

THE RELATION BETWEEN MAN AND ENVIRONMENT. CONCEPT AND SIGNIFICANCE

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Abstract:

In the last years, scientists have done in-depth studies of the extent of environmental degradation. The conclusion they reached was that the degradation stems from the relationship society has with the surrounding nature, but it is also due to economic institutions.

Human consciousness has evolved towards the future, encapsulating in its personal sphere of values ever-larger circles of elements.

The surrounding environment is the binding element between economic growth and ensuring the quality of life. Man and environment are in a relation of interconnectedness from which affecting the environment and the living conditions emerge.

Keywords: *natural environment, environmental law, sustainable development.*

The relationship between people and the environment in the general sense has been tackled especially in philosophy, political theory, sociology, but not so much in law.

In law, this human-environment relationship cannot be analyzed as nothing but a sociohuman relationship, that through regulation generates juridical rapports regarding the surrounding environment and its protection.

This relationship between man and the environment began in ancient times, when people wished and tried to transform nature after their needs.

The people-nature relationship started from a symbiotic stage and alongside the evolution of people their ever-greater desires for development have degenerated into a conflicting relationship. The evolution of the relationship is

configured under the shape of three stages: a symbiotic relationship, a neutral relationship, a conflicting relationship. [1]

Juridic rapports about the environment surrounding us contain rights and obligations, examined by different branches of law.

The socioeconomic development required the construction of models of perception and interpretation of the environment, of the relationship between man and environment.

Concerns regarding the *natural environment* have led to the apparition of certain legal norms such as the environment Law – Law no. 265 from the 29th of June 2006 for approving the G.E.O. 195/2005 regarding the protection of the environment.

Modern civilization led to major changes in what concerns the environment. Through economic development, the environment became more and more polluted, leading even to the certain species of plants and animals going extinct, and also led to the apparition of certain grave diseases for humankind.

At a national, but also at a European and international level, a way to make the protection of the environment more efficient is desired. For a more efficient protection of the environment first of all the balance in juridic rapports between people in what concerns the environment must be respected, and secondly the rights of the participants to the juridic environmental rapports must be respected, by other participants of this juridic rapports. [2]

When we say natural environment [3]., we mean demographics, fauna, flora, geographical environment etc. All these factors configure and influence all the components of law.

People never wondered about their future, since along time many damages have been done to the natural environment. Thus, there were (and still are) many residues dumped into the drinkable water courses, this leading to affecting the surrounding environment over time.

It was just a few years ago that people have begun to realize the danger that threatens the planet in what concerns the natural environment.

Life and the health of man depend on the entire atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere, as well as on the actions of the society, which encompasses the technical, economical, cultural, and artistic civilization, and so on.

In order to maintain the balance between man and environment there is a need for will[4], both individual and collective.

We can say that the subjective law is a certain kind of will power, a sovereignty of will [5]. Starting from the premise that human will can create subjective laws, the autonomy of violence pleads for individual liberty, unrestrained but through the request to respect good manners and public peace.[6]

Ecological balance can be affected through producing certain losses of human life, which forces us to ask the following question: what will happen to the future of humanity?

The world became aware of the phenomenon of pollution only halfway through the 20th century, when the consequences began to crop up more and more alarmingly: the urban smog, the acid rains, the exacerbated greenhouse effect, the thinning of the ozone layer, the grave deterioration of the quality of waters and soils, all of them dramatically affecting life. People have become the victims of their own actions, and have begun to take responsibility for the environment they live in [7].

In the Brudtland Report there was given a definition for sustainable development in the sense of conciliation of the economic and the surrounding environment through a new way of development: *Sustainable development represents that method of development that has as a goal to satisfy the needs of the current generations, without compromising the possibility of the future generations satisfying their own needs.*

Simion Mehedinti in his course of Anthropogeography (1909) underlined the fact that man can be considered: *like one of the most active agents in modifying the rapport of the areas and thus one of the major geographic factors.*

In a word, it can be said that the relationship man has with the surrounding environment relies only on *respect.*

Along time, man evolved constantly together with other species of plants and animals, so that man is subservient to the laws on nature.

The issues of the environment are present beyond any boundary. The ideological, cultural, and political, the academic disciplines and religious belief boundaries are exceeded.

These environmental issues affect both prosperous and poor countries, both developed and developing countries, natural entities and entire societies[8].

Regarding the human – nature relationship, four concepts were analyzed: *The ecocentric notion, the biocentric notion, the anthropocentric notion, and the notion of sustainable development.*

The ecocentric notion states that the protection of the factors of the environment represents a purpose in itself, and that Terra must be protected, by promoting a spirit of conservation[9].

This notion can also be named “Conserving without asking”[10].

The biocentric notion can be characterized through the phrase “Correcting the model”.[10]. In the framework of this notion there is a connection made between the economic crisis, the environment, and the socioeconomic model of development, but neither is the model is not put in question, nor are the causes that led to the present situation analyzed.

The anthropocentric notion places man in the centre of nature.

The notion of sustainable development. The academician N.N. Constantinescu said about this notion: “If the first three notions are each unilateral, the most encompassing is that of the reconciliation of humans with nature and with themselves. Without omitting the multiple needs of man, but affirming its essential role in respecting nature, this concept means respect for

life in general and for its development, respect for the ecological balance, for the health of Terra and its areas, as well as respect for the progress of human society”.[11]

The inconsistency between the internal limits (human) and the surrounding environment have constituted the cause of the present ecological situation.

Based on these internal limits following certain fundamental rights (the right to life, health, freedom of movement) as well as the human liberties to do anything in the environment in which they live, man has created technologies, anthropic substances, the effect of which couldn't be reabsorbed by nature.

Nature's capacity to regenerate has been overtaken, from this point on beginning its degradation, the apparition of ecological damages, some of which irreversible [12].

Nature is immense, man is unique, the quality and level of the human life have always depended on the human-nature relationship, on the measure with which man could understand nature and use its strengths for their own good...[13].

The environment is our home, which is why it is us who need to take care of where exactly we obtain the necessary resources for sustainable growth and development. We all need to get involved in actions of protecting the environment and try to eliminate as much as possible the damaging actions done to the environment.

Conclusions

Each generation lives with the hope of having better living conditions from a material point of view, and with the belief that they are part of a system that is morally superior to that of their antecedents. Man is capable of learning. We have not yet reached the point of knowing everything, we can still learn from the rest of the living inhabitants of this world. In a world in which nature is affected, and we need responsible people, with a high level of culture, to involve themselves in a rational and sustainable use of resources.

People cannot give up on their own needs, leaving the planet for the future as it is today, because they wouldn't be able to continue living. For these reasons, people must and need to organize their life in harmony with nature, being capable of finding existence solutions for everything that is now on Earth.

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