

# Human Interference and Environmental Degradation: Its Causes and Remedies

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**Abstract-** Human beings and environment are interdependent with each other from the very beginning. Ancient days were golden days of our planet earth. Just the days passed and everything changed. Earlier, people were living happy life with relaxation. The food was full of minerals with natural taste .People were berating healthy air. There was greenery everywhere. Neither scarcity of water nor the roads were crowdly. There was no pollution, no green house gases. River water was clean and garbage free, hygiene maintained everywhere and no people to mess. But today, we see everything contrast. Due to increasing population and interference of humans in nature, it changed the rule of environment. It results to various problems that we are facing today.

The present research paper focuses on environmental degradation and interference of humans. Here, the research focuses on causes, effects and preventions to have better life.

Following points are highlighted to study the relationship between human and environment.

- 1) Over population
- 2) Deforestation
- 3) Greenhouse effect
- 4) Pollution
- 5) Ozone layer depletion
- 6) Technology
- 7) Excess use of natural recourses

## INTRODUCTION

Today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the world has taken a drastic change. Starting from cuisine to technology, everything is changing. “Change is the rule of nature.” Along with this, our environment is too changing rapidly. Environment is the most important part of our livelihood. Without our surroundings, we are nothing. Human beings and environment are interdependent with each other from the very beginning. Ancient days were golden days of our planet earth. Just the days passed and everything changed. Earlier, people were living happy life with relaxation. The food was full of minerals with natural taste .People were breathing healthy air. There was greenery everywhere. Neither scarcity of water nor

the roads were crowdie. There was no pollution, no greenhouse gases. River water was clean and garbage free, hygiene maintained everywhere and no people to mess.

Environment provides us and fulfills our each need. Due to increasing population and interference of humans in nature, it changed the rule of environment. It results to various problems that we are facing today. Today humans are in greed of everything they look after. They are just busy in inventing and developing new technologies and resources, without being aware that the same technology is being the cause of ecological hazards. As said by Mahatma Gandhiji so many years back-“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s needs, but not every man’s greed”. It is very apt that the planet Earth is suffering due to human beings and it will not provide the every need of humans.

‘As we sow, so shall we reap.’ It is true. Knowingly or unknowingly in our ancient days, theses problems were not been seen, but they are visible today. Have we ever thought that, why we are facing problems like Global warming, Ozone layer depletion...etc. These problems do not coincide suddenly but it rises up slowly, slowly and at the extreme level, it burst out. There are various reasons after it. However, we should remember that if we do not start caring our planet today then surely we are going to lose the command over environment. The most important factor that disturbs the cycle of ecological balance is overpopulation.

## OVERPOPULATION

The first and most important thing affecting on the environment is rapid growth of population. Rapid population growth is putting strain on natural resources, resulting in degradation of environment. Overpopulation exceeds carrying capacity of the earth. This increasing population will continue to use

the Earth's resources, land and disturbing the biodiversity of the earth. We are draining the available freshwater supply, eradicating many species of plant life on the Earth and filling landfills with toxic waste. Due to overpopulation, more and more fields are being used for urbanization and hence cannot grow/maintain crops to feed this population. There are not enough resources on this earth to continue to sustain overpopulation.

Some of the most eminent environmental problems are as follows- 1) Scarcity of useful fresh water. 2) Water pollution. 3) Soil degradation. 4) Loss of biodiversity.

Also, this overpopulation is overcoming coal, oil and natural gas, resulting in serious effects on environment. Increase in number of vehicles and industries releasing hazardous gases and fumes affect badly the air gravity. Rise in amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the environment is increasing environmental temperature. Due to this global warming, polar ice caps are melting, changing climate patterns and there is continuous rise in sea levels.

We cannot wait for science to discover something to overcome this problem of overpopulation, but we ourselves have to take steps to reduce our number. Few solutions to solve this problem are as below- 1) better education to all human beings 2) making people aware of family planning 3) to give the knowledge about sex education 4) concessions in taxes to couples who have single or two children.

Along with the growth of population the needs of man has increased. They are in search of place to stay. Hence causing deforestation and developing a concrete world.

#### DEFORESTATION

Deforestation is the cutting down of trees to make space for more homes, industries and expansion of roads. Rapid growth of population and urbanization are two major causes of deforestation. Use of forest lands for agriculture, animal grazing, harvest for fuel wood and logging are some other reasons. As large forest cover is removed, this retains large amount of CO<sub>2</sub> and dust in air. This greater CO<sub>2</sub> concentration leads to greenhouse effect.

Due to deforestation, we are losing all the biodiversity on the Earth. This leads to destruction of natural habitat of many wild-life species. The natural flora and fauna have been under constant pressure to

adapt to a quick changing environment. Several species are becoming extinct.

#### GREENHOUSE EFFECT

Sun-rays fall on the Earth, 1/3 rays reflect back to the space, out of remaining 2/3 rays, some are absorbed by the Earth's surface and remaining re-radiated to the space. The natural greenhouse gases, viz; CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and water vapour trap these re-radiated Infrared radiations and send back to the Earth's surface. This results in rise in temperature of the environment. This phenomenon keeps the environment warm due to which there is life on this Earth. If the greenhouse gases would be absent, there would be no life on the Earth. Human activities emitting excess amount of greenhouse gases, especially, CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, etc. which are trapping more amount of IR-radiations, increasing atmospheric temperature.

Following human activities are responsible for this-

1. Deforestation- plants are natural sinks for CO<sub>2</sub>, removing them will increase concentration of CO<sub>2</sub>
- ii) Combustion of fossil fuels-introduce CO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub> in air.
- iii) Thermal power stations.

Consequences- i) it is predicted that up to 2040, the atmospheric temperature may increase by 2-3<sup>0</sup>C. ii) Rise in temperature may melt glaciers and polar ice caps, resulting rise in sea level. This will submerge coastal cities. iii) disastrous cyclones, storms, hurricanes will frequently occur.

- iv) Reduction in agricultural yield.
- v) Climatic uncertainty.

#### DEPLETION OF OZONE LAYER

Ozone gas layer is present in the region of stratosphere. Ozone layer is the important shield as it protects living organism from harmful ultra-violet radiation of sun by consuming them and not allowing them to reach earth surface. Some man-made activities are found unsafe for preserving ozone layer. Man-made FCs (chlorofluorocarbons), NO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> etc are released in air destroy ozone layer.

Consequences-i) rise in temperature of atmosphere, enhance in global warming. ii) Exposure to uv-rays for prolonged time produces skin burns, skin cancer, sun stroke etc in case of human being. iii) Many

species of plants cannot survive due to exposure to UV-rays.

### IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY

The technology has tremendously developed in modern era. While inventing one thing, the humans invented many things, which sometimes become threat for existence for them. On one side, technology is useful for future growth of mankind, but simultaneously it becomes cause of their destruction. The EMI (electro magnetic radiations) are mainly existed in mobile phones, which are non-ionizing radiations that generate heat. In excessive conditions, it may create mass heat, which may impact on the environment causing pollution and rising temperature.

Consequences- The e-waste thrown away such as copper wires, chips, CPUs, damaged mobiles etc. contains toxic material like lead, cadmium, polymers, beryllium causes adverse effect on environment and human beings.

Looking up at all these problems, we need to change ourselves. Nature has already warns us directly to take care of surroundings. We must look after every problem seriously. Some of the remedies are –

- a) Should go green.
- b) Minimize the use of polyethylene.
- c) Reduce the use of non-renewable resources.
- d) Start using solar lights, solar lamps, solar vehicles etc.
- e) Reduce the use of vehicles as it saves natural resources and stop atmospheric pollution.
- f) Plant more trees for healthy atmosphere.
- g) Recycling of waste material like, e-waste, garbage etc.
- h) Control the population
- i) Awareness programmes should be arranged.

All should remember that ‘charity begins at home.’

The people should aware of all the things which disturbs environment. This research paper is based on the study of interference of humans in environment. Final conclusion is- human beings are whole and sole responsible for this disaster to planet Earth. Every citizen, in this world, for the better and healthy survival, should implement the remedies given at the earliest. Otherwise, the day will not be so far for the end of the EARTH. Better be late than end

[1] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental\\_degradation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_degradation)  
 [2] <https://www.britannica.com/science/greenhouse-effect>

Some images are-

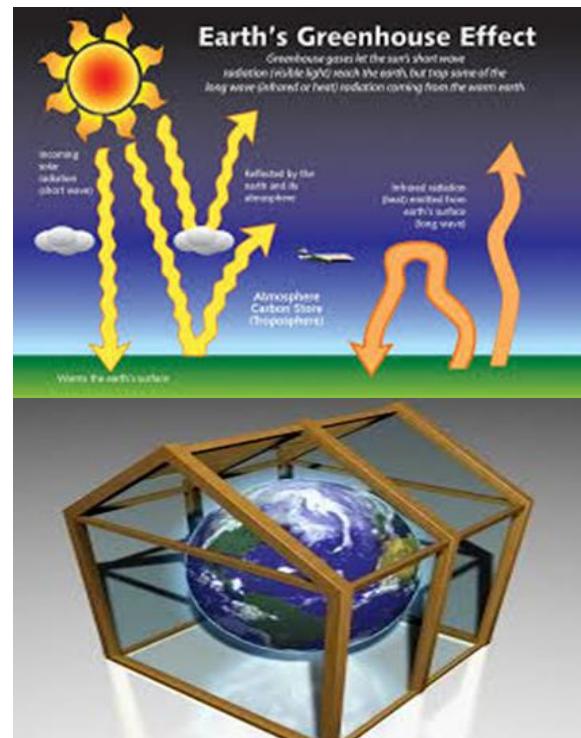
Overpopulation



Deforestation



Greenhouse effect:



### REFERENCES