
Global Environment Issues For Health

Seema Devi¹

¹Assistant Professor in Physical Education Government PG College Sangipur Pratapgarh UP

Received: 20 January 2025 Accepted & Reviewed: 25 January 2025, Published : 31 January 2025

Abstract

Global warming has the effect of melting polar ice caps, displacing people from tropical and coastal islands and can ultimately threaten the survival of human race. This has resulted in over consumption, leading to poverty and other environmental problems. Deforestation also leads to the burning of cut down trees which further increase the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This will harm the workers that are exposed to the dangerous materials. Some people are even denying its existence. To do this we must become fully aware of how we got to this point and what we ought to do to remedy the situation. Let us begin with how we got to this point.

Another leading cause of global warming is deforestation. Deforestation reduces the number of trees that are capable of converting carbon dioxide in the atmosphere into oxygen and thereby reducing the volume of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Deforestation also leads to the burning of cut down trees which further increase the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The consequences of global warming may be dire but we can stop it. All we need to do is to conserve and properly utilize the energy we have so that we do not have to burn fossil fuels to create more energy.

Keywords- Global Environment, Global warming, Issues, Health

Introduction

This has been considered as the most pressing environmental issue. Climate change is real and it is influenced by human activities through the production of greenhouse gases such as methane and carbon dioxide. Global warming is necessitated by the ability of our ecosystem to respond to climate change due to compromised environment. Global warming has the effect of melting polar ice caps, displacing people from tropical and coastal islands and can ultimately threaten the survival of human race.

Clean and Renewable Energy:- This is second only to climate change. The human race is faced with the environmental problem of cleaning up or replacing the burning of fossil fuels that enhanced industrial revolution during 18th century. Unless a clean and renewable energy is found as an alternative, our planet risks being turned into an inhabitable and hostile not fit for human survival. There is need for the development and adoption of clean energy.

Ocean System Collapse:- Oceans are critical part of Earth's support system and are considered to pose huge risks and sink for atmospheric oxygen and carbon dioxide. It is important to prevent ocean systems from collapse since the over exploitation of oceans might result in the collapse of the fishing industry. Acid rain resulting from industrial pollution has pollutes oceans and seas hence killing coral reefs; this has the effect of threatening tourism. Oceans are degraded by spills, run off chemicals.

Electronic & Nuclear Waste:- This type of wastes can cause massive pollution and several health complications. Millions of electronic products such as computers, laptops, television sets and mobile phones are discarded annually in developed countries and dumped into third world societies. The recovery of these products in the developing economies can result in the release of hazardous materials such as lead, mercury,

heavy metals and many other toxic substances. This will harm the workers that are exposed to the dangerous materials. These wastes are the modern environmental threats due to technological advancements. The disposal of nuclear wastes from the reactors poses major risks to the environment. Nuclear wastes such as Plutonium-239 are very dangerous when released to the environment, same to isotopes. Currently there are 31 countries with nuclear reactors.

Water Degradation:- In the modern world the quality of water is under threat from the fast growing population. The quality of inland water is under compromise from dumped industrial and chemical wastes, untreated sewage, medicinal residues and fertilizers and chemical run off. The above activities worsen the already existing problem of water pollution. The increased use of underground water in coastal regions results in the intrusion of salt water. Water wars are not becoming a reality.

Land Rush:- The world's population is growing at a faster rate. This has led to large number of people being declared food-insecure; this has therefore resulted in land rush since nations are scrambling to secure land for agriculture and also to grow bio-energy crops to generate cheap fuels. Slashing and burning of forests is an ever increasing practice and it can lead to biodiversity and ecosystems loss as well as land degradation. According to the UNEP, approximately 5 million hectares of land is annually lost through soil erosion and land degradation. Pastoralists and cattle ranchers are plundering the Amazon rain forest at an alarming rate.

Biodiversity Conservation:- Biodiversity is critical for the survival of the ecosystem because it can help in food production, disease control, crop pollination and recreation. There is need to prioritize the areas that require conservation.

Increased Human Population:- The world's population is increasing at a faster rate. This has resulted in over consumption, leading to poverty and other environmental problems. All the many environmental issues are caused by the large population that cannot match the available resources.

New Technologies:- Increased demand for food globally has forced scientists to manipulate plant DNA to produce strong and drought and disease resistant crops. There is the general fear that GMO products are harmful to human beings. When GMO food products are released to the environment, they may not be recalled, making it a dangerous global experiment.

Habitat Loss:- Habitat loss and fragmentation due to deforestation and human development. This is considered as the major cause of diminishing biodiversity globally. Many species are faced with extinction.

What You Can Do to Stop Global Warming:- Global warming is an extremely controversial topic. This is because global warming has severe economic implications that run into serious political and social consequences for both current and future generations. The true nature of global warming and its manifestation is usually lost in the emotive debates on the issue. Some people are even denying its existence. This denial is a desperate move towards an escape from the actions that are necessary to deal with global warming. Despite these denials global warming still remains a reality. It is in fact the continued rise in the temperature of the earth's surface. This continued rise in temperature is caused by the greenhouse effect. This effect refers to the trapping of heat that would have traditionally left the earth's atmosphere by greenhouse gases. These greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide emissions which are emitted from burning fossil fuels. Global warming is responsible for the sudden abrupt change in our climate including but not limited to; an increased number of devastating storms, sporadic flooding and raging forest fires across the world. The earth is now warmer than it has ever been for at least a thousand years. The average temperature in 2010 alone was the

highest recorded average temperature for any year in history. It is therefore imperative that we tackle global warming with sincerity and determination, for our sake and for the sake of our future generations. To do this we must become fully aware of how we got to this point and what we ought to do to remedy the situation. Let us begin with how we got to this point.

One of the main reasons why we are facing global warming is our continued love affair with our vehicles. These vehicles are a major source of carbon dioxide emissions. The more vehicles are manufactured and used on our roads then the more global warming will continue being a danger to our society.

These carbon emissions are not only limited to vehicles. Another culprit is the burning of coal. This is attributed to the rise of economic giants such as China and the Asian Tigers who have turned to cheap source of fuel as a source of energy for their burgeoning economies. However, it is not lost to us that the developed world and especially the United States is responsible for most of the carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

Another leading cause of global warming is the emission of methane. Methane is emitted by ruminants such as cattle and sheep. With an increased level of domestication of cattle for use in dairy and meat products the level of methane emission into the atmosphere has increased exponentially. It is important to note that methane is 20 times more effective in trapping heat within the earth's atmosphere than carbon dioxide.

Conclusion:- Another leading cause of global warming is deforestation. Deforestation reduces the number of trees that are capable of converting carbon dioxide in the atmosphere into oxygen and thereby reducing the volume of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Deforestation also leads to the burning of cut down trees which further increase the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The consequences of global warming may be dire but we can stop it. All we need to do is to conserve and properly utilize the energy we have so that we do not have to burn fossil fuels to create more energy. For instance, we can do the following;

- ❖ We can use energy saving bulbs instead of the normal light bulbs
- ❖ We can recycle our plastic materials instead of relying on new ones
- ❖ We should reduce the amount of cars we own in addition to reducing the amount of mileage we cover
- ❖ We should plant more trees to reduce deforestation
- ❖ We should try to use less air and heat conditioning
- ❖ Turn off all the electric appliances when you are not using them
- ❖ Educate others and make sure they are aware of the negative consequences of global warming
- ❖ We should embrace renewable sources of energy as a more viable alternative to fossil fuels

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