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WORLD WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL ISSUES

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Introduction:

Whatever you got that is from earth and whatever you gave that is also to earth only-Bhagavadgita The force behind the development of mankind is environment of the earth. Man harvests everything from nature for his livelihood. The relation between man and environment has been changed from time interval as, Civilization advances, human needs are increase along with this he became so greedy that the resources of the earth are stressed heavily. This disturbance makes the environment degradation and it becomes unhealthy not only to mankind, but even other biomes. This is the major concern of the today's progressive world.

Environmental problems have become a global issue; some of the worldwide issues are described below:

1) Climate changes/ Green house effect: Many of the recent studies clearly shows that the atmospheric pollution is on a global scale. The entire atmosphere of our planet earth is now afflicted to same degree.

Carbon dioxide (CO2) build-up in the atmosphere leads to climate change. It is mainly due to burning of fossil fuels, 40% of the gases that to the contribute GHE are caused by burning the fossil fuels and cause, the Green house effect trend leading to climate change. The Green house effect may therefore be defined as "the progressive warming up of the earth's surface due to blanketing effect of manmade CO2 in the atmosphere.

The four Major Green house gases are Carbon Dioxide (CO2), Methane(CH4) Nitrus Oxide (N2o) and chloroflurocarbons (CFC's). However developed countries are currently responsible for over 2/3 of the total world emission of CO2, another peculiar issue is use of more harmful chemicals. Every year there are more than 1000 new chemicals enter into the market. Now more than 80000 chemicals on the commercial market and used with little or no knowledge of their potential long term effect

2) Ozone layer deflation: Ozone is a diflevent from of life sustaining oxygen has 3 atoms instead of the useful two. But this third atom instead have found is very unstable and can be eliminated by clorineons.

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When chemical pollutions as CFCS emission form refrigeration and other industrial operations, nitrous oxide and other noxious gases containing halogens pollute the atmosphere and same amount of ozone is broken down result to ozone layer deflection.

Ozone hole was first noticed in 1979 in Antarctica (South Pole) In 1985-86 the US scientists confirmed the cause of CFCs in the deflection of ozone layer.

The north European conference which was held in November 1980 warned to the mankind that non-melanoma skin cancer in light skinned people would aquatic organism including shrimps, fish eggs could be damaged by UV-B infiltration. This could even affect the reproductive process of plants as well as animals.

The worlds scientists much concerned with outer limits of the life zone i.e. biosphere felt they are not yet technically equipped to measure accurately the rate of ozone deflection already deflected by one percent. Even though the alarming danger is known, science has not yet developed a perfect model of measuring the rate of deflect of the ozone layer.

3) Acid Rain: Normal rain water is always slightly acidic because the fact that CO2 present in the atmosphere get dissolved in it formic carbonic acid, H2CO3. Because of SO2 and NO2 gases as pollutions in the atmosphere, the pH (The PH is equal to log 10c where C is the hydrogen ion concentration in moles per liter) of the rain water is further lowered, often to as low as 2.4 and this type of precipitation of lower pH is known as acid rain.

The term acid rain was first used by Robert Angus in 1982 " Literally it means the presence of excessive acids in rain water".

Acid rain is recognized as an international problem. A special conference on acidification of the environment was held in Stockhome in 1982. It reviewed and assessed a large amount of scientific information not previously available. This problem is mainly confined to the industrial areas of northern hemisphere. Acid rain can play havoc with the environment for example for the last 15 years a large number of moose are dying in the south west Sweden, because of the acid rain. The acid rain led to the destruction of blue berry bushes, staple diet of moose and animals change, their feeding habits. The lime in the acid rain lead to an imbalance in the concentration of copper and molybdenum in the lives of animals and these trends to the animal to suffer from osteoporosis ulcers, diarrhea, con vulsions, blindness and heart failure. Even though lighting increases the acidity in the rain the acidification of environment is mainly a manmade phenomenon.

4) Marine Pollution: Oceans cover more than 2/3 of the earth's surface and they play a crucial and important role in the chemical and biological balance of life on the planet. They are vital to our food security commerce and transportation. But human activity has troubled the health of oceans. Thus the marine pollution may defined as the discharge of waste substances in to the sea resulting in harm to living resources, hazards to human health hindrance to fishery and

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impairment of quality for use of sea water. The well known "Minamata Disease in Japan is due to discharge of methyl mercury in to sea water by chemical factories, sewage, agricultural chemicals, oil and metal are major concern of ocean pollution.

5 Desertification: Desertification is now perceived an intensifying worldwide threat. More than 100 countries of world affected at different degrees. More than 20% of the world pollution lives in 35% of the earth's area which consist of the arid, semi arid and sub-humid zones, which are at high risk of desertification. Three quarters of this area is already moderate desertified. Desertification is a so fast phenomenon in the world that every year 21 million hectares of agricultural land deteriorated through desertification and will become no longer productive economically. The lost production has been valued at 26 billion dollars annually. Over population in agriculture, local rural poverty etc. lead to over exploitation of land and forests for food, fuel, cash crops and meat for export. As these and other pressures increase to unattainable levels agricultural land and increased food demand leads to prize hike, pressure on food exporting and importing countries. Other impacts includes – impacts on international trade, loss of valuable genetic resources, disruption of hydrological cycles and increase of atmospheric dust.

6) Vanishing Tropical Forests: Tropical forests occupies 7% of the land surface area and have a bewildering biological diversity. Tropical forests are considered as the lungs of the earth and hence have aptly been called as the life support system.

Tropical forests are under a virtual death sentence owing to burgeoning population density, rapid industrialization and dam building etc. It is estimated that merciless clearing of forests is at the rate of 6 to 8 million hectares per year.

The significance of tropical forests is that these are the world's richest biological zones and are estimated to contain as much as 40percent of all terrestrial species on the earth. These are economic boost to both developed and developing countries. Undisturbed tropical forests are also habitat of millions of the world's tribal peoples. The causes of deforestation, differ by region. Serious degradation of loss of watershed forests in particular has a wide range of major ecological and economic effects through increased erosion, floods, landslides and silting of hydroelectric facilities irrigation systems, reservoirs and harbor. The lives and livelihood of half the world's population directly depend on the wise management of watershed forests and ecosystems.

Deforestation influence in many dimensions, i.e. locally, regionally and even global climatic conditions disturbed. The economic, social and political implications of possible regional and global climatic changes have to be assessed.

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7) Loss of Soil: Soil is one of the most significant ecological factors, which is derived from the transformation of surface rocks soil on which plants defend for their nutrients, water and mineral supply and anchorage.

The broad range of natural and manmade stress that causes the two types of soil damage: physical displacement and alterations in solid structure and composition.

Over shifting cultivation, salinization and water logging, flooding and plant cover destruction are same. Use of chemicals weapons testing and deployment in warfare etc. are causes soil degradation.

The damage of soil is also caused by patterns of dry land mountainside cultivation that are carried out without arrangements for bunding and terracing to protect the top soil.

The soil pollution sources mainly 1) Industrial wastes 2) Urban wastes 3) Radio active pollutions 4) Agricultural practices 5) Chemical and metallic pollution 6) Biological agents 7) Mining 8) Resistant objects 9) soil sediments are soil erosiam by different means are serious concern in the modern world.

Working in Collaboration with the relevant UN bodies UNEP has proposed the world soils policy programme which endeavors to enhance international awareness assist countries in the formulation of national soil policies, help develop technical and scientific knowledge and collect compiles and disseminate date on the use and management of the world's soil resources.

8) Depletion of Genetic resources: The important of wild life to mankind may be described in many ways a) cultural b) Economic c) Food d) Shooting and Fishing e) collection of animals f) wildlife sanctuary tourism g) maintenance of natural balance.

Now it is estimated that 25000 species and more than 1000 vertebrate species and sub special are threatened with extinction some estimates says that in the next to decade up to million species would be extinguished.

As much as two thirds of all terrestrial species and majority of a endangered species are located in developing countries. A significal loss of species in developing countries would have world wide effect on future agriculture, industry and science and human health and welfare generally. The most serious threat to many species is the disruption and destruction of their habitat by man especially in the tropical forests which alone harbors as much as 40% at all terrestrial species.

Major medicines and other pharmaceutical products, biomedical research depend on plant and animal species. It is clear that there is a common incentive for developed and developing countries to present a potentially catastrophic loss of species the mutual advantage of comprehensive joint effort could result in new medicines and other useful products that would contribute to improved levels of human health and welfare in all nations.

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Findings:

Essential Questions for Man's Future

The most different and essential problems for man's future lies in the brood ecological and social issues 'what is carrying capacity of the earth for man? In other words what are the limits of the life support capalitres of the earth in terms of human population? On the behaviorists concern.

What are the tolerance levels of man to the pressure generated by his own societies? In other words if man is his own worst enemy does this lead to his self destruction?

Conclusion:

The attitude of man should be changed for present one towards environment in order to solve the environment problems which are associate with many social issues for example in order maintain the supply of oxygen. Air quality we must look upon the oceans, forest and grassland as the world oxygen tank and we must insure their continued healthy ecologic function similarly water quality, food quality and quantity and space on the earth are associated with many environmental problems.

In a new approach to environment and development it is clear that Environment and development are not separate challenges: they are inexorable linked. First environmental stresses are linked one to another. Second environment stresses and patterns of economic development are linked one to another. Third environment and economic problems are linked to many social and political factors finally the systemic features operate not mearly within but also between natures.

The Debate of hour regarding ecology and development between ecologist and other scientist gets controversy, Ecologist concern about total degradation of environment which leads to imbalance in nature and life existence on the earth surface but other scientist consider this attitude. As overly emotional, fear producing and scientifically unjustified They say about good old days had no electricity, good transport system, medical facilities, for this ecologists replies "Dose progress requires polluted river & lakes, chokay air, birds dying for pecticies, intolerable crowding, ulcers in children heart attacks in young men etc, These controversy and argument can continue almost indefinity. But without harmonious relation between human being & natural environment life on the earth can't be happy one this situation already arrived and alarmed also.

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