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Literary Research Paper

GUILTY SEX AND ECO-ANXIETY IN ELIOT'S THE WASTELAND: A CRITIQUE

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Abstract

This paper aims at commenting on the commercialization of sex, rape, thwarted fertility and eco-anxiety as delineated in Eliot's *The Wasteland*. Sex is the only way of procreation for human beings but it is threatened by paraphilia. Consequently, the fertility rate in many developed countries is decreasing and even in some countries birth rate is zero or minus. Eliot has precisely demarcated prostitution, mechanical sex, rape and homosexuality through *The Wasteland*. All the female characters in this poem are directly or indirectly used as sex tools. On the other hand, eco-anxiety is deepening for global warming, deforestation, contamination of drinking water, unplanned urbanization and massive industrialization. Eliot has categorically represented that the water of the sweet Thames is polluted by the people who are involved in wooing, cooing and fulfilling nymphomania. This study helps us to explicate the dangerous consequences of sexual molestation and environmental pollution as portrayed in *The Wasteland*.

Keywords: Eco-anxiety, guilty sex, postmodernism, thwarted fertility

1. Introduction

There is a close analogy between post modernism and the implications of Eliot's *The Wasteland*. Postmodernism remarkably deals with restlessness, faithlessness, disintegration, distress, perversion, nakedness, and loss of values. All these issues are intellectually addressed in *The Wasteland*. With the development of civilization, marriage was introduced for procreation and society was organized and structured. Accordingly, normal sexual life is very significant since it guarantees human breeding. But postmodern life is affected seriously by sexual harassment and loveless conjugal life:

Sex is an important aspect of life. It is an expression of love and a means of procreation. But in modern society, sex has been perverted from its proper function and is utilized for animal pleasure and monetary benefits. Easy sexual relation could be found among all sections of the society. (Cited in Purwarno, 2017, p.1)

Legal sexuality has been replaced by LGBTQIAP (Lesbianism, Gayism, Bisexualism, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexuality, and Pansexualism). Consequently, prostitution, instrumental sex, fetishism, telephonic sex, voyeurism, paraphilia, necrophilia, sexual asphyxia, sexual deviancy, scatology, sexual masochism, pedophilia, and frotteurism have been introduced. The real concept of being parents and having offspring are considered casually. Women are becoming mothers by purchasing gene from gene bank and male persons are becoming fathers of surrogate baby. To them 'Marriage is a form of prostitution' (Bindel, 2008, p. 1). The sexuality that is depicted in *The Wasteland* is fully mechanical. The time of Eliot's composing *The Wasteland* was very much

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significant as it was a transitional period of modernism and postmodernism. He portrayed the contemporary life style through this poem. The female characters like Philomel, a mythical character, Marie, hyacinth girl, Madame Sosostris, lady Belladonna, two women without name in the game of chess, the typist girl, Lil, the new nymphs (symbolic names of modern women), Mrs. Porter (Diana) and her daughter, three Thames daughters and London Pub ladies are victims to a sexual assault but some of them use sex as a means of income, i.e., sex has been commercialized. "*The Wasteland* is, in large part, about a general social and cultural breakdown; this breakdown takes its shape in ruined communication and infertile human relationships" (Warwood, 2013, p.4). Here, there is neither pleasure nor any repulsion and this absence of feeling denotes the sterility of the modern age.

Another striking issue that has snatched away our sleep is the environment pollution and global warming. Eliot has portrayed the environmental issue significantly. The use of 'Dead land', 'dull roots', 'stony rubbish', 'broken images', 'no sound of water', 'oil and tar', 'rock and no water' in *The Wasteland* indicates draught, barrenness, contamination of water and global warming. The poet thinks the skyscraper civilization of London, Vienna, Alexandria, Jerusalem and Athens is fake and fragile.

2. Theoretical Framework

Postmodernism displays the postwar situation of the world and it was institutionally introduced with the emergence of WWII. It deals with existential crisis, materialism, atheism, abnormality, and thinking newly regarding everything. Postmodern people started to come out from colonial legacy and think independently. The people witnessed the sea of blood in the two sanguinary World Wars WWI and WWII. So, the foundation of belief was shattered. Ultimately, restlessness, faithlessness, demoralization, disintegration, devalues the decline of kinship, persuasion towards mirage, selfishness, perversion, vulgarity, nakedness, shamelessness, manipulation, adulteration, adultery and psycho-physical traumatic situations have been emerged. The modern and postmodern novelists, dramatists and poets very closely observed the situations and changes of the socio-economic and political setting and they focus on the phenomena that happened in the society through their outstanding contributions. Eliot is one of the most distinguished modern and postmodern poets who portrayed a lot of postmodern elements through *The Wasteland*.

Postmodernism meant theories, currents of philosophical, intellectual, literary, monetary and technical schools that have appeared after postmodern, structuralism, semiotics and linguistics. The Postmodernism is: to undermine Western metaphysics, and the destruction of the central arguments that dominated ancient and modern Western thought, such as language, identity, origin, voice, and mind, so it has used the mechanisms of dispersal, uncertainty, disagreement and westernisation. Postmodernism appeared combined with the philosophy of anarchy, nihilism, disassembly, meaninglessness and disorder; therefore, it got some of its characteristic from those philosophies (Ellati, 2016). Since postmodernism deals with the anarchy of philosophical ideologies, we notice disobedience, loss of command, rootlessness and decentralization in every step of our life. W. B. Yeats has lucidly portrayed the picture of postmodernism through his "The Second Coming":

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned; (Allison et al., 1983, lines: 1-8)

Here, the poet wants to say that we are moving into a circle and nowhere it closes but the problem is that this circle is now beyond control. The gyre symbolizes the great cosmos and it is under threat due to the evil doings of human beings. There is no chain of command, "the falcon cannot hear the falconer" means the offspring do not follow the parents, the students do not follow the teachers and the same scenario is visible in every sector. Ultimately, everything is falling down and the centre cannot hold the bondage with each other and the social structure has been destroyed and anarchy is

available in our personal, family, social, national and international life. The ultimate truth has been banished and falsehood has triumphed over reality.

Postmodernism problematizes the notion of truth, at least in two ways. First, the questioning of metanarrative is reflected in how postmodernism, both in theory and in practice, interrogates the idea of an absolute Truth with an upper-case "T," and demonstrates that truths always exist in plural versions. Truth is not a "universe," but a kind of a "multiverse" – having multiple versions and variations. Secondly, the hyper real and the virtual realities, in the postmodern world, influence the construction of a world of "Post-truth" where truth-claims, devoid of objective and traditional idea of facticity. (Mandal, 2020, p.2)

3. Literature Review

The people have become essentially selfish and materialistic in leading life with the emergence of post modernism. T. S. Eliot is a conscious artist who diagnoses the catastrophic problem of the modern man, inertia, in his poem *The Wasteland*. He makes use of various devices like self-critical text, suggestive alternative point of view, use of grand-narrative in the modern context, inter-textual references, contrastive modes of description and metaphoric images (Saleem, Ali & Kausar, 2015, p.184). Sex has been commercialized at different parts of the world. The government has legalized sex as business in Thailand. Over 85% of sex workers are employed in entertainment places e.g. Karaoke bars, Ago Go Bars, Massage Parlours, and Beer bars. These workplaces are legally registered under the Entertainment Place Act 1966(2003) or as a business under the Civil and Commercial Code (CCC) B.E. 2551. Sex workers are employed in a range of roles such as dancing, singing, serving drinks, flirting, providing bathing or massage. A smaller number work in traditional brothels or from public spaces such as beaches, parks or the street (Empower Foundation, 2017, p.3).

The excessive use of electronic media, social media and different devices is spreading sexuality among teenage boys and girls and even adult people. Many people are addicted to pornography. It is a horrible matter that incest has been spread as a pandemic form in the postmodern society. "Incestuous relationship may be consensual or non-consensual. Non-consensual incestuous relationship amounts to rape. Victims of incest may not pursue legal or retributive actions against the family because of fear, helplessness, negative attitude, and stigma toward him or her" (Cited in Kar, 2019, p. 1).

In *The Wasteland*, all the female characters are deprived of their fundamental rights. They use female only for sex purposes. So, the fertility is under great threat and the birth rate is decreasing. In this connection James Warwood said:

"In the Cage" and "A Game of Chess" both have considerable impact on the meaning of this section. The remnants of the original title suggest that the women within this section represent captured prey, trapped by relationships to their underdeveloped male counterparts in spaces of futility and infertility. As "A Game of Chess" unfolds, the reader finds the women within depicted as dependent on their faceless male counterparts, completely without an identity that does not rely on the existence of men. (2013, p. 9)

Due to massive industrialization, urbanization, and building multistoried buildings, the postmodern people are very much individualistic. Consequently, this beautiful world is going to change into a vulnerable position. Due to global warming, the ice of the Antarctica continent is melting and the sea level is rising. Ultimately the low land will be underwater and saline water will spread worldwide. For air pollution, the Ozone layer is penetrating and the dangerous rays are coming towards the earth. So, people are attacked by different skin and respiratory diseases. Multifarious types of cancer are spreading in a dangerous shape.

In the novel *Gun Island* Amitav Gosh has portrayed the serious consequences of environmental pollution. This novel represents a story regarding a world where creatures and beings are banished from their own homes for the catastrophic processes of displacement and the ecological balance has been destroyed, especially he has delineated the breaking of food chain in the Sunderbans. In this

connection we can mention the comment of world-famous paper "The Guardian" on *Gun Island* represented in the *Gun Island*:

If *Gun Island* can at times feel a touch breathless – a detailed description of the habits of Irrawaddy dolphins, for example, giving way to an emergency dash in search of a rare anti-venom treatment, with mysterious symbols scrawled on the side of a shrine thrown in – then its underpinning is solid. Amid the freak cyclones and oxygen-starved waters comes the story – or stories – of migration across the ages; tales of escapology, of deprivation and persecution, of impossible yearnings for a new world that bring us, inexorably, to the terrified refugees on the Mediterranean. Which is, perhaps, Ghosh's essential point; a shaggy dog story can take a very roundabout path towards reality, but it will get there in the end. It has to, or we're all doomed. (Clark, 2019, para.7)

Eliot has depicted the lifestyle of postmodern men in this poem. The people are disintegrated and they are suffering from tremendously psycho-physical trauma. Regarding the thematic aspect of this poem Saleem, Ali and Kawsar raise some questions:

There is a strong feeling of mechanical concept of existence in the busy life of the modern man. The feeling of futility in the western civilization raises various questions for the reader. Is the modern man alive? Can the modern man get regeneration? Can we call the mechanical routine a life? Is it possible to live a happy life without spirituality? (2015, p.192)

4. Discussion and Findings

4.1. Guilty Sex and Thwarted Fertility in *The Wasteland*

In *The Wasteland*, various women characters are sexually assaulted and irritated and ultimately become incapable of reproductive sexuality. At the very beginning of this text, we see sexual violence. In epigraph, we notice, the Sibyl of Cumae, and her utmost utterance of death desire. It is an allusion. It is taken from *The Satyricon* written by Roman courtier Gaius Petronius. The rough translation of it "I have seen with my own eyes the Cumae Sybil hanging in a jar, and when the boys asked, 'Sybil, what do you want?' she responded, 'I want to die'" (Baym et al., 1989, p.1278). The context of *Satyricon* and Ovid's *Metamorphoses* is almost the same. He presents Sybil as a victim of male-dominated society. She approaches Phoebus, the sun god, for judgment but he also desires to enjoy her body and ultimately, she submits to him provided that he should give her life span for many years as grains of sand but she disregards to request for endless youth. After enjoying sex with her, Phoebus immortalizes her life hanging in a jar. It is symbolic imprisonment of modern women. Consequently, their freedom of thought, movement and action are derived out and they are incapable of playing an active role in procreation.

Eliot's use of myth is a literary weapon by which he has created a great scope to compare and contrast modern people with mythological characters so that awareness can be created among the people. This poem deals with the framework of the myths which control the elements of the poem. Kingfisher myth has been used to show the barrenness, futility, decay and thwarted fertility among the modern people. The fisher king was very lustful and he raped the nun. Due to adultery, fornication, and other abnormal sexual acts, he became impudent. As a result of this painful sickness of the king, his whole kingdom was inflicted with drought, and the land became waste and sterile. The wasteland of King Fisher is similar to the wasteland of Eliot and his weakness resembles to the weakness of total humanity.

Eliot has mentioned at the very beginning that April is the cruelest month but naturally April is the most pleasurable month. With the emergence of spring trees are laden with green leaves and birds start to sing. So, it is the month of regeneration but there is no possibility of rebirth in the existing wasteland. To the postmodern people April is the most unwelcome month. "April is the cruelest month, breeding / Lilacs out of the dead land" (Baym et al., 1989, p. 1278). The modern and postmodern people are not involved in procreation rather they are busy in artificial lifestyle and momentary pleasure. "Sex here is sterile, breeding not life and fulfillment but disgust, accidia, and

unanswerable questions. It is not easy today to accept the perpetuation and multiplication of life as ultimate ends." (Selby, 1999, p.44)

In this poem the first section title is "The Burial of the Dead" where Eliot has portrayed some female characters who present the idea of adultery and sterility very clearly. In this section we have been introduced to Marie, Hyacinth girl, Madam Sosostriis and Lady of the Rocks named Belladonna.

Marie is a globe-trotter and a symbol of rootlessness of the modern man and she is considered as only sexual object. She has no real identity and she recollects only a cousin with whom she has sex-relations but they are not a married couple. She does not remember her parents, sisters or brothers. She has no root in the family, or community or the nation. It indicates that modern women are suffering from identity crisis. They are accepted for male entertainment only.

Bin gar keine Russin, stamm' ausLitauen, echtdeutsch.
(I'm not a Russian woman at all; I come from Lithuania, a true German)
And when we were children, staying at the arch-duke's,
My cousin's, he took me out on a sled,
And I was frightened. He said, Marie,
Marie, hold on tight. And down we went.

In the mountains, there you feel free. (Baym et al. Ed. 1989, pp. 1278-1279, Lines 12-17)

This extract indicates free sexual life which is the supreme reason behind zero birth rate. Free mixing and living together without marriage are the great threats for human procreation.

The Hyacinth girl is a young and beautiful lady in the poem. She is in hyacinth garden with her boyfriend and they are both wet and apparently happy but really, they are not happy because she has been forgotten by her lover. He was neither alive nor dead, nor could he speak or see. It means that sex without marriage is never satisfactory rather it is momentary pleasure and breeding is not possible through this relation.

—Yet when we came back, late, from the Hyacinth garden,
Your arms full, and your hair wet, I could not
Speak, and my eyes failed, I was neither
Living nor dead, and I knew nothing, (Lines 37-40)

With the emergence of modernism, the decline of kinship started and people forget the past relationship because the relation is going to be uprooted and everything is falling down and anarchy is spread everywhere, consequently life in death or death in life increasing day by day.

Madam Sosostriis is a fortune teller in *The Wasteland*. Once in ancient Egypt Tarot Pack used to forecast the rise and fall of the river of Nile, the source of life and death but the function of fortune telling has been degenerated and it is forbidden today. Actually, she is a fake fortune teller; that is why she suffers from a bad cold and lives in constant fear of police.

Madame Sosostriis, famous clairvoyante,
Had a bad cold, nevertheless
Is known to be the wisest woman in Europe,
With a wicked pack of cards. (Lines 42-45)

The title of the second section of *The Wasteland* is "A Game of Chess" wherein Eliot has portrayed the ultimate failure of sex relationships in the modern era as sex has become a matter of intrigue, a matter of loveless and fertility less sexuality. So, the universal appeal and spiritual function of it has been banished. As a result, diversification and fake sexuality have emerged. In this section Eliot has used a lot of allusions that are relevant to the context of this poem. The following lines indicate the commerciality of sex among the upper-class people of the society.

And we shall play a game of chess,
Pressing lidless eyes and waiting for a knock upon the door. (Lines 136-137)

These lines refer to Middleton's play *Women Beware Women*. Here, the male counterpart is playing chess with his mother-in-law to divert her look so that he can get an opportunity to seduce his

sister-in-law and the sound of knocking on the door gives the signal that the illegal sexuality has come to an end.

The lady of the rock is the symbol of artificiality and superficiality of the glamour world. In the very beginning, "The chair she sat in" presents Shakespeare's Cleopatra and the description of her dressing table and multifarious cosmetics reminds us of the table and room of Pope's Belinda. Modern artificial women decorate themselves with costly cosmetics to draw the attention of their male counterparts. Belinda's dressing room is full of 'glowing gems', 'costly combs' made by tortoise and teeth of elephant, 'shinning pins', 'Puffs', 'powders', 'patches', 'bibles', and 'billetm doux'.

This casket India's glowing gems unlocks,
And all Arabia breathes from yonder box.
The tortoise here and elephant unite,
Transformed to combs, the speckled and the white.
Here files of pins extend their shining rows,
Puffs, powders, patches, bibles, billet-doux. (Abrams, Ed. 2000, p. 2530, lines 133-138).

Women are raped and killed often and this is a common phenomenon at present. Eliot has depicted this picture with the reference of Philomela. Over the fire place the depicted picture of Philomela presents how she was raped by her brother-in-law, Tereus. To hide the rape episode, he cut her tongue and she was transformed into a nightingale so that she can say the incidents that happened to the forthcoming people in a melodious tone. "Philomela's rapist, in performing such a deplorable act of sexual violence, embodies male domination and a ritual of subjugation. This ensures that the victim remains submissive and unable to escape from the control of their oppressor" (Warwood, 2013, p.7).

The change of Philomel, by the barbarous king
So rudely forced; yet there the nightingale
Filled all the desert with inviolable voice
And still she cried, and still the world pursues, (lines 99-102)

The story of Lil is very significant as she is a great example of sterility. Lil's husband is a soldier and he is coming from duty after four years but Lil in the meantime involves with other persons and she is in the bar club. From the conversation of Lil and her friend, we can say that Lil is used to abortion. Lil is 31 years old but looks older as she takes pills to control birth. Her fertility is a threat to her survival. By taking pills she not only loses the baby, but also her healthy appearance. She is used by her husband as a sex object and nothing else. She is advised by her friend Albert to furnish herself to be attractive to her husband; otherwise, her husband will reject her and make sexual relations with other girls. Every woman is in fear like Lil. If a woman fails to draw the attention of her male counterpart, he will be involved with another attractive woman.

The relationship between Lil and her husband is characterized by sexuality without fertility - the wife's reliance on her pills suggests the couple's sexual relationship exists as an outlet for the husband's desires rather than for procreation - a relationship that "has been bankrupted by the demands placed upon the wife to serve as décor, as procreation machine, and as domestic servant. (Cited in Warwood, 2013, p.13)

So, polygamy is a common phenomenon among the waste landers. Ultimately, fertility is going to zero and it is a great threat to human civilization.

(And her only thirty-one.)
I can't help it, she said, pulling a long face,
It's them pills I took, to bring it off, she said.
(She's had five already and nearly died of young George.) (Lines 157-160)

The third section, "The Fire Sermon" of *The Wasteland* starts with the context of the river Thames and floating prostitutes on the bank of the river. Once it was running smoothly with crystal clear water but now the natural and social atmospheres of the surrounding river is highly polluted. This section indicates that the total world is burning with sex. Our practical lives are very much

threatening due to prostitution and human procreation is going to face a great challenge. Both in the east and west lust has been condemned as the source of black desires and the waste Landers experience different illegal sexual activities. The prostitutes are coming and going and doing sex as machines. The nymphs have departed but left no address. It symbolizes the hovering sex workers.

The nymphs are departed.
And their friends, the loitering heirs of city directors;
Departed, have left no addresses. (Lines 79-81)

The businessmen and elite class people of the society consider sex as a commodity and momentary pleasure. After enjoying sex, they leave no address. Even they have no sexual jealousy as they think of it as public property. They throw their sex partner into the dustbin as used tissue paper.

Homosexuality is another great threat to thwarted fertility. Eliot has presented it very negatively in this section. He thinks urbanization and global commercialization are solely responsible for it. The people of London and Paris are involved in this type of sexual perversion. Mr. Eugenides, Syrian merchants, have come to these cities for business purposes with pockets full of currants and they degenerate and shabby homosexuals in personal life. They desire to perform homosexual activities with invited guests at Cannon Street Hotel and at the end of the week at Metropole in Brighton because both these places are famous for frequent homosexual activities (Shahane, 1992).

Unreal City
Under the brown fog of a winter noon
Mr. Eugenides, the Smyrna merchant
Unshaven, with a pocket full of currants
C.i.f. London: documents at sight,
Asked me in demotic French
To luncheon at the Cannon Street Hotel
Followed by a weekend at the Metropole. (Lines 207-214)

The seduction scene represents the mating of the typist with the young man. There is no love and no pleasure and the typist is indifferent to what happens and glad when it is all over. Their sexual desires involve no emotion, no feeling and no excitement. As there is no objective regarding future life rather passing time with momentary pleasure.

I too awaited the expected guest.
He, the young man carbuncular, arrives,
A small house agent's clerk, with one bold stare,
One of the low on whom assurance sits
As a silk hat on a Bradford millionaire.
The time is now propitious, as he guesses,
The meal is ended, she is bored and tired, (Lines 230-236)

The typist is here eagerly waiting for her client. She looks in the mirror to see if her hair has been disordered or powder from the face removed. Automatically, she prepares herself for another client. It is a pointless and purposeless relationship. They are coming close together leaving natural human relationship. She is fully bored regarding sexual acts. She walks in the room indifferently and mechanically puts a record on the gramophone which is fully mechanized and sterile.

She turns and looks a moment in the glass,
Hardly aware of her departed lover;
Her brain allows one half-formed thought to pass:
'Well now that's done: and I'm glad it's over.'
When lovely woman stoops to folly and
Paces about her room again, alone,
She smooths her hair with automatic hand,
And puts a record on the gramophone. (Lines 249-256)

In the last portion of "The Fire Sermon" section, there are three songs of the Thames daughter where they have unveiled their loss of purity and virginity due to the brutality of man. Thames daughters categorically present that they are sexually exploited but they have nothing to do against it. The second Thames daughter sings on the ugliness of modern civilization. She has mentioned the name of two places 'Richmond' and 'Kew' where she lost her virginity in a boat. She feels serious humiliation after losing her virginity. Her lover is very indifferent to her mental torture and she is simply speechless and she could feel that any resentment or anger on her part is useless. She expressed her supreme frustration and helplessness about life and security.

Trams and dusty trees.
Highbury bore me. Richmond and Kew
Undid me. By Richmond I raised my knees
Supine on the floor of a narrow canoe. (Lines 292-295)

The third Thames girl's song is very pathetic as she shows the meaninglessness of her life. Due to sexual perversion and lust, the modern waste Landers are spiritually dead. The degeneration is seen in all the sectors of the society i.e., among the poor, the rich and middle-class people. The 3rd singer is out and out frustrated and her life is equal to nothing. Nothing (0) plus nothing (0) is equal to nothing (0).

I can connect
Nothing with nothing.
The broken fingernails of dirty hands.
My people humble people who expect
Nothing. (Lines 300-304)

In the last part of this section Eliot has indicated that the total world is burning with guilty sex. That is why there is no peace in our family life. As there is no normal and legal sexual life, people are very much reluctant to procreate babies rather they feel comfortable to enjoy the body that means the women are objectified.

Burning burningburningburning
O Lord Thou pluckest me out
O Lord Thou pluckest
Burning (Lines 308-311)

This burning indicates that the total world is burning with the fire of guilty sex. The entire modern waste landers are burning in the fire of lust. This is not confined in any particular territory rather it spread west to east and north to south. "It burns freely now, ravaging the scene and destroying everything within it, hot enough even to burn away the river that has symbolically held it at bay until this point. Here at the end, we are left with one word, one image of the wasteland, this 'burning'" (Summers, 2008).

4.2. Eco-anxiety in *The Waste Land*

With the emergence of post modernism, all people are becoming alienated and segregated from social bondage and they are very much indifferent towards environmental issues. Eliot has clearly set down eco-anxiety and environmental issues in *The Waste Land*. "The poem's dry universe of broken and scattered images mirrors the divided condition of the urbanized soul and its desacralized condition (Hasan, 2019, p.30). At the very beginning of the poem winter is considered the most welcoming season and April is considered as the cruelest month. Modern men have lost their senses of good and evil and understanding of the difference between their life and death.

Eliot's *Wasteland* succeeds in displaying modernity's failure, existing both within the psyche and without it, in the world, illuminating the existential dilemma of twentieth century life as well as anticipating the ecological crisis looming from within the shadows of the very project of urban civilization itself (Berry, 2015, p.1).

In 'The fire sermon' section, there is a clear depiction of the environmental problem. The river Thames was once flowing swiftly and the water was very pure but at present, the water of the Thames is

much polluted. The river is full of contaminated water, synthetic packets, dirt, dead bodies of men and animals, waste oil, and bones. Beside the river, the lover and beloved sit and talk and they dispose of different things into the river. The professional prostitutes are here and there beside the river. They throw empty bottles, sandwich papers, Silk handkerchiefs, cardboard boxes, cigarette ends, or other testimonies of summer nights into the river.

The river's tent is broken; the last fingers of leaf
Clutch and sink into the wet bank. The wind
Crosses the brown land, unheard. The nymphs are departed.
Sweet Thames, run softly, till I end my song.
The river bears no empty bottles, sandwich papers,
Silk handkerchiefs, cardboard boxes, cigarette ends
Or other testimony of summer nights. The nymphs are
departed. (Lines 171-177)

In the modern age, the river Thames has been made dirty by oil and tar which are carried by ships sailing on it. Once well-decorated barges sailed on it. The sailors sailed in the direction in which the wind blew. But now the ships carry logs of wood and a lot of export-import materials. So, the river has been completely commercialized and polluted. "Eliot's 'Thames-daughters' sing that the river bleeds "Oil and tar" instead of crystal water. Here, the Thames is a symbolic river that is full of human waste, post-sex materials, industrial waste. The same scenario is found in all the countries of the present world. Due to industrialization, globalization, urbanization, and commercialization, the temperature of the world is increasing day by day and the rivers are filled with soil and sand. For unplanned industrialization urbanization and faulty sewerage systems, the water of the river is polluted. Industrial waste, human waste, garbage, and household wastes are thrown into the rivers and consequently, the river is polluted.

The river sweats
Oil and tar
The barges drift
With the turning tide
Red sails
Wide
To leeward, swing on the heavy spar.
The barges wash
Drifting logs
Down Greenwich reach
Past the Isle of Dogs. (Lines 266-275)

With the emergence of modernism, global warming, shortage of drinking water and underground water, deforestation, and drought are increasing alarmingly. Eliot has focused on these phenomena through the last section of *The Wasteland* "What the Thunder Said". In this section, there is a symbolic journey. The Questers (Sir Perceival and others) made a journey to find out the Holy Grail and searched the kingdom of King Fisher. It was a very painful journey. They were very much thirsty while climbing the mountain and they heard the sound of water – like the falling of water singing in the pine trees but in reality, there was no water at all (Shahane, 1992).

But sound of water over a rock
Where the hermit-thrush sings in the pine trees
Drip drop drip drop drop drop drop
But there is no water. (Lines 355-358)

Due to urbanization, the people are destroying the country life and creating new cities. Consequently, the natural setting is going to be replaced by artificial activities. In the same way industrialization destroys the nature and the city life becomes unreal in a true sense.

The Unreal City that called itself heaven on earth no longer bears any trappings of comfort or success. Even the bells—which rang for religious and social order—are inverted now, tolling for

nothing in particular. The upside-down bells signify the loss of social frameworks and (following the recent publication of Einstein's laws of relativity) even doubts in empirical science, the modern source of universal truth (Summers, 2008).

Jerusalem, Athens, Alexandria, Vienna and London are the famous ancient cities in the world but the people are not living here peacefully due to massive industrialization, urbanization and environment pollution.

Cracks and reforms and bursts in the violet air
 Falling towers
 Jerusalem Athens Alexandria
 Vienna London
 Unreal. (Lines 372-376)

For cutting trees abundantly and enjoying luxurious life style, the amount of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and CFC gas is increasing rapidly. Consequently, the amount of rain is decreasing and the sweet water of the river is also drying. Drought, flood, cyclones and salinity are increasing tremendously. This world is going to be unfit for living due to maltreatment towards nature.

Eliot's *The Wasteland* succeeds in displaying modernity's failure, existing both within the psyche and without it, in the world, illuminating the existential dilemma of twentieth century life as well as anticipating the ecological crisis looming from within the shadows of the very project of urban civilization itself. (Berry, 2015, p.1)

The Ganga is considered significant for the sake of religious, commercial, social, and environmental issues in India. It is a source of income for millions of people. But it is under great threat due to a shortage of rain. Eliot has set an example here mentioning the past context of the Ganga. Once the water level of the Ganges was going down; as a result, famine prevailed in India. The leaves were hanging in a lifeless manner. All the people were waiting anxiously for rain. There were black clouds over the Himalayas but there was no rain. The people and the animals of the jungle suffered a lot from intense thirst and sat helplessly and they passed time remaining completely silent. But the present situation is more dangerous as the water is contaminated and the bed is silted. So, in the dry season, it is fully waterless, on the other hand, floods spread in the rainy season. Through this extract, the poet has portrayed the alarming picture of draught and the suffering of human beings and all living beings on this planet.

Ganga was sunken, and the limp leaves
 Waited for rain, while the black clouds
 Gathered far distant, over Himavant.
 The jungle crouched, humped in silence. (Lines 395-398)

London is the symbol of world civilization. It is laden with science and technological advancement, infrastructural development, world-famous educational institutions, west minister democracy, etc. but its spiritual values are collapsing and disintegrating due to contamination of the natural and social environment. The same phenomena are happening all over the world. The poet says, "London Bridge is falling down falling down falling down" (line-426). Here, 'London Bridge' is falling down means that the world civilization is falling down. There is no spiritual bondage among the people.

In world literature, Eliot's *The Wasteland* has occupied the most praiseworthy position as it says the real picture of our practical life and all the anomalies of our socio-political life. A lot of research works have already been done on it but this work is different as it deals with the most striking issues i.e., the extinction of homo sapience and serious flaws of environmental issues. The author has lucidly portrayed the ins and outs of these issues delineated in this poem. Procreation is the only way of human existence in this world but for momentary pleasure, we are killing the genes and ultimately the birth rate is under great threat. On the other hand, our beautiful world is going to be unfit for living as we contaminate water pollute the air and kill various species.

5. Conclusion

Proportionately and disproportionately males and females are responsible for disharmonious sexuality. Sometimes, the women adopt prostitution as a business willingly but often they are oppressed and suppressed physically, mentally, and financially by male counterparts. In this text maximum, mythical female characters and practical female characters are directly and indirectly related to loveless sexuality. Such as Madame Sosostri, the Rich Lady, Philomela, a Typist, Mrs. Equitone, Belladonna, and Thames girls are sex victims and some of them are self-involved in sexuality. Such as Marie, Hyacinth girl, Mrs Porter, and her daughter, Lil, old nymphs and new nymphs (floating prostitutes beside the Thames) use sex as the mean of income and enjoyment. Since they have deviated from the prime object of sex, they are the horror of lost fertility. To find out the solutions to the loss and decay of the western civilization, Eliot has turned to the god of the east. In the last section "What the Thunder Said" Eliot has given reference to the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad and used DA (Datta means to give), DA (Dayadhvam means sympathize) and DA (Damyata means be controlled) for getting rid of psycho-physical traumatic situations of the modern age. At last, he has used the implication of Hindu religion "Shantih shantih shantih" (Line 433) for ultimate solace and salvation (Shane, 1992). On the other hand, the total world is at risk of global threat due to environmental pollution. Urbanization, industrialization, and commercialization are spread all over the world. For these phenomena, water is contaminated, the rivers are going to dry for draught, global warming is increasing and the total world is going to face innumerable natural disasters and serious diseases. The consequences of guilty sex and eco-anxiety are very much negative for normal life leading and saving this planet. These two aspects are very closely related to the existence of human beings and for maintaining balance among cosmological phenomena.

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