

# Environmental Pollution

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**Abstract:** The world is facing environmental crisis in the form of global warming, climate change, depletion of ozone layer. The need of the hour is not only saving the environment but also trying to find a sustainable solution for the future. Conserving natural resources which take hundreds of years to generate, conserving water, keeping the environment clean and green is the duty of every citizen. It is not only the duty of the government to conserve and preserve the environment but also each and every citizen has to do his or her bit in order to save and manage the environment.

**Index Terms:** environment, pollution, global warming, burning, air pollution, vegetation, fossil fuel, pollutants

One of the most serious challenges that lie before the entire humanity is environmental pollution. The three major forms of pollution are: air pollution, water pollution and land pollution. The dictionary defines the meaning of environmental pollution as the contamination of the components of Earth or the atmospheric system both in physical or biological manner in such a way that the process of the normal environment is affected adversely.

The air pollution can be further classified to be known as primary and secondary air pollutants. The factors that directly affect the air are burning of forest, coal, stubble burning, the poisonous gases emitted by industries or vehicular emission. The water gets polluted when the sewage water gets mixed the water bodies. Throwing the industrial waste and the excessive usage of fertilizers are also responsible for polluting the water bodies. Land and soil pollution is a result purely due to human activities. It is a result of severe misuse of land activities. Noise and light pollution also add up to contribute towards the environmental pollution.

Environmental pollution gets enhanced by certain materials that are harmful and get mixed in the environment. Such materials are gaseous pollutants, metals which are toxic and particular material which is also known as PM gets in the atmosphere. Sewage water and the industrial waste in the water bodies, throwing of dead bodies of humans and animals, runoffs from agriculture and throwing of electrical waste in the water bodies add up to the woes of the environment.

The effects of environmental pollution are hazardous and have costed many human lives worldwide. The pollution can have many forms, be it noise light, plastic or radioactive, thermal or visual, but the repercussion is the same in the form of polluting the environment. The water pollution consists of harmful chemicals and the Earth receives it back in the form of the acid rain causing much damage to life and livelihood. The acid rain is directly connected to destroying the agricultural yield on which most countries depend.

The pollution causes muddy landscapes, it poisons the waterways and soil. It kills all the plants and the animals whoever comes in contact. Human beings are facing hazardous circumstances due to the environmental pollution. Even the slightest exposure to air pollution becomes a reason to suffer chronic respiratory diseases. It is one of the major causes of lung cancer these days. The youth is particularly exposed to the air pollution and falling prey to respiratory diseases. This type of pollution causes damage to crops, forest animals, human beings and major water bodies. It is one of the major reasons behind the depletion of the ozone layer which is the protector of the Earth from the UV rays emitted by the Sun.

There are so many factors responsible for the environmental pollution. There are faulty government policies, the corrupt Corporatism which is unaware of its social responsibility. They have not been able to come out with policies to curb the environmental pollution. An individual citizen is also equally responsible and insensitive to environment by his indiscriminate usage of plastics, burning fossil fuel, burning agricultural waste thereby raising the PM levels in the environment. Mining also contaminates the environment be it coal or gold.

To prevent the environmental pollution steps are required at all levels from an individual to the government, and from local to global. At an individual level one should make a beginning by reducing the number of pleasure trips taken in the car, one must learn to car pool amongst friends and relations. One can reduce the number of fireplace at home and avoid burning of wood, coal, trash and dead and dried leaves.

The major issues that concern the environment are

1. Deforestation
2. Climate change
3. Energy
4. Water contamination
5. Biodiversity and land use
6. Heavy and toxic materials

7. Air pollution
8. Waste management
9. Oceans and fisheries
10. Ozone layer depletion

Environmental pollution is actually a process in which the land, air and water become dirtier and become unusable and unsafe for living beings. The simplest things such as light, sound and temperature can pollute the environment when induced artificially. A significant portion of the solid waste is produced by the industrial waste. Mining and chemical waste can be hazardous and cause damage to human life. Water gets contaminated when chemicals through the industrial waste, sewage water and heavy doses of pesticides and other dangerous foreign substances are introduced into the water bodies. When the water gets heated artificially, it becomes thermal pollution. Then it holds less oxygen creating conditions where it kills the fish and the underwater vegetation. When nitrogen is added to water, it kills all its nutrients. It is known as eutrophication.

In the above stanzas we have pondered over the factors that cause the environmental pollution. The need of the hour is to dwell upon them and take immediate measures to save environment not only for the present but also make it sustainable for the future generation. If we don't protect it now, then we are endangering the future lives and would not let this Earth remain a livable place. If we want to reduce the air pollution then there are various ways to do the same. The most basic solution is to reduce the usage of fossil fuels as much as possible. The fossil fuel usage should be replaced with alternate energies such as solar, wind and geo thermal. The environment has reached a crucial stage where producing clean energy has become essential.

As good and responsible citizens we should take quick and appropriate measures to combat the environmental pollution. We can reduce and control the gaseous pollutants by the technique called combustion. When the pollutants are in the form of water vapors or the organic gases, then this technique is used. Here the rapid oxidation takes place and then the organic pollutants are converted into lesser harmful products.

The students can do their bit for saving the environment by purchasing less toxic supplies, lesser wastage and usage of paper. They can also do so by joining Clean Air Zone program. Their contribution would be much appreciated if they start using energy efficient lights.

We should be using natural fertilizers in place of chemical fertilizers for vegetation. The citizens should be responsible while disposing off the hazardous materials such as motor oil, paint and other toxic materials. One should not litter anywhere near the water bodies. We should organize a community clear up events for cleaning the water bodies. This mass movement would leave our water bodies cleaner which in turn would help our environment cleaner.

The deterioration of the environment has reached a level where it needs to be monitored closely and regularly on the basis of the data available. We can say that instead of reforming the environment, it is the environment management that has become the need of the hour. It aims at studying the problems related to the pollution and checking them so that the environment remains under check and continue to satisfy basic human needs. This environmental management also aims at the overall development of the environment thereby keeping a check on the quality of air and ascertains whether it is fit for breathing. It ensures that the water available is fit for drinking. Similarly it keeps a check on the soil and water resources whether they are fit to cater to the human needs.

The problems related to the environment are quite diverse and every human activity or civilization has its unique impact on the environment. There some effective measures which if followed by humans then the environment management can be effectively achieved.

Instead of landfills, incinerators can be used to burn the solid waste. Organic solid waste can be managed by way of composting thus producing organic manure which is far better and least harmful as compared to the chemical fertilizers. The non-combustible solid waste can be disposed off in landfills which are in low lying areas and not too close to human habitat.

Automobiles may be manufactured with such a technique that their engines do not emit noxious compounds. Usage of alternate source of energy may be used in place of fossil fuel. Biogas, electricity and wind energy may be used in the automobiles.

Usage of pesticides and chemical fertilizers and agro chemicals should be minimized. Crop burning, stubble burning should be stopped completely. The carbon dioxide makes the air poisonous causing chronic lung diseases and cancer.

Usage of disposable items should be completely discontinued. Reuse, recycle and reduce should be the chief principal of waste management creating zero waste.

Plastic should be completely banned. It has seeped in human life but needs to be thrown out of the system.

Public awareness campaigns should be propagated to educate the masses about the serious implications related to the environmental issues.

The governments should encourage scholars to take up researches relating anti-pollution. Imparting education on environmental issues and its management should be made compulsory. Tree plantation drive should be given utmost importance.

Various alternate energy resources should be discovered and their usage encouraged. Alternate energy obtained from biomass, biogas, wind and solar should be standardized and used.

Cleaning of water bodies done on a regular basis will not only develop the environment but it will be helpful in the upkeep of the flora and fauna of a particular place and keep its underwater vegetation alive along with the water insects and animals. There is a lot that is being done on the environmental front and still we have a long way to go. Though the environmental management comes with a cost and can prove to be a little expensive. The organic fertilizers, zero waste management, no plastics and alternate energy can prove to be heavy on one's pocket but saving the environment would still be the best bargain. It would leave the future generation with the Earth a place where they would be able to breath and will have water to drink.

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