

Impact of Overpopulation in Degradation of Environment: An Indian Perspective

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Abstract

Every component of our environment such as air, water, soil, forest etc. are the main sources of our life. The mere presence of these component is not enough, they must be wholesome and pollution free for our healthy life. So, it is our foremost duty to keep our environment pollution free. Thus, the reasons which are responsible for the pollution of environment, we should concern about such reason and to take appropriate measure to alleviate it.

Keywords: Overpopulation, environmental degradation, deforestation, global warming, biodiversity loss.

INTRODUCTION

Overpopulation has various adverse effect in a country and also all over the earth. Such adverse effects include deforestation, environmental degradation, overcrowding, unemployment and so on.

Overpopulation or overcrowding is a terror in every sphere of life. Daily life of people becomes unrest, unhealthy and miserable due to overcrowding in every public place.

Among various serious problems of overpopulation this article mainly attempts to discuss about adverse effect of overpopulation on environment.

Environment is the main support of our survival i.e., every component of the environment such as- air, water, soil, forest etc. are the main source of life. That is why every planet of our solar system is not fit for living. So, we should always be grateful to our environment in every sphere of life and it is our sole responsibility to keep our environment at a condition which will always be fitted for our healthy living.

Our environment is on the verge of degradation because of human activities. One of the serious causes of environment degradation is overpopulation and large scale carbon emission. Rapid growth of population does not happen overnight it is a matter of long term process and involves various causes.

Causes Responsible for Overpopulation

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1. **Advancement in medical science and technology:** due to advancement in medical science and technology, advanced medical treatment and facilities are available to people which reduced mortality rate. As a result of such advancement growth of population and lifespan has enhanced.
2. **Illiteracy and Poverty:** Illiteracy is another cause of growth of population undesirably. Illiterate people are ignorant of the adverse effect of overpopulation, they are not aware of birth control methods. Illiteracy brings all the attempts of government for family planning, other birth control policies in vain.

Poverty is the biggest reason that contributes to substantially in overpopulation. Poor families consider their children as a source of income and additional hands to contribute in family income. There are also a preference for male child because they can earn from their very early age in any way where a girl child is considered as a burden and with a expectation of male child family take several issue upto a male child.

3. **Religious belief against contraception:** There are some religious faith which are against contraception. In such riligion it is believed that artificial contraception is contrary to God's plan. Child is consider as God's gift and brith control as a sin.

Effect of Overpopulation

Lose of sustainable development: More people means more consumption of natural resources without leaving anything for future generation, and more consumption means more emission of greenhouse gases in environment which ultimately contributes to climate change.

Loss of biodiversity: The report of WWF in 2020 is very alarming. As per this report since 1970 there is 68% drop in mammal, bird, fish, reptiles and amphibian population due to unsustainable cultivation and residency. The habitats of suchpopulation are destroyed to convert such places into human habitation. so, biodiversity is decreased which has negative impact on food chain and ultimately a threatening for extinction of species.

Global warming: It is human activities which adds abundance of green house gases to those which naturally occurs in atmosphere. The direct result is global warming. Modern industrial civilization is a major source and contributor ofemission of green house gases in atmosphere specially carbon dioxide, by burning of fossil fuel like coal, oil, gas etc. Global warming is the reason of climate change i.e, effect on environment which ultimately turns the globe uninhabitable.

Natural resource depletion: Natural resources are those component of nature which born naturally without any human activity. Natural resources include water, soil, minerals, plants etc. some of these resources are renewable some are non-renewable. Existence of life can not be thought without such resource, the very existence of life totally dependable on these resource. Depletion of natural resources means consumption of such resources in such a rapidity that nature has no capacity to reproduce such resources to the same rapidity. Faster depletion of natural resource is a natural consequence of overpopulation, because so many people so much consumption.

Deforestation: deforestation means cutting or clearing wide area of forest. The adverse effects of deforestation are, loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, destruction of wild life habitat and so on. even Amazon rainforest, which is known as the lungs and heart of the planet is not free from this curse. Deforestation is the direct result of overpopulation.

So, the country over populated is facing a devastating effect on the environment. India very recently overtaking China is now the world's most populous country. Such over population has an immeasurable pressure onnatural resources and causing environmental degradation. Such overpopulation is a major problem for India from its Independence.

India is the first country among the developing countries which had a state sponsored family planning programme. Over the year India has adopted different strategy including a coercive measure also to control birth rate. Strategies include family planning camp, contraceptive approach, forceful sterilization etc.

National population policy was adopted by the government on 15th February, 2000. This policy was adopted with a long term objective to achieve stable population by 2045.

‘Mission Pariwar Vikas’ was launched in 2016 to improve access to contraceptives and family planning services in high fertility district.

In the year 2019, a private members’ bill was introduced in Lok Sabha but was withdrawn by the intervention of a Union Minister.

CONCLUSION

The population of India has reached to such an terrible extent which causing Environmental degradation very rapidly which is a threatening on existence of life. So, this is the high time to take a strict preventive measure by the government to control the growth rate of population. Only awareness campaigning is not enough in such extreme situation, there should be some specific mandatory measure. Overpopulation should be considered not only from economical issues but from environmental issues also. So overburden of population on environment should be controlled by strict legislative measure.

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