

## **Review on Environmental Pollution**

**Dr. Nathiram Laxman Rathod**

Department of Economics  
Sundarrao More Art's, Commerce & Science College Poladpur  
District- Raigad, Maharashtra  
Email id - nathiramrathod@rediffmail.com  
Mob No. :9272585815

### **Abstract**

Environmental pollution is defined as “the contamination of the physical and biological components of the earth\atmosphere system to such an extent that normal environmental processes are adversely affected.

In recent years the relationship between human right and environmental issues has become a vigorous debate .The link between the two emphasizes that a decent physical environment is a precondition for a living life of dignity and worth. More concretely a decent physical environment has to do with protection against, for instance noise nuisance, air pollution, pollution of surface waters and the dumping of toxic substances. Human rights became a focus of international law long before environmental concerns did. While the U.N. charter 1945 marked the beginning of modern international human right law, the Stockholm declaration 1972 is generally seen as the starting point of the modern international framework for environmental protection. The relationship between the quality of human environment and the enjoyment of basic human right was first recognized by U.N General Assembly in the let 1960's. In 1972, at the U.N. conference of the Human Environment made a direct link between the environment and the right to life.

### **Environmental changes are based on many factors including:**

Our land, water and soil are compromised when people exhaust resources or release harmful chemical into the air. Deforestation, wasting resources, and pollution all add to the demise of an environmentally-sound and safe planet. For example, when trees in forest are cut down in large quantities, so that more homes can be built on the land, the birds and wildlife who lived in the forest must find a new place to live. The vegetation that grew on the land is destroyed. Trees that are absorbed carbon dioxide to help the biosphere are now unable to do so. If the wood from the trees is used to make products and those products are later recycled, that is one hopeful aspect for the plane. However, sometimes trees are just cut down and burned. That is what is known as slash and burn, a practice that only destroys forests and all that live in them. Environmental degradation is a result of the dynamic interplay of socio-economic, institutional and technological activities. Environmental changes may be driven by many factors including economic growth, population growth, urbanization, intensification of agriculture, rising energy use and transportation. Poverty still remains a problem at the root of several environmental problems.

### **(A) Social Factors**

**1. Population:** Population is an important source of the development, yet it is a major source of environment degradation when it exceeds the threshold limits of the support systems. Unless the relationship between the multiplying population and the life support system can be established, developmental programmes, howsoever, innovative are not likely to yield desired

results. Population impacts on the environment primarily through the use of natural resources and the production of wastes and is associated with environmental stress like loss of biodiversity air and water pollution and increased pressure on arable land.

**2. Poverty:** Poverty is said to be the both the cause and effect of environmental degradation. The circular link between poverty and environment is an extremely complex phenomenon. Inequality may foster unsustainability because the poor who rely on natural resources more than the rich deplete natural resource faster as they have no real prospects of gaining access to the other types of resources. Move over degraded environment can accelerate the process of impoverishment again because the poor depend directly on natural assets. Although there has been a significant drop in the poverty ratio in the country from 55% in 1973 to 36% in 1993-94 the absolute number of poor have however remained constant at around 320 million over the years. An acceleration in poverty alleviation is imperative to break this link between poverty and the environment.

**3. Urbanization:** Lack of opportunities for gainful employment in villages and the ecological stresses is leading to an ever increasing movement of poor families to the towns. Mega cities are emerging and urban slums are expanding. There has been an eightfold increase in urban population over 1901-91. During the past two decades India's urban population has been doubled from 109 million to 218 million and is estimated to reach 300 million 2000AD. Such rapid and unplanned expansion of cities has resulted in the degradation of urban environment. It has widened the gap between the demand and supply of infrastructural services such as energy, housing, transport, communication, education, water supply, and sewage and recreational amenities, thus depleting the precious environmental resource base of the cities. The result is the falling trend in the deterioration of air and water quality, generation of wastes, the proliferation of slums and undesirable land use changes, which contribute to urban poverty.

**(B) Economic Factor-**To a large extent environmental degradation is the result of market failure that is the non-existent or poorly functioning markets for environmental goods and services. In this context environmental degradation is a particular case of consumption or production externalities reflected by divergence between the private and social costs. Lack of well-defined property rights may be the one of the reasons for such market failure. On the other hand market distortions created by price controls and subsidies may aggravate the achievement of environmental objectives.

### **1. The level and pattern of economic development**

The level and pattern of economic development also affects the nature of the environment problems. India's development objectives have consistently emphasized the promotion of the policies and programmes for economic growth and social welfare. Between 1994-95 and 1997

-98 the Indian economic has grown a little over 7%\annum: the growth of industrial production and manufacturing averaging higher at 8.4% and 8.9% respectively during these years. The manufacturing technology adopted by the most of the industries has placed a heavy load on environment especially through intensive resource and energy use as is evident in natural resource depletion water, air and land contamination, health hazards and degradation of natural ecosystems.

**2. Transport:** Transport activities have a wide variety of effects on the environment such as air pollution, noise from road traffic and oil spills from marine shipping. Transport infrastructure in India has expanded considerably in terms of network and services. Thus road transport accounts for a major share of air pollution load in cities such as Delhi. Port and harbor projects mainly have an impact on sensitive coastal eco-systems. Their constructions affects hydrology, surface water quality, fisheries, coral reefs and mangroves to varying degrees.

**3. Agriculture:** Direct impact of agricultural developments on the environment arise from farming activities which contribute to soil erosion land salination and loss of nutrients. The spread of Green Revolution has been accompanied by over exploitation of land and water resources and the use of fertilizers and pesticides have increased many fold. Shifting cultivation has also been an important cause of land degradation. Leaching from extensive use of pesticides and fertilizers is an important source of contamination of water bodies. Intensive agriculture and irrigation contribute to land degradation particularly salination alkalization and water logging.

### **(C)Institutional Factors**

The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) in the government is responsible for the protection, conservation and development of the environment. The Ministry works in close collaboration with other Ministries, State governments, Pollution Control Board and a number of scientific and technical institutions, universities, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

### **Impact of Environmental Degradation**

When factories produce harmful chemicals and toxic waste into bodies of water human suffer. Pesticides and fertilizers can also get into the region water system and pollute it. Drinking water is contaminated. Some residing in third world countries are highly effected by the degradation of our planet.

**1. Poverty:** In many countries in Africa crop harvests are falling as consumption increases. People are finding less nutritious food to eat. Poor countries especially those around the equator are vulnerable to weather changes water shortages and urbanization.

**2. Losing Earth's Beauty:** As human dump waste products use chemicals and overfish in the oceans and seas, areas of beauty, such as coral reefs are damage. At times the destruction is so great that it cannot be reversed. We are killing our planet the consequences are tremendous.

**3. Global Warming:** Due to global warming many disease bearing insects flourish better and become more active as temperature increase. For example the mosquito breed in water shifting rainfall patterns that accompany climate change will spread malaria to new areas where people are less immune.

### **Conclusion:**

Much is being done to control monitor and rectify damage done by pollutants. The problems are diverse and some are only being recognized but it is important to keep a close control over pollutants so that we can maintain the environment in an acceptable condition for future generation.

Environmental pollution is a major problem in different parts of the world, which requires the policy makers to employ some mitigation strategies. It is important to regulate the routes at which country pollute the environment in order to prevent its harmful effects such as global warming.

Environmental pollution is causing a lot of distress not only humans but also animals, driving many animal species to endangerment and even extinction. Only then can we possibly solve the problem of environmental pollution.

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