



Environment Management and Monitoring

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ABSTRACT

The environment is the basic life support system for all living things on planet Earth. It is a combination of natural and human-made components. The Earth's environment makes Earth the only planet on the solar system where life and sustainability is possible. From the beginning of time, the Earth has provided all the inhabitants of the planet with everything they need for their survival. On the other hand, human beings have exploited all the natural resources for their own selfish needs and have rendered the planet like a barren and ramshackle land.

Keywords: Environment, solar system, human-made components, selfish

Human beings are an integral part of the environment and hold a huge responsibility to upkeep the living conditions for their own sake and for the sake of all the inhabitants of the planet, including plants and animals. The balanced management of natural resources and the environment as a whole is crucial for the well-being of all living beings and for the economic growth of the entire world. Managing the use of resources (both renewable and non-renewable) effectively, can help solve the many disputes between countries, states and people for the power to claim at least a part of the resources as their own. It is high time people understand that the health of the environment is vital, and only if the environment is healthy will all living beings have a chance of survival.

The environment is the fundamental source of all possible existence on planet Earth. However, over the recent years, the environment has been exploited excessively because of which the

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environmental conditions are becoming worse day by day. Pollution of air, water and land, mining, industrialisation, modern urbanisation, deforestation, release of chemical effluents and landfills are some of the major factors that cause the gradual deterioration of the environment.

It is necessary to conserve the environment in order to protect wildlife and to preserve the different species. With the disastrous pace of climate change, a result of pollution and exploitation of the environment, finding out ways to protect the environment from any further damage should be the first priority. Bringing back the environment to its original state is critically important and is the only solution.

Working towards a common goal will be the easiest and fastest way to keep the environment from any more harm. According to Ban Ki-moon, "Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all". This is what we have to act on and look forward to – finding the dots, connecting them and providing solutions.

The leaders of the world are working to reduce the rapid degradation of the environment, and there are organizations like the United Nations who come up with initiatives to create awareness and get people to take actions to curb the problems of the environment. Some of these initiatives include the 2019 Sustainable Development Summit, 2019 Climate Action Summit, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement and many other programs that include river conservation, afforestation, coastal management, wetland conservation and so on. While all these measures are in action, individuals are also obliged to take steps to preserve the environment that everyone is a part of. With everyone's efforts, we can be sure that all of it will definitely make a difference and help the environment in becoming healthy and sustainable.

We truly cannot understand the real worth of the environment. But we can estimate some of its importance that can help us understand its importance. It plays a vital role in keeping living things healthy in the environment. Likewise, it maintains the ecological balance that will keep check of life on earth. It provides food, shelter, air, and fulfils all the human needs whether big or small. Moreover, the entire life support of humans depends wholly on the environmental factors. In addition, it also helps in maintaining various life cycles on earth. Most importantly, our environment is the source of natural beauty and is necessary for maintaining physical and mental health.

Every individual has the responsibility to protect environment. Each day and minute, we are all damaging the earth. Life is about living, and to live, we must protect the environment. Environmental protection is one of the most important responsibilities a society has. It is essential that the environment be protected from harm, both now and in the future.

Environmental degradation can have large-scale negative consequences for both humans and nature. There are many ways to protect the environment. One way is to reduce the amount of waste that is produced. We can also try to reduce the amount of pollution that is released into the air, water, and soil. We can also try to conserve energy so that it isn't used unnecessarily. Protecting the environment is not a simple task, but it is essential if we want to ensure that future generations will have a healthy and sustainable world to live in.

Global warming or climate change has today become a major threat to the mankind. The Earth's temperature is on the rise and there are various reasons for it such as greenhouse gases emanating from carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, burning of fossil fuels or deforestation. The rise in the levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) leads to substantial increase in temperature. It is because CO₂ remains concentrated in the atmosphere for even hundreds of years. Due to activities like fossil fuel combustion for electricity generation, transportation, and heating, human beings have contributed to increase in the CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere.

Recent years have been unusually warm, causing worldwide concern. But the fact is that the increase in carbon dioxide actually began in 1800, due to the deforestation of a large chunk of North-eastern American, besides forested parts of the world. The things became worse with emissions in the wake of the industrial revolution, leading to increase in carbon dioxide level by 1900. The sea levels are constantly rising as fresh water marshlands, low-lying cities, and islands have been inundated with seawater.

There have been changes in rainfall patterns, leading to droughts and fires in some areas, and flooding in other areas. Ice caps are constantly melting posing a threat to polar bears as their feeding season stands reduced. Glaciers are gradually melting. Animal populations are gradually vanishing as there has been a widespread loss of their habitat. As per Kyoto protocol, developed countries are required to cut back their emissions. There is a need to reduce coal-fired electricity, increase energy efficiency through wind and solar power, and also high efficiency natural gas generation

Huge population growth too is a factor for increase in global warming. We are over-exploiting technologies, which is manifest in the burning of fossil fuels, coal, and emission of gas. Burning of gasoline in internal-combustion of automobiles leads to great amount of carbon emission. Apart from it, sulphur cluster gas also has a harmful impact on environmental pollution. Even simple task such as cooking food produces a big amount of CO₂. Long-term effects of global warming may manifest in submarine landslides and increased seismic and volcanic activities. It could lead to tsunamis as warmer ocean water thaws ocean-floor permafrost or releases gas hydrates. An increase in landslide frequency has already been reported in some world regions such as the French Alps. Due to ice melting and deglaciation, the Earth's crust may be impacted leading to post-glacial rebound, with land masses experiencing no depression by the weight of ice.

We need to spread adequate awareness with regard to the menace of global warming. It can be fought only by the collective efforts of the world community. We have to take proper initiatives to prevent global warming such as stop producing more CO₂. For this, we should reduce the consumption of oil, coal and gas. We should concentrate on using renewable energy. Additionally, we can plant more trees because trees are very helpful to soak up CO₂ and at the same time generate more oxygen. When we generate electricity, we produce a huge amount of CO₂ simultaneously. We have to use less energy and electricity. We have to avoid producing a great amount of CO₂, Sulphur, CFCs, and Methane gases as they are out-and-out harmful to the environment.

We need to curb the emission of CO₂ by undertaking massive plantation of trees. Let trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. Let's reduce our dependence on the consumption of electricity, oil, coal and gas – sources of carbon dioxide – and switch to renewable energy. Let's make less of energy and embrace recycling of products. There is a need to make suitable changes in the modern consumerist lifestyle that tends to overuse the resources of the world. There is a need to make collective efforts on the part of scientists, governments and individuals to tide over the problem of global warming. If urgent efforts are not mounted by all countries to check the problem of global warming worldwide, it would threaten to put the future of mankind in peril.

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