

Threat of Global Warming and Ways to Counter it

A. Introduction

B. Threat of Global Warming

- (i) Loss of global ice coverage has led to scarcity of water.
- (ii) Rising sea level is a threat to global coastal population.
- (iii) Natural disasters are becoming more recurrent events.
- (iv) Infrastructural damages are becoming a serious issue for states.
- (v) Rising global temperature is a threat to human wellbeing and survival.
- (vi) Changing weather patterns have led to loss of agricultural productivity.
- (vii) Interstate disputes are seen on natural resources.

C. Ways to Counter Global Warming

- (i) There is a dire need to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.
- (ii) Global forest cover should be increased.
- (iii) Implementation on the existing environmental agreements and treaties.
- (iv) Sustainable industrialization should be promoted.
- (v) Increase focus on environmental education.
- (vi) Urbanization practices should be made more sustainable.
- (vii) All the global actors (state and non-state) should improve international cooperation.

D. Conclusion

In 2015 delegates from many states and organizations were gathered in Paris reaching to almost 40,000 in number. Looking at the huge number of people involved, it seemed to be an issue of high politics that requires international cooperation. However, the issue was in contrary related to low politics - climate change and global warming. One of the serious issue the world is facing today is global warming. It refers to increase in global temperature annually. Reason behind calling it serious issue is due to the multiple threats that generates because of it. But multiple efforts should be taken to counter it and minimize its effects. One of the major threat of global warming is a rapid shrinking in global ice covers that ultimately lead to shortage of water. This gives birth to another important issue that is inter state dispute over natural resources, most importantly over sharing water. Not only this, but rising temperature makes it difficult for the living things to survive. Along with living organisms the repercussions are seen on the agricultural productivity. However, there are certain ways to counter it. The biggest contributor of global warming is green house gases which emissions should be minimized. Along with this, more and more trees should be planted to increase the global forest cover. As this is the issue common to all of the states in the world therefore

collective efforts should be taken by all and inter-state cooperation to solve the issue should be promoted. Furthermore, people should be given education about environmental issues and increase the awareness about the cause.

It is evident that there are many threats because of global warming. However, multiple ways should be taken to cope up with it.

First threat that is present because of global warming is the frequent retreat in the global ice coverage that leads to scarcity of water. In other words, it means that rising temperature has intensified the melting of ice present in the world. Only a scarce amount of water is present on surface. Rest is stored in ice caps but it is also melting faster which makes water shortage a severe issue. According to research almost 50% of ice caps have been melted in Russia, 20% of America and significant portion of Pakistan's ice caps ^{has melted} as per NDMA. Thus shrinking of the ice and glaciers leading towards water shortage is prevalent issue.

Another threat that world faces today is a huge rise in the sea levels. Beyond the normal level water in sea is rising. This is a matter of concern to the population that is living in coastal

areas. Any increase in water at sea will have direct impact on them due to which their lives are under danger. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association there is rise of 8 inches in the sea level annually. This is threat to 2.5 million people living in coastal areas. Therefore, rising sea level is a major threat to coastal population world wide.

To add with, natural disasters are also becoming a matter of routine in world due to global warming. ^{As Antonio Guterres said "Era of global warming has ended"} High temperature leads to outbreak of forest fires. Not only this, but issues like floods are associated with global warming.

According to a research of 2015 it was said that floods will become a normal event, this can be confirmed through occurrence of many floods from 2014 to 2019. In 2022, urban flooding was seen in many areas of Pakistan, India faced the same problem in 2023. Hence, global warming has contributed significantly in increase of natural disasters.

Another, major threat that global warming causes indirectly is the infrastructural loss.

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It is referred as indirect because global warming directly does not contribute to infrastructure damage.

But due to the floods and natural disasters, states have to face huge infrastructural loss. According to NDMA, almost 500 bridges and 2300 km roads are destroyed in Pakistan due to the flood of 2022. So it becomes evident that global warming contributes to damage of infrastructure.

Moreover, global warming has significantly led to an increase in the temperature. The Earth's temperature is rising significantly with every passing year. It becomes hard for humans to survive in such high temperature, thus impacting the well-being of humans. June 2023 was the hottest month in the last 120,000 years. Furthermore, Hajj 2024 turns out to be tragic as almost 1300 people lost their lives due to more than 50°C temperature. Therefore, it becomes a significant threat to the survival of humans.

Global warming has also contributed towards agricultural loss. It means that many of the crops are destroyed due to it.

As the weather patterns are becoming more inconsistent so it affects the agriculture, some times due to excess of rain i.e. floods other times due to excessive temperature. According to a research carried out in 2023 mangoes in Pakistan had not grown properly due to fluctuation in specific temperature required for optimal growth. Hence, global warming impacts the agricultural productivity drastically.

The inter state conflicts are seen due to the adverse impacts of global warming. It means that states have disputes over the resources they share. Most common resource that state share is water. As the world faces the issue of scarcity of water so the dispute related to them are becoming more evident. The dispute between Pakistan and India over Kishenganga dam project is associated with it. Therefore, global warming has contributed towards conflicts between state.

Undoubtedly, there are numerous threats that world is facing because of global warming.

However, if the issue is addressed and certain pragmatic steps are taken, these threats will minimize in the numbers. Thus the need of time is to counter the issue on priority basis. As Antonio

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For carrying the process of minimizing the threats of global warming reduction in emission of green house gases should be the first agenda. Green house gases are the biggest contributor of global warming. If successfully its emission are controlled the issue will be tackled. According to Intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) CO₂ contributes almost 61% in global warming. As CO₂ is major contributor in global warming if cuts will be applied on its emissions the issue will be resolved. Hence, the reduction in emission of GHGs should be implemented

Another important step is to increase the number of forests. Forest serves as an important source in absorbing carbon dioxide which is biggest contributor of global warming. Plantation of more trees instead of cutting them is the most crucial step in countering threats of global warming. As per international consensus there should be 20-25% forest

cover. Thus, the most easiest way to counter global warming that is plantation should be done on early and regular basis.

Not only this but implementation on the existing policies will help in countering many of threats caused by global warming.

In other words, many states have already recognized that global warming is a threat and to counter it policies are made. However, issue lies in states non-compliance towards

both home policies and external. Nuclear non proliferation

treaty has turned out to be largely successful because serious efforts were taken for its implementation. ^{same should be done} Hence,

climate and global warming policies need to be implemented to tackle the issue just like other issues are done. ^{for global warming}

Moreover, to counter the threats of global warming industrial practices should be made sustainable.

Eliminating the industrial practices of course is not a practical option. But making it environmental friendly can actually lead to win-win situation.

Thus, the industrialization should be done by using methods that promote sustainability which includes using filters, dumping industrial waste properly,

and cutting of emissions of GHGs. The use of E cars have lead a significant decrease in emissions of GHGs. Hence need is to practice industrialization but with a more sustainable approach.

Additionally educating people about environmental problems is an effective way. As the environmental pollution and global warming are the biggest issues we all face. So the need is to frame collectively agenda to aware the masses about the repercussions of these issues. Quoting the importance of keeping environment clean according to religious thoughts will make the strategy more effective by including people from different backgrounds. History proves by making people aware of certain problem helps in mitigating it better. Hence, there should be focus on prioritizing environmental education.

Another important step that should be taken to counter the threats of global warming is sustainable urbanization. To get better facilities people have to move towards cities.

First implication of urbanization is cutting of trees. Trees and forest areas are converted into residential areas. But by practicing urbanization in a way that damages environment least is a need. Sponge cities in China are one of the

best case study where cities are expanded vertically. In left over, horizontal areas plantation is done and different water pools are made to increase the aesthetism and sustainable environment of cities. So, urbanization is need to be practiced by environment friendly means.

At last, all the global actors should prioritize the issue on all the available platforms. Cooperation should be done by the states to solve the common threat. For upholding the cooperation there is need to have agreements at global level. The agreements should be binding in nature and penalties or sanctions should be imposed in case of any non compliance. Furthermore, global north-developed states should provide monetary support to global south-developing states so they can adopt sustainable practices. An every year COP meeting binding commitments should be made by the states. Thus cooperation will surely help in overcoming threats.

Ana-nutshelly

↑ Global warming has significantly contributed in creation of many threats for the environment but by following multiple paths these threats can be mitigated. Global warming has

contributed towards occurrence of multiple natural disasters from floods to droughts. In the aftermath of disasters states face the issue of infrastructure damages from roads to bridges. Rising sea level due to global ice retreat has led a severe threat to the coastal population worldwide. There are certain steps that states, human and every actor should take to counter these threats. Most important among all is sustainable industrial practices to minimize the negative impacts. Along with this, the process of urbanization should be done with environmental friendly practices. At last, existing institutions, policies and agreements should be implemented by the states. Although, climate change and global warming are the most challenging issue of 21st century but the issue can also be solved in this century too. The need is to uphold the environmental commitments and the prospects of having clean and green motherland will be maximized. The earth and mother planet will be saved if the actors follow a path of commitment towards mitigating the cause.

"Our story of climate change is still in our hands but clock is ticking"