

DOI - 10.53571/NJESR 2021.2.8.36-43

Environmental Aspects and Human Nature in William Golding's novel 'Lord of the Flies'**Dr Pankaj Kumar Singh****Assistant Professor****Dept. of English****Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University****Gorakhpur**

Individuals are unique due to their idiosyncrasies. This is mainly because of differences in experience, education, value, personality. One's environment has a revelatory influence on one's nature. "Human nature is a concept that denotes the fundamental dispositions and characteristics—including ways of thinking, feeling, and acting—that humans are said to have naturally".¹ The novel "Lord of the Flies" presents an island as a small form of the genuine real world, wherein man has taken advantage of the nature and environment for his solace, progress and also because of his brutal nature. Rousseau believes that humans are born innocent but are later corrupted by societal environment. This paper is an attempt to examine various aspects of societal environment and human nature, their relations and impact. Each of us has multifarious outlook on human nature. Professionals, particularly, in the fields of psychology, sociology, and philosophy, are being asked for answers to the questions. Why is there human evil? How did this happen? What are its causes? What role do societal rules and institutions play in the existence of human evil? How are we to understand individuals who wish to inflict human suffering and destruction? In the novel, Lord of the Flies, William Golding delineates deep insight into human nature. He emphasized that all human beings have natural evil inside them. People are inherently evil-born evil. If they are left alone without controls, they would all tend to violence, selfishness, etc. If there is an absence of social norms, people show their true nature, and it is mostly evil and vicious. However, societal environment, conventions and customs protect the weaker group. Piggy remained safe until there were a proper leadership and rule of conch. But he was killed when conch becomes an obsolete thing. Children in 'Lord of the Flies' are civilized as long as they are under the protection of their parents. But these boys

demonstrate elements of true human nature beyond civilized human beings as they are put in a society and environment where there is no rule or civility set in place.

Keywords: Idiosyncrasies, Environment, influence, Human Nature, Civilized.

Golding attempts to support his argument that all human beings are savages by nature. Humans are profoundly diabolical. He writes, "Kill the pig. Cut her throat. Bash her in..." (Golding 75). Jack is longing for power at the outset of the novel. For a while, Jack maintains the moral sense and discipline that civilization had established in him. "We've got to have rules and obey them. After all, we're not savages" (Golding 42). Golding has presented the island; the microcosmic representation of nature, as something pure; untainted. A portrayal of the impact of climate is clear inside *Lord of the Flies*, when the boys at first make every one of the guidelines like cultivated English individuals, and attempt to set up the offices they delighted in back home in their country. For this, they exploit the island consequently of which the climate quietly rehearses its solidarity on them and overwhelms them, causing them to fail to remember all their common nature and submit to the climate and nature. The environment has power to punish and attack the mind of the inhabitant silently. Simon, in *Lord of the Flies*, gets terrified of the cave secret and pig's head because of eerier, quiet expert articulation of the island and runs frantically to the next young boy. There, he gets killed by the boys as they botch him for a monster in obscurity, killing him ruthlessly with their wooden lances. Moreover, Hanafy examines the capacity of environment to draw out the secret monster within the man, that how being unified with the climate makes one lose his mankind and makes him yield to his carnal senses. It can be seen in the novel, *Lord of the Flies*, that at first Jack and his hunters are reluctant in killing a pig. In any case, later, when he kills one at last, he makes it a practice to kill the pigs and eat them as a treat. At first, when the young men discover Simon sitting close to the bank, they toss stones at him, anyway took care that it didn't hit him. But when Ralph came to Jack's gathering later for Piggy's specs, they toss stones at Ralph mercilessly to show him their strength.

Men are born with great characteristics, but slowly through the influences of society the characteristics perish. Indeed environment plays an essential role in forming an individual's activities. Environment absolutely directs activities; individuals act diversely at church than they

would, for instance, at a football game. When the children trapped on the island, they became isolated and cut from parental society. This was the society without the laws and governments. Most of the children were ignorant and unable to understand what is right and what is wrong. So, they were guided by their inbuilt instinct. “All the time we must remember that man is both parts of nature and yet able to influence its processes; that he, like other animals, needs space and repose; and that all his actions have far-reaching effects on other living creatures”²Golding delineates the true nature of human being and new society. Island is now a dream world for children. They all are free to expose their real nature without any restriction. The boys on the island allow themselves and their beliefs to be influenced by the environment. Golding’s major contentions are that people are evil by nature, and are moved by desires toward ruthlessness and strength over others. The utilization of portrayal, imagery, and character improvement are different scholarly gadgets that Golding utilizes in *Lord of the Flies* to show that all people are intrinsically malicious. Nature, as indicated by Hanafy, has been introduced as something unadulterated, untainted and immaculate. It is because of man's inclination for human progress and advancement that the nature and climate got violated, polluted and unclean.

The temporal civilization formed by children in ‘*Lord of the Flies*’ implodes under the heaviness of their inborn viciousness: rather than follow rules and work hard, they seek after fun, capitulate to dread, and tumble to savagery. Golding's basic contention is that people are savage ordinarily, and are moved by base inclinations toward narrow-mindedness, severity, and predominance over others. However the boys are in doubt regarding the existence of beast on the island. But in actuality the beast is in mind in the form of fear. Jack “uses its existence to make the other boys willing followers of his commands. - Fear is the source of power”³ (Winfriedschule Fulda). Jack thinks that he can win over even more hearts of the boys by hunting the beast down (Golding 91). His behavior is regarded as the evil in every mankind, the “beastly side”.⁴But Jack is afraid of himself. He tells lie to boys that there is no beast but he cannot persuade himself. He never tells anyone about his fear but deep inside he knows that he is frightened. Simon is the only one who knows the reality: “There is a beast, but it’s only us”.⁵ (Baker, “Beast” 78)

In the novel, ‘*Lord of the Flies*’ Ralph and Piggy demand the return of Piggy’s glasses because it is the “right thing to do”. They try to find the solution of the problem through dialogue instead of fighting with Jack. Through this incident, Golding wants to clear his point that even evil is

present in all human beings, but our environment and societal norms are able to suppress it successfully. Before coming to island the school boys were ignorant regarding the presence of evil within themselves. But when they are given option between good and evil, they incline towards evil. They are impacted by Jack's uncivilized outlook comparatively Ralph. Evil is not restricted to particular person in particular environments but it exists in each individual. Societal surroundings and environments shape our temperament and maintain harmony between good and evil, civilization and savagery.

We often see a clash between civilization and savagery in the novel 'Lord of the Flies'. Jack opted to hunt instead of rescue the civilization resultantly the rescue ship has passed. For him rescue civilization is not as important as "Kill the pig. Cut her throat. Spill her blood." The head of pig symbolizes that the beast is not outside the mind but it is in our mind. On island boys are free from restrictive environment that's why their real nature comes out in the form of social evil. Due to inherent evil Jack, humiliated and angry, hits Piggy. Piggy's glasses fly off, breaking a lens. Jack mocks Piggy and everyone laughs. In the novel it is transparent that how Jack and his team attempt to encroach the environment by killing the beast and celebrating. But at the next moment Ralph tries to restore the civilization by interrupting and calling an assembly. Ralph blows the Conch. "a symbol of parliamentary order" as Piggy, together with Ralph, turns it into "a tool of civilization" ⁶ (Olsen 6). He comes to know the real nature of Piggy too. Ralph is of the opinion that water, shelter and fire is important for the survival of human being on the island.

Jack also tries to hold the conch so that he may express his views but Ralph refuses to hand it over. Jack shows respect to conch, sits back down and follow the rules of the boys' civilization. Golding says that it is the impact of environment that alters the mind of savage Jack and civilized Piggy regarding the existence of the beast. Civilization has the capacity to control human nature. Here rules and regulation made by boys prevent the evil doing to some extent.

Individual roles in society are also depicted in 'Lord of the Flies'. Most of the problems on island i.e. the extinguishing of the signal fire, the lack of shelters, and the murder of Piggy- rise from the boy's commitment to a principle of self-interest over the principle of community. The boys prefer to fulfill their individual desires. They do not cooperate for the good of the group. Their

inherent evil expose automatically in the atmosphere. Golding feels that man is normally malevolent and the novel firmly recommends that. It likewise makes us of our potential aware of plummet from request to bedlam when everything looks good. In a circumstance, when a general public can't handle a man's conduct, the man's feeling of brutality increments subsequently prompting savagery and savage conduct. Golding's concept of the clouded side of human instinct shows up exceptionally exact as one man's demonstration of savagery against another is seen each day whether on a little individual scale or huge worldwide conflict. Golding's clever conveys a significant message to all; man's desire to perceive and control the beast inside man himself is with an acculturated society, impacted by the impacts of government and religion, two things ailing in *Lord of the Flies*. Something else, individuals are eager for power, notwithstanding the principles that attempt to make request.

The imaginary beast is one representative consider that Golding carries out along with *Lord of the Flies* that shows the adjustment of human instinct as an individual moves farther away from development. The vast majority of the boys on island guess that there is an unnerving monster because of the actual structures they have perceived like the dead parachutist and accept that it remains hidden in the ocean during the day and emerges only evening time. Most of them trust in this thought, aside from Simon. "What I mean is . . . May be it's only us . . ."7. Simon believes that maybe the monster is just a figure made up inside the boys' psyches. While most of the boys laugh at his thought, Simon's conviction adjusts to Golding's thought that an inborn human evil exists. Simon is the principal character to recognize that the beast in reality is not an external force, but instead a component of human nature.

Throughout novel, Golding explores the dark side of human nature: greed, fear, dominance of power, unfulfilled desire, jealousy and mental instability. Evil means "man's inhumanity to man" in the most panoramic sense. Evil is an actuality. In using the word evil we do not mean that an act of pattern of life is necessary a sin or a crime according to some law, but rather it leads to damage or pain suffered by people; to social destructiveness. When we employ in this sense, evil is synonymous with "senseless violence". But in a still subtler level, evil can be considered that tendency which-whether in oneself or others-would inhibit personal growth and expansion, destroy or limit innate potential, curtail freedom, fragment or disintegrate the personality and diminish the quality of interpersonal relationships. The relationships that develop between the

older boys and the younger ones highlight the older boys' connection to either the civilized or the savage instinct. Civilized boys like Ralph and Simon use their power to protect the younger boys and advance the good of the group. Savage boys like Jack and Roger use their power to gratify their own desires and treat with younger boys merely for their play.

The fact that evil exists more or less throughout the world seems inconvertible. In a large sense, it may be described as the sum of the opposition, which experience shows to exist in the universe, to the desire and needs of individuals. Thus, evil, from the point of view of human welfare, is what ought not to exist. Nevertheless, there is no department of human life in which its presence is not felt; and the discrepancy between what is and what ought to be having always called for explanation. With regard to the nature of evil, it should be observed that evil is of three kinds-physical or natural, moral, and metaphysical. Natural evil includes all that causes harm to man, whether by bodily injury; by thwarting his natural desires; or by preventing the full development of his powers in the order of nature directly. By "human evil" means those attitudes and behavior that promote excessive interpersonal aggression, cruelty, disregard for the integrity of others, self-destructiveness, psychology and misery in general. Golding depicts violence and darkness which comes to rule life on the island in the form of evil is rock i.e. strength and power. Roger releases red rock to kill Piggy. Here red symbolizes violence and rock symbolizes power and strength. Simon, in *Lord of the Flies*, gets scared of the cave mystery and pig's head due to eerier, silent eloquence of the island and runs madly to the other boys. There, he gets killed by the boys as they mistake him for a beast in the dark, killing him brutally with their wooden spears.

The most pernicious form of evil today may be madness, mental illness, or psychopathology. It is evil in this guise, and in its most radical manifestation-destructive violence-that has now become the target of such intense psychological scrutiny and treatment. Mental suffering, such as anxiety, disappointment and remorse, and the limitation of intelligence which prevents human beings from attaining to the full comprehension of their environment are congenital forms of evil each vary in character and degree according to natural disposition and social circumstances. In William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, Golding reproduces parts of crude human instinct. One piece of this human instinct is the division among great and malevolence, and how it assumes a part in the character of a human. This part of human instinct fosters a topic all through the story.

Each human has a degree of malevolence. Yet, the sum where individuals show it tends to be changed through the social climate one is in. An individual may seem, by all accounts, to be "good" in every way; however inside there will always be hate, savagery, and wickedness. In *Lord of the Flies*, the degree of evil varies in each character. This feeling of evil is certain among the young boys on the island, and it can't be avoided as shown by Simon's experience with the *Lord of the Flies*. Simon shows a little bit evil in comparison to other young boys on the island.

As the island in *Lord of the Flies* is a small scale of the genuine current world, the underlying ecological and states of being of the island were to such an extent that "the shore was pledged with palm trees" and the pungent water of the ocean was clear. Concerning the ground, it was "a bank covered with coarse grass, scattered with decaying coconuts and palm saplings". Before the human activities on earth started, the climate of the earth was very similar to that of the island in the novel and its normal magnificence and virtue was protected. Be that as it may, later with the turns of events and foundation of human provinces, the earth began to get spoiled with the signs of alleged human civilization which really is the sole reason for its impurity. Furthermore, Hanafy discusses the ability of environment to draw out individual inbuilt beast. Rousseau believes, "Man is born free; and everywhere he is in chains" The two fires on the island are generally critical in investigating Golding's subject of ecological annihilation. In the subsequent part, the boys lit a fire going which spirals rapidly wild with lethal results. As the flares annihilate the encompassing greenery, Piggy remarks, wryly: "You got your small fire all right"⁸. (Golding 35)

Thus, in '*Lord of the Flies*', Golding emphasizes several aspects and consequences of environment and human nature explicitly. We come to know how environment and human beings are interlinked and impacted closely. Novel presents a continuum of evil, and varied human nature through Jack and Roger, who are eager to engage in violence and cruelty and Ralph and Simon, who struggle to contain their brutal instincts. Human evils: violence, greed, anger, hatred, boys' behavior, desire, power, authority, inflict the environment at a large scale. Evil is inbuilt in human psyche and it is controlled or suppressed by human environment. Indeed environment impacts differently when the boys are in parental society and when they are on island free from all restriction of the society. The capacity to control evil differs individual to individual. This is a world overwhelmed commonly, and by the creatures that live on the island.

The plane accident has effectively made a change the scene, addressed by the 'long scar crushed into the wilderness'. In any case, as the boys assume control over this spot, they have a further adverse consequence on its environment. The boys' neglectfulness is the principal demonstration of obliteration and demise. Their innocence and disobedience of Ralph commands have allowed the fire to spread out the forest. Human evil is existential reality and its intensity changes according to social norms. Individual who lives in civilized society in restrictive environment his exposé of evil may be lesser, comparatively those who lives on island of paradise in free atmosphere without any rules and norms. Individual's nature, action, thinking, etc varied according to locale. People will act certain ways behind closed doors that they would never act in public, and in many ways, the island is like being behind closed doors for the boys. On the basis of above study the crux is very clear that the environment is a powerful and has a profound impact over the brain and activities of human being. Man is bound to bear cataclysm due to unnecessary encroachment and intervention into the work of nature. Man like cobweb weaves the web of his own destruction.

References:

1. Duignan, Brian, and Emily Rodriguez, eds. [2009] 2018. "Human nature." Encyclopedia Britannica
2. Man and His Environment by Arvill Robert. In V.N. Arora and Laxmi Chandra (Ed.), improve your writing (pp. 144-145) Oxford University Press.
3. Winfriedschule Fulda. 30 Oct. 2008. <http://www.heilmile.de/lotf/wordpress/?cat=6>
4. Golding, William. Lord of the Flies. New York: Penguin Group, 1959.
5. Baker James R. "The Meaning of the Beast." In Swisher 75-82.
6. Olsen, Kirstin. Understanding Lord of the Flies: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.
7. Golding, William. Lord of the Flies. New York: Penguin Group, 1959, (pp 89)
8. Ibid. pp 35
9. <https://william-golding.co.uk/lord-of-the-flies-at-65-the-environment>
10. <https://files.schudio.com/chorltonhigh-manchester/files/documents/>