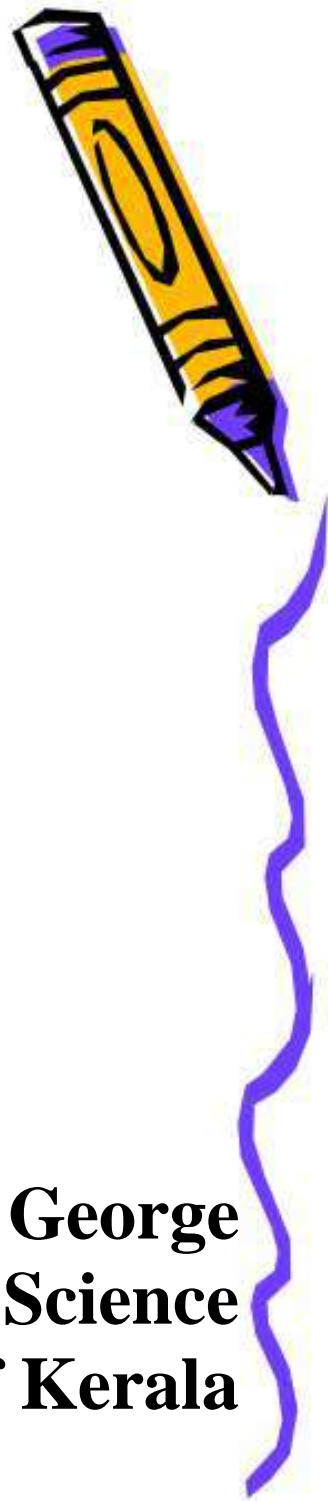


Anthropocentrism Vs. Eco-centrism



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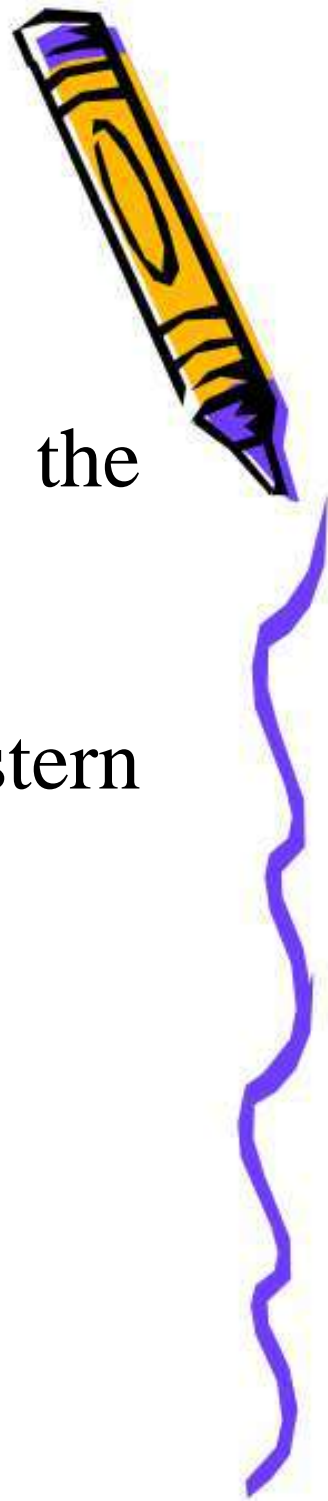


Anthropocentrism

- Two intellectual camps in environmental movement - Anthropocentrism & Eco-centrism
- A kind of human chauvinism or human centeredness
- It places human beings at the center of universe and ensures their supremacy
- Nature is viewed as something to be conquered

Anthropocentrism

- Non-human species exist to subserve the purpose of humans.
- Anthropocentrism is the root of the Western philosophy
- It has base in Christianity



Three varieties of anthropocentrism

a. Perspectival anthropocentrism - a positive perspective for human well-being need not prevent a concern for the well-being of nonhumans.

b. Strong Anthropocentrism - denies relevant similarities between human and nonhuman nature from the moral standpoint.

c. Weak Anthropocentrism - the role of an enlightened self-interested human capable of supporting environmental values.



Eco-centrism

- holistic environmental theory
- the abiotic part of nature, is worthy of moral consideration.
- nature has inherent value and instrumental value
- it teaches to respect and care for animals and plants for their own sake



Eco-centrism

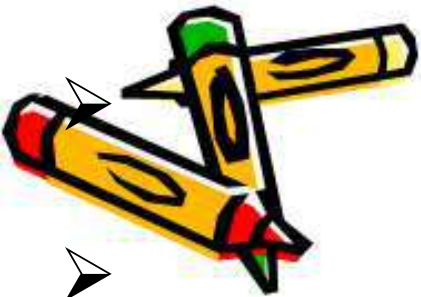
The Contributions of Aldo Leopold

- coined the word eco-centrism
- sought to integrate ecology and ethics
- his book *'The Land Ethic'* - first systematic representation of an eco-centric ethics, enjoins an ecological understanding of land
- the anthropocentric attitude to land has led to detrimental consequences

Eco-centrism

The Contributions of Aldo Leopold

- land should be viewed as a living organism that can be healthy or unhealthy, injured or killed
- man is only a member of a biotic community
- substitutes the concept of land as property by the concept of land as community
- represents a non-anthropocentric approach towards nature



Rachel Carson on Anthropocentrism

- her book *Silent Spring* (1962) - focused on the problem of pesticide and other chemical pollution
- she point out the moral considerability of non-human beings
- Creatures do not harm man
- the acts of cruelty by man only diminishes one as a human being



