



RESEARCH ARTICLE

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A CRITICAL VIEW ON ECOLOGICAL POLLUTION CAUSES AND PENALTY

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ABSTRACT

Man is inflicting all spherical harm to atmosphere, water and land, to the assorted parts of surroundings and to the system itself. There's most semi synthetic pollution and environmental degradation that the nightmare ahead is enough nerry to shake US all. Taking a synoptic read of the overall situation a couple of trends area unit afoot. Our atmosphere on world in addition as regional scale is heavily contaminated. The protecting gas defend within the heavily inhabited latitudes of the hemisphere is cutting double quick as scientists thought a couple of years a gone. The buildup of inexperienced house gases can cause vital changes within the weather patterns within the close to future resulting in warming. The destruction of layer and therefore the more warming of the world surface threaten ruinous consequences like eruption of cancerous and tropical diseases, disruption of oceans organic phenomenon, rising of ocean levels, submersion of the many islands, melting of little land-based glaciers, flooding in several low lying coastal areas and harvest loss etc.

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INTRODUCTION

Before understanding what "Environmental Pollution" is it is equally necessary to-know what "pollution" is. the introduction by man into the environment of substances or energy liable to cause hazards to human health, harm to living resources and ecological systems, damage to structure or amenity or interference with legitimate uses of the environment". Pollution occurs when there is the potential for harm. Harm of man is not confined to physical injury but encompasses offence caused to any of his senses or harm to his property, therefore smells and noise which I may not cause injury can constitute pollution. Harm to living organisms can include harm to their health or interference with the ecological systems of which they form a part". The "environmental crisis" is caused due to environment and ecological changes as a result of developmental process of the 'economic and technological man' of the present century. In fact if the present century is marked by socio-economic, scientific and technological development on the one hand, it is plagued by serious problems of environmental problems on the other hand. The environmental crisis arising out of the environmental deterioration caused by several forms of pollution, depletion of natural resources because of rapid rate of their exploitation and increasing dependence on energy consuming and ecologically damaging technologies, the loss of habitats due to industrial, urban and agricultural

expansion, reduction and loss of ecological populations due to excessive use of toxic pesticides and herbicides and loss of several species of plants due to practice of monoculture removal of habitats through forest clearance has now become of global concern. The life of common man is being so rapidly adversely affected by environmental degradation caused by man himself that there has been a marked growth of interest within the last decade in the quality of the environment, the disruption of the earth's natural ecosystems and the depletion of resources. The most striking reason of the environmental degradation and hence global environmental crisis is the fact of deteriorating relationship between man and environment because of rapid rate of exploitation of natural resources, technological development and industrial expansion. The rate of environmental change and resultant environmental degradation caused by human activities has been so fast and widespread. The impact of man on environment through his economic activities are varied and highly complex as the transformation or modification of the natural condition and process leads to a series of changes in the biotic and a biotic components of the environment. The impacts of man on environment fall into two categories (i) direct or intentional impacts and (ii) indirect or unintentional impacts, Direct or intentional impact of human activities are preplanned and premeditated because man is aware of the consequences, both positive and negative of any Programme which is launched to change or modify the natural environment for

economic development of the region concerned. The effects of anthropogenic changes in the environment are noticeable within short period and these effects are reversible. On the other hand the indirect impacts of human activities on the environment are not premeditated and preplanned and these impacts arise from those human activities which are directed to Accelerate the pace of economic growth, especially industrial development. The indirect impacts are experienced after long time when they become cumulative. These indirect effects of human economic activities may change the overall natural environmental system and the chain-effects sometimes degrade the environment to such an extent that this becomes suicidal for human beings.

Main Causes of Environmental Pollution: The following causes could be pointed out as the generally underlying factors though each of these too could be operating simultaneously and their balance may vary from place to place and through time.

Population growth: Modern thinkers consider that growth of population is the root cause for many human problems. This observation also applies to environmental degradation. Increase in the population will have a multiplier effect requiring proportionate increase in all requirements necessary for the existence of human beings. Population growth requires abnormal exploitation of natural resources to provide day-to-day essential requirements of life. It results in migration of people and growth of urban areas, thereby inviting new problems of health, ecology and human sustenance.

Increased General Affluence and Economic Growth: The affluence (i.e. material aspects of per capita consumption of goods and resources) is an important factor in man-resource-environment relationship. It is the increasing per capita demand of rich which is absorbing the growth in output of goods and services in the developed and developing countries and cause misuse or overuse and pollution of resources, for the affluence unmatched to the necessary resource consumption and not motivated by human requirements produce tendency to waste matter and energy. Surprisingly, affluence factor though, having a great impact on environment, is seldom talked about. On the other hand, poor and the poverty often get blamed for the destruction of environment. The notion that poverty or the poor destroy the environment most is but partially true.

Nature of Modern Technology: The nature of productive technology in recent years is closely related to the environmental crisis. Commoner maintains that sweeping transformations of productive technology since World War II productive technologies with intense impacts on environment have displaced less destructive ones. This factor has been largely responsible for the generation of synthetic and non-biodegradable substances such as plastics, chemical nitrogen fertilizers, synthetic detergents, synthetic fibers, big cars, petrochemical and other environmentally injurious industries and 'disposable culture'.

Deforestation: Habitats for numerous types of animals and micro-organisms. Good fertile and nutrient-rich soils having high content of organic matter, offer protection to soils by binding the soils through the network of their roots and by protecting the soils from direct impact of falling raindrops. They encourage and increase infiltration of rainwater and thus allow maximum recharge of groundwater resources, minimize

surface run-off and hence reduce the frequency, intensity and dimension of floods. They help in increasing the precipitation; they are natural sink of carbon dioxide because they use carbon dioxide to prepare their food during the process of photosynthesis.

Agricultural Development : Agricultural development means expansion of agricultural land increase in agricultural productivity and net agricultural production. It is due to development of modern scientific techniques, advanced technologies, increased production and use of chemical fertilizers, expansion in irrigational facilities, development of high-yielding varieties of seeds, etc.

Industrial Development: "Rapid Industrial Development has given economic prosperity to human society. It has also given new dimension to socio-economic structure and has provided material comfort to the people of industrially developed countries but it has also created many fold environmental problems. In fact, the glittering effects of industrialization have affected the mind of the general public that industrialization is now being considered as the parameter of modernity and as a necessary element of socio-economic development of a nation.

Urbanization : Exodus of population from rural areas to urban centre and origin and expansion of new urban centres due to industrial expansion and development are responsible for rapid rate of exploitation of natural resources and several types of environment degradation and pollution in the developed and developing countries. The level of urbanization in the developed countries of the world has already reached its peak.

Unplanned Urbanization: The skewed urban development has deteriorated the environment visibly and considerably in both the urban and rural areas. The urban areas suffer from their own plight, squatter settlements, lack of sanitation and water supply, overcrowding, congestion and pollution. The cities in India are facing environmental problems like lack of sanitation, chronic shortage of traffic congestion etc. Moreover, the domestic and industrial waste disposal in the urban areas is very serious. Most of the cities are lacking sewer systems.

Coal burnt Thermal Power Plants: Power Plants either in public or private sector mainly use coal for generation of electricity. About 62% of the coal produced in our country is utilized for generation of electricity which accounts of 65% of power generation. This process results in the accumulation of various by-products such as bottom ash, boiler slag and fly ash. Fly ash alone amounts to more than 70% of the total quantity. Disposal of this huge amount of fly ash is a difficult and sensitive task. Though this material can be used in manufacture of cement, brick and also used as soil conditioner but these activities have not gained much popularity due to economical and social consideration.

Poverty: It is true that poor cause damage to environment. Due to poverty the people exploit excessively the natural resources of the country for meeting their basic needs (food, fuel, shelter, employment fodder for their cattle). Poverty and need are indeed the greatest polluters as told by late Mrs. Indira Gandhi in her address to the Stockholm Conference. Hence necessary steps should be taken to bring the poor people above the poverty line.

Conclusion

The causes and effects are often interwoven in complex webs of social, technological, environmental and political factors. However, some of the very common causes of environmental degradation which can be clearly pointed out are the population growth, the economic growth associated with the affluence factor and change of technology. Population is an important resource for development, yet it is a major cause of environmental degradation when it exceeds the threshold limits of the support systems. The overriding impact of adverse demographic pressure ultimately falls on our resources and ecosystems. Combined with it the conditions of poverty and underdevelopment themselves create a situation where the people are forced to live in squalor and further degrade their environment. The process of development itself also leads to damage of the environment, if not properly managed. Associated with the rapid economic growth, the extravagant affluence consumes far more resources and put far greater pressure on natural resources. The change of technology causes planned obsolescence causing the generation of more and more wastes which in turn prove ecologically harmful. Short-term interests of private profit maximization, further, hamper the process of replacement of obsolete technologies by the ecologically benign technologies.

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