



Anthropocene and Apocalypse: Environmental Degradation in Sorrows of Sarasvati: The Lost River

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to examine the environmental apocalypse in Mustansar Hussain Tarar's novel *Bahao* (1971), translated into English as *Sorrows of Sarasvati: The Lost River* by Dr. Safeer Awan. Utilizing a qualitative approach, this study employs textual analysis based on Stibbe (2021) framework of Eco-linguistics which highlights the shift from anthropocentric to bio-centric perspectives in modern literature. The results of the present research contribute to a detailed analysis of the representation of the environmental apocalypse and the roles of urbanization in the transformation of the human society, environments, and dynamics of individuals and groups in *Sorrows of Sarasvati, The Lost River*. The study concludes the importance of balanced environmental conditions, ecosystems and natural resources like rainfall, water, and food for survival. It implies that environmental degradation and resource depletion lead to deteriorating living conditions and human activities disrupting natural balance expedite environmental decline.

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1. Introduction

Literature can be understood as a creative representation of actual existence through an artistic medium. Literature serves as the fundamental basis for the portrayal of social phenomena and conflicts on a societal level. The representation of human peculiarity and the clash between individuals and external forces, whether they be supernatural, natural, or cultural is a prevalent and pervasive theme in global literary works. Apocalyptic literature is a literary genre that centers on the culmination of the world or significant cosmic occurrences, frequently encompassing divine intervention, judgment, and the ultimate fate of humanity. This genre of literature is prevalent across diverse cultures throughout the course of history, commonly delving into themes encompassing destruction, rejuvenation, and the conflict between forces of virtue and malevolence. The historical trajectory of apocalyptic literature encompasses a substantial temporal expanse, extending over numerous millennia. Presented herewith is a concise survey delineating the evolutionary progression of this literary genre? The earliest documented instance of apocalyptic literature can be traced back to ancient Mesopotamia, more precisely the city of Babylon, during the 2nd millennium BCE. *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, an ancient literary composition of significant historical value, exhibits elements pertaining to apocalyptic themes, notably evident in the narrative surrounding the deluge and the protagonist's relentless pursuit of everlasting life. *The Hebrew Bible*, commonly referred to as the *Old Testament*, encompasses a collection of apocalyptic texts. The literary work known as the Book of Daniel, which was composed in the 2nd century BCE, holds considerable importance as a notable specimen of Jewish apocalyptic literature. The text encompasses prophetic depictions of forthcoming occurrences, encompassing the ascension and decline of empires, culminating in a divine judgment.

The role of apocalyptic literature was of notable significance within the context of early Christianity, specifically in the *New Testament*. *The Book of Revelation*, traditionally ascribed to the apostle John, serves as a notable illustration of Christian apocalyptic literature. The Middle Ages witnessed a notable proliferation of apocalyptic literature. A multitude of religious and mystical movements arose, frequently placing emphasis on the impending culmination of the world. Prominent literary contributions from this era encompass *The Divine Comedy* (1321) authored by Dante Alighieri, which encompasses profound apocalyptic motifs, and *The Prophecies* (1555) penned by Nostradamus, a compilation of enigmatic prognostications pertaining to forthcoming occurrences. Apocalyptic literature has maintained its popularity throughout the modern and contemporary periods. During the 19th century, there was a notable revival of fascination with apocalyptic motifs, as evidenced by literary works such as Mary Shelley's *The Last Man* (1826) and H.G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds* (1898). During the 20th and 21st centuries, the literary genre underwent a significant expansion, encompassing science fiction and dystopian literature. This development is exemplified by notable works such as George Orwell's *1984* (1949), Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* (1932) and Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985). Apocalyptic literature has fulfilled diverse functions over the course of history, encompassing religious introspection, political critique, and examination of existential distress. With the passage of time, themes of apocalyptic literature went on covering environmental issues threatening human existence. At the start of *The End of the World: Apocalypse and its Aftermath in Western Culture*, Maria Manuel Lisboa contrasts the "upheaval and destruction" of the earlier works within apocalyptic fiction with the "discovery and epiphany" of the current narrative. The Bible, including the books of Revelation and Daniel, is where the concepts of discovery and revelation find their beginnings and share many similarities with current literature and many types of media (Lisboa, 2011).

The literary work in question, *Sorrows of Sarasvati, The Lost River* consistently engrosses its readers and provides a perspective through which we can analyze our personal anxieties, aspirations, and perceptions regarding environmental apocalypse, its causes and effects on the individuals and society as a whole. In Tarar's novel, a world that is on the verge of decay has been depicted. The author describes the disappearance and drying up of the Ghaghara, an ancient river. The river gradually dries up to the point where life stagnates and the vital component of life; water, vanishes. Many animals die from this apocalyptic condition, and some disappear from the world forever. The only animal that migrates or uses other strategies to survive, however, is man. The notion of apocalypse in Eco-critical studies was developed by (Garrard, 2004). It concentrates on the environmental awareness. Garrard's perspective of eco-criticism, is the framework of the current research. The word "ecocriticism" refers to any style of literary criticism that is inspired by an ecological or environmental consciousness (Garrard, 2004).

1.1. Introduction of the Author

Mustansar Hussain Tarar is a well renowned Pakistani prolific Urdu writer. He was born in 1939. He has almost written more than 50 books including short stories, novels and travelogues. His important novels includes Bahao, Rakh, Qurbat-e-Marg Mein Mohabbat, Prinday, Khas-o-Khashak Zamanay and Ay Ghazal-e-Shab. He was introduced in the universe of English Literature with the translation of his works, the most important of which are Lenin for Sale, the translation of Ay Ghazal-e-Shab and *Sorrows of Sarasvati, The Lost River*, the translation of Bahao. He was awarded with many civil awards by the government of Pakistan.

1.2. Introduction of the Novel

Sorrows of Sarasvati, The Lost River was translated by Dr. Safeer Awan, a professor of English at National University of Modern Languages Islamabad. It is a complex cultural text which recounts the realistic events of the demise of an unnamed village of Indus Valley Civilization. The village life was based on the water of Ghaghara River, the Vedic name of which was Sarasvati. The novel presents a diversity of characters. Most of the characters are superstitious specially Uncle Dhurva while on the other hand Parushni and Virchan are modern, skeptical and sensible. They put skeptical to the happenings of the events. Tarar also focuses on narrating superstition, existentialist angst, nothingness, ethnic prejudice, racism and historical determinism which make it an apocalyptic narrative narrating the fall and elimination of rich and prosperous cultures. *Sorrows of Sarasvati: The Lost River* focuses on reimagining the mystery of environmental apocalypse of a rich cultured Indus Valley civilization. It recounts the catastrophe of the village of Parushni situated on the bank of Ghaghara, a continuously vanishing river. The village is

inching towards its elimination with the passage of time. The river, Ghaghara, is drying up because its tributaries have changed their course. The drying river also affected the underground water-levels which resulted in disrupted environmental balance. These conditions lowered the living standards inhabitants of the village. Their crops were also destroyed. All the people migrated from the village except Parushni, Samroo and Uncle Dhurva who stayed there to die in their own village.

1.3. Statement of the Problem

Since the eco-critical study is a recent trend so the novel *Sorrows of Sarasvati: The Lost River* by Tarar raises the question related to elements of environmental apocalypse in the novel and their effects on the society and human civilization. It also questions how anthropocene is a cause of environmental apocalypse in the novel. It also raises the problem of how to maneuver group dynamics in survival situation.

1.4. Research Question

1. What are the apocalyptic elements in the selected novel?
2. How do anthropocene become the cause of apocalypse in the selected novel?
3. How do apocalyptic elements affect group dynamics in survival situation in the text under consideration?
4. How do apocalyptic elements affect the society as a whole?

1.5. Significance of the Study

Sorrows of Sarasvati: The Lost River has recently been translated into English from Urdu. This research is significant in the sense that it will fill the research gap which exists in the field of apocalypse literature and Eco-criticism i.e. the study of group dynamics in survival situation and the effects of apocalypse on the society as a whole. The researcher will also try to analyze the changing weather patterns and depletion of resources in the novel. Apocalypse is important in the sense that it foretells the end of civilization due to some natural havoc like floods, changing weather patterns and earthquakes or man initiated causes like deforestation etc. The research would try to sensitize the audience to save their ecosystem and to make the humans avoid the actions that can cause apocalypse and the loss of civilization. The subject of the apocalypse has been the subject of some research like the study of Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* (2006) as apocalyptic grail narrative (Cooper, 2018) and *An Eco-critical Analysis: Selected Fictions of Dhruv Bhatt and Margaret Atwood* by Joshi (2021). This study would also try to refine and extend the idea of apocalyptic literature and its effects on the audience. This study would particularly try to focus on the effects of apocalypse and its causes.

2. Literature Review

Sorrows of Sarasvati: The Lost River is a beautiful piece of art written in the form of novel in Urdu language by Mustansar Hussain Tarar titled as Bahao. It is to these failures and shortcomings that the novel brings readers' focus to the topic of climate change and environmental degradation in the context of the present generation, but set in the historical period of Indus Valley Civilization. This section remains with a critical discussion of the literature in light of ecological criticism and environmental apocalypse as themes in literature and their effects.

2.1. Eco-Criticism and Environmental Apocalypse

Eco-criticism reveals a connection between literary work and the natural world, with the purpose of analyzing how literature represents the environment and in turn, how literature shapes the reader's ideas towards such issues. According to Glotfelty, eco-criticism is therefore understood as a scholar's examination of literature and the physical environment (Bracke, 2012). This approach is important in understanding how literature presents and informs people's interface with the natural world. Eco-catastrophe, a widely used motif throughout the history of literature, is mostly painted as a retribution for human interference into the biosphere. Scholars also argue that images of apocalyptic scenarios reflect the contemporary society's updated doomsday, which has constantly followed the civilization since ancient times (Giddens, 2009). It is viewed as a scientifically sound way of perceiving the current postmodern 'risk society' regarding ecological issues in particular. However, they have criticism when presenting the environmental apocalypse. Environmental prophets are said to be motivated more by this type of excitement than by the scientific method: 'Much of the environmental concern is driven by

sensationalist exoticism.' Julian Simon also notes that environmentalists overlook long-term trend evidence that goes against their prophecy in argumentation (Simon, Beisner, & Phelps, 1995). This view implies that the apocalyptic message might be actually detrimental since it fosters hopelessness and disbelief (in action) as compared to the proactive attitude engendered by solutions-oriented message. Still by all the critiques given, the world of nature and the world of people are closely related. Another significant aspect that living organisms especially human beings depend on the natural world is food, air water and soil (Barry, 2017). However, the social actions given to human beings cause anthropocentrism which entails giving preceding importance to the economic value of every item rather than its ecological value (Buell, 2004).

2.2. Types of Ecological Apocalypse

The end of ecological development can occur in the form of global climate change, exhaustion of resources and disruption of the natural world. Climate change can therefore be defined as noticeable long-term patterns of weather in a certain area of the earth's surface (Garrard, 2012). Resource depletion takes place as resources are exploited at a rate higher than that at which they get replaced (DesJardins, 2013). The imbalance of the ecosystem poses a danger to all the existing species in the world today (McKusick & Mckusick, 2000). This term was coined by Paul Crutzen and Eugene F. Stoermer and by pointing at the fact that the mankind altered the geology and ecology of the planet, emphasizes that human activity is comparable to geophysical forces in terms of its capacity to affect the Earth's system (Crutzen & Stoermer, 2000; Steffen, Crutzen, & McNeill, 2007). This definition draws focus to the fact that human activities have a large influence and are usually negative on the environment.

2.3. Depictions in Literature

The world of literature tends to use apocalyptic diaphragm as an appeal to emotion of environmental destruction and disaster. For instance, Arundhati Roy employs apocalyptic rhetoric to elicit the audience's respect and responsibility toward our planet, which is troubled by disastrous anthropocentrism, global warming, greenhouse effects, and disasters (Borade, 2020). This approach of Roy emphasizes on the need to call for the literary work to proactively respond to ecological calamities instead of just reacting to them. In brief, what eco-criticism and the concepts of environmental apocalypse reveal is the interconnectivity between humans and the environment with influences of the latter seeming to be negative. Although, some specialists state that apocalyptic images might negatively influence the development of preventive initiatives, the works introduced contest the idea of denying ecological problems that threaten human communities and other living beings.

3. Research Methodology

The research is qualitative in nature. Textual analysis is used as data analysis technique. The purpose of performing a textual analysis on a text is to derive some potential interpretations of the text by conducting an in-depth study of the text. Texts are analyzed in order to arrive at a sound judgment of a certain civilization in a specific era and in relation to certain circumstances.

4. Theoretical Framework

This study takes a theoretical framework on ecolinguistics by Stibbe (2021) which investigate the relationship between literature and the natural environment. When a substantial interaction takes place between an author and environment, as well as between a character and place, eco-criticism could most effectively applied to the work. Eco-criticism provides a theoretical framework that may support the examination of the ways in which literature and the natural world are connected to one another. It is possible to view literature as an artistically produced and culturally significant component of the surrounding environment.

5. Data Analysis

Environmental apocalypse applies to a number of related environmental problems like climatic change, wetlands and forests destruction, loss of species, pollution, depletion of resources and the different types of environmental disasters. Most of the time these factors are interrelated where one enhances the operation and effectiveness of the other and once the cycle is complete the severity of the environmental misery is boosted. This paper will try to analyze these aspects of apocalyptic works discussing on the basis of the novel Sorrows of Sarasvati written by Mustansar Hussain Tarar.

5.1. Climate Change

Global warming that influences temperature, precipitation, and wind is a core icon in Identification of environmental apocalypse. It results to disasters for instance hurricanes, heatwaves, droughts, and famine, which are experiences illustrated in Sorrows of Sarasvati. Speaking of the seasons, their disturbance due to climate change is shown in the novel as delayed or irregular. 'This year is getting too late', he spoke almost to himself as he strained to look in the direction of the river for as far as he could without stretching his neck (Tarar, 2021).

In these lines, it is emphasized how necessary the cyclicity of the seasons is for people, and the rest of the living world as well. Also, when seasons are disrupted, there will be droughts or floods, diseases of crops hence affecting food production, to an extent of famines. Several days passed... They had located to the bank in the last days of Bhadon; now it was Assun already... The wind did not blow as if had gone to another world. All was quiet to the like of death (Tarar, 2021).

Here, the late rains and the missing wind show that there is climate upset and this implies that there will be absence of rainfall and this leads to famine. Any change in the weather patterns as noted affects the agricultural seasons and thus negatively affects food production.

5.2. Loss of Biodiversity

Climate Change has for a long time led to loss of species' diversity as well as malfunction of the ecosystems contributing greatly to the environmental Armageddon. Diverse ecosystem have higher equilibriums with a high level of production, this is however at the peril of climate change and habitat destruction. The trees and plants in the woods had dried; (Tarar, 2021).

This implies an environment so plagued that it cannot support plant cover, which is very significant in the equilibrium of the ecosystem. The removal of trees and other plants affects the habitats of different animals that might lead to their extinction.

Dorga had heard that before kilns were built, the banks of Sindhu were large portions of densely dark forests which did not let passage of even a glimmer However, Dorga had never seen them (the wild animals such as elephants, wild bulls etc.) since they had hardly retreated from Dorga's world due to diminishing woods (Tarar, 2021).

The dwindling trees and the nearly extinct animals give louder note on the effects of deforestation and habitat reduction. These and many more are services of trees that not only supply oxygen in our atmosphere but also help in quality and temperature regulation. Their existence deprives the surroundings making it unbearable for many other species in the chain, even for humans.

5.3. Deforestation

Since deforestation is a continually progressing activity, it plays a dominant role in environmental deterioration. It pollutes the atmosphere and decreases the amount of oxygen available for life forms to breathe, and upsets the environmental chain.

"Honestly, there is not even a single tree, greenery or water in the whole of Mohenjo,"..... "Since you have mentally deselected yourself from trees, greenery and water you know that only few of us can actually live in your concrete jungles. We can't We find it hard to breathe in such congested environment We need fresh air". (Tarar, 2021).

It's shocking how this passage elevates trees to the status of being indispensable to human beings as sources of oxygen, and food. Goes hand in hand with hunger – destroys the improper forests, thus aggravating the apocalyptic picture. Masa, have you not observed that it is bushes replacing trees nowadays? You constantly have your head in the clouds don't you see what's right in front of you? These bushes do not contain jujube fruits but peelu fruits The peelu fruits, (Tarar, 2021).

The task of deforestation continues at an increased rate and trees are replaced with other less useful shrubs that also compounded problems of the environment. This sort of deforestation is threatening the balance for a sustainable environment in a very short time. While one of the

trees became nonproductive due to right age, the worm eating insects made the other one to become a hollow tree. The trees were drying rapidly; , he would realize that the next has been buried in the ground; it was replaced with the stunned shrubs that could not grow into full grown trees (Tarar, 2021).

The rate of deforestation is equally astonishing and the conditions for trees and shrubs are clearly unfavourable which proves the intensity of the environmental deterioration.

5.4. Impact on Food Production

It inhibits food production because it affects the yields and the systems of food production. Fluctuations in temperature and moisture supply and affect growth and production rates and yields.

The wheat germ placed into the field's sprouted growing rot before the flood eased off, slaking the ground; before that, millet germs had rotted because of the heat (Tarar, 2021).

The following lines affirm one's understanding that; equally appropriate are the conditions of environment when it comes to crop yield. Conditions that prevail lead to failure in production of crops, feedback, food shortages and famine.

5.5. Estimation of Air Pollution level & Heat related risks

The other aspects of climate change include poor quality of air and raised heat incidence, which also contribute to the speeding of environmental doomsday. The quality of air results to smog and extremes of temperature which threatens man's comfortable existence. These were the last days to Assun, but the scorching heat was still draining every living thing around... (Tarar, 2021).

It is "hot" during what should be a transitional, temperate time of year in the novel, and this significant change dooms the environment while bringing about apocalyptic consequences. Thus, it is possible to conclude that environment apocalypse in the novel by Sorrows of Sarasvati is a result of climate change, loss of biodiversities, deforestation, and poor air quality. These factors hinder eco-systems, agricultural practices, and human activities, therefore pointing out the need to practice environmental conservation. Considering the elements of the environmental apocalypse as presented in the literary work "Sorrows of Sarasvati: The Lost River" written by Mustansar Tarar, would require the discussion of the causes of this apocalyptic setting. Through such features as weather unpredictability, resource scarcity such as water, and other representations of environmental stress, the novel narrates an environmental disaster story.

5.6. Changing Weather Patterns

Climatic changes which include, but are not limited to cyclones, sand storms, disturbances in temperatures, strongly contribute to the disturbance of ecosystems. In the novel, these elements are represented as the signs of the destruction of the environment and the climates negative affect on human beings as well as the plant and animals who relies on the constant environmental conditions.

5.7. Hurricanes and Sandstorms

As in the case of hurricanes and sandstorms, both in the novel point to a representation of forces that upset physical territories and livelihoods. Again, Tarar's account demonstrates that such storms remove fertile land, deposit sand in its place and upset ecosystems. This process also leads to the reduction of arable land as well as to the extinction of plant and animals that depend on steady habitation. The novel provides poignant scenes that highlight the immediate and long-term effects of such storms: "Their noses and ears were numb with wind; dust smothered yards and fields and great crazy dust-clouds; this year the sun, even in Poh and Magh again had a glaze on his skin that seemed to dry up their bodies" (Tarar, 2021).

These passages focus on the demands that the natural disasters make to the communities accordingly to their psychological and physical aspect, as well as on the concerns that such disasters cause to the environment and all living organisms.

5.8. Unprecedented Rise of Temperature

Hence, the increase in global temperatures above the typical degree of meteorological change has negative effects on life forms. The novel portrays heat waves as particularly destructive: The waves of heat acting on him were cyclic and burning, his eyes were scorched and still he was observing; hordes of sand grains shining and blinding him: the gusts of heat were strong and frequent like swerving serpents swarming over him. These descriptions give the sense of the urgency of heat, and the destructive potential of heat; how it interferes will all aspects of human and animal life, and horticulture, and the environment.

5.9. Depletion of Natural Resources

Thus, such socio-environmental issues as the drying rivers, shrinking arable lands, and depletion of water sources can be identified as the novel's topical concern. These elements highlight a boom and bust relationship between human activities and environmental sustainability.

5.10. Drying Water Resources

Water scarcity is a central concern in "Sorrows of Sarasvati, The Lost River," reflecting broader global challenges exacerbated by climate change and human exploitation: Prehistoric, big waters used to flow up to this point... It was not that the floods occurred now and then, their waters did not inundate these woods and they filtered themselves through the ravenous soil before reaching the soil before the lake."

The narrative demonstrates a process of how those water sources which used to be available in large quantities are vanishing, and how such changes affect people and environment. This depletion is about agriculture, biodiversity, and human health where it connects to the novel's theme of environmental horror.

5.11. The Factor of Lesser Rainfall and Its Effects on Agriculture

Reduced rainfall patterns depicted in the novel have profound implications for agricultural productivity and community livelihoods: 'The rains are getting lesser and lesser every year; the trees are dying. .. The millet and sesame seeds sown by the villagers remains rotting there' (Tarar 2021 p 187). The above texts depict how changes in climate impact the abnormality of farming practices, which in turn results to poor food security and erratic economic growth. Several societies are depicted to be suffering the consequences of environmental downturn hence becoming a hallmark for the cascading effects.

5.12. Relationships between Themes and Environmental Degeneration

The above-discussed themes are well-developed in Tarar's narrative, which conveys environmental apocalypse as the result of imminent intertwining of crises. Hurricanes and sandstorms help to advance the valuable area of degradation and destruction of living environments while increased temperature brings difficulties in increasing health conditions and agricultural yields. Likewise, impoverishment of such cross cutting necessities as water aggravates the existence of socio-economic risk factors and heightened ecological unpredictability.

Being set in the Indus Valley Civilization period of the world, the novel has a historical background on which present day environmental issues are portrayed. This contrast of temporal span accentuates how people have been influencing ecosystems over centuries so that modern environmental conservation is crucial.

In Sorrows of Sarasvati: The Lost River, the matter of environmental devastation as a global issue becomes one of the major issues voiced by the author. Any emergence of themes in the novel depicts an Account of environmental disruption and destruction that bring undesirable outcomes to societies, as well as the environment they live in. The following discussion explores at length, various useful sections in the text with a view of revealing the aspects of environmental apocalypse from an ecocritical perspective.

5.13. Impact of Water Depletion on Ecosystems:

Successfully, rivers and water resources as sources give hollows important to many species of creatures for living. Nevertheless, as illustrated throughout the novel, such actions as

drying out of rivers and wetlands upset this balance. Keeping this in mind, the reduction of water amounts harms not only the inhabitants of water but also those of ground, which depend on these resources. For example, the extreme hydrological significance of the Ghaghara River which is significant in supporting agriculture and the local ecosystem. Climate change and human interference affects any water bodies leading to no water supply, failed crops, food scarcity and availability of desertification (Tarar, 2021).

5.14. Human Vulnerability and Environmental Degradation

The story being portrayed revolves around human societies earning the effects of environmental vices. Harmful effects include very often, serious droughts and other fluctuating and unpredictable climate changes as a result of human activities such as deforestation and industrialization resulting in unfavorable outcomes for the populace. The continued using of agriculture practices that are related to the seasonal rains' becomes highly unsustainable when climate change issues are observed (Tarar, 2021). This is a clear indication that the wellbeing of the human being and the environmental health are closely linked and emphasizes an aspect of environmentalism that degrades the environment results in societal doom and other existential risks.

5.14.1. Deforestation and Ecological Disequilibrium

The novel proves the fact of deforestation and destruction of biosphere with losable consequences in the territory. With the reducing availability of the forests, the incidences of species loss reduce the capacity of the ecosystems to moderate climatic change, feed the population through agriculture practices or provide revenues for the inhabitants. As mentioned in the novel, the issues of sand advance, as well as, desertification add to these problems, turning the fertile fields into sandy desert (Tarar, 2021). This process results in reduction of species variety and aggravation of climate change effects, which in turn cause further environmental and social effects.

5.14.2. The Anthropocene and Human Responsibility

The focus of the discussion is based on the idea of the Anthropocene, which refers to the period in which human beings' actions prevail over Earth's processes. Through the novel, the author expresses her disapproval of egocentric and anthropocentric values that are focused on the satisfaction of a given generation's wants at the expense of future generations' well-being. Pollution, deforestation, and environment misconduct in form of utilizing natural resources in manners that are unhealthy for the surroundings are shown to be a result of urbanization, as portrayed by the slicing down of trees, lack of greens, and contaminated water in cities such as Mohenjo (Tarar 2021, p. 89). This imbalance show how important it is time for a change towards positive and sustainable practices in relation to ecosystems' health.

5.15. Urbanization and Ecological Disruption

Occupation finally comes out as a major motif, representing the encroachment of what could be the last frontier by unfriendly structures only characterized by their concrete structures. Tarar vividly portrays Mohenjo, a once-thriving city now devoid of trees and natural life, illustrating the stark contrast between historical grandeur and contemporary decay: Tarar vividly portrays Mohenjo, a once-thriving city now devoid of trees and natural life, illustrating the stark contrast between historical grandeur and contemporary decay:

"Oh, there is not even a tree in the whole Mohenjo-Daro You have taken yourself away from trees, from greens and from waters."

This passage empathises on the environmental cost of urbanisation and the level which destructed biodiversity and distorted the natural balance of the ecosystems. Lack of green ideologies symbolized in Mohenjo has disconnected the population from ecological phenomena making the environment destructive thereby reducing the standard living status of people in the vicinity.

5.16. Analyzing the General Character of the Story of Environmental Apocalypse

In the case of Tarar, the portrayal of Mohenjo's decline can be seen as a reflection of the environmental post-apocalyptic themes where human activities lead to lifelong harm of the environment. The city's foundations erode due to flooding from the Sindhu River, a consequence of unchecked urban expansion and insufficient environmental planning: The city's foundations

erode due to flooding from the Sindhu River, a consequence of unchecked urban expansion and insufficient environmental planning:

"See the bricks and the walls; it relates the stories of salinity on a structure's surface... It is slowly deconstructing Mohenjo's; it is decaying."

In both texts here, the gritty focus on environmental degradation effectively highlights the degradation of the ecology by urbanization and the consequent peoples' loss of connection with history and archeological sites like Mohenjo-Daro. This theory focuses on group dynamics and survival strategies that are exhibited by individuals in the social environment. Tamar looks into the various ways in which communities successfully or unsuccessfully respond to changed environments in the face of environmental disasters. The villagers' struggle to preserve millet seeds during drought exemplifies their precarious survival strategies and the impact of environmental disruptions on agricultural livelihoods: The villagers' struggle to preserve millet seeds during drought exemplifies their precarious survival strategies and the impact of environmental disruptions on agricultural livelihoods:

"We sowed and it rotted in the soil for it lacked moisture because of a drought. This relates the experience of climate shocks on food security which results to the need for flexibility as well as resource conservation to overcome climate induced vices.

6. Discussion

The results of the present research contribute to a detailed analysis of the representation of the environmental apocalypse and the roles of urbanization in the transformation of the human society, environments, and dynamics of individuals and groups in *Sorrows of Sarasvati*, *The Lost River*. The study establishes the sequence of events whereby global climate change, loss of biological diversity, depletion of the rainforests, altered weather patterns, and increasing urbanization bring in a chain of environmental hurdles that endanger the surroundings and people's lives too. This gives way to climate change as a dynamic that pins down severe weather conditions affecting biosphere, agricultural production, availability and distribution of water, and health of populations. This study calls for immediate intervention and prevention of climate change and its feedback mechanisms. These two are cited as main issues with Western Australia: Biodiversity loss and the gradual decrease in the overall forest cover that destabilizes productivity. The social impact of climate change, such as hurricanes and sandstorms on farming activities and grain prices, potential famine is also stressed. Increase in the temperatures across the globe has multiple impacts cutting across areas such as health, geological and economic. The authors pay much attention to the causes of natural resource depletion such as the cases of slash and burn farming, fossil fuel extraction and overuse of resources and this is why the management of natural resources becomes relevant.

The so called 'development' is depicted as causing destruction of the natural setting; for instance, the loss of habitats for wildlife and the rise in levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The position of the cities in the portraying of humanity's relationship with nature is also emphasized in the study, which joins another familiar narrative motif. The environmental catastrophe reconstructs approaches to teamwork, way to seek resources, and Priorities for living in the group. It also briefly covers superstitions and a relative lack of awareness of changes in the environment which is why environmental education is also important. This paper's main theme of environmental destruction paints the ugly picture of its impact such as deforestation leading to soil erosion, desertification, and depletion of resources. It results to inadequacy of resources, fluctuation in the economy and societal unrest which compel the society to think of a way to meet their basic needs through migration. The paper focuses on positive aspects of people's attitudes, such as the determination of staying and adapting to the environment, as shown in the case of the protagonist Dhurva. These aspects include social vices, economic complications and cultural erosion with an aim of displaying the environmental problems as international issues. The research highlights the centrality of natural assets, especially water, for human existence and the sustenance of earth's ecosystems. The process of drying of the riverbed stands for the mishap of ecological balance that results into loss of employment and fiscal uncertainty. The destruction of trees feel tragic and the theme of water crisis implies that the populations who relies on the availability of water would significantly suffer.

7. Conclusion

The conclusions of this work paint colorful and multifaceted picture of environmental apocalypse and the effects urbanization had on human societies and groups, ecosystems and dynamics in general as depicted in *Sorrows of Sarasvati: The Lost River*. This study synthesizes the climate change, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, and the phenomena of urbanization demonstrating the unprecedented environmental problems that might endanger the existence of natural environment and human beings. Hence, the study calls for the need to combat climate change, abate the use of natural resources and to seek ways on how societies and communities can mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change on agriculture, water supplies and social well-being. Moreover, it emphasizes the need for sustainable behavior and antipollution laws to lessen the severe consequences of ruining the environment of our shared home, demonstrating peaceful relations between living beings to emphasize people's obligation to preserve the Earth. When the revised curricula of the study in question are examined in relation to the broader society, it is possible to note the following contentious issues: the nature of human decision-making in crisis situations, the adaptability of communities when faced with representative ecological disasters, and the complete obliteration of cultural monuments owing to massive catastrophes. Thus, the story from *Sorrows of Sarasvati, The Lost River* can be considered as a powerful allegies however, it sheds the much needed light on the current issues of environmental degradation and then, the role of education on environmental conservation. The study is very useful in understanding why coordination, resources, and flexibility are crucial for the entities' survival and future prospects. Finally, it requires responsibility, which means the protection of natural resources and combating the adverse impact of climate change to build resilience for the current and future generations.

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