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MORALITY BEFORE KNOWLEDGE

Ethical reflections on environmental crisis: Insights from 'the world without us'

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ABSTRACT
Background: This research delves into the book "The World Without Us" by Alan Weisman, exploring the intersection of environmental ethics and the environmental crises arising from human exploitation of nature. **Method:** The study employs a qualitative literature review methodology, drawing insights from primary and secondary sources to shed light on the ethical dimensions of environmental degradation. **Findings:** The findings underscore the critical role of environmental ethics in guiding sustainable development practices, emphasizing the need for responsible stewardship of natural resources and the preservation of biodiversity. **Conclusion:** The article advocates for an ethical framework that integrates environmental considerations into decision-making processes, fostering a sense of responsibility and promoting sustainable development practices that prioritize environmental health, social equity, and long-term well-being. **Novelty/Originality in this Study:** By imagining a world without human presence, this study not only explores the impact of human exploitation of nature but also formulates an innovative, ethical framework for sustainable development, challenging how we view human-nature relationships.

KEYWORDS: environmental ethics; degradation; development; natural resources.

1. Introduction

Nowadays, people worldwide are occupied with redevelopment programs and reforestation. The donation program for a carbon footprint is one of the solutions to reduce carbon emissions and advocate for the zero-emissions program. It cannot be denied that the arrival of humans on Earth brings an overwhelming transformation that they can no longer control. If we could ever turn the pages, what would we do? Is it to terminate the development or reconsider the being of nature?

As we understand, natural resources are divided as renewable and non-renewable, as described in the book "The World Without Us" by Weisman (2007), which was in "endangered" status. Management of natural resources as a commodity; moreover, in practice, the business-as-usual pattern becomes the benchmark of this industry. The thriving human civilization has set aside the rights of nature, where the place of biodiversity lives. The book portrays the natural wonders of the West-East-side hemisphere, which describes it well. It captures (on page 37) a five-hundred-year-old oaks in Białowieża Forest, Poland, that cross the Belarus border. These forests have become dreams of an international peace park where many biodiversity roam and breed freely.

For another example, the impact of gas and oil on climate change is a significant concern. The extraction, production, and consumption of fossil fuels such as gas and oil release greenhouse gasses, particularly carbon dioxide and methane, into the atmosphere

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(Cruz & Krausmann, 2013; Grasso, 2019). These gasses trap heat, warming the Earth's climate, known as the greenhouse effect (Cruz & Krausmann, 2013; Grasso, 2019). This phenomenon is a primary driver of climate change, resulting in various environmental and societal impacts such as rising global temperatures, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and disruptions to ecosystems.

The increasing demand for gas and oil has led to the acceleration of climate change due to the release of substantial amounts of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere (Cruz & Krausmann, 2013; Grasso, 2019). The combustion of these fossil fuels for energy generation, transportation, and industrial processes is a significant source of carbon emissions, contributing to the overall increase in greenhouse gas concentrations (Cruz & Krausmann, 2013; Grasso, 2019). It is essential to address the environmental implications of gas and oil consumption and consider sustainable alternatives to mitigate the impact of climate change (Cruz & Krausmann, 2013; Grasso, 2019). Transitioning towards renewable energy sources, implementing energy-efficient technologies, and adopting sustainable practices are critical steps in reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and minimizing their contribution to climate change.

It is explained in the book (on page 41) that nature has a mechanism to renew itself or improve its environment for a hundred years, and in this condition, it draws without human intervention. The disappearance of the entire generation of humans on planet Earth provides an overview of the return of natural structures that can renew themselves without the role of humans to renew natural resources (Weisman, 2007). The book then becomes a study that needs to be considered because all this time, humans have only thought that the absolute ruler of nature is the humans themselves, and therefore, nature can only be used for the humans themselves (Weisman, 2007). Humans need to think twice about utilizing renewable and non-renewable natural resources because, in the end, the extinction and scarcity that occurs is the impact of the environmental crisis (Weisman, 2007; Kilker, 2008).

Humans, in their role as guardians of nature and as the main subjects who utilize nature, should play an active role in preserving natural resources. However, what happens is only excessive exploitation of natural resources (Keraf, 2006 & 2010). Errors in human behavior reflect the human perspective on himself, nature and human relations with nature (Keraf, 2010; Whyte et al., 2016). On this basis, environmental ethics, a combination of ethics and the environment, guides sustainable development, such as environmental management ideology, well-managed living habits, and well-living procedures, both in person or in society (Shrader-Frechette, 2002; Keraf, 2006 & 2010; Schmidtz & Willot, 2015; Roberson, 2017). These good living habits are adhered to and inherited from one generation to the next.

At first, the fulfillment of human needs was limited to hunting and then evolved into agriculture. In agriculture, collection has become a systematic activity of harvest. Nomadic tribes settled, and began to cultivate plants and animals (Byerlee et al., 2009; Therond et al., 2017). Agriculture emerged with the advent of the first human civilizations, and "gathering" (or gathering food from the wild) became a regulated and systematic practice – harvesting (Byerlee et al., 2009; Therond et al., 2017). Hence, this is interpreted as how people use natural resources to fulfill their needs based on practical reasoning drawn from everyday observations. The critical question is why it is essential to evolve agricultural methods from serving the needs of a specific group to benefiting the entire human community. In this context, environmental ethics is seen as a critical examination of moral norms and principles that are applied to the broader environment, particularly in an ecological context (Keraf, 2006 & 2010; Palmer et al., 2014). It serves as a means to set boundaries on human interference in the natural environment to prevent environmental harm, as the ideologies chosen by individuals to drive development and civilization can significantly impact the surrounding environment (Shrader-Frechette, 2002; Keraf, 2006 & 2010; Schmidtz & Willot, 2015; Roberson, 2017).

The author believes that environmental ethics play a crucial role in sustainable development by providing a moral and philosophical framework for understanding our relationship with the environment and guiding our actions towards responsible and

sustainable practices (Buchdahl & Raper, 1998; Gardiner, 2011). The principles of environmental ethics help us recognize the intrinsic value of the natural world, including ecosystems, species, and landscapes, and emphasize the importance of preserving biodiversity and ecological integrity for present and future generations (Whyte et al., 2016; Palmer et al., 2014). By integrating ethical considerations into decision-making processes, sustainable development efforts can prioritize long-term environmental health, social equity, and economic prosperity, leading to a more balanced and sustainable approach to human activities and their impact on the planet (Whyte et al., 2016; Buchdahl & Raper, 1998). Environmental ethics also encourage individuals, organizations, and societies to consider the ethical implications of their actions on the environment, fostering a sense of responsibility and stewardship towards the Earth and its resources (Attfield, 2014; Palmer et al., 2014). In this way, environmental ethics provide a critical foundation for promoting sustainable development practices that respect the environment, support human well-being, and safeguard the planet's integrity for future generations (Whyte et al., 2016).

The environmental crisis, characterized by climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion, poses significant challenges to humanity and the natural world (Jamieson, 2008; Hayward, 2012). Despite various sustainability initiatives, natural resource exploitation continues unabated, driven by economic interests and short-term gains (Jamieson, 2008; Hayward, 2012). Current literature reveals a gap in integrating ethical considerations into environmental policies and practices, which hinders effective responses to these crises (Kearnes & R. M, 2016). This study seeks to address this gap by exploring the role of environmental ethics as a guiding principle in sustainable development, thereby contributing to the ongoing discourse on ecological preservation and responsible resource management.

2. Methods

This literature study is often considered a qualitative approach because it involves analyzing and interpreting written texts, often focusing on the meanings, themes, and contexts within the literature (Rahman, 2020). Qualitative research methods are well-suited for exploring complex and nuanced phenomena, such as the themes, emotions, and cultural contexts found in the literary works of Alan Weisman. Through qualitative analysis, the authors can gain insights into the human experience, social dynamics, and cultural significance portrayed in the literature. Therefore, the qualitative approach is commonly used to delve into literary texts' subjective and interpretive aspects (Rahman, 2020).

This research is based on the actual problems described in The World Without Us, which are reviewed through environmental ethics; a significant method is a qualitative approach to literature study. Library search materials and materials are obtained through books or works that have been published so as to obtain valuable and actual information to support theories concerning the book The World Without Us and environmental ethics.

The framework encompasses several key components that are essential for fostering a sustainable future. First, it emphasizes ethical responsibility, which involves recognizing the moral obligation of humans to protect the environment and ensure the sustainability of natural resources for future generations. This ethical stance underpins the necessity of sustainable practices, advocating for actions that prioritize ecological health, social equity, and economic viability. By integrating ethical principles into everyday actions and policies, individuals and organizations can contribute to a more sustainable world. Additionally, the framework highlights the importance of biodiversity preservation, stressing the intrinsic value of ecosystems and species (Norton, 2005; Nussbaum, 2006). It promotes conservation efforts as vital for maintaining ecological balance. Furthermore, it acknowledges the interconnectedness of human activities and environmental health, encouraging a holistic approach to resource management that respects the limits of nature. This comprehensive perspective is crucial for developing effective strategies to address environmental challenges and promote sustainability.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Short biography of Alan Weisman

Alan Weisman (2007) is an American author, journalist, and professor. He has written several books and essays focusing on environmental issues, human impact on the planet, and the interplay between civilization and the natural world. Weisman's writing often focuses on sustainability, ecology, and the complex relationship between humans and the environment. In addition to his writing, he has taught international journalism at the University of Arizona. Weisman's (Kilker, 2008) work reflects his deep interest in understanding and addressing our planet's environmental challenges. In addition to his writing, Weisman has contributed to various publications and has taught international journalism at the University of Arizona (Kilker, 2008). His work often delves into themes related to sustainability, ecology, and the relationship between humans and the environment.

Weisman's best-known work is "The World Without Us", which explores what would happen to the Earth if humans suddenly disappeared (Weisman, 2007 & Kilker, 2008). He explores the hypothetical scenario of what would happen to the Earth if human beings suddenly disappeared, delving into the environmental impact of human activities and the potential for ecological recovery without human intervention. Weisman investigates how nature would reclaim our cities and infrastructure and how long it would take for traces of human civilization to disappear (Weisman, 2007 & Kilker, 2008). The book delves into the environmental impact of human activities and prompts readers to consider the long-term consequences of our actions. Weisman also examines how various ecosystems would recover without human intervention. "The World Without Us" offers a thought-provoking look at the relationship between humans and the environment and the potential legacy we leave behind (Weisman, 2007; Kilker, 2008).

"The World Without Us" by Alan Weisman explores how human activities have led to environmental degradation and how the absence of humans could potentially allow nature to recover from this degradation (Weisman, 2007 & Kilker, 2008). The book discusses various ways human presence has contributed to environmental degradation, such as pollution, habitat destruction, and resource exploitation. It also examines how the absence of human intervention could lead to the recovery of ecosystems and the eventual breakdown of human-made structures and materials. Overall, the book highlights the impact of human activities on the environment and prompts readers to consider the long-term consequences of our actions.

3.2 The changes in civilization

The change in civilization regarding natural resources can encompass various aspects, such as the excessive use of natural resources, climate change, environmental degradation, and its impact on human life and ecosystem sustainability (Buchdahl & Raper, 1998; Parris & Kates, 2003; Gifford, 2011). This involves how humans utilize, care for, and protect natural resources, as well as how changes in civilization can affect the natural balance. Weisman (2007) has outlined various explanations of the diversity of natural resources and their benefits in his book. Alan also explains that in any part of the world, natural wealth should be preserved, but in practice, its existence always supports human needs. An example that emphasizes the neglect of human contributions as a whole is that certain groups only manage nature. Some groups or communities need access to manage nature, so the required role becomes limited.

The First World War, as Weisman (2007) exemplifies in his book, is about how nature is forced to contribute in haste, and colonialism that enters the forest mistreats the forest. However, protecting and preserving the natural life in the forest should be one of the benefits of human livelihood activities to ensure the supply of food and water so that small communities living around the forest do not suffer from the impact of forest ecosystem

damage. Another impact felt is the transformation of biodiversity into lifeless products, such as tree felling, as exemplified by Alan in various regions around the world for commercial purposes. However, the ultimate impact is that destroying the ecosystem's biodiversity in forest sources will affect the interests of certain economic groups in society (Hayward, 2012). This transformation of biodiversity into lifeless products, such as tree felling, echoes Carson's (1962) concerns in 'Silent Spring' about the detrimental impacts of human activity on ecosystems and the urgent need to protect natural resources for future generations. The natural cycle, in which nature naturally has a schedule for its activities, is then overhauled by humans for all their interests. However, the cycle carried out by nature must be stable for hundreds to millions of years.

Another example, in the book (Weisman, 2007), Cyprus is a land that emerged from the sea, as its territory is not connected to any of the three surrounding continents. The presence of humans is estimated to have existed 10,000 years ago, as archaeological sites have found evidence of the presence of Homo sapiens. The Phoenicians, Assyrians, and Romans used the trees in Cyprus to build ships during the Crusades. In the 20th century, people continued to plant pine trees to revive water sources on the island of Cyprus. However, in 1995, a prolonged drought caused a forest fire that burned down these pine trees. Moved to the highlands of Cyprus, where the British sought warm and affordable resting places with accessible permits. As property agents put up massive advertisements, bulldozers were ready to clear 500-year-old olive trees to build new homes and plots along the hillside for profit.

The book's third part (Weisman, 2007) explains modern civilization, in which the world has its present and ancient fates. When humans create civilization, for example, farmland cultivated with machines in Europe will be filled with grasses. The following year, shoots of oak trees will grow on the acidic soil left by the wheat fields. The remaining fauna in Romania, such as wild boars, hedgehogs, wildcats, and bison, will migrate. In the part of England separated by the sea, the rising sea level will erode the limestone cliffs and widen the gap between England and France. This distance will enable fauna to migrate by swimming, allowing animals from other parts of the world to visit each other. In particular, the Chunnel tunnel is a tunnel that connects England and France through an underwater railway, the longest in the world. In the post-human era, the tunnel will be pressurized by the volume of water, causing it to change shape and curve downward in the middle of the tunnel. It is imaginable that a world wonder built for 21 billion dollars will eventually be eroded by water. People who successfully create various world wonders will be eroded by natural elements at some point. Without human maintenance, buildings made of soil, stone, and wood will not withstand the force of water and rain, which contains acid, leading to damage and destruction.

The western part of Korea, an island located at the mouth of the Han River, is home to one of Earth's rarest large bird nests. The bird, of which only 1,000 individuals remain on the planet, is called the black-faced spoonbill. The residents across the Han River have been warned several times not to take the spoonbill's eggs. The book explains that the ban could be more effective for residents and the herons who enjoy the leftover grains from the harvesters. The fate of such birds is due to two reasons: first, extinction due to human behavior, and second, extinction due to natural selection within its species. A similar fate is experienced by wingless bird species, which were killed in large numbers on Mauritius Island in the Indian Ocean, brutally beaten and cooked by sailors and immigrant settlers. Other wingless birds, such as large-bodied auk-like birds, are scattered across the northern hemisphere, yet hunting from Scandinavia to Canada has successfully eradicated these species. Another factor humans use to eliminate these birds is depleting their food supply. Another more extreme method is to shoot several lead pellets through a rifle. Humans consider these birds to be pests with large numbers that constantly nibble on the fruits of oak trees, beech trees, and berries.

The authors conclude that the changes in civilizaition and their impact on natural resources and the environment, such as; indrustrialisation and resource exploitation; urbanisation and habitat destruction; agriculture practices and soil degradation; climate

change and global impact; technological advancements and evironmental ethics; cultural shifts and environmental awareness.

First, the advent of industrialization marked a significant shift in human civilization, leading to unprecedented levels of resource exploitation. The Industrial Revolution, beginning in the late 18th century, brought about technological advancements that increased production capabilities but also led to extensive environmental degradation. Factories emitted large quantities of pollutants into the air and water, and the demand for raw materials resulted in the over-extraction of natural resources. This period saw the deforestation of vast areas, the depletion of mineral resources, and the contamination of ecosystems, highlighting the need for ethical considerations in industrial practices (Buchdahl & Raper, 1998; Parris & Kates, 2003).

Second, urbanization, another significant change in civilization, has had profound effects on the environment. As populations grew and cities expanded, natural habitats were destroyed to make way for urban infrastructure. This led to the fragmentation of ecosystems and the loss of biodiversity. Urban areas also contribute to the heat island effect, where temperatures in cities are significantly higher than in surrounding rural areas due to human activities and infrastructure. The ethical implications of urbanization include the need to balance development with the preservation of natural habitats and the promotion of green spaces within urban environments (Gifford, 2011).

Third, agricultural practices have evolved significantly over the centuries, with modern techniques often prioritizing high yields over environmental sustainability. The use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and monoculture farming has led to soil degradation, loss of soil fertility, and contamination of water sources. Traditional farming practices that maintained soil health and biodiversity have been largely replaced by industrial agriculture, which poses ethical concerns regarding long-term sustainability and the health of ecosystems. There is a growing recognition of the need to adopt sustainable agricultural practices that protect soil health and promote biodiversity (Weisman, 2007; Hayward, 2012).

Fourth, one of the most pressing issues resulting from changes in civilization is climate change. The burning of fossil fuels for energy, deforestation, and industrial activities have significantly increased greenhouse gas emissions, leading to global warming. Climate change has far-reaching impacts, including rising sea levels, more frequent and severe weather events, and disruptions to ecosystems and human communities. Ethical considerations in addressing climate change involve reducing carbon footprints, transitioning to renewable energy sources, and implementing policies that mitigate its effects while promoting social equity (Keraf, 2010; Attfield, 2014).

Fifth, technological advancements have brought about both positive and negative impacts on the environment. While technology has enabled more efficient resource use and the development of renewable energy sources, it has also contributed to electronic waste and increased consumption of natural resources. The ethical challenge lies in harnessing technology to support sustainable development while minimizing its environmental footprint. This includes promoting the recycling of electronic waste, developing eco-friendly technologies, and encouraging responsible consumption patterns (Randall, 2013).

The last, cultural shifts over time have also influenced how societies interact with the environment. In recent decades, there has been a growing awareness of environmental issues and a shift towards more sustainable lifestyles. Movements advocating for conservation, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture have gained momentum, reflecting a broader ethical commitment to protecting the environment. Education and awareness campaigns play a crucial role in fostering a culture of sustainability and encouraging individuals and communities to adopt environmentally responsible behaviors (Keraf, 2006; Whyte et al., 2016).

3.3 Regarding environmental ethics

Environmental ethics is a branch of philosophy that considers the moral relationship between humans and the natural environment. It challenges us to rethink our interactions with nature and to consider the ethical implications of our actions. In the context of Alan Weisman's "The World Without Us," the book provides a unique lens through which we can explore these ethical considerations. The Anthropocene era, characterized by significant human impact on Earth's geology and ecosystems, underscores the urgent need for ethical reflection. Human activities have led to climate change, biodiversity loss, and widespread environmental degradation. Environmental ethics calls for a reassessment of our values and behaviors to mitigate these impacts. It emphasizes the intrinsic value of nature, advocating for the protection of ecosystems, species, and natural processes, not merely for their utility to humans but for their own sake.

This book is in a science-fiction style and describes what would happen to the Earth if humans were to disappear suddenly. It imagines how the Earth would be freed from various pressures it experiences. Various large human-built infrastructures would collapse, and human-used items and equipment would be preserved as fossils. Water pipes and copper cables would crumble into piles of rocks, and plastic, statues, radio waves, and some molecules created by humans would become a final gift from humans to the Earth (Weisman, 2007). The book also describes flooding in the New York subway, which erodes the city's underground layers and causes the city to collapse slowly. Long asphalt roads would unravel and crumble due to rain and sunlight. Alan Weisman envisions a world without humans in this century, leaving behind all the achievements of human construction, from a virus that attacks or damages human DNA to the paralysis of sperm so that humans cannot reproduce to the presence of extra-terrestrial beings who will abduct all humans on Earth. Alan (2007) brings his readers to imagine when all humans leave the land used for activities and only leave behind places with all their belongings.

The reaction is subsequently caused by nature with all the decomposer organisms left by humans, which were previously tasked with breaking down the remains of dead organisms (Weisman, 2007). Decomposer organisms need time to adapt without humans before the climate returns to its original state before humans poisoned the Earth's atmosphere. Nature takes over the responsibility of humans by dismantling cities and roads and breaking down plastic materials and toxic synthetic materials back into harmless essential elements (Weisman, 2007; Gifford, 2011). Nature, in its will, also takes control of human works. The results of human civilization as evidence of human existence for some time could only turn to ash because they were scorched by the sun and rain.

In his book, Weisman (2007) investigates the world before the presence of humans, using fossil records and various samples to project his thoughts. Alan Weisman draws comparisons from a time when nature experienced a devastating extinction, suggesting the possibility of the Earth again becoming a paradise garden. The emptiness of the Earth without humans then allows nature to continue the production process without any human intervention (Weisman, 2007 & Kilker, 2008). This is significant in the Anthropocene era, a new geological era recognized for the profound impact of human activity on the Earth (Keraf, 2010; Attfield, 2014; Palmer et al., 2014). If human existence were to disappear suddenly, only the remnants of natural resources, heavily exploited by humans, would remain, and these resources would take millions of years to renew themselves (Weisman, 2007).

The correlation between the economy of exchanging goods and environmental ethics is significant (Randall, 2013). Economic activities related to the exchange of goods can positively and negatively impact the environment, and environmental ethics seeks to address these impacts (Keraf, 2010; Randall, 2013). On one hand, economic activities such as manufacturing, transportation, and consumption of goods can lead to environmental degradation through pollution, resource depletion, and habitat destruction (Keraf, 2010; Palmer et al., 2014). This can conflict with environmental ethics, emphasizing the moral responsibility to protect the environment and promote sustainable practices (Keraf, 2006).

On the other hand, there is a growing recognition that sustainable economic practices can align with environmental ethics (Randall, 2013). This includes promoting eco-friendly production methods, reducing waste and pollution, and embracing renewable energy sources (Keraf, 2010 & Whyte et al., 2016). Additionally, concepts like fair trade and ethical consumerism seek to ensure that economic exchanges are conducted in a way that respects both people and the environment (Randall, 2013). Overall, the correlation between the economy of exchanging goods and environmental ethics underscores the need to consider the environmental impact of economic activities and strive for a balance that supports economic prosperity and environmental sustainability (Parris & Kates, 2003; Randall, 2013).

At its worst, humanity may not feel or be aware of the natural formation of parts of nature. Indirectly, humans replace the role of nature that produces itself. Humans disregard the impact that nature will receive, thus treating nature commercially for their benefit. Humans forget that life depends on nature, and when humans slowly destroy nature, humanity will slowly experience the same destruction. As Adam Smith (Chapman et al., 1982) states, "Man is an animal that makes bargains" this comes with the possibility of different types of agreement and interest in exploring natural resources leading to "commercial-in" nature (Margaryan, 2017).

On the other hand, in environmental management, humans should have mechanisms that regulate long-term development, and there should be no domination between humans and humans or humans and nature (Keraf, 2006 & Attfield, 2014). The concept of humans and nature must be maintained to maintain an integrated order, such as harmony, so there is no inequality between human domination and natural domination (Keraf, 2006 & Attfield, 2014). Environmental education is primary because humans are active subjects and are part of nature.

The article emphasizes the importance of environmental ethics in overcoming environmental crises by highlighting the role of humans as guardians of nature and the impact of human activities on the environment (Keraf, 2010). It discusses the need for sustainable development practices guided by environmental ethics, prioritizing long-term environmental health, social equity, and economic prosperity (Taback & Ramanan, 2013). The article also underscores the ethical implications of human actions on the environment and encourages reflection on the moral responsibility to protect the environment. The author explores how human actions have impacted the environment and how the absence of humans could allow nature to recover from environmental degradation (Kilker, 2008). The book prompts readers to consider the ethical implications of human activities on the environment and encourages reflection on the long-term consequences of our actions.

The article emphasizes the importance of environmental ethics in overcoming environmental crises by highlighting the role of humans as guardians of nature and the need for sustainable development (Taback & Ramanan, 2013). It discusses how human exploitation of natural resources has led to environmental degradation and the potential for ecological recovery without human intervention. Additionally, the article explores the ethical implications of human activities on the environment and encourages reflection on the moral responsibility to protect the environment and promote sustainable practices (Gardiner, 2011; Taback & Ramanan, 2013).

The correlation between environmental ethics, environmental preservation, and environmental crisis is crucial in addressing the ethical implications of human actions on the environment and promoting sustainable practices (Taback & Ramanan, 2013). Environmental ethics provides a moral and philosophical framework for understanding our relationship with the environment and guides our actions towards responsible and sustainable practices (Gardiner, 2011; Taback & Ramanan, 2013). It emphasizes the intrinsic value of the natural world, including ecosystems, species, and landscapes, and underscores the importance of preserving biodiversity and ecological integrity for present and future generations (Nussbaum, 2006; Taback & Ramanan, 2013). By integrating ethical considerations into decision-making processes, sustainable development efforts can prioritize long-term environmental health, social equity, and economic prosperity, leading

to a more balanced and sustainable approach to human activities and their impact on the planet (Taback & Ramanan, 2013; Palmer et al., 2014).

The ethical implications of human activities on the environment are significant, especially in the context of environmental degradation and ecological recovery (Taback & Ramanan, 2013). The article highlights the need for responsible stewardship of natural resources and preserving biodiversity. It advocates for an ethical framework that fosters a sense of responsibility and promotes sustainable development practices that respect the environment, support human well-being, and safeguard the planet's integrity for future generations (Taback & Ramanan, 2013).

In examining "The World Without Us," one can draw intriguing connections to eschatology, the study of end times and ultimate destinies in philosophical and religious contexts. Weisman's exploration of a planet reclaiming itself in the absence of humanity resonates with eschatological themes of renewal and transformation following destruction. The hypothetical scenario of a world devoid of human activity invites reflection on the potential for ecological rebirth, paralleling eschatological visions of a restored creation after apocalyptic events. This interplay raises profound questions about humanity's role in the narrative of existence, suggesting that while human actions may lead to environmental degradation, the natural world possesses an inherent capacity for regeneration, echoing beliefs of hope and renewal found in various eschatological frameworks. Thus, Weisman's work serves as a poignant reminder of the interconnectedness of human fate and the environment, urging consideration of our ethical responsibilities as stewards of the Earth in the face of potential existential crises.

4. Conclusions

In "The World Without Us" by Alan Weisman, environmental ethics are evident in exploring how human actions have impacted the environment and how the absence of humans could potentially allow nature to recover. The book prompts readers to consider the ethical implications of human activities on the environment and the long-term consequences of our actions. It also encourages reflection on the moral responsibility to protect the environment and promote sustainable practices.

By examining ecological recovery without human intervention, the book raises important questions about our ethical obligations to the natural world. However, this study has limitations, including the scope of the review, potential biases in the selection and interpretation of sources, and the absence of primary research data. Additionally, the limitations may encompass the generalizability of the findings and the need for further empirical studies to validate the assertions made in the review.

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