

Population Explosion and Environmental Degradation are Thetical to Each other.

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President of the USA, Franklin D. Roosevelt, said, "The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself". He wanted to emphasize on the protection of soil and environment by the people because environment is very important for people and they sometimes don't realize it and take it for granted. Environment is getting damaged by the people due to unplanned activities which is not impacting positively in return. Human beings are increasing day by day and their activities to degrade environment is also increasing with them. More demand from more population is increasing industrial activities leading to more carbon emission and climate change which is mainly because of human lifestyle. Deforestation is also increasing creating loss of biodiversity. As human beings are exploiting nature and environment it is also impacting in a negative manner by natural disasters creating a huge economic loss and burden on governments to manage it. Furthermore increase in temperature is

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causing glaciers to melt and increase in sea levels which are threat to Coastal cities and creating issues of migration.

Therefore it would not be wrong to say that the rapid increase in population growth has intensified environmental degradation by creating resource depletion and pollution. As a result it also has adverse affects on population:

Starting with impacts of population explosion on environmental degradation is that it creates resource depletion due to increase in demand. As much population increase so is with demand of resources. To manage such a big population creates lack of resources and only some part of the population is able to get them and others remain empty handed. According to the report of United Nations global human population has reached upto 8.1 Billion people in 2023 and it was only 2.5 Billion in 1950s, Population of world grew fastly in last two decades

with the speed of explosion. Therefore it is not possible at the moment to manage resources and produce them as well with the pace with which human population is growing. Therefore, as much human beings will grow in number it will keep on creating scarcity of resources in the world.

In addition, increase in population is creating more agricultural practices to meet nutritional needs which is creating soil depletion. In past there were fewer people and agricultural activities fewer times in a year were enough to meet the demands of people but now population has been increased and even agriculturing on more land and multiple times, still some areas lack food resources. These all activities create soil erosion and depletion which resultantly stops yielding and creates famine. As Thomas Robert Malthus says in his Malthusian Theory that population grows exponentially but food grows linearly, eventually leading to the problem of

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more for people and less food. Even if temporary food supply improve living conditions, but soon population will grow again, bringing back people to basic, struggling again. This practice keeps on depleting soil and eventually creates shortage of food.

Furthermore, more population created more industries and those industrial activities lead to more carbon emission. To meet needs of people, more industrialization has become the need of time but it is not free of cost it is increasing the carbon rate in the atmosphere because industries use different chemicals and substances to produce finished goods from raw material. But this increased carbon emission is damaging the atmosphere and its increased number will be hazardous for people living on the earth. To contrast the pre-industrial era the atmospheric carbon dioxide levels in 1.0s were around 275 parts per million (ppm) and in 2024 it is

approximately 427 (ppm). If these activities kept on going in a similar manner then it would be difficult to overcome the situation and industrial activities will keep on emitting more carbon and keep on putting world in a vulnerable condition.

Likewise many other activities in human lifestyle is creating rapid increase in climate change. Now a days people are getting used to of a comfortable lifestyles with the technological innovations in multiple sectors of life i.e. Transportation. One of the major element in our lifestyle is the way in which we travel from one place to another. These all practices consume fossil fuels which are non-renewable energy resources and create damage to atmosphere. As per the report of United Nations transport sector is responsible for approximately one quarter of greenhouse gas emission, and 98% of the transport energy still comes from the fossil fuels. This dependency of human beings on the

fossil fuels in their daily lives is creating rise in the temperature of the world which eventually increases the climate change.

Moreover, not only this human beings are rapidly doing deforestation which is creating loss of biodiversity.

There are multiple purposes for which human beings do deforestation one of them is to meet their energy needs by burning the wood, other one is

by making goods of their daily use and deforestation is also done to

make semi housing societies. Deforestation will not affect badly if it is done

in a limited manner and by planting trees continuously. But if this is not

done deforestation can cause harmful affects on population as well be

increasing the temperature and carbon level. Still there is increase in the

level of deforestation with each passing year as the report of WWF Brazil

Deforestation in the Amazon remains

at high levels with a rate of 11,568 km²

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in 2022. It creates loss of biodiversity and nature which becomes very difficult to restore.

Additionally, increase in population is causing overcrowding in cities with better facilities which ultimately creates pollution. Cities in which there are more people become overcrowded and people live in dense areas. Increase in energy consumption and traffic usage. More population creates higher concentration of air pollutants in the air causing air pollution as well as scarcity of resources. For instance Delhi, home to 33 million people is regularly ranked as the most polluted city in the world according to Air Quality Life Index report compiled by University of Chicago. Moreover according to ^{the} report people of Delhi could have their lives shortened by almost 12 years due to the poor air they breathe in. All this pollution is mainly caused by the dense population of the city.

Also, Inappropriate waste management practices becomes cause of land erosion and also of air pollution. There are many countries in which there is no proper mechanism of waste management but they produce huge amount of waste due to their large population which becomes problem for that country by eroding their land and problem for other countries by turning into the air pollution eventually. Some of the wastes which are most hazardous to human and aquatic life which needs to be decomposed properly is plastic. It is one of the most dangerous substance and according to the report of UN environment program, By 2040, there will be 1.3 Billion tons of plastic waste present in the environment. In such conditions not only human beings are at risk but also the species living in water as well, therefore, ^{improper} waste management is hazardous for land, air and water.

Due to all these activities of human beings and their unstoppable population environment gets degraded but consequently environmental degradation also adversely impacts the human population in negative ways.

Firstly, Environmental pollution affects human health in a negative way. It creates many problems for people specially who has weak respiratory system. Our body needs clean air for proper respiratory functioning but due to industrialization we are not able to get clean air which is impacting our health. The World Health Organization estimates that air pollution kills 7 million people every year. It is because of that environment which gets degraded by human beings and it returns to them by such impacts on health.

Secondly, Environmental Degradation causes Natural Hazards which creates a lot of problems for human beings.

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in aspects of economic constraints as well as for governments to provide service delivery. It impacts more badly to the developing and weaker countries because they already lack sources to manage governance in normal times but such disaster creates hurdles for their people even ten folds. For example UNICEF declared 2022 floods in Pakistan as one of the most devastating floods. It submerged one third of the country, affecting 33 million people, half of whom were children. Pakistan faced more difficulty in managing the situation because of lack of resources and huge population. It created a lot of hurdles for the government as well as for the people.

Meanwhile environmental degradation creates already scarce resources to be unusable by polluting them. There are very limited resources on the earth and most of them are not re-usable. Human activities degrade environment and this degradation

further leads to more contamination of the resources. To better understand let's take example of water. Human activities degrade air and land which resultantly also pollute water and vice versa. Even though there is 71% of water on earth but still only 3% of that water out of 100% is fresh water and 97% is sea water. Even in that 3% of fresh water most of it is in the form of glaciers only 1% of water is usable and even most of it is becoming contaminated due to human activities which is creating scarcity of already scarce resources.

Moreover, extreme weather events are leading to migration. Due to climate change and changed weather patterns some places of earth have become inhabitable and people have to migrate from there to live a normal life. Eventhough it is also because of human beings that created the rise in temperature to this level but it is also human beings those

are getting affected. It is estimated that roughly 2 degrees ^{Celsius} Fahrenheit has increased since 1880 and if it increased with the same level then many places of earth will become unable to do agriculture and people will have to migrate.

Subsequently melting of glaciers and rising sea level as a threat to coastal cities because they will be the most affected ones. As people living near the coastal areas are facing rise of sea level and due to rise in temperature melting of glaciers their lives are becoming difficult. According to the world economic forum around 410 million people could be at risk from rising sea levels by 2100. It will force them to migrate from those areas to some other places which will create overcrowding and imbalance which eventually leads to the mismanagement of resources and their scarcity.

Undoubtedly, Scarced resources also leads to the conflicts and instability among different states and nations and sometimes even within the state. Every country requires resources to fulfill the demands of its people but when resources are limited they exploit others rights which leads to the conflicts. There are multiple countries having instable relation with their neighbours on the basis of shared resources. There are around 153 countries share water resources, only 24 have signed onto cooperation agreement. Others still do not cooperate and exploit resources of each other which eventually creates conflict.

In conclusion, it is evident that environmental degradation occurs due to population explosion and then it impacts that population in all negative possible means. Both of them are impacting one another badly. As discussed before over population cause resource depletion and pollution of

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of environment by many activities.
Environment also impacts population
by affecting their health, economy,
lifestyle and peace. Even though
there is already population increased
at a very higher level and
environment has degraded a lot but
still there are possibilities to amend
the situations in positive way before
it's too late by proper planning
and management.

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