

## **Environmental Issues and their Solutions for Sustainable Development in India**

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### **Abstract**

Indian environment has been deteriorated remarkably in the past 50 years due to rapid decline in natural resources and severe increase in pollution level. Depletion of forests, population growth, vehicular emissions, use of hazardous chemicals and various other undesirable human activities are mainly responsible for this degraded scenario of environmental health in India. It is, in fact, rendering considerable economic loss to the country and warrants serious attention of policymakers, administrators, scientists and people altogether to save the environment and humanity and to provide generational equity to all.

This present paper deals with the threat of environmental issues and solutions some possible remedial measures for eco-conservation in India. Now it is essentially advisable to become protector, producer and caretaker of natural resources and not the predator, polluter and consumer of surface of the earth. It is main aim of the paper.

### **I. Introduction**

Environment is a broad concept encompassing the whole range of diverse Surroundings in which one perceives experience and react to events and changes. It includes the land, water, vegetation, air and the whole gamut of the social order. It also includes the physical and ecological environment. It concerns people's ability to adapt both physically and mentally to the continuing changes in environment. In its natural condition, the environment of any region is in a state of dynamic equilibrium. This is what is called the balance of nature. But when people try to exploit and interfere with nature, this equilibrium is disturbed, in many cases to the detriment of all forms of life. Ultimately, it is condition of land and water resources and the quality of the air, which one breathes that determine the health and wealth of a nation.

Indian environment keeps changing over time naturally and it is also amenable to changes by human beings. Thanks to scientific and technological developments, our ability to alter the environment has increased tremendously, whereas the capacity of environment to cope with those alterations is limited. The nature's bounty and abundance are disappearing at a rapid rate now in many regions of the world including India due to the human alterations of the environment. All this has brought to the fore the need for protection and preservation of environment and the urgency of developing sound environmental policies and programmers.

Without them, development would not only be unsustainable but would be tantamount to retrogression. The problems of creating and maintaining a sustainable environment is probably the single most pressing issue confronting us today.

## **II. Objectives**

The objectives of this research paper are follows:

- To study the concepts of environment.
- To identify the environmental issues in India.
- To make solutions or suggestions for environmental, sustainable development in India.

## **III. Methodology**

The present research paper is based on secondary data. The data has been furnished from the related articles, research papers, books, reports and some document of the government of India. Some data has furnished from the websites of the government of India,

In our country the scope of the study is important to examine the benefits and applicability of environment. The study includes some the issues and solutions of environment and suggestions for sustainable environment development in India.

## **IV. Concepts of Environment and Importance of the Study**

An Environment is everything that is around us, which includes both living and nonliving things such as soil, water, animals and plants, which adapt themselves to their surroundings. It is nature's gift that helps in nourishing the life on the earth. Environment is a place where different things are such as a swampy or hot environment. It can be living (biotic) or non-living (abiotic) things. It includes physical, chemical and other natural forces.

Environment importance valuable for biosphere means, Humanity's entire life support system depends on the well-being of all the environmental factors. Environment Plays an important role in regulating air and climate. Another reason the environment is so important is because it is a source of natural beauty, and it is necessary for proper physical and mental health too.

Our environment study is very important to us because it is where we live and share resources with other species. Environmental science enlightens us on how to conserve our environment in the face of increasing human population growth and anthropogenic activities that degrade natural resources and ecosystems. An environment its scope and importance is essential. The scope of environmental studies is very wide and it deals with many areas like, Conservation of natural resources, ecological aspects, pollution

of the surrounding natural resources, controlling the pollution, social issues connected to it, and impacts of human population on the environment.

An environmental education and awareness is the another element of the study, Because of Environmental education is a process that allows individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving, and take action to improve the environment. As a result, individuals develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues and have the skills to make informed and responsible decisions. And Multidisciplinary Nature of Environmental Studies! Environment study deals with the analysis of the processes in water, air, land, soil and organisms which leads to pollute or degrade environment. It helps us for establishing standard, for safe, clean and healthy natural ecosystem.

## **V. Following are the environmental issues which seek the serious attention of the environmentalists of our country**

### **1) Air Pollution**

The term Air Pollution signifies the presence in the surrounding atmosphere of substances like, gases, mixtures of gases and particulate matter; generated by the activities of man that interfere with human health, safety and comfort. The direct effect of air pollutants on plants, animals and soil can influence the structure and function of ecosystems, including self regulation ability, thereby affecting the quality of life. Air pollution is one the present day environmental and even the health problems throughout the India. It is one of the greatest threats to the health of Indian people in the today.

Air pollution is caused mainly by the smoke from automobiles exhaust and gases released by industrial plants. The most important air pollutants are gases like carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and sculpture dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, hydrogen supplied and particulates like dust, smoke and lead particles. Factories with chimneys throwing out smoke into the air are not the only sources of this air pollution, a major offender is the automobile; cars , vans, Lorries and buses. The smoke belching from the exhaust of Lorries and buses is a familiar sight everywhere in big cities such as – Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Bangalore. These big cities spew daily into the air we breathe more than One Crore Kilograms of smoke. It is asserted that Mumbaiites breathe every moment air containing so many poisonous chemicals that 10% more of them suffer from asthma, bronchitis, cough, colds and headaches than citizens of almost any other city or town of India.

The National Environment and Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has pointed out that many monuments in India are being affected by the fumes emitted by industries.

## **2) Water pollution**

Water is essential for the survival of any form of life. About 80% of the earth's surface is covered by water. Thus a great quantity of water exists on the earth, but only a fraction of it is usable, and that fraction is shrinking due to pollution. As usual, the combined pressure of the population growth and industrial development have imperiled India's water supply. In India, water pollution comes from three major sources, Sewage, Industrial Waste and Agricultural Waste. Even if the source of water supply and its treatment are of a high standard, water pollution may still occur as often happens, due to corrosion of pipe lines, leaky joints and cross connections between water supply pipes and sewage drainage pipes. The nation's rivers and lakes have long been the dumping ground for many industries. The rivers such as Ganga, Yamuna, Cauvery, lakes such as Dal and Nagin (Srinagar), Loktak (Manipur), Chilka (Orissa) and many others are becoming the dumping grounds for poisonous chemicals, factories, agricultural wastes, insecticides and even acids. Even the oceans have not been spared. In fact, into the oceans encircling India alone is spilt more than 1 million tones of oil annually. There is a big damage caused to the rivers by the Industries and Sewage systems of India.

## **3) Soil/Land Degradation**

Soil pollution is a desecration of soil by man-made substances that alter its physical, chemical and biological characteristics. In the major cities of India the quantity of domestic and municipal solid wastes produced is around 300-600 grams per person per day. In India, there are more than 100 million families they account for as much as 50 million buckets of solid waste every day. The solid waste is typically disposed of by burying it in landfills, burning it and sometimes even recycling it. Except for recycling all the traditional disposal methods create problems of air, land and water.

In India the major sources of Land Pollution are Industrial wastes such as paper, chemicals, textile, fly-ash, rubber and etc. Agricultural wastes like artificial fertilizers, pesticides, farm wastes, etc. Radioactive wastes which are released during nuclear explosion and released from nuclear power plants. Domestic wastes, Street Refuse like leaves, straws, paper, plastic, animal droppings, litters. Marketers Refuse that is collected from the markets of a large proportion of putrid vegetables, packing materials and animal matter. Land/soil pollution reduces the fertility of the soil. Due to its adverse effect our land is losing the natural capacity to support growth of plants and trees. It immensely affects the animal and

human lives. Human and animal health has been endangered due to the diseases caused by heaps of garbage.

#### **4) Sanitation Issues**

The term environmental sanitation is now being replaced by environmental health. In the past, sanitation was centered on the sanitary disposal of human excreta but in actual fact, the term sanitation covers the whole field of controlling the environment with a view to prevent diseases and promote health. With the increase in environmental pollution especially with the increase of land and water pollution caused by solid wastes, the sanitation issues have taken up a serious note. Public health is not safe. Lands are becoming big garbage grounds, natural water is totally contaminated that is causing so many serious health problems for human beings and animals. The term environmental sanitation is now being replaced by environmental health. The living conditions are no more safe for the people. Their food, products and commodities are no longer clean and hygienic.

#### **5) Noise Pollution**

Noise has become a very important 'stress factor' in the present environment of human beings. Noise is often defined as wrong sound in the wrong place at the wrong time. An irresponsible or meaningless noise is disturbing and annoying. India is full of various kinds of noise that is caused by the industries, vehicles, trains, loudspeakers, air, etc. Noise is a byproduct of human activity and is found to cause some kind of physical, physiological or psychological harm or stress to human beings.

Noise level is particularly acute near railway junctions, traffic roundabouts, bus terminals and airports. Use of pressure horns, recreational noise of loudspeakers with full volume during festivities particularly at night are other sources of noise pollution. Noise pollution or environmental noise is one of the new killers of our Indian society, as civilization grows noise pollution also grows. India is a crowded country full of people, not even a single place is devoid of noise particularly the market places are so much noisy. Noise pollution has its adverse effects on human lives in the form of the problems like hearing problems, loss of mental peace.

#### **6) Other Issues**

There are other environmental issues which are also in the concerned list of the environmentalists of India. Such as – Climate Change issues related to global warming. There has been a sudden rise in floods, droughts in many parts of India in the recent times. The weather has been unpredictable in the recent times. Energy Conservation issues, Food Safety issues, Biological pollutants are increasing in the environment and Wildlife conservation is

also one of the serious concerns. Let us now ponder over few of the suggestions we might consider to enhance the quality of our environment.

## **VI. Suggestions or Solutions of Environment for Sustainable Development in India:-**

### **1) Strict National Industrial Policy**

In India It is very much required to undertake an appropriate national industrial policy in order to protect our national interests including the environmental interests. It is a known fact that unregulated industrialization has been causing environmental pollution therefore it is essential to implement the national industrial policy in a very strict manner.

### **2) Unbalanced Urbanization has to be Ceased**

In our country urbanization is increasing at a rapid pace. Existing cities are growing rapidly and new cities are making room for their growth and development. There is neither regulation nor any control over the growth of both kinds of the cities. These cities are spoiling the nearby environment. Hence their unregulated growth should be stopped It is a better way for sustainable development in India.

### **3) Use of Pollution Control Gadgets in Vehicles on Roads:-**

Owners of the motor vehicles should be instructed well to use the pollution control gadgets so that they can be aware and alert about the extent to which their vehicle is emitting in the atmosphere. People should be very regular in regard of the pollution of their vehicles getting checked. The vehicles which emit over smoke in the air should be penalized strictly.

### **4) Recycling of Non-Degradable Material**

In India, we must make necessary arrangements to recycle and reuse the discarded materials and minimize the use of non-degradable materials. People can reuse their old stuff, particularly the old boxes made up of paper, and many other things which we usually throw outside the home and make the atmosphere unsafe for animals and other living organisms. Note : the empty bottle of deodorant spray, and used needles must be discarded as soon as they are already used. They must not be reused.

### **5) An Increase in the CNG fitted vehicles**

Today, there are numerous of automobile companies competing with each other in regard of launching new and advanced automobiles. These companies should increase the number of CNG fitted vehicles which are safer for the atmosphere and will help to control air pollution in the environment. CNG is a friendly gas in the atmosphere and comparatively cheaper than petrol and diesel.

### **6) Regular Removal of Garbage and Improvement in the Sewage system**

People also should learn the art of depositing the garbage only in the dustbins and not throwing it everywhere or anywhere. The municipal and city administration must take steps to remove the garbage, dust and other thrown away articles deposited in the dustbins. There should be improvement in the sewage system; sewage wastes go into the streams, rivers lakes and coastal waters that cause many problems. Sewage water hence should be purified before it is allowed to join the rivers, lakes or coastal water.

#### **7) Forests Conservation**

Today, Special efforts should be made to grow more plants and trees in order to conserve the existing forests. People should be aware about the importance of forests in preserving the purity of our environment. An increased number of gardens and parks should be developed around the premises of hospitals, educational institutions, industries, government offices, etc. the National Wildlife Action plan should also be implemented well in order to protect the wildlife in India.

#### **8) Serious Endeavors to Protect the Ozone Layer**

Destruction of the Ozone layer could create a suicidal effect. It is therefore absolutely required to protect the thin, sensitive ozone layer. It is very much essential to ban S.S.T flights which fly at exceeding speeds exceeding that of sound and also a source of pollution in the upper atmosphere, to stop the atmospheric nuclear explosion and ban aerosol containers such as an aerosol cans like hair-dye or perfume spray containers.

#### **9) Special Financial Assistance for the Environmental interest**

There should be provisions in our national budget for a special fund to give financial assistance to the local bodies to safeguard the environmental interests.

#### **10) Raising the Civic Sense among the People**

People should be aware of the civic sense. Activities like littering, spitting, urinating and in the atmosphere must be avoided by the people. Such civilized acts of people would also help the municipal administration to collect and take the crap to a distant place. Plastic polythene is already banned by the administration and everyone should avoid using them in any case. In this way, government and societies role is important.

#### **11) Creating Environmental Awareness among the Young/Children**

special arrangements must be made to create environmental awareness among the children and the young people. Training and right guidance about the environment at an early age especially in schools and colleges go a long way in creating awareness to protect the environment. Children should be encouraged for plantation and to take an interest in the environmental activities. Childhood is the best age to teach them the civic manners.

#### **12) Environmental Education Program**



Today, in such a polluted and unhealthy atmosphere it has become must to educate the people to take proper precautions and steps to save the environment from depleting. The environmental education programs should include, the environmental education and training at schools, colleges and university level, environmental sciences, which deal with advanced sciences and its effect on air, water and soil degradation and environmental engineering, that includes the study to assess the impact of engineering science on the environment.

## **VII. Conclusions**

India is facing serious environmental problems. In the quest to improve the quality of life human beings have changed and disturbed the balance of the nature by adding their disturbing components. There is an urgent need to manage the Environment. Human beings deliberately need to understand that even the nature has a certain limit to which it can be exploited. The urge to exploit and consume the resources provided by the Earth has made the human being little bit more greedy. They are just taking and taking from the nature and in return paying no attention to its improvement and further growth. The stage is not far away when this Nature would have nothing to give to this human race. Environment is the most important factor of our lives and without creating a balance in it we cannot assume a healthy and wealthy life.

The main hurdle confronting the environmental protection in India today is that there is a lack of scientific knowledge and desire to act in this direction. The NCERT has prepared and developed syllabi, textbooks and other necessary materials in conformity with the new education policy to emphasize the environmental considerations. UGC has initiated research projects to further promote environment education in universities.

Forestry as a subject has been taught for the past few years' insight agricultural universities. On the initiative of Ministry of Environment and Forest topics like pollution control, soil degradation, wildlife management, meteorology, have been introduced in formal education. A great national effort has been directed towards environmental awareness.

We have to plan our development efforts in such a way that a harmonious balance is maintained between man and his environment. Any process of planning should be based on the principle of Development without Destruction. Social workers and environmentalists should create public opinion and mobilize corrective and preventive action against this threat. The society and all concerned need to be convinced of the importance of the environment and we have to realize the fact that the way how to live today will influence tomorrow.



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