

Drama Versus Sanitation Issues in Ghana: Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* in Perspective

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Abstract:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which represent a call to action blueprints set to achieve a prosperous, better and more sustainable future, all in a bid to either reduce to the barest minimum or end poverty, duly recognizes the health and livelihood implications of inadequate water accessibility and poor sanitation included water and sanitation in the SDGs. Clean water and sanitation appear as number six of the seventeen SDGs. This goal has a direct impact on Life below water and Life on Land which are numbered fourteen and fifteen on the Sustainable Development Goals respectively and therefore needs a critical attention. For some years now, Ghana has been pinned down with serious poor sanitation issues. The effects of these poor sanitation issues have been seriously felt in diverse facets of the development of the country. Although, various attempts have been made to arrest this situation, it appears it is getting no better. Drama has been considered as a mirror that reflects the reality in societies. It has often been used to educate, inform, and entertain. *An Enemy of the People*; a play by Henrik Ibsen deals with a serious environmental problem versus the general attitude and mindset of the people; media, citizens and corrupt government officials to find solutions to nip it in the bud. This literary research exposes some themes in this serious drama with considerable modern relevance for modern readers. This is done through thematic, textual and contextual analysis.

Keywords: Drama, Sustainable development, Ecocriticism, Modern Relevance

Introduction

The environment, which is the natural world as a whole or the surroundings since time immemorial has been one unique ecosystem that almost all organisms especially living things (animals, plants and human beings) depend on for existence. There is therefore a mutual relationship between man and his ecological habitat. Man's dependence and livelihood is hinged on how friendly and habitable the environment is to organisms that reside in it. If the environment is harsh, man's comfort, growth and general wellbeing will be gravely affected hence, less productivity. Human beings over time have not really been friendly to the environment. As nations attempted greater interventions and innovations in the interest of development and improve the welfare of its citizens, governments have moved from just governance to becoming actively involved as a social reformer. In effect, the quest for discovering new things have in one way or the other contributed to the enormous challenges that have become perennial in the world especially in developing economies which include Ghana. This is because, while other nations are putting in the

appropriate mechanisms of protecting and preserving the environment or the ecosystems for recreation, health and wellbeing, tourism to attract economic gains, and the general aesthetical atmosphere of the society, others have the laws yet the implementation and supervision is very poor therefore the ecosystem which all lives depend on is gradually being depleted and polluted.

Mensah, (2019) intimates that bad environmental sanitation is indeed a threat in many parts of the world, but more devastating in developing countries including Ghana. So could the aggravating environmental and sanitation issues degenerating in developing countries be blamed on the general attitudinal and behavioral inefficiencies, or can it be blamed on human nature as a whole. Whichever way one would want to look at it, it should be seen as a major developmental issue that has to be addressed. It is estimated that just over 53% of the population in developing countries can boast of improved sanitation, (Minh & Hung, 2011). It is however important to note that, the improved sanitation as referred to above has to do with facilities that are able to separate human excreta from human contact hygienically (WHO/UNICEF, 2015). This even compounds the already alarming situation, thereby offering the need to employ every available resource or opportunity to deal with it. It is even more germane in the Ghana situation because, Mensah, (2019) bluntly puts it that, in West Africa, Ghana is one of the developing countries that have been battling seriously with poor environmental sanitation menace. To support this is (WHO/UNICEF, 2015), report that mentions Ghana as having less than a quarter of its total population having access to improved sanitation.

Accordingly, there are significant challenges that the study of the environment unavoidably brings to the fore. These issues pertain to land ownership and acquisition, oppression, exploitation and politics. What might possibly result from the action of the issues above will be to endanger the relationship between humans and the ecosystem; thereby the desired benefits of wellbeing and habitat will be gravely affected (Ojaide, 2012). The environment and its respective interconnected circles with man is very unique. It is the environment that provides the society food, water and cash crops which empowers the people to survive. Aside the provision of the aforementioned benefits, the environment provides the spiritual wellbeing of the people. For instance, our water bodies, plants and trees that have been domesticated and in the wild all contribute in the spiritual and physical health of the members in the ecosystem.

Interestingly, humans are the chief benefactors of the environment yet it appears that not much is done in sustaining the very source of the livelihood of man. There is the need for ecology of justice for the non-human beings that human beings depend on solely for their existence. The reason is the injustices meted out to them. Mention can be made of the indiscriminate felling of trees, oil spills on water bodies killing aquatic animals, lead pollutions on river bodies and streams, illegal mining (*galamsey*), pair trolling and all other forms of ecological defacements.

With regards to ecological despoliations on the face of the earth saw the coming of world leaders met at United Nations headquarters in New York from 25th to 27th September, 2015 on the organization's 70th anniversary, arrive at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Prior to the Sustainable Development Goals were the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) but since the attainment of the MDGs in African context was bedeviled by myriads of challenges precipitated the ushering in of the Sustainable Development Goals. The estimated period for achieving the goals is 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals are seventeen in number. Its purpose is to balance the economic social and ecological dimensions of sustainable development and place the fight against poverty and development of all the goals enshrined in the SDG.

Generally, the wellbeing of people in a society is so crucial to its development. It is said that the health of

a nation is equivalent to its wealth. For some time now, the sanitation issues in Ghana has been very critical and quite demoralizing. This is due to the haphazard, rampant and indiscriminate dumping of refuse such as sachet water rubbers in gutters, water bodies (rivers, streams, lagoons and even the sea), metal pollutants introduced to almost all the major river bodies in the country by the activities of illegal mining in Ghana. These scenes are an eye-saw defacing the environment, killing aquatic animals and eventually affecting the health of the general citizenry as well. The effects of these activities are injurious to all the organisms in the ecosystem. Although, various attempts have been made to arrest this situation, it appears it is getting no better.

The purpose of this paper is to explore some of the inherent power of Drama, thus, education and information to attempt dealing with sanitation issues in Ghana, drawing parallels and lessons from Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*.

A Case for Drama

There are inherent uses and roles of drama that are unleashed as the said drama unfolds. These roles according to Stoplearn.com, (2022) ranges from instructive, educative, informative, entertaining, therapeutic, socio cultural, religious and political experiences. It goes on to extol how drama aids a people to learn about themselves, their societies and about life in general. Through drama and its performance on stage, life's actions and experiences are exposed. So that through its performance, it is able to reach a lot more people, so that its inherent uses, be it publicizing something, as a propaganda material or even more importantly in relation to this paper, against bad and evils in society

The power of drama indeed cannot be underestimated, because when one is so much involved to or engaged in a drama, it becomes an indication of the particular person's emotional and mental energies, all geared towards understanding or decoding of the drama piece or text (Wirth, 2006). As someone watches a drama, his or her acceptance of a particular character's behavior as normal or otherwise is a sign of the person's willingness to identify with or receive the character's actions as one that can be emulated (Teasdale, et al., 2021). The power of drama even stretches into even building confidence in children, as according to Erion, (1996) as quoted by Ozbek, (2014) that "children gain confidence, expresses themselves and get group satisfaction and also master the control of emotions and behaviors (p.51)". One couldn't have therefore agreed more with Simpande, (2016) that Drama is the answer in education if emotions of individuals and learning by doing are the basis of education.

Again, mention can also be made of a study that considered the effectiveness of full scale theatre productions on L2 learning. In their findings, (Ryan-Scheutz & Colangelo, 2004) suggest that "the diverse communication tasks necessary for the project and the motivation generated by a common and public goal makes foreign language theatre production particularly conducive for learning (p.374)". This finding is what Simpande, (2016) believe will be result in very improved competence in interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication as well as a reduction of students' inhibitions and great confidence. If theatre can boost positively these traits of an individual who watches theatre, then the efficacy of drama is further confirmed. Other studies have shown positive impacts of drama on people (Bang, 2003; Boudreault, 2010; Smith & Henry, 1993).

It is often said that drama is the mirror of the society, and this underscores the fact that whatever is portrayed in dramas are not abstract but are issues traceable to life. There is that affirmation that dramas only mimic real life happenings and could not agree more with (Eni et al., 2013) that "drama by its recourse to the representation of human action in conflict with the aid of characterization aided by visual effect

before an audience, which is a microcosm of the society, becomes a mirror in which the society can now examine itself (p.223-224)". One will normally examine himself or herself only to know the good and bad deeds so he or she could refrain from the bad deeds and continue with the good deeds. That is why (Eni et al., 2013) again believe "the artist recourse to social criticism is born out of the need to correct ills for the betterment of his society (p.225)".

It is important to note that the basis or foundations of social critical theory of literature as well as its allied but specifically tailored theories and discourses, such as ecocriticism, all stem from the believe and potency of drama to direct the society's attention to societal ills in order to attempt dealing with them. This view is duly collaborated by Bamidele, (2000) that;

the writer is part of the current of human thought; the writer shares the language, attitude, tone and voice of his fellows and expresses his values that come from discernible context in society in a nation and at a period. Against this background and various other views, sociology of literature has concerned itself with the social commitment of art (p.3).

So, this social commitment of art has to do with the importance of art in societal discourses or the role any form of art, including drama, will play in the general restructuring of the society. Drama has that social obligation to contribute to the shaping of the society by presenting in the dramas various themes of societal interest and this point is further strengthened again by Bamidele, (2000) that "in attempting to present universal truth about life, the dramatist creates his work to reflect social themes that appeal stronger to his moral and aesthetic predilections" (p.233). This social function of drama is so important that Ogunba, (1985) believe,

when the writer in his own society can no longer function as conscience, he must recognize that his choice lies between denying himself totally or withdrawing to the position of a chronicler and postmortem surgeon. The artist has always functioned in the African society as the record of the mores and experiences of his society and as the voice of vision in his own time" (p.21).

It is also important to note that the existence of 'satire' as a major form of drama confirms drama's role in social discourses. In defining satire, Bamidele, (2001) says it is "a dramatic form in which human vices and follies, abuses or shortcomings are held up to censure by means of ridicule with intent to bringing about improvement" (p.4), while Abram, (1981) believes satire is "the literary art of diminishing a subject by evoking ridicule towards it...it uses laughter as a weapon and against a butt existing outside the work itself" (p.162). One can therefore agree with Olaniyan, (2015) in her elaboration of satires as "a justifiable means of correcting human vices and follies, that blends criticism with humor in order to bring attention to the faults, problems and shortcomings of the society" (p.2). The employment of drama to deal with societal ills or literary works being employed as satire indeed dates back to the beginnings of literary history. Olaniyin, (2015) hints of the Greek and Romans greatly employing it as weapons to fight ills in their society as far back as 5th Century. Mention can be made of Aeschylus for example, as the maiden Greek literary artist, Horace and Juvenal for the ancient Romans, having satiric works that have been of influence up until today.

The power of drama to deal with societal issues cannot be underestimated but upheld as a major partner in shaping a society or bringing to the attention of citizenry certain societal ills. This will mean awakening the citizenry to these ills so that they will be aware or reminded for possible redress.

Theoretical Supposition

This paper is hinged on ecocriticism, which is generally a Broadway for literary and cultural scholars to

launch inquiries into global ecological issues through the eyes of literature, culture and physical environment, (Gladwin, 2007). This means a look into the relationship that may exist between humans and the natural world. It is also important to look at the origin of the term ‘ecocriticism’, as that which can be referenced from (Rueckert, 1978) work paper, “Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism”. This reference will not negate Cheryll Glotfelty, as the one who proposed the name ecocriticism to replace what was being referred to as ‘The study of nature writing’ (Glotfelty, 1993). All these historical facts about the proposed underpinning, thus, ecocriticism, is a justification for settling on it as an effective theoretical base. Its original name, ‘the study of nature writing’, vindicates our choice for this theory as a base for a paper that attempts to use themes and lessons drawn from a literary work (play) to address an environmental menace. So this theory becomes very important when one intends employing literature to deal with human atrocities on nature or the environment. One cannot therefore agree more with Love (1990) that the most important function of literature today is to redirect human consciousness to a full consideration of its place in a threatened natural world. Through this paper, the attention and consciousness of humans, in this instance Ghanaians, are being redirected towards a place worthy and befitting to human beings. Negative or poor sanitation issues in Ghana will have to be dealt with in a proper manner, so the employment of the play, *an enemy of the people*, as the base to draw parallels from, in order to address these issues or bring the attention of Ghanaians to it becomes needful. One should also reveal that, there are people who think that ecocriticism lacks legitimacy or coherence as an area of critical study hence should not be encouraged to be used as a solid supposition for any critical study, as was forcefully pushed by Barry, (2009) that “is still distinctly on the academic margins...and the movements still does not have a widely known set of assumptions, doctrines or procedures” (p.239). it is however to be noted that, various theories and isms that are viewed as solid and trusted didn’t get to those levels overnight but with time and their employment in critical discourses and essays such as this paper. The resolve of this paper to be situated ecocriticism is doing so with the conviction that, this is what will make it stronger and popular. As it receives serious academic discourses, provided these discourses and scholarships fall within its aim and what it seeks to do. One couldn’t agree more with Buell, (2005) when he says “as literary eco discourse becomes more widely practiced, more globally networked, more interdisciplinary and thus even more pluriform, the participants must become more increasingly aware of speaking from some positions within or around the movement rather than for its future” (p.viii).

An Enemy of the People – Summary of the Play

This is a five act play written by Henrik Ibsen, a Norwegian who is referenced as the father of Modern Drama.

The whole play centers around the actions and inactions of Dr. Thomas Stockman, a medical officer, when he discovers that the public baths of his native town are contaminated. He is eager to make public his discovery of the contaminated water in the baths, so that his people can be saved from diseases. He sees that as a loyal duty but unfortunately, the Mayor of the town, Peter Stockman, his brother is not in favor of the publication of his findings. Peter Stockman does everything possible to suppress Dr. Stockman’s discovery, so as to save his reputation and protect his interest which will eventually harm the general populace. Other characters in the play includes Katherine Stockman, Thomas’ wife and their children Petra, who is a teacher as well as Ejlif and Morten, two young boys. There is also Hovstad, editor of The People’s Messenger, the town’s major newspaper and Billing his assistant. The chairman of the Householders Association is Aslaksen and Morton Kiil is Katherine’s adopted father.

Interestingly, when Dr. Stockman initially posited to make his findings public and also a proposal to close down the baths for repair works, he had the support of almost all, but dramatically, all of them again turned their backs on him after Peter was able to convince them about the ramifications for the town, if Dr. Stockman's prescription is upheld. The whole town then saw the doctor as a traitor and branded him an enemy of the people and this led to his daughter Petra, being dismissed from her teaching job and his young sons Ejlif and Morton were beaten up by other boys in school. Her wife Katherine also stood the risk of losing every inheritance from her adopted father Morton Kiil.

The Analysis

Manipulative attitudes of politicians towards social issues

Every development that happens in a country happens as a result of the approval and support by the government which are headed by political figures. It is imperative for the government to encourage its citizenry to have all hands-on deck to help solve issues that affect them. However, if the government is reluctant to help in solving the problems due to challenges that might make them unpopular and eventually lose touch with their constituents, they seem to manipulate the facts to satisfy their parochial interests without any concern for the consequences.

In present day societies such as Ghana is overly influenced and dependent on politicians. Under the umbrella of power and authority that they wield, most of them attempt to manipulate the truths an attitude which is making the society sink. Considering, the attitude of Peter Stockmann -The Mayor of the town, feels reluctant to go by the findings of Dr. Stockmann about the state of affairs of the Baths in the town. The reason for his reservations about the brouhaha surrounding the Baths with its health implications on the people was not his concern. He does not like the idea of the discovery. Hence, he wants the facts hid from the people and allow them to remain loyal to their old routines of engagement. Unfortunately, the consequences will be borne by the people.

Another manipulative antic by the politician Peter Stockmann is the fact that in an attempt to close down the Baths for repairs would be too costly since the amount involved is huge. This is what he has to say about it.

Dr. STOCKMANN: Peter, only you won't acknowledge it. It was owing to your action that both the Baths and the water conduits were built where they are; and that is what you won't acknowledge—that damnable blunder of yours. Pooh! - do you suppose I don't see through you?

PETER STOCKMANN: And even if that were true? If I perhaps guard my reputation somewhat anxiously, it is in the interests of the town. Without moral authority I am powerless to direct public affairs as seems, to my judgment, to be best for the common good (Act II, p.54)

From the conversation above, Peter Stockmann rejects the idea of a reconstruction because it will imply he made a wrong decision in the first place. Thus, he protects his reputation over the town's safety. He was conscious of the time it will take before the baths become fully finished to use and thus he wanted his brother to retract his statements about the baths.

The situation with sanitation in Ghana seems to hover around the same issue raised by Peter Stockmann. Many politicians lack the proper political will to ensure there is an everlasting solution to this social cancer. The fear of losing their power and fame appears to be one of the major concerns that bedeviled them just as Peter Stockholm fears that the people and its superiors will perceive him to have acted in bad fate, hence his disapproval in helping safe the situation.

A clarion call for intellectuals to show concern and ready to provide support for national development

A critical approach in solving situations that are dire, calls for appropriate scientific investigation into the finding out the cause and effect of the problem. This is what the think tanks or perhaps researchers in social and physical sciences are charged to do in making the society or environment habitable for both humans and all that exist in the ecosystem. A good citizen and for that matter a lifesaving person like Dr. Stockmann upon observation of the numerous cases of ailments brought to his outpatient department became rampant, he saw the need to investigate the cause of the problem. This is his reaction in a dialogue with his wife;

DR. STOCKMANN: I have investigated the matter most conscientiously. For a long time past I have suspected something of the kind. Last year we had some very strange cases of illness among the visitors—typhoid cases, and cases of gastric fever—

MRS. STOCKMANN: Yes, that is quite true.

DR. STOCKMANN: At the time, we supposed the visitors had been infected before they came; but later on, in the winter, I began to have a different opinion; and so I set myself to examine the water, as well as I could. (Act I, p.28)

There have been various researches in the area of sanitation especially water bodies that are polluted with poisonous metals by the activities of illegal mining on these environments in the ecosystem of Ghana. In the view of Adjei (2012), he asserts that indiscriminate mining activities have contaminated water resources due to their physical degrading nature as well as the use of chemicals that are injurious to both man and aquatic lives. Similarly, plastic wastes found in gutters and water bodies around major cities and towns have contributed immensely to the high recording rate of malaria in hospitals in the country. This is due to stagnant water in our drainage systems that breeds mosquitoes. Others are periodic outbreak of cholera as well as typhoid fevers brought to health facilities in the society. In order to achieve success in every task, it is important to make an extensive research to ascertain vital solutions that will help solve the task at hand. This is also the case in solving sanitation issues. We see in the play how Dr. Stockmann does an extensive research to get the solutions which will help solve the problem with the baths and water issue which was the main issue in the play. We need to attach all seriousness to maintaining good sanitation and work to implement preventive measures towards ensuring good sanitation when need be. In short, drastic measures should be taken towards the challenges of managing the sanitation situation in Ghana. Nonetheless, there are some agencies, and advocates who to a large extent are helping in ensuring that the sanitation issues in the country are managed. Mention can be made of Accra Waste Management and Plastic Waste Collectors Association of Ghana are contributing greatly to ensure sanity in the environment.

Hypocrisy and opportunism in An Enemy of the People

Hypocrisy is quite rampant throughout the entire play. We see characters compromise for a host of reasons. Power, money, and public image all play a part. As a governing body, the council was aware of the contaminated water and knew it had to be worked out anyway but they decided to throw away the whole idea. Dr. Stockmann, the play's protagonist, on the other hand, refuses to compromise his beliefs no matter what. His dedication to his personal principles stands in sharp contrast to many of the other characters and this is the kind of attitude towards sanitation that one must cultivate. He intimates these lines to affirm his love for his people. He says that;

It is I who have the real good of the town at heart! I want to lay bare the defects that sooner or later must

come to the light of day. I will show whether I love my native town (Act II, p.61).

It is important to note that the play goes beyond any simple definition of hypocrisy. Many of the characters have sound reasons for compromising. Take Hovstad and Aslaksen who are seen as the biggest hypocrites and opportunists in the play. In that they could get their hands twisted and then later come back to Dr. Stockmann to tell him that they want to publish his research. When reading the play, we often find ourselves wondering what constitutes hypocrisy in the first place? Where does it begin and end? Most of the characters in the play accept the facts drawn from Dr. Stockmann's research but are refusing to look at the preventive measures towards this problem due to their own parochial interests. Interestingly, this is human nature. People always want favours rather than working hard to make ends meet. Again, humans always want the brighter side of things and shun the ugly. There are many Hovstad and Alasken in every society. In Ghana for instance such people always want to take advantage of the least opportunity to cash in either through fair or foul means. This kind of exploitation has in many diverse ways contributed to the less gains in the fight for making the cities clean. It is not always the politician that is opportunists but individuals and corporate bodies wanting to know how much they stand to gain before helping out.

A look at the attitude of Hovstad and Aslaksen compromised and made Dr. Stockmann appears useless and lonely. By implication, these characters are not trustworthy. It also shows how inconsistent they are in using their expertise to help solve societal menace such as the discovery of Dr. Stockmann.

Good sanitation practices must be held with surety

In one of the sermons of the acclaimed preachers in early years of Christianity in Britain, John Wesley asserted time cleanliness is next to godliness. This statement expresses the explicit layout procedure that without clean sanitized environment, the ecosystem becomes inhabitable and defeats the purpose why the creator did it for man who has share of God's creative abilities to superintend on the activities in the ecosystem. In view of this, sanitation measures and its practices must be the responsibility of everybody in a society just as Dr. Stockmann did with his research of the town bath and the remedies to solve the impurities in the water in the play. It is evident enough that one man in a society can work hard to push his goal to keep the community bath clean in order to prevent diseases. Even to the extent of picking up a quarrel with his brother in order to uphold his principles. Stockmann felt the need and responsibility as citizen as he quizzed that "well, but is not the duty of a citizen to let the public share in any new ideas he may have?" (Act 2, p.39). Today in our communities, we see people engaging in various practices that deplete the sanity and sanctity of the ecosystem. Such practices as indiscriminate throwing of plastic wastes into gutters, water bodies, felling of trees in the forest and around water bodies, do not help in promoting the socio-economic development of the society. It is also not that all are not being patriotic and responsible citizens. Largely the lackadaisical attitude of most people in the society are the ones who seem not care about the environment. Therefore, the measures and/or the system to check the sanitation challenges in the country are enforced and human beings who happen to be the head of the ecosystem make it friendly for all.

The Influence and power of the media towards development

The power of the mass media be it print or electronic is quite enormous. But it appears that the media space is also compromised. In recent times, the internet and the social media has become one unique advocate for social, political, and cultural issues in almost every society in the world. Since its influence in the social and political development in the society, some personalities in high offices and in government

appear to use this influence of the media to their advantage in fulfilling their whims and caprices. Hovstad and Aslaksen who are media personnel and change advocates seem to be seen as victims denied publishing Dr. Stockmann's research findings on the baths. Consequently, the fear of losing his job, patronage and popularity in the media space, made the whole work of Dr. Stockmann useless which saw him ostracized from the community. That notwithstanding he was mesmerized about their demenour when he engaged the two in a dialogue which proved that Aslaksen and Hovstad have been manipulated by the powerful hand of the mayor Peter Stockmann. This is what ensued;

ASLAKSEN: No, Mr. Hovstad is not such a fool as to go and ruin his paper and himself for the sake of an imaginary grievance.

DR. STOCKMANN (looking round him). What does this mean?

HOVSTAD: You have represented your case in a false light, Doctor, and therefore I am unable to give you my support.

BILLING: And after what the Mayor was so kind as to tell me just now, I—

DR. STOCKMANN: A false light! Leave that part of it to me. Only print my article; I am quite capable of defending it.

HOVSTAD: I am not going to print it. I cannot and will not and dare not print it. (Act III, pp.96-17)

It is evident that the power of the media is seen to be manipulated by those in control. This should not be the case. The media has a strong say on everything in a democratic society. Practically, in this play we see Hovstad and Aslaksen who are the owners of a newspaper wanting to publish Dr. Stockmann's Research on the polluted baths. However, they could not fulfill their earlier promise to him. If they had done it, the public would have sympathized with the situation appeal to the government for the proper assistance in ensuring the right thing is done.

Contrastingly, the context as it appears in the play is well played out in the media space in Ghana. Those whose conscience appears to be in line with the government of the day on issues that will make them unpopular, sing the praises of its masters while those who seem to have the facts that will better the society suffer closure of their businesses with excuses that cannot be fathomed.

Conclusion

The paper concludes that drama since time immemorial is the reflection of every society and playwrights are seers who are able to tell what the future might possibly be. This has been evident in Ibsen's "An Enemy of the People". The deductions from the play point to the fact that the fight against sanitation is attitudinal incapacitation of the people in the society. This cancer spans through all the stakeholders in the society; politicians, media persons, and everybody in the ecosystem. In effect, the enemy in the fight against sanitation in the society is the human being. It is the human being who is frustrating the system for proper co-existence in the ecosystem.

Furthermore, for the system to work in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030, all hands must be put to cart to ensure the laws are implemented accordingly to avoid any bottlenecks or whatsoever. After all it is the environment that gives us our livelihood.

The fear of victimization, culture of silence must be relegated to the background and give proper audience to issues with circumspection to foster growth and development in all facet of the society. For it is suicidal, unnatural and inhumane to be quiet about the spate of despoliations on the environment without speaking up. All are being admonished to consider the stance of Dr. Stockmann, who offered to stand firm in defending the right thing. May we have the responsibility to stand up, speak up for the truth at all times.

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