

ECOSABOTAGE FOR NATURE AMELIORATION IN EDWARD ABBEY'S *THE MONKEY WRENCH GANG*

AMBIKA BHALLA¹, JAP PREET KAUR BHANGU² & MANMOHAN SINGH³

¹Research Scholar, Department of Management & Humanities, SLIET, Longowal, Punjab, India

²Professor, Department of Management & Humanities, SLIET, Longowal, Punjab, India

³Formerly Professor and Head, Department of Postgraduate Studies, Punjabi University Regional Centre,
Bathinda, Punjab, India

ABSTRACT

The present paper attempts a critical analysis of the acts of ecosabotage for nature amelioration as portrayed in Edward Abbey's novel *The Monkey Wrench Gang* (1975). Abbey's works motivate humanity to review its behavior towards the natural world and facilitate the methods of ecological defense. This novel became an inspiration for environmental defence through various ways of sabotaging environmentally destructive human interventions. The publication of this novel inaugurated a global ecological campaign named "Earth First!" in 1979. The contemporary eco-centric movements in the West are primarily focused on direct action against man-made factors of environmental degradation. Employed as a form of civil disobedience, ecosabotage has emerged as a significant political form of protest undertaken with the purpose of safeguarding environment. The paper discusses the strategies of environmental protection put forward in the novel and also examines the social, political and ethical dimensions of this form of protest that comes dangerously close to acts of terrorism and militancy.

KEYWORDS: Amelioration, Ecosabotage, Environmental Defence, Nature, Protest