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पर्यावरण आणि मानव विकास Environment and Human Development

# EFFECT OF HUMAN POPULATION ON ENVIRONMENT

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## ABSTRACT:

In this paper, we study effects of human population growth on environment. The human population has been increasing rapidly in the last century and unfortunately, not much has been done to slow down this process. Now, over population is a global issue. This is global because it pertains to all of humanity, but global also means that it affects the whole world, i.e. the environment. All human activities affect negatively the environment in one form or another and as human population expands, the damaging effects on the environment multiply. In this paper we discuss the most imminent environmental issues that results from human population growth.

**KEYWORDS:** Environment, Population, Global warming, pollution, biodiversity.

## INTRODUCTION:

The twentieth century has been a century of unprecedented population growth and environmental change. From last 70 years world population has more than doubled. In 1900 to 2000, world population increases from 1.6 billion to 6.1 billion. It may be 8 billion by 2028, 9 billion by 2054 and 10 – 14 billion by 2100. Many countries have faced many problems in recent decade, including low levels of education, poor health standards, poverty, scarce housing natural resources depletion, wars economic and political domination by other countries. Countries in this situation generally have devoted less energy to addressing environment issues than their wealthier neighbours so there problems have intensified. Specially in the poorest countries, future population growth is likely to make environmental deterioration worse. Rising population put increasing in demand on natural resources such as land, water and energy supplies. As human communities use more resources they generate contaminants such as air, water pollution and green gas emissions along with increasing quantities of waste.

In this paper we discuss the effects of growth of population on environment. In current situation, natural resources are under increasing pressure, threatening public health and development. Air pollution , water pollution, shortage of water, soil exhaustion, loss of forests, and degradation of coastlines affects many areas. Human population growth is perhaps the most significant cause of the



complex problem of environment. Some of the environmental effects of population growth are as follow.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

- 1) The rapid increase of human population is putting an incredible strain on our environment. Now developed countries continue to pollute the environment and deplete its resources, developing countries are under increasing pressure to complete economically and their industrial advancements are damaging as well. The growth places on our global environment are threatening the future of sustainable life on earth. Hence increasing of human population that affected environment.
- 2) One of the largest environmental effects of human population growth is the problem of global warming. The power plants and coal burning that needed to support human life is increasing the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, which can lead to rising global temperatures. The more use of automobiles on the planet also contributes to the pollution problem and the injection of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
- 3) An increase in global temperature could have many negative effects namely Change in climate patterns, melting of polar ice, Flooding of coastal regions, Increase in the rate of species loss.
- 4) The earth's surface is warming due to greenhouse gas emissions, largely from burning fossil fuels. If the global temperature decreases as projected, sea levels would decrease by several meters, causing widespread flooding. So global warming will lead to rising sea levels and extreme weather conditions in the future.
- 5) In order to support the growing population, forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate. So many countries are constantly cutting down their forests to clear land for farming and to make room for housing. Now fifty percentage of world's original forest cover has been lost, and each year another 16 million hectares are cut, bulldozed, or burned.
- 6) Deforestation is harmful to the environment for several reasons. Due to the clearing of these forests results in the extinction of many species, possibly including hundreds that are yet unidentified by scientists. Deforestation yield the problem of global warming, because trees naturally absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Also depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer that protects humans, plants, and animals from potentially fatal ultraviolet radiation.
- 7) Humans also continue to put a great demand on the natural resources of our planet. Due to the unrestrained use of fuel and energy, non-renewable resources are being depleted. Various parts of the world also suffer from a shortage of food and water. The growth of population

gives larger demands on our already limited resources. The environment on earth is suffering from the growth of human population.

- 8) Increase in population causes the depletion of resources and biodiversity, the production of waste, and the destroying of natural habitat. This is very serious problems that must be addressed in order to ensure that life on earth will be sustainable throughout the next century.
- 9) The main reason for rapid growth of human that causes overpopulation is the increase in food supply and better health. Overpopulation effects on the environment lead to the destruction of the natural habitat of many wildlife species. Also over population is suggested to cause several environmental problems.

Now other environmental effects of human population growth are

- 10) **Increasing waste** - Waste is unwanted or unusable materials. There many types of waste: such as municipal, construction, commercial, industrial, medical solid waste hazardous waste, radioactive, mercury ,nickel, cadmium batteries biodegradable waste. Due to waste material contaminate surface and groundwater; soil; and air which cause problems for humans, other species and ecosystem. Increasing waste can cause various diseases to human including cancer. Other contaminants and Heavy metals and also cause widespread health problems.
- 11) **Pollution** : Pollution is of the type air, water, soil or food that threatens the health, survival, or activities of humans or other living organism. A range of human health problem from allergies & infertility to cancer and premature death causes due to Environmental pollution. Air pollution causes ozone depletion, several diseases. Change in (Chemical, Biological, or physical) water quality that has harmful effect on living organism or makes water unsuitable for desired use.
- 12) **Lost of Biodiversity**- There are number of species, the enormous of genes in the species, and the different ecosystems. The biodiversity on earth plays an important role to continued vitality of agriculture and medicine and perhaps even to life on earth itself. Human activities are pushing many thousands of plant and animal species into extinction. Changes in land-use, draining wetlands, clearing forests and infrastructure expansion are affecting biodiversity. The loss of biological diversity and renewable natural resources reduces stability and resilience, and leads to fragmentation, species loss, and the loss of ecosystem quality.
- 13) **Water supply**- Water is basic elements of live, and it is needful to preserve the balance of every ecosystem. Now human population increases, so does the consumption of water. Last half century, the per capita availability of fresh water has decreased by one third.

14) **Water pollution-** The problem with water is not only overconsumption, but also pollution. The main contributors to water pollution are factories and open mines, discarding waste water with heavy metals, toxic substances and solid waste, which are virtually impossible to purify. The condition is even worse when it comes to ocean exploitation and pollution. Due to overfishing there is changes of balance in coastal ecosystems and decreases fish populations.

#### CONCLUSION:

Rising population growth will result in intensive exploitation and pressure on resources. Increase in population causes global warming, Deforestation, Water and air pollution, soil degradation, lost of biodiversity, increasing waste. If we don't control population growth then we risk destroying our standard of living. Now Family planning is effective in stabilizing growth. Family planning programs play a key role in to decrease the population growth. Family planning information and services are available and accessible, couples are better able to achieve their fertility desires. "In adverse circumstance — low incomes, limited education, and few opportunities for women family planning programs have meant slower population growth and improved family welfare.

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