

IS the environment going to listen to our promises?

Outline:

1. Introduction.

Thesis statement:

The world is making promises to restore the environment and ensure its sustainability since decades. However, the current health of environment suggests that they were not as fruitful as they should have been. Deteriorating environment have a negative impact on each and everyone. Environment needs action rather than promises to fully recover.

2. History of promises made with environment.

3. Current health of environment despite the promises.

a) Air pollution

b) Deteriorating wet lands

c) Bio diversity loss

d) Extreme temperatures.

e) Overpopulation

f) Forest fires

g) Rising sea level.

h) Water Scarcity. ~~Glaciers~~ melting of Glaciers

i) Water pollution.

4. How to fulfill the promises made with environment?

- a) No discrimination among countries
- b) Banning Carbon trading
- c) National policies on plantation.
- d) ~~Switching~~ Spending on restoration processes.
- e) International Cooperation.
- f) Role of International organizations to ensure immediate action.

4.5 Consequences of not fulfilling the promises.

5. Conclusion.

ESSAY

The environmental situation of the world is like watching a horror movie, in which next scene is more scary than the one before it. Since decades the world is signing treaties to solve this issue but the real question is whether they are fruitful or not.

Today, the environment is facing all those problems that one can possibly think of. The pollution have become so common. Air, water and land are still polluted despite the treaties.

The Climate Change is on the fall swing. Natural environment, rivers,

seas, wetlands, soil etc, are being destroyed by the human activities. Overpopulation is one of the most severe issues that is being faced by the environment. The glaciers are melting and there is a rise in sea level that is a threat to the coastal population. Natural disasters have become a routine issue. However, an international cooperation and honesty is required to ~~make~~ ease the burden of environment by working together and solving the issues. Both national and international efforts are required. The world is making promises to restore the environment and ensure its sustainability since decades. However the health of the environment suggest that they were not as fruitful as they should have been. Deteriorating environment have a massive impact on each and everyone. Environment need action rather than promises to fully recover.

World is hosting summits and signing treaties since 1970. The United Nation conference on human environment in 1972, was the first of its kind. Since then many treaties have been signed by the majority of states. These include Rio Summit,

Earth summit, Agenda 21, Sustainable development goals (SDGs) etc. No doubt that these treaties have had an impact. ~~but~~ not on the environment. These were made to combat climate change and save the environment. Health of the environment is still getting worse day by day. The world was educated and informed about the environment since 1900's and has been making efforts ever since.

To check the effectiveness of the Treaties and actions taken by the world, the current situation of the environment needs to be analyzed.

One of the biggest problem that the environment is facing is the air pollution. The air is becoming more polluted with every passing day. The reason being toxic emissions from the cars, industries and burning of fossil fuels etc. Right now the atmosphere is extremely polluted. More than 99% of the world's population is breathing polluted air. (United Nations Environment Program UNEP 2023). The air pollution is the biggest threat to the environment.

Moreover, the wetlands are being destroyed. Due to urbanization, fertilizers entering wetlands, water for agriculture being drained by wetlands etc, have destroyed them. Wetlands are important for the environment as they are home to many species. The Florida Everglades is a wetland that is home to nearly 70 endangered species and it has been nearly 50% destroyed due to urbanization and water needs for agriculture. (Environmental Science, Earth as a living planet, Botkin and Keller). Destruction of wetlands, means destruction of habitat and biodiversity, is a concerning problem.

Another issue being faced by the environment is the biodiversity loss. Biodiversity loss is triggered by the pollution and habitat loss. Biodiversity is very important for environment as well as humans, but it is slowly declining. One out of eight birds are at the risk of extinction. (IUCN, International Union for conservation of Nature). Biodiversity is decreasing and is on the verge of extinction.

The world is facing extreme temperatures and they are going to

be more extreme with each passing year. Due to increased green house gases concentration the average global temperature is increasing that is causing extreme temperatures. These are harmful for humans, animals and crops. Extreme heatwave was observed in Europe in the current year. This is the grave situation that needs to be overcome.

Population of the world has reached 7.9 billion. With the increasing population there is an increased threat to the environment. Earth has a carrying capacity and beyond that the environment will not be sustainable. Overpopulation is a very powerful problem. According to Thomas Malthus, the power of population is much much greater than that of the earth's power to produce subsistence. (Environmental Science, Earth as a Living Planet, Botkin). Overpopulation is an issue that can trigger many other issues.

Forest fires have become a routine phenomenon that poses a great threat to the environment. Forest fires destroy habitat, carbon sinks, biodiversity and also cause pollution. Many forests have gone through

this devastating situation. Amazon forest caught fire in 2019 and had devastating impact on the environment. Forests are the integral part of the environment and these fires suggest the bad environment situation.

Rising sea levels paint a grim picture of the environment's health. Due to global warming and climate change, sea levels are on the rise. This issue intensified with the melting of glaciers. It is a threat to coastal cities. The coastal cities are drowning each year. Jakarta is drowning and it will have to replace its population. Cities are becoming the part of the sea. It shows a threat to the environment.

Glaciers are melting at the rate faster than ever. This shows how bad the environment situation has become. Glaciers are the source of fresh water. Their melting will not only cause lack of freshwater availability but also flooding, infrastructural loss, damage crops, refugee problem etc. Most of the world's glaciers are melting at the fastest speed. Himalayan glaciers are 50% melted. This is a serious environmental issue.

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Moreover, the environment is facing the issue of water pollution. Contaminants from the land enter the water bodies and affect the ecosystem. When fertilizers enter water bodies, it increases the concentration of nutrients in water bodies, that results in eutrophication. It is the problem in majority of the water bodies. Cultural eutrophication in the Gulf of Mexico due to the drainage of Mississippi River is a serious environmental concern. Water pollution has the tendency to destroy the environment.

After analyzing the situation of environment, it must not be wrong to conclude that there should be steps taken to preserve the environment so that the promise that is made is fulfilled and environment responds to it.

Most important thing to consider to restore the environment is to make sure that there is no discrimination among the states. All the states of the world need to be responsible and work for the cause. Developing and developed world, both need to cut down their emissions and shift

to clean energy, ensure that environment may be protected. World major powers need to lead by example. Both should be held answerable to their emissions without any kind of discrimination and favourism.

Carbon emission is the biggest issue that contribute to almost all of the environmental problems. It may lead to global warming, pollution, climate change etc. Carbon trading is hindering the idea of carbon cuts to decrease the environmental problems. Developing countries buy carbon quota from those who have not reached their limit. Resultantly, there are no significant cuts. Carbon trading needs to be banned to ensure smooth environmental recovery.

Trees are the important part of environment. They purify the environment, provides habitat for biodiversity etc. The world is doing deforestation that should be stopped. A plantation and reforestation needs to be a part of government policies. In 2018, Imran Khan, the then PM of Pakistan, initiated a Billion Tree Tsunami project. Reforestation should be the part of political manifesto of the parties also the national government.

Along with that, restoration of the rivers, seas, soil etc should be done. Investment from the world to protect the environment and restoration is important. Restoration of natural environment will ensure its sustainability. The Florida Everglades restoration is under process. This will have a big cost but the environmental benefits are innumerable. Restoration is an important part of environmental wellbeing.

Solving any kind of global issue requires cooperation among the international community. Cooperation in terms of finances, technology and research is necessary. Developed nations should help developing and underdeveloped nations so that they can also contribute to the environmental protection. Cooperation produces fruitful results.

Role of international organizations like UN, is always significant. It needs to ensure the applications of the rules and implement sanctions on the countries breaking the rules. There should be strict environmental laws binding

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In nature to ensure action rather than promises only. International organizations need to have a strong stance on environment.

In conclusion, it can be said that the environment is facing a lot of problems right now. These problems are evident in nature as the natural course of environment is changing.

Different kinds of pollution and deteriorating ecosystems are the evidence of the environment destruction. Treaties and promises have been made but still the environment is not recovering. However, this is not a problem that is impossible to solve. With strong determination, international cooperation and strong institutions, this problem will slowly but surely fade away.
