born to use the resources unconditionally. Kim Stanley Robinson in his work *Fifty Degrees Below* opines "The city too was a habitat...a big part of contemporary society, and people were obviously addicted to it.... The technological sublime made everything magical.... They had therefore lost touch with reality, gone mad as a collective" (49). But he is of the view that the technology which supports green initiatives are a boon to humankind. In the present scenario, it is impossible to avoid using technologies; but it is possible to use technology that supports green initiative ideology.

In Robinson's science fiction *Sixty Days and Counting*, many probable ways dealt with showing perfect plans for green approaches. One among them is a plan for cultivating scientifically researched tree lichens that help the trees absorb carbon dioxide more than the normal absorption rate. The main characters of the novel are the scientists who work on a project to mitigate climate change. As the novel pays more attention to climate change, it elevates the resolution as core points to reduce global temperature. Robinson is strong in his belief that humans are responsible for the drastic changes the earth is witnessing. It is expressed through the words of one of his characters Phil. Phil is elected as the President of the USA and he promises to his people that he will work hard to mitigate climate change. He calls his people to work together to find a solution that ultimately leads to living a harmonious life with nature. On addressing the people about their purpose and responsibility to save the environment he opines, "We got ourselves into this mess and we can get out of it. The problems create an opportunity to remake our relationship to nature, and create a new dispensation" (6).

Population causes an increase in pollution which is unavoidable since the pollutants are intertwined with the basic needs of humans. From basic needs, transportation has become one of the major factors for the release of a huge number of carbon dioxide in the air. Green initiatives are the need of the hour, as they help prevent pollution and lead to a pollution-free path toward the successful attainment of a harmonious life with nature. Robinson, through the scientific crew, makes to understand the significance of clean energy and also the urgency to turn to clean energy. Earth's greenish virtuality has slowly started to give a black impression because of the gases that are liberated from transportation, industrialization, modernization that blindly supports resource corruption, and so on. To avoid that, Robinson gives an alternative energy resource to stick with. He finds clean energy, which is pollution-free and harmless, as a resolution to the climate threats. It is apparent in his statement, "Clean power is our only way" (22).

Solar power is considered to be one of the clean energy resources which is renewable. The modern living habits of humanity might drain out the available resources within its retainable duration. Robinson shows his desire to live in harmony with nature by adapting solar power panels at every home. Also, he gives good advice for the government to take care of it by announcing subsidies for solar power panels. As the population grows, the need grows. It could be satisfied with the clean energy sources. Though the expense of changing to clean energy for transportation and agriculture may high, Robinson wants it to be understood as a survival instinct. Also, he points through Diane, head of the scientist crew, as the fund that is to be allocated for switching to clean energy is not more than the military budget. Switching to renewable energy resource like solar energy is certainly expected to contribute to future energy supplies. Because it has several environmental advantages such as sustainability, no carbon emission, or any waste products. In an article entitled "Global Prospects, Progress, Policies, and Environmental Impact of Solar Photovoltaic Power Generation", A. Nahar claims the present scenario of many countries that shift to use solar energy. He opines, "Many countries have been forced to change to environmentally friendly energy sources and have chosen solar energy as an alternative energy source because it has the least negative impact on the environment to overcome the negative impacts of fossil fuels" (285). This could be considered a good initiative for attaining a green and prosperous environment with an objective to attain sustainable future.

Frank works in President's team to mitigate climate change. Rising sea level, drying lands, pollutions, decreasing resources are the topics that often get attention in their discussion. As it is the team of scientists, they work on green initiatives to promote green and clean environment. They even planned to pump the sea water back to Antarctic itself where that could freeze back. This is to prevent the rising of sea level. Frank suggests clean energy mentioning "photovoltaics, Stirling engine, wind power and ocean energy-to-electricity systems" (197) to pump the water. As it is the problem of the entire globe and not of a single country or continent, it requires a huge process that to be concentrated on using clean energy or else it might end up as life threatening and unsolvable problem.

Attaining clean energy is the first goal of the team. They work on green initiative projects, especially introducing smog control devices in cars using ethanol. Robinson points that burning ethanol also release carbon dioxide in air, but it could be trapped again to the growing plants as a recycling process. Ethanol is taken from plants and is considered to be a renewable fuel. The amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by the plant is same to the liberated amount of carbon to the atmosphere during production and combustion of the fuel. The process seems to be in a cyclic way, recycling the atmospheric carbon. In explaining the ability of ethanol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared to fossil fuels, Rebecca Chillrud in an article entitled "Ethanol Reduces a Variety of Harmful Emissions, New Study Finds" says "Traditional biofuels like ethanol can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 19-48 percent compared with gasoline."

The technologically dependent and economically successful country is not a successful country until it gets connected to green initiatives. Robinson connects this concept explaining two countries with two different ideas on saving earth. He explains America as successful as it concentrates on clean energy that promotes clean air, water and land and on the other hand, China as unsuccessful since it concentrates on economic development draining out the resources and making the land as disposable. Robinson is clear in his idea that green initiatives are the need of hour since the problem of pollution and climate change is not a problem of single country but of entire world. He wants the scientists to work not for a single country but for the world. If a country starts to pollute and corrupt the resources, it automatically affects others those who even follow the clean energies. This is because of the fact that "The carbon and particulates that they were putting into the air were going everywhere on Earth" (510). It is the time to awake and understand that everyone is depended and even making small mistake could damage the entire globe. Robinson advices to practice organic agriculture to remove toxic waste from streams and soil. Technological help and solution for the polluted land and environment is the most needed thing that supports the attempts for living a prosperous life with nature. Through the scientists, Robinson makes green initiatives as a good solution for humanity to live harmonious life with nature.

Living a harmonious life with nature itself a blessing for humankind. Frank who works in Diane's team, prefers to live in a tree house rather than living in a big city. He wants his life close to nature. Always he thinks of returning to the prehistoric life. He considers such nature depended life as happy, healthy and minimize the consumption and impacts on the planet. Green initiatives help in finding ways to get connected to nature. It enables the possibility to live in pollution and toxic free environment. In this technological era, green initiative ideas are the only hope to take humanity to the world of healthy atmosphere in connection to nature. Using alternative energy resources that are renewable and pollution free have to be welcomed in nature concern basis that leads to a harmonious life with nature.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

None.

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