

Is Climate Change A Result Of Anthropogenic Activities Or A Natural Phenomenon?

Outline

I- Introduction

II- Climate change - an overview

III- Climate change is partially a natural phenomenon:

a. Earth undergoes extreme changes over the time

b. Release of toxic gases in atmosphere from volcanic eruptions

c. Increase in global temperatures due to El Nino-La Nina cycle

d. Change in Earth's climatic conditions caused by variation in solar radiations

IV- Climate change is mostly a result of anthropogenic activities:

a. Rise in global temperatures due to rampant industrialization

b. Depletion of ozone layer caused by release of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) from motor mobiles

c. Habitat fragmentation - imbalance in biodiversity by virtue of urbanization

d. Loss of carbon sinks due to growing deforestation a result of overpopulation

e. Contribution of toxic gases during unsafe agricultural practices

f. Increase in ocean acidification because of nuclear testing and dumping of nuclear waste in seawater

g. Destruction of major carbon absorbers - coral reefs and kelp forests - by energy spills

h. Exacerbation of climate crisis due to exchange of carbon credits by nation states

V - Efforts done so far to mitigate climate crisis

VI - Further efforts required to mitigate climate crisis:

a. Nature based solutions required - restoring ecosystems

b. Priority based climate financing required for transition to green technology

c. High time for climate action and not climate pledges

d. Stern implementation of sustainable development goals linked with climate change

VII - Conclusion

x-----x

Climate change represents one of the most pressing global challenges of the history, with far reaching implications for planet's ecosystems, economies and societies. The Earth's climate has always been dynamic, but the rapid and unprecedented changes observed in recent debates have raised critical questions about their underlying causes. Although

scientists call climate change a natural phenomenon but overwhelmingly scientific consensus and a wealth of evidence point out to human activities, such as burning of fossil fuels, deforestation and industrial processes as the primary drivers of the climate change. The crisis is exacerbating with rapid increase in global temperatures, depletion of ozone layer, habitat fragmentation, loss of carbon sinks, ocean acidification and destruction of carbon absorbers. However, quick adaptation of green technology and developing ~~against~~ resilience against climate change is the dire need of the hour.