

Environment and Man

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis statement: human activities are responsible for disturbing environment. As a result, many people endure innumerable problems across the world. However, environment can be better if people and governments take a few sincere steps to make it pleasant.

2. Correlation between environment and man

3. Activities of man affecting environment

- a) Occurrence of deforestation
- b) Preference of horizontal expansion to vertical expansion
- c) Encroachment on irrigable land
- d) Increase in industrialization
- e) Reliance on AI has increased
- f) Burning waste in open areas
- g) Throwing trash in green areas
- h) Withdrawal of countries from Climate agreements
- i) Trade of carbons

4. Problems faced by man due to disturbing environment

- a) Rise in temperature
- b) Melting of glaciers
- c) Occurrence of floods
- d) Countries are economically Weakened
- e) Rise in health problems
- f) Many people kick the bucket
- g) Education of students is affected
- h) Migration of people

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- a) People must start planting trees
- b) Adherence to use used things
- c) Environment must be taught as a separate subject in schools
- d) Provision of funds for bettering air quality

6. Conclusion

Being the best creation of God, people can influence almost each and every thing of this universe. Their influence can be positive and negative because they have the ability to harm and benefit other things. As far as influencing the environment is concerned, people are affecting it out and out, rather than making it remain natural. There are many activities that are disturbing the environment. People are doing deforestation. They prefer horizontal expansion to vertical expansion. Besides, they are doing encroachment on irrigable land. They are also augmenting the industrialization as well as reliance on Artificial Intelligence (AI). They do not hesitate burning the waste openly. Neither do they feel shame in throwing their trash in green areas. When it comes to countries, they withdrew from climate agreements for material gains. They are importing carbons from other states. It is stated that every action has its reaction. After the activities of people, environment reacts. As a result, people have to face many a problem. They have to face harsh climate because temperature is rising, due to which glaciers are melting. Melting of glaciers results in floods. Floods weaken countries economically; and they increase health issues for people. Due to health problems, many people die. Education of students is also affected. After facing all these issues, people leave their countries of birth for a safer place to live in. Although the activities of people compel environment to be harsh to them, yet it can be friendly if humans stop disrupting it. For this to happen, they must plant trees. They must use things which can be used again. Governments must ensure that environment is taught as a separate subject in schools of their countries. They also give funds to those cities that work for them in cleaning environment. In a nutshell, human activities are responsible for disturbing environment. As a result, many people endure innumerable problems across the world. However, environment can be better if people and governments take a few sincere steps to make it pleasant.

There is a correlation between environment and man. Before knowing this relation, one must know the definition of environment. Environment refers to the surroundings and conditions in which humans and animals live. It means that existence of a man totally depends on environment. If environment is human friendly, he can live happily. If it is harsh, then there could be threats to the existence of man. It is also up to a man how he maintains his environment. He can make it pleasant his environment by planting trees. On the other hand, he can make it harsh by his materialistic activities. To conclude, there is a deep relationship between environment and man.

In fact, man is affecting environment because there is occurrence of deforestation. It means people are cutting forests. They do so, so that their life can be somewhat easier. Unfortunately, they do not consider the impacts of their activities on their environment in a long run. For example, the Amazon forests, which are termed the lungs of the earth for providing 20 per cent Oxygen to the world, even then people are using them for different purposes such as: papers and fireworks. Given this, people are affecting the environment by doing deforestation.

Besides, there is preference to horizontal expansion to vertical expansion. People and governments do not consider the value of vertical expansion for maintaining better environment. Thus, in many developed countries, buildings consist of one or two floors. For instance, in Pakistan, buildings of many homes, schools, colleges and universities have single or double stories. In this way, people ignore the worth of vertical expansion for environment; therefore, they do horizontal expansion.

As a result, encroachment on irrigable land is inevitable. The reason is that population is increasing with each passing day. In order to manage the rising population, countries are left with no choice but to do encroachment on irrigable land, which does not bode well for the environment. For example, in Pakistan, the area near the River Ravi was very fertile, even then government did encroachment. Furthermore, housing society was made on the land for mangos in Multan. In sum, in order to cater rising population, countries are doing encroachment on irrigable land, which results in affecting the environment.

What is more, there is increase in industrialization. People want to become economically strong. For money, they are making industries even on fertile land. As a result, environment is disturbed. Now-a-days, industries are polluting the environment because they are seen everywhere from the richest to the poorest countries as well as from the biggest to the smallest cities. In conclusion, in order to become rich, people living in different countries of the world are making environment the worse by making industries.

For making work faster, reliance of people on AI has also increased. They are getting their work done by robots in no time. They are earning more wealth. However, environment is affected by and large due to AI models. In 2020, researchers at the university of Massachusetts estimated that training a large single AI model can emit as much carbon dioxide as a car driving for 20 years. In short, due to increase in reliance on AI, environment is affected to a great extent.

In addition, people are seen burning waste in open areas. They are not refrained from doing it. They want to make their belongings neat. In doing so, they pollute the environment. For example, they burn things which they consider useless for them, instead of handing over to them whose duty is to manage waste. Given this, people pollute the environment by burning waste.

Not only are people refrained from burning waste in open areas, but people are also seen throwing trash in green areas. They do nothing but to enhance the pollution in the air. They believe that they can make their vehicles neat, forgetting that nothing is clean until the entire area is clean. For example, green belts in various countries are filled with garbage. Unfortunately, garbage is thrown by educated people from their vehicles for most of the times. Given this, people make the environment dirty by considering the earth basket.

When it comes to states, there is withdrawal of countries from climate agreements. Regrettably, they do not consider climate change a threat to their life. Thus, they are happy to pull out of pacts signed for maintaining the environment and becoming this world a peaceful place to live in. For example, during his government, former president of the US Mr. Donald Trump pulled his country out of Paris Agreement, which was signed back in 2015 for bettering the environment. To conclude, countries do not want to better the environment because they are not taking this issue seriously.

Additionally, countries have indulged themselves in the trade of carbons. They only want to materialize their economic goals; they have nothing to do with the betterment of the climate. They are importing carbons from those countries that did not cross their given quota, which shows that they do not want to deal with the issue of climate change. In 1997, in order to make environment better, Kyoto Protocol allotted specific carbon quota to each state. 40 richest countries crossed their quota by emitting carbons in the air; and 150 countries did not cross the limit. Instead of praising those countries, the UK started importing carbons from them. Other rich countries also followed the UK. In sum, rich countries do not want to make the environment friendly to live in.

As a consequent, people are facing many an issue, the chief among which is rise in temperature. They have to live in hot climate. Many researchers, who are doing their research on environment, are of the view that rise in temperature is due to human activities. According to the World Research Institute, 1.1 degree Celsius rise in the temperature of the earth since The Industrial Revolution. Given this, people face hot climate due to their own activities.

Rise in temperature results in melting of glaciers. It happens due to climate change; and climate is changing due to the activities of people. In fact, glaciers do not melt at rapid speed if climate does not change in an unnatural way. According to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Himalayan have already lost about 40 per cent their area in the last several hundred years; and process is only expected to increase its speed. In short, rise in temperature contributes a lot in melting the glaciers in the world.

Owing to melting of glaciers, there is occurrence of floods. Floods only increase with melting of glaciers. Water of the glaciers fall into the seas; and the seas cause floods to a great extent. According to Federal Floods omission, Pakistan has witnessed some 30 major floods since 1950. In conclusion, floods take place due to melting of glaciers, for water of glaciers fall into the seas, which is a recipe for floods.

Resultantly, countries are economically weakened. Floods damage the infrastructure of the countries. As a result, governments have to invest to overhaul the infrastructure of countries. According to the then Planning Minister of Pakistan, Pakistan faced the loss of 10 billion dollars due to damage done by the floods of 2022. To sum up, floods create economic problems for a state.

What is more, there is rise in health problems. The reason is that water of the flood is not clean. It makes people suffer from different diseases. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), in 2022, Pakistan reported 4531 of Measles and 15 cases of wild poliovirus. The main reason behind the rise of cases was flash floods of 2022. Given this, people endure health problems for not caring of environment in the first place.

Besides, many people kick the bucket. It means that they do not survive. Some of them die due to water-borne diseases. However, other pass away due to electrocution or drowning. According to the National Disaster and Management Authority (NDMA), more than 1,700 people had died till November 2022. They met that tragedy due to the floods. In a nutshell, innocent people die due to flood which is an offshoot of activities of other people.

Like many other things, education of students is affected. They find it difficult to continue their studies due to fury of the environment. Whenever floods take place, they destroy their schools, depriving thousands of students of their basic right. According to the Pakistan Education Sector Working Group, the floods of 2022 damaged a total of 34,204 schools in 126 districts. In short, it can be said with a fair degree of certainty that children are deprived of education due to floods which are the response to the activities of people.

Due to abovementioned issues, migration of people happens. They leave their home towns. They think that by changing their locations, they can change their destiny; and they can start living a happy and prosperous life. In this regard, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that every year between 2008-2016, an average of 21.5 million people were forcibly displaced by weather-related hazards. To conclude, people migrate due to the worst environment.

Though environment has created dozens of issues for mankind, these issues can be addressed if people start planting trees. In this way, environment can be clean. The importance of planting of trees is mentioned by prophets of God. Prophet Muhammad said, “even if resurrection were established upon any one of you while he has in his hand a sapling, let him finish it.” He further said, “If a Muslim plants a tree, and sows its seeds, then a bird or a man or an animal eats from it, it is regarded as charitable gift (Sadaqa) for him.” In sum, people must act upon the Hadiths of prophet Muhammad by planting trees as many as possible for them.

Besides, there must be adherence to use used things. They must not throw those things in their dust bins, which can be used. In doing so, they can protect the environment because manufacturers do not have to make those things. Consequently, carbon is not emitted in the air. For example, people can use shopping bags again and again. They can also use box of one item for carrying other purposes. In short, to save the environment, people must make sure usage of the used things if possible.

Furthermore, environment must be taught as a separate subject in schools. By taking this step, children can be made aware of the importance of protecting the environment. Having felt the importance of this subject, several school education departments have introduced Climate Change as a separate subject. They are training their students to be responsible citizens by taking care of their environment. For example, in 2022, the School Education Department in Southern Punjab launched Climate Change as a separate subject in formal teaching in all the public schools (Zile Huma, “Climate Education”, February 2023). In conclusion, like the School Education Department in Southern Punjab, other school departments in the world must start teaching their students about grappling with the issue of climate change.

In addition, there must be provision of funds for better air quality. In this way, governments can motivate the local governments to work towards cleaning the environment. Several countries have introduced this scheme. They know that this is one of the important ways to grapple with the issue of poor air quality. For example, cities of India with a population of over

10 million people can apply to a government fund of 1.7 billion US dollars provided they reduce air pollution levels by 15 per cent every year (Daud Khan, “Stopping the killer smog in our cities”, March 2023). In short, like India, other countries must provide funds to local governments to clean the environment.

To sum up, Humans have been affecting the environment by their activities for long. Haplessly, they are cutting the forests. They do not do vertical expansion. They are destroying irrigable land for housing societies. There is rapid industrialization. AI models are playing their role in polluting the environment by emitting carbon dioxide in the air. Besides, people are continuously burning the wastes and throwing their garbage. Several governments have failed to uphold the sanctity of international accords dealing with the menace of climate change. In fact, countries are importing carbons from other nations. After being disturbed by human activities, environment responds. Consequently, humans suffer to a great extent. They endure hot weather; hot weather results in melting of glaciers. Water of glaciers, along with the water of the seas, causes floods; and floods have several repercussions for humans. They affect the economies of the countries. They also increase health problems for the people, which lead them to die. Education of thousands of students is also affected. Due to such crisis, people migrate on a large scale. People must understand if they do not stop affecting their environment, then their issues will increase in days to come. In order to make environment good for humans, people must plant trees; and they must use things that they can use again, rather than throwing them into baskets. Besides, to make students aware of the threats, Climate Change must be taught as a separate subject in schools. Governments must render funds to those local governments that work for cleaning the air, so that other could be motivated to follow suit. In short, people have affected the environment; thus, they are facing the consequences. However, by taking aforementioned steps they can combat the threat of climate change in days to come.