



# ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND PROTECTION

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## Abstract:

*Living beings are the part of environment. A good environment helps all round development of one's personality and bad environment inhibits it. Both human beings and animals are effected by environmental pollution directly and indirectly. Environmental conservation is important because when we protect the environment, we are not protecting some distinct, distant entity but ourselves. Degradation of the is going on unabated. It is our duty to protect and preserve the environment and the ecological balance. This menace can be prevented only by creating awareness among the people. Rapid deforestation has been the main cause of environmental degradation. Many forests belts has been cleared away to set up industrial units. Rapid urbanisation swallowed the remaining green belts. Deforestation has led to disastrous results. Floods, soil erosion and landslides have destroyed the ecological balance. It is the call of time to plant more and more trees as it brings rain and keep the upper soil intact. Our rivers and lakes have become dumping grounds for industrial wastes, garbage and dirt. Those water has not remained fit for human consumption. Our cities are dirtier every day. The emission of some smoke from factories have converted our cities into big gas chambers. Educational institutions plays a major role to learn and bring awareness about the environmental pollution and protection among young stars which will be discussed in the paper. Only a concerted effort by all can help in maintaining the ecological balance for proper environment. So it is important that we spread the message through other social institutions to make greater change in the society. Different sources through which young stars will learn about the environmental pollution, specially air, water and soil pollution and about the environmental protection will also be discussed in the paper.*

**Key words:** Environment ,deforestation, pollution, protection, education.

## Introduction:

Every day, in every moment of its existence, knowingly or unknowingly, mankind has been striving hard to pollute the environment which surrounds them. Mother Earth is being denied, deforestation is a universal phenomenon. For a happy, progressive and purposive living, the Earth and its Environment must not only be kept pollution-free but also be protected from the hazards of pollution.

Generally speaking, Environment means surroundings. The concept is relative to whatever object is to which is surrounded. It includes anything and everything having life in living and non-living of goods. In this connection, Einstein once observed: "Environment is everything that is not me." However, a specific meaning is given to surroundings that are common to a of us. In this sense, Environment includes Air, fire, space above, water, land, plants and wild life.

Clean Environment possibly keeps the mind and body clean and sound. A sound mind and a sound body obviously help in the prosperity of the individual which in turn contributes in the progress of the country in general and the world at large. For better understanding the subject of "Environment" Etymologically the term, "Environment" connotes surroundings. It is composite term referring to conditions in which organism consisting of air, water, food, sunlight etc., live and become living sources for all the living and non-living beings includes temperature, wind, electricity etc., Environment is the life support system. It is from the Environment that all the essential necessities of life are derived.

### Discussion:

#### Environmental Pollution:-

Pollution is the unfavourable attenuation of environment caused by different activities of man viz, industrialization, transportation of goods, destruction of forests, intensive agriculture and such other things that the modern man has adopted. It is an irony that pollution goes side by side with development. The more a nation is developed, the more is its pollution load. The most developed country is the worst affected by pollution.

Pollution derives from the Latin word "pollutes" which means defiled. Pollution is an undesirable change in the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of our air, land and water etc, that may or harmfully effect, human lives or that of desirable species.

For the present purpose, pollution is defined as the introduction by man into any of the environment of waste matter or surplus of energy, which so changes the environment as directly or changes the environment as directly or indirectly adversely to effect the opportunity of man to use or enjoy it.

Environmental pollution may be classified into-

- i. Natural pollution- Earthquakes, flood, drought, cyclone.
- ii. Artificial pollution- Human activities.

Environmental pollution, lowering of environmental quality at local scale caused exclusively by human activities whereas environmental degradation means lowering of environmental quality at local, regional and global levels by both natural process and human activities. It is commonly agreed that pollution is, without doubt, the outcome of urban industrial technological revolution and rapacious and speedy exploitation of natural resources, increased rate of exchange of matter and energy and ever increasing industrial wastes, urban effluents and consumer goods.

Science and technology brought in revolutionary change in human life. Modernization made man's life more and more comfortable. Today one can travel faster, speak or send message to distant land through the modern means of communication. Villages have become going cities as a result of industrialization which in turn presents its own side effect. Modern industries produce industrial wastes and toxic gases which are hazardous to human health. In other words modern man is exposed to Air pollution, Water pollution., in and around as a result of industrial wastes and of the toxic gas produced by industrial houses and modern automobiles.

#### Kinds of Pollution:

The classification of Environmental pollution is a difficult task because the pollutants and the media through which the pollutants are transported are all inter-connected and inter-related. However, pollution may be classified from the point of view of object which is polluted. From this angle pollution may be classified as follows:-

##### 1. Air Pollution:

Air is the symptom of life. It governs the mechanism of Earth. Pollution of air is a dangerous threat to the earthly existence. Protection of air from pollution is as essential as the protection of life.

"Air pollution means the presence in the atmosphere of any air pollutant" and the latter denotes "any solid, liquid, liquid or gaseous substance, present in the atmosphere in such concentration as may be or tend to be injurious to human beings or other living creatures or plants or property or environment.

Air pollution means the presence on the outdoor atmosphere one or more air contaminates or combination thereof in such quantities of such duration as are or may tend to be injurious to human, plants, animal life or property or the conduct or business. Air pollution may be described as imbalance, inequality of air which causes ill effect in the nature. Air pollution may be defined in many ways. In simple terms air pollution can be defined as any ambient condition in which substances are present at concentrations high enough above their normal levels to produce measurable effect. In this effect it is the addition to the atmosphere of any material which will have a detrious effect on life.

Air is a mixture of gases that forms earth's atmosphere. It contains 20.95% oxygen, 78% Nitrogen, 0.93% Argon, 0.03% carbon-dioxide with smaller quantities of ozone and inert gases, water vapor

varies between 0 and 4% and in industrial areas sulphur gases may be present in it. In this way it is clear that various components of air are present in it in a definite proportion.

#### Sources of Air Pollution:

The sources of air pollution are divided into natural and man-made. Natural sources include volcanic eruptions, dust, storms—etc., the principal man made sources of air pollution are transportations, fueled combustion from stationary sources, industrial processes and solid wastes disposal, domestic burning, includes the pollution from ships, planes, train and automobile is the worst contributor to air pollution particularly two wheeler

#### 2. Water pollution:

Water is an essential resource for life on earth. We drink it, bathe in it, relax in it, fish in it, keep cool with it, irrigate the plants, produce energy with it and also use it for transportation and recreation. A part from scarcity of water, we are also facing a problem of water pollution not only of rivers and lakes but also underground water. The intolerable burden of chemical and human waste products have become a threat to a quadric life as well as to human health. Therefore, much attention has given to study the various facets of water pollution, not only to understand the nature and effects of water pollution but also for its control.

Water pollution simply means contamination of water due to any external material, or in other words, introduction of something to natural water which makes it unsuitable for human consumption. WHO has defined water pollution as “any foreign material either from natural or other sources that may contaminate the water supply and makes it harmful to life, causes of their toxicity, leads to reduction of normal oxygen level of water, causes aesthetically unpalatable effects and spread of epidemic disease.”

#### 3. Soil and Land pollution:

Any misuse or wastage of land may create problems not only for the present generation but for the future ones as well. The problem of land soil pollution is growing day by day with the rapid growth of population, urbanization, industrialization, agricultural and other developmental activities. Land pollution is the result not only of man's misuse of land but more due to solid waste disposal.

Land pollution can be defend as the “changes in physical, chemical and biological conditions of the soil through man's intervention or misuse of land resulted into degradation in quality and productivity of the soil.

#### 4. Noise Pollution:

Sound is a normal feature of our life and a medium through which communication is possible. It may be pleasant, like the sound of running water of a stream or the sweet sound of birds in the forest. On the pleasant sound produced by musical instruments. On the other hand, it may be the noisy and harsh sound of lightning and thunder or noise produced by machines, automobiles railways, aero planes or even the blaring sound of loudspeakers or some musical instrument. But all sounds are not noise. “Noise is any sound that is not wanted. It is one of the more common forms of atmospheric pollution.

Noise pollution is an environmental problem that has only recently received much attention, yet it has been decades in the making.

#### Caustive Factors Of Environmental Pollution:

Since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards things have started happening in quite disproportion, putting the ecological system of the balance. The population explosion, affluent society with a desire for a vast array of products, increase radiations, the automobile, greater energy use, increased food production needs some other development are set to be some of the potent factors responsible for creating the imbalance.

The major factors of pollution are being discussed under the following heads:-

##### (i). Population Growth:

The problem of population growth has become a global phenomenon, which has got its alarming proportion in India. According to the Census 2001, the population of India has crossed one billion marks. Of the six persons of world one is an Indian. We being the second largest populated country in the world represent 16% of human race against the 2.4% of global land.

The increase in population in an area would have its impact in the environment, it is important to examine the data more carefully and study the specific relationship between populations and environment. Much of the debate on this issue is polarized between two extreme views. The developed world and the wildlife conservation enthusiasts hold the view that population growth is the prime cause for the degradation of the environment, while the exponents of the social justice hold the view that consumption patterns and inequity within and between societies is the principal cause for the ecological degradation. However, the reality is that the problem of population and environment is more complex and population increases and consumption patterns compound to impact on the environment.

The problem of population growth has been a very emotional issue, there is a direct relationship between increase in population numbers and environmental impact, more people, require some utilizing more

land for buildings, more minerals, more water and more energy. The side effects include enhanced use of chemicals, chemical fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, deforestation, increased population and heavy load on transport etc.,

Thus the population growth has become the main cause of environmental pollution, which should be reduced through some comprehensive legislation.

(ii) Urbanization;

As the population moves from the villages towards the town and the city, Urban India is descending into chaos facing a lack of water and sanitation, affordable housing, roads, public transport and clean air. Another problem is that Indian cities are seeing an increase of urban poor, who live without access to basic amenities. According to the 2001 census, about 285 million people live in urban areas. By 2015, half the country's population is expected to be city and there will be over 50 cities with a population of one million and above.

Urbanization while having a positive impact on income levels, employment and production economics has brought with it many problems including a shortage of housing, inadequate water supply, sanitation and waste disposal facilities, congestion, traffic problems, air, water and noise pollution as well as an unsafe social environment. The overall quality of urban environment has deteriorated over the years with the largest cities reaching, saturation points and unable to cope with the increasing pressure on their infrastructure.

Deforestation gives birth to several problems encompassing environmental degradation through accelerated rate of soil erosion, increase in the sediment load of the rivers, siltation or reservoirs and river beds, increase in the frequency and dimension of floods and droughts, changes in the pattern of distribution of precipitation, intensification of greenhouse effects increase in the destructive force of the atmospheric storms etc., economic loss through damages of agricultural crops due to increased incidence of floods and draughts, decrease in agricultural production of loss of fertile top soils, decrease in the supply of raw materials to the industries and building matters etc., Thus deforestation cause a chain effects which adversely affect the natural environment.

### Methodology:

The researcher has studied the various international conventions and legislations on Environment and collected the relevant material.

The researcher has collected the required data basically from specific and related conventions. The material and information are collected from various sources like relevant statues, published national and international works, national journals and paper presented at seminars, workshop, judgements of courts and relevant website available on the topic.

### Findings:

The major sources of water pollution are discussed in this chapter, which are domestic sources in both rural and urban areas, industrial sources, agriculture run off and deforestation. In addition to that the Electronic Waste (E-Waste) is one of the fastest growing waste streams, with people changing their computers, television sets, and mobile phones more frequently than ever before, the government must enforce a ban on the import of E-Waste for recycling and also ban the import of secondhand computers for reuse, as most of these products end up in the recycling yard.

The thermal power plant either in public or private sector mainly use coal for generation of electricity is one of the major source of pollution, the fall-out increase the suspended particulate matter in the air and affect the agricultural land, flora and vegetation around. Today, the modern technologies then exceeding the high rate of rapacious exploitations of natural resources and uncontrolled development by developed countries are responsible for alarming situation of grave environment and ecological disturbances all over the globe.

### Conclusion:

The causes for environmental problems are many. The multiplicity of causes makes it difficult to clearly delineate the cause and consequences of environmental degradation in terms of simple one to one relationship. The cause 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, yet it is a major cause of environmental degradation when it exceeds the threshold limits of the support system. The overriding impact of advance 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 consume far more resources and put far greater pressure on natural resources. The change of technology cause 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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