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Environmental Conservation and Protection Essential for the Survival of Mankind on Mother Earth

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Abstract

Life exists only on the planet earth. Of all the planets of the solar system, the earth looks very beautiful and its natural beauty is so mesmerizing that exists in the forms of mighty mountains, beautiful rivers, green forests and the availability of different resources. Many favourable conditions helped living organisms to make this planet their home. However, after the Industrial Revolution in the year 1779, the impact of industrialisation, urbanisation and economic development

has been experienced in many parts of the world by different activities like- the large scale cutting of trees, air and water pollution, excessive use of plastic bags and their dumping in the open surface and in the oceans. By way of these activities, man has created this heavenly planet unsafe for leaving to all living beings. This paper attempts to explain various types of environmental conservation and protection measures to save the mother earth.

Keywords: Mesmerizing nature, Unabated, Vulnerable, Transform, Incredible

1. Introduction

The environment is known as the natural surroundings which surround the mother earth. If nature's balance is maintained, it means that the environment is healthy and it "helps in growing, nourishing and developing all the living things on earth" (Singh, 2015) ^[5]. However, nowadays, some anthropogenic technological advancements are responsible for degrading the environment in numerous ways which eventually disturbs the natural balance. Through these enormous activities we humans are putting our lives in danger and posing a great threat to the very existence of many living beings on this planet

The human population has grown enormously in the twentieth century. An increase in human population means a manifold increase in food demand, extensive use of water, the demand for more land for home construction, increasing extensive load of electricity demand, urgent need for widening of roads, heavy traffic congestion due to plying of different types of vehicles on the roads in peak hours and requirements for large numbers of other products. These unexpected loads of activities are posing threat to our natural resources. With large scale exploitation of these resources, the pollution of air, water and soil is exceeding their safer limits and many species have become extinct and many more are on the verge of extinction. "The need of the hour is to check the degradation and depletion of our precious natural resources and pollution without halting the process of development" (NCERT, 2020) ^[4].

Today, conservation of the natural environment and its protection and improvement are major issues at the global level. The natural environment comprises of both physical and biological surroundings and is interdependent and interlinked with each other. But large-scale industrialisation, widespread urbanisation, population explosion, "over-exploitation of resources, disruption of natural ecological balances, and destruction of a multitude of animal and plant species for economic reasons are the factors that have contributed to environmental" (Agarwal, 2005) ^[1] degradation on the globe.

With the development of science and technology, the thinking of man has changed considerably and he started exploiting the natural wealth of the earth. This exploitation is seen in the forms of ruthless cutting of trees and unethical killing of wild animals and excessive use of natural "resources for his deeds and greed have made this heavenly planet very vulnerable to many problems" (Chand, 2022) ^[2].

Now, all of us have realized that for the survival of human beings it is imperative to conserve and protect the environment. Conservation means a lot of "activities which can provide individual or commercial benefits, but at the same time, prevent excessive use leading to environmental damage" (Singh, 2015) ^[5]. However, preservation means the maintaining of natural things as they were available in their natural environs before human interference. Every one of us knows that due to ruthless exploitations of resources by human beings, the earth's resources are exhausting at a faster rate and many problems

related to the environment are emerging.

Major questions of inquiry

This paper inquires about various measures of conservation and protection of the environment which are essential for the existence of all the living creatures on this planet.

1. To point out numerous anthropological actions owing to which environmental degradation happened.
2. To assess the impact of conservational and protection measures, and
3. To suggest some measures for the improvement of the environmental quality that proved to be beneficial for the well-being of mankind on mother earth.

Human acts responsible for the degradation of the environment

If we look at the root causes of degradation of the environment, human interference and their indiscriminate activities are completely liable for transforming this wonderful planet into the worst one. "Earth's physical environment is getting polluted by various unprecedented human deeds and never-ending greed to get a maximum dividend to exploit the natural treasure of the earth" (Chand, 2022) [2]. Human activities are directly related to boosting the process of environmental degradation; therefore, the environment is repetitively getting modified over time (Singh, 2015) [5]. The main types of anthropological actions liable for the degradation of the environment on the earth's surface are:

1. Environmental Pollution

Air, water, soil, noise, radiation and thermal are the main kinds of environmental pollution that are generally experienced everywhere on the globe. The effects of environmental pollution are now felt in every part of the globe. The collaborated result of "the greenhouse effect, global warming and climate change is experienced in the form of temperature increase on the earth's surface, melting of polar ice caps and glaciers, untimely torrential rains, widespread floods, rising in the water level of seas and oceans, a frequent outbreak of cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons, occasional droughts, depletion of the ozone layer or fast expanding of ozone hole etc." (Chand, 2022) [2]. Earth's environment is contaminated with various kinds of poisonous pollutants and we have left with no other option but to drink polluted water, inhale dusty air and eat contaminated edible stuff, hence, we are suffering from many diseases. Global warming is accelerating very fast and climate change has become a reality now. Earth's environment is very badly affected due to excess emission of pollution which put this planet, not in danger but posed a great threat to all the living beings.

2. Urbanization and Industrialization

Many renowned environmentalists have the opinion that extensive industrialization and uncontrolled urban sprawl are the main causes of environmental degradation worldwide. The increase in the human population has exerted tremendous pressure on land for the construction of homes and new farmhouses. Even marshlands were converted and steppes & savannahs were cultivated to exploit every bit of land available on the land surface. Today the issue of the degradation of the environment is the foremost and crucial one faced by every nation in the world. If an extensive damaged is done to any environment that is

not recoverable, the whole ecosystem of that particular place collapsed and will be lost forever. "To reduce any future impacts; city planners, industry and resource managers must consider the long-term effects of development on the environment. With sound planning, future environmental degradation can be prevented" (Singh, 2015) [5].

3. Overexploitation of Natural Resources

Every bit of valuable material found on the earth's surface is called a natural resource. Maximum natural resources of the earth's surface are non-renewable. With the advancement of knowledge and technology, humans behaved very rudely to these resources and overexploited them vigorously for their deeds and greed, without thinking of their adverse impacts and scarcity for future generations. With the exponential growth of the human population, the demand for some of the natural resources such as oil and natural gas is increasing day by day. Many scientists predicted that with the present consumption rate, these resources will not last for many years and their known reserves will be fully exploited by 2050.

4. Natural Disasters

Human activities are commonly related to the degradation of the environment, but many natural disasters are also showing their ruthless behaviour. With all these anthropogenic and natural activities, different physical environments are repetitively changing over time. Due to these natural hazards, some ecosystems degraded over time and they couldn't be revived and left suitable for living. Incidents like landslides, earthquakes, volcanoes, wildfires and tsunamis etc. can destroy local habitats to the extent that plant and animal communities can no longer evolve again. Physical destruction of habitats due to natural disasters or prolonged exploitation of resources and growth of offensive unfamiliar plants to any habitation cannot keep up the pace of natural regeneration of the environment, therefore, permanent degradation occurs.

Steps to be undertaken to improve the quality of the environment

Human deeds have so vigorously polluted and degraded the earth's environment that man has now realized how imperative it is to conserve the natural surroundings for our existence. Through indiscriminate human activities, all types of natural resources available on the earth's surface are overexploited and diminishing very fast, thereby, the environmental problems are extensively growing up. It is, therefore, very essential to make conservation and protection of the environment. The following practices will be helpful to improve the quality of our environment:

- We are destroying our green earth by indiscriminately cutting trees, which must be strictly banned and monitored worldwide.
- We are misusing the very valuable drinking water by contaminating it with various toxic elements. Contaminated water from industrial units and leakage of domestic sewage waste without treatment should not be drained into the streams and water bodies, this practice is polluting the water resources very badly in the entire world; therefore, such practices need to be stopped.
- We are destroying the ocean and polluting the air by making and using polythene and plastic bags, which is a

very serious problem. Polythene or plastic bags are non-degradable products that last for many years on the earth's surface, and they frequently choked the drainage system and are finally dumped into the oceans and thus polluting them. For the survival of marine life, there should be a complete ban on the production and use of plastic bags in every nation.

- We are also polluting the air, water, and soils by using pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, etc., and spraying these poisonous chemicals on the crops, fruits, and vegetables. The excess use of chemicals is making all the edible products very harmful for consumption to human beings. Many dreadful diseases grabbed human beings at an early age and created many health issues. "Such indiscriminate and uncontrolled human practices are transforming this incredible earth into the most degradable planet" (Chand, 2022) ^[2]; therefore, we need to stop such practices and adopt organic farming for the well-being of living organisms.

Practices to be adopted for the conservation and protection of the environment

Every one of us knows that natural resources are getting depleted due to indiscriminate exploitation by human beings, therefore, environmental problems are becoming more and more hazardous. It is, therefore, necessary to adopt some environment-friendly practices and to adopt conservational and protection measures to save our natural surroundings. Following practices will surely be helpful in conserving and protecting the environment:

- To make this earth greener and healthier, we should plant more and more trees, because trees make balance and neutralise the excess carbon dioxide we exhale into the atmosphere. As a return gift, green plants generate fresh oxygen and provide it to all living beings to breathe without charging any cost.
- There should be a complete ban on the production of polythene or plastic bags, however, if not possible, every one of us must be so conscious that as far as possible, we have to make reuse of them and recycling of polythene or plastic bags should be made mandatory. We should avoid unnecessary or wasteful packaging of polythene or plastic material products.
- We should separate the waste material into decomposable and non-decomposable waste for their safe disposal. Decomposable waste should be used for composting and making use of them as organic manure.
- We should neither dump any excess chemical compounds nor drain used ones in the drowning channels or toilets or dispose of them in the open or don't burn any hazardous waste like plastic openly in the garden. These all activities are responsible for environmental pollution. This practice generates smoke which may contain poisonous pollutants and degrade the quality of the environment.
- "Use unleaded petrol and alternate green sources of energy in our vehicles, and should keep the engine properly tuned and serviced and the tyres inflated to the right pressure, so that vehicle runs efficiently" (Singh, 2005) ^[5]. The production of electric vehicles as well as hydrogen fuel vehicles and their widespread use in the future will provide more life sustenance to this degraded earth.
- Every bit of care should be made for the handling of

sewerage waste otherwise it will contaminate the water bodies.

- Rotation of crops, minimal use of chemical fertilizers in harvesting, juridical use of irrigation and maintaining of drainage channels need to be practised. Rainwater harvesting is to be made compulsory for every household.
- Government should take initiatives to the establishment of more National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries for the conservation of wildlife.

2. Concluding remarks

Now the time has come to get our figures crossed for the preservation and protection of the environment at the global level. We also need to preserve our wetlands, our tropical rain forest, our grasslands and arctic regions and we also need to protect the threatened and rare species. Conservation of the environment has become a lively survival reality now. Individuals, organizations and governments need to come together to save the environment. The destructive use of natural resources should be minimised. According to experts, "humanity is now using equivalent to 1.75 Earths to make our consumption sustainable and by 2050 it will increase equivalent to 3 Earths" (GFN, 2022) ^[3]. We have only one Earth to sustain our life, we are using many resources than available on its surface. In the event of exponentially increasing demand for these resources in the future, where do we have to go for getting these resources, this is a big question mark. Therefore, we should work seriously on developing refined skills and new scientific techniques and innovations for the survival of human beings, but we should always be cent per cent sure that in future such techniques would not be proved detrimental to our resources and environment. We should also be so certain that new scientific techniques and innovations would never disturb the ecological balance of the earth. Let's come together to conserve and protect what is left on our planet so that the future of coming generations should not be wiped out. The time has come to wake up and take a pledge to save our environment, it will save the life and future of mankind on mother earth.

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