

Unsustainable Development Leading to Global Environment

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Abstract:

Earth is dominated by human population and it is continuously increasing. India became most populated country of the world. Unlimited exploitation of Natural Resources by us is causing imbalance in Nature. As urbanization proceeded swiftly, lakes became polluted with sewage and industrial runoff. All the wastes from these industries were thrown into the rivers. Several ponds and lakes became polluted. Forest fires are increasing in intensity and their spread, burning nearly twice as much tree cover globally due to global warming which is happening due to human activities. It is the responsibility of every nation, government authority, NGO, locality and even of every person who live on this planet to think and to take necessary actions to save our planet Earth. Environmental air pollution poses a significant global health burden, with various pollutants, including particulate matter, ozone and nitrogen oxides, contributing to a range of respiratory diseases, cardiovascular issues, neurological disorders and premature mortality. Mitigating this pervasive threats requires stringent policy interventions, advanced technological solutions and comprehensive public awareness campaigns worldwide. Environmental sustainability refers to the prudent and moral relationship with the environmental factors. It includes a variety of actions and plans that are intended to keep essential natural resources from being depleted or deteriorated while also guaranteeing the long-term maintenance of environmental quality for future generations.

Keywords: Environment, Global, Natural Resources, Pollution.

Introduction:

Earth is dominated by human population and it is continuously increasing. They are causing irreparable damage to this beautiful planet on the name of development but such development is unsustainable. Our demands on its resources are continuously increasing and we are exploiting them more and more. Vehicles exhausts and factory chimneys are choking the air and making it poisonous. Ponds, lakes, rivers and oceans are polluted by agricultural and industrial chemicals and municipality sewage. Increasing frequency of hurricanes, cyclones, earthquakes and severe storms are the proof of the fact that our earth is in trouble and so we are. Unlimited exploitation of Natural Resources is causing imbalance in Nature.

Unlimited Urbanization

Human Population is increasing at a very fast rate specially in India which became most populated country of the world. Global environmental pollution is largely a result of people's activities through urbanization, industrialization, large-scale petrochemical use, power generation and heavy industry and extreme exploration of Earth for mining. Uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources and all above mentioned activities adversely affect the health of local communities through their working and residential actions [Mudu et.al. 2014, Ukaogo et.al.2020].

In recent years, many villages became extinct as they got merged in the nearby cities. People want to live in cities for more employment opportunities and facilities. Cities are continuously expanding and engulfing the agriculture land. Colonies are developing more and more. Many villages such as Jevri, Jangethi, Dabka, Lala Mohammadpur, etc. are now merged in Meerut city of Uttar Pradesh.

In 1975, Bangalore, city of India had an estimated population of 2,111,000 people. In more recent times, following the expansion of jurisdiction of the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP) to constitute Bruhat Bangaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in 2007, the estimated population is around 8 million. Now it is third most populous city in India. Even many apartments in a building are made on drained lakes. Same situation is found in other cities of our country like Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabad etc. the small towns are changing into cities either due to increasing population or due to migration in them from villages.

Decreasing numbers of lakes and ponds

Lakes and ponds are our valuable water resources provided by mother Earth and are necessary to maintain water level of Earth. As urbanization proceeded swiftly, lakes became polluted with sewage and industrial runoff. Rapid urbanization, an influx of people and the resultant demand for land contributed to their decline. Between 1885 and 2014, most lakes in the heart of the Bengaluru city vanished. By the early 90s, that number of lakes stood reduced to about 80. Today, there remain about 15 lakes in the city. And even these 15 are not all like Ulsoor Lake, with immigrants in boats. Many of them are weed-infested or polluted by local industry or by development.

Conducted by a city-based researcher, the results show that over the last two decades Bellandur, Begur, Hulimavu, Agara, Sarakki, Hoskerekhalli, Arekere, Gottigere, Uttarahalli, and Puttenahalli lakes, put together, have lost nearly 90 acres to encroachment. A number of citizen and government-led initiatives have revived many of the city's lakes, which had either dried up completely or become cesspools of garbage, sewage and effluents. Today, plans are afoot to revive 150 more in Bengaluru district. While most of these projects have restored only a couple of lakes at the most, one individual, Anand Malligavad, has an outsize impact, successfully reviving 30 lakes in Bengaluru district in the last six years.

Now we will talk about Extinct ponds in Meerut region. There were 5119 ponds in Meerut district which are recorded in government records, more than half of which have become extinct. Many colonies of MDA are also built on these ponds. At the tehsil level, 126 ponds in Sadar, 85 in Sardhana and 112 in Mawana are occupied illegally. According to WHO, Meerut will run out of drinking water by 2040, there were 5119 ponds in Meerut district which are recorded in government records, more than half of which have become extinct. Many colonies of MDA are also built on these ponds. At the tehsil level, 126 ponds in Sadar, 85 in Sardhana and 112 in Mawana are occupied. This year it has rained a lot, but we could not contain its water, the result was that all the water was washed away. If we could have absorbed the water in ponds, the situation would have improved. The need of this moment is to work on ponds in every village (Tomar, 2010).

Rivers and Oceans are poisoned and polluted:

With the advent of technology as well as Industrial evolution, many Industries were thrown into the rivers. Gradually, the intensity of these wastes started increasing. The pollutants were directly or indirectly discharged into the rivers. The chemical wastes include heavy metals, radioactive waste, plastics, oil tanker spills, etc. The effects of chemical wastes is much more dangerous and hazardous to life. According to NGT (National Green Tribunal) in West Bengal there is a large quantity of Fecal coliform in Ganga due to which the water of the river even became unfit for bathing purpose also. NGT gave a warning of penalty to related officers if they will not take necessary actions to combat the water pollution of this holy river. Similarly, our many rivers are polluted and are not fit for drinking water and irrigation also. The Kali river which is a tributary of Hindon river became highly polluted. Over 25 industries add pollutants into the river Kali as reported by UP Pollution Control Board, through discharge of their effluents. This river covers a course of 48 Kms in Meerut (Kaushik, 2016). Hindon river which goes through Ghaziabad is also highly polluted tributary of the historical Yamuna River. Even ground water near Yamuna has also become polluted.

In Amazon region there are tiny particles of gold which can be obtained by combining them with the metal mercury. But the unwanted or used mercury is extremely poisonous and washed away, killing fish and other water life for hundreds of kilometers downstream.

Increasing frequency of Forest fire:

Forest fires break out in India from November-May every year due to various natural and anthropogenic reasons including accumulation of inflammable materials such as dry leaves, twigs, pine needles, etc. many forest fires start from natural causes such as lightening which set trees on fire. However, rain extinguishes such fires without causing much damage. High atmospheric temperatures and dryness (low humidity) offer favorable circumstance for a fire to start. This is 2.7 times more than the fires reported between November 2019 and June 2020. The includes large, continuous and repeated forest fires.

The country has seen this increase after a decrease in forest fire counts in the last two most recent forest seasons ---November 2018-June 2019 and November 2019-June 2020. Odisha reported the maximum fires among all states.

Odisha has recorded 871 large forest fires followed by Andhra Pradesh (754), Karnataka (642), Telangana (447) and Madhya Pradesh (316) fires. This is also a national record for the season, official data showed. The most recent large forest fire incident was reported on March 15, near the Kodaikanal hills in the Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu. Forest fires in Goa affected 418 hectares of land, impacting the biodiversity and ecology of these forests.

Forest fires are increasing in intensity and their spread, burning nearly twice as much tree cover globally as they did 20 years ago, latest satellite data has indicated. Increasing tree cover loss due to fires in the tropics is causing higher carbon emissions.

Increasing Loss of Biodiversity:

Biodiversity refers to the variety of species, genes and ecosystems present in a particular area or on Earth as a whole. It plays a crucial role in maintaining the balance and functionality of ecosystems. But now a days biodiversity on earth is in critical stage. Globally, at least 1.2 million plant and animal species are estimated to be under threat of extinction, many of them before 2100. Some of the most threatened groups include amphibians, cycads and corals. Human activity is destroying biodiversity faster than ever before (Forester and Machlist, 1996).

Moreover, human activities such as habitat destruction, pollution, over exploitation of natural resources and introduction of invasive species are also significant drivers of biodiversity loss by causing habitat degradation and fragmentation, reducing available resources for species and directly killing or removing species from ecosystems. The five greatest drivers of biodiversity loss with the largest global impact are: changes in land and sea use; direct exploitation of organisms; climate change; pollution and invasive species.

Improper Waste Disposal:

Improper waste disposal can pollute the environment drastically. It causes many health issues and damage the economy. In broad aspect, it contributes to climate change also. Municipality garbage in our city Meerut also is not properly disposed. They do not discriminate, biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste. They dispose of all types of garbage on a barren land. Our capital, Delhi, is surrounded by three dumpsites, mountains of garbage. In Bengaluru, 5000 tonnes of solid waste are produced every day. Solid waste which is produced is not collected and disposed properly. The Deonar dumping ground which is situated in Mumbai, Maharashtra, is the largest dump yard in India. A gigantic area is selected as a dump yard, where all the garbage of the city is dumped. Waste management in India falls under the purview of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC).

Conclusion:

While environmental sustainability is paramount to preserving ecosystems and allowing us to live, its practice can sometimes lead to unintended consequences. The change away from established sectors can cause disruptive transitions away from transitional jobs, industries and other economic sources of capacity for production. In an ongoing effort to slow the destruction of nature, delegates United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Montreal, Canada, focused on reversing the rapid decline of animals, plants

and insects. The conference, also known as COP15, worked towards a new global agreement to protect biodiversity. In a strongly worded opening address, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told delegates that “humanity has become a weapon of mass extinction”. Guterres piled further pressure on attendees by describing the conference as “our chance to stop this orgy of destruction”. The destruction on our planet is happening on a massive scale. We should learn to use water sparingly and it is necessary to learn how to save it. Owners of industries should be more responsible to treat harmful and poisonous effluents. It is the responsibility of every nation, government authority, NGO, locality and even person who live on this plane to think and to take necessary actions to save our planet Earth. To alleviate these challenges, we need to find a balance between our environmental goals and reducing social and economic impact, while ensuring equity and inclusion in the sustainability of management practices.

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