

“Cultural Landscape: A Bridge between Nature and Culture”-A Review

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Abstract

Historical landscapes with their heritage values—cultural landscapes—have reached key status within the field of cultural heritage conservation and planning. International acknowledgment of cultural landscapes was comprehensive in 1992 to World Heritage importance with the foundation of three categories of cultural landscapes of outstanding universal value. Notably cultural landscapes are critically at the border between nature and culture, tangible and intangible heritage, biological and cultural diversity. They represent a closely natural fiber of inter-relationships between people, events and places through time; they're a sign of the growing credit of the elemental links between local communities and their heritage, people and their natural environment and are fundamental to people's identity.

To understand the problem of loss of traditional knowledge, urban renewal, and Infrastructure construction, safeguarding of cultural heritage and loss of unique sense of place. The paper will give summary of the cultural landscape idea, its significance and how it is bridge between nature and culture.

Keywords:

Cultural landscapes, heritage, nature and culture

Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Foundation (CLF) explains, “A cultural landscape may be a geographical area that has cultural and natural resources related to an historic event, activity, person, or group of individuals. Cultural landscapes can have variety from thousands of acres of rural land with small front work area. They will be man-made terminology of visual and spatial associations that include grand estates, farmlands, public gardens and parks, college campuses, cemeteries, scenic highways, and industrial sites. Cultural landscapes are works of art, texts and narratives of cultures, and expressions of regional identity.”

Review of Literature

Rana P.B. Singh (2017)⁶ recommended in his paper that “The concept of Indian Cultural Landscape refers to a complex cultural mosaic and network of spatiality of time, temporality of space, lack of nature and overall the encompassing manifestation of transcendence of man who since time immemorial is trying to make a strong bridge between conscious mind and super-conscious divine. This way the interplay has been part of constant and continuous evolutionary drama between earthly Man and cosmic Nature, turning into various built-structures and traditions that maintained continuity-maintenance-transformation and changes.”

Daniele Campolo, Giuseppe Bombino and Tiziana Meduri (2016)² pointed out in their paper that “Cultural routes and cultural landscapes have been assumed as key elements in the panorama of cultural tourism, because they can combine, in on e place, various aspects desired by tourists: contact with nature, identity, and intangible heritage, knowledge and local production. Their paper analyses a

cultural route and cultural landscape criteria which could become a driving force for sustainable development of inland areas.”

Amit Wahurwagh and Alpna Dongre (2015)¹ concluded in their paper that “The cultural heritage, natural resource management systems, indigenous planning and design framework, which are imperative to the establishment and sustenance of historic Burhanpur, are slowly deteriorating. Although these components, in the absence of proper management services and the presence of vandalism, encroachment and over-intensive use, are no longer acknowledged and appreciated, restoring these components means reviving sustainability.”

Wu J (2010)⁹ suggested that “Landscape ecology has evidenced a rapid increase in research emphasis on the integration between the culture and nature of landscapes in recent years. A fundamental reason for this surge of interest is the realization, increasingly shared by landscape ecologists around the world, that the world has been on an unsustainable trajectory particularly since the Industrial Revolution and that landscape ecology can, and must, contribute to regional and global sustainability”.

Importance of cultural landscapes

Cultural landscapes are heritage for everybody. Benefits from the preservation of cultural landscapes are enormous. Like historic buildings, these special places reveal aspects of a country's origins and development. Through their form, features, and therefore the ways they're used, cultural landscapes reveal much about our evolving relationships with the natural world. They supply scenic, economic, ecological, social, recreational, and academic opportunities, which help individuals, communities and nations, understand themselves.

Importance to protect cultural landscapes

Unfortunately, neglect and inappropriate development put our irreplaceable landscape legacy frighteningly in danger. Too often the long-term environmental and cultural consequences of short-term decisions aren't understood and as a result we lose a singular portion of our cultural patrimony. The constant effort it takes to protect our nation's cultural landscapes is everyone's responsibility. Their ongoing preservation and interpretation can yield an improved quality of life and a way of place and identity for future generations.

Cultural Landscape uniqueness

If the uniqueness and features of a cultural landscape are historically important and have truthfulness, they will contribute to the historic character of the property.

- **Natural systems and features:** Processes and materials in nature that have influenced historical modification or use of the land. This will include human response to geomorphology, geology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation.
- **Spatial organization:** The landscape characteristics - like circulation systems, views and vistas, areas of land use, and clusters of structures - define spaces within the landscape.
- **Use of Land:** Examples of the use of land features include fields, grazing land, orchards, open range, terraces, commons, burial ground, playing fields, parks, mining areas, quarries, and logging areas.
- **Circulation:** Historical systems for movement, including the spaces, features, and material finishes. Circulation features are paths, roads, streams, canals, highways, railways, and waterways.
- **Artistic civilization:** These features assign practices that have partial the event of a landscape in terms of land use, patterns of land division, building forms, stylistic preferences.
- **Topography:** Historic features that illustrate how humans have shaped the bottom plane might include earthworks, drainage ditches, knolls, and terraces and cultural or traditional adaptations of land use in response to natural topography.
- **Vegetation:** Vegetation features could be functional or ornamental trees and shrubs, including orchards, groves, woodlots, pastures, gardens, allees, forests, and grasslands.

- **Cluster arrangement:** The location of buildings, structures, and associated spaces within the landscape includes village centers, farmsteads, crossroads, harbors, ranching complexes, and mining complexes.
- **Buildings and structures:** Buildings are the elements of a landscape primarily built for sheltering any sort of human activities, and structures are the functional elements constructed for other purposes. These features include houses, barns, stables, schools, churches, factories, bridges, and foundations.
- **Views and vistas:** Views and vistas are often defined by the composition of other landscape characteristics, like a lookout structure or a view framed by vegetation.
- **Raised water features:** Built features and elements that make use of water for aesthetic or useful functions within the landscape, like spray, pools, ponds, flow, canals, and reservoirs.
- **Archeological sites:** Features can include road traces, reforested fields, and ruins of farmsteads, mills, mines, irrigation systems, piers and wharves, or quarries.
- **Small-scale features:** Small-scale features may include benches, fences, monuments, road markers, flagpoles, signs, foot bridges, curbstones, trail ruts, and foundations.

Connecting culture with nature in landscape ecology

The bridge between culture and nature or between people and place is usually supported human perception instead of reality. While such division is beneficial and even necessary in some cases, any artificial separation of constituents without a holistic unifying framework may obstruct a real understanding of complex adaptive systems like landscapes. Culture and nature (or people and place) in landscapes must be considered simultaneously.

Conclusion

The cultural landscape concept has potential for special meaning in Asia and as a universal role model. This is because of the enduring nourishing tradition of living history and ways of life manifested in rural and urban settings as cultural landscapes and the inextricable link with intangible values in the relationship between people, place and identity.

The motivation of this paper is to understand the result of globalization particularly among the younger generations in the region. Skills which are required to create maintain and present cultural heritage in an authentic manner as well as urban renewal, infrastructure construction, cultural tourism as the foundation of development.

The paper has given an overview of the cultural landscape idea and how culture connects with nature.

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