

Topic: The environment has gone beyond the tipping point now

Outline

(1) Introduction:

- The era of global ~~weather~~ boiling has started.

Thesis statement: Climate change caused excessive greenhouse gas emission has pushed the environment beyond tipping point by kickstarting the era of global warming in which extreme weather events, rising sea level and loss of biodiversity are the norms. Unprecedented efforts are needed to undo the massive environmental damage and to repair the environment.

(2) The current status of environment that shows that it has gone beyond the tipping point:

- In June 2023, average earth temperature crossed the 1.5°C

Threshold

- July 2023 was the hottest month ever recorded

(3) Unveiling the culprits, factors which have pushed environment beyond the tipping point:

(A) Excessive reliance on fossil fuels for energy production

(B) Deforestation to make room for agriculture, industrialization and urbanization

(4) Destructive impacts which shows that ~~our~~ environment has gone beyond the tipping point:

(A) loss of global biodiversity

(B) Extreme weather events; droughts, floods and heatwaves

(C) Rising sea level and human migration

(D) pollution, ocean acidification and

depletion of natural resources.

(5) Failure of global efforts to protect the environment:

- the sad case of Kyoto protocol and Paris climate agreement

(6) Hurdles in the way of reaching a global consensus on environment protection:

(A) Global South vs global north; the issue of climate justice and current responsibilities

(B) Tragedy of commons vs national interest

(C) Climate scientists vs climate skeptics; the existence of powerful fossil fuel lobby

(7) Measures to repair and stabilize the environment:

(A) Shift to renewables and behavioral changes

(B) Environmental protection and technology; climate engineering and AI

(C) Transnational problems need transnational solutions

(8) Conclusion:

Essay

"we are the first generation to see the impacts of environmental degradation and we are also the last generation to do something about it"

Barack Obama

Manifestations of environment going beyond the tipping point were vividly observed in Pakistan in 2022. It was hit by extreme weather events like unprecedented monsoon precipitations and flash flood. 30 million people were affected and billions of dollars were lost. Pakistan contended that what happened in Pakistan will not remain in Pakistan.

Similarly, United Nations' Secretary General Antonio Guterres opined that era of 'global warming' is over and era of 'global boiling' is started. Humanity has crossed the environmental

threshold. July 2023 was the hottest month ever recorded.

Excessive greenhouse gas emission from overreliance on fossil fuels and unsustainable development practices have pushed environment beyond tipping point. The impacts of such a dangerous transformation can be seen in the recurring extreme weather events and loss of global biodiversity. Environmental degradation is a classical case of ~~that~~ tragedy of commons which is affecting everyone without any discrimination. The global efforts have failed in the face of this crisis. Mankind has prioritized instead instant gratification and short term goals over long term collective goals. Hence, climate changed spurred by massive amount of greenhouse gas emission has pushed the environment beyond the tipping point. Urgent global efforts are needed to stabilize the environment because,

We have not inherited the environment from our forefathers but borrowed it from our future generations.

To add, the current status of environment shows that it has gone beyond tipping point. World witnessed the hottest month ever in July 2023. For the first time in human history, the global average temperature crossed the threshold of 1.5°C in the summer of 2023. The temperature change also went beyond 2°C above pre-industrial level, also for the ~~same~~ first time in 2023. All these unprecedented changes manifest that, we are inflicting unprecedented damage to the environment. The recent IPCC report also signify the unprecedented changes environment is experiencing in contemporary world.

Similarly, greenhouse

gases like CO_2 , NO_2 , CH_4 and different other gases are the usual culprits and driving factors, which have pushed the environment beyond tipping point.

Excessive reliance on fossil fuels for energy production is a major cause. Burning of fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal release excessive amount of greenhouse gases like CO_2 , NO_2 and CH_4 in the environment. Similarly, greenhouse gas emission from vehicles and industries is also warming the earth. Massive emission of these gases have enhanced the greenhouse effect, which has warmed the earth to an unprecedented level. Hence, the anthropogenic interference in the form of greenhouse gas emission from fossil fuel burning has pushed the earth environment beyond tipping point.

Furthermore, deforestation on large scale is also a major

factor behind environmental degradation. Deforestation waves are going on in the world to make room for agriculture, industrialization and urbanization. Such unsustainable land use changes have degraded the environment to a great extent.

It is estimated that every year deforestation on the scale of area equal to country like Libya are conducted. Each

tree store 300 tons of CO_2 in it. Similarly, deforestation in Amazon forest is another case in point regarding environment degradation in the form of deforestation. Due to deforestation

all the greenhouse gas stored in forests are being ~~re~~ released in the environment.

Hence, large scale deforestation is also another major factor which has pushed the environment beyond tipping point.

With the environment going beyond tipping point, the nature is striking back. It seems to be saying that ~~let~~ count your money while holding your breath. It is replying back in the form of climate change. The major impacts of environmental degradation are discussed in the following paragraphs.

To add, loss of global biodiversity is a vivid ~~manifestation~~ manifestation of environment degradation. Coral bleaching because of ocean acidification is a clear example. Coral reefs along with forests and wetlands are considered to be world's ecosystems that are richest in biodiversity. Habitats are diminishing and fragmentation is going on in large scale. Ecosystems are being destroyed along with numerous species because of climate change spurred by global warming. Loss of biodiversity is cause also an effect of

massive environmental degradation.

Moreover, recurring extreme weather events like droughts, floods and heatwaves are signs of environment going beyond the tipping point. Flash floods are wreaking havoc all around the world. Droughts are deteriorating the already poor situation of ~~env~~ food security. Many people are losing their life all around the world because of stronger heatwaves. The collective impact these extreme weather events are affecting the third world countries disproportionately. This has struck a huge dent on global effort regarding global hunger and poverty. Third world countries which are not that much responsible for ~~env~~ environment degradation are the most vulnerable ones from the effects of climate change.

defined by environmental degradation.

Similarly, rising sea level signify the unprecedented damage inflicted on environment. Numerous coastal region would be under the water in coming decades according to IPCC report. Rising sea level is result of melting of polar glaciers, ice caps and ocean acidification spurred by climate change. The resources of coastal regions are being depleted by rising sea level. This has resulted in mass human migration on large scale. This shift signify that future wars will be fought for the depleting natural resources of the earth. Hence, rising sea level is a clear manifestation of environment going beyond tipping point. Moreover, pollution (water, soil, land) is also a great example of environmental degradation on large scale. Water pollution has caused ocean acidification

which is destroying the ocean environment. Ocean contains large amount of natural resources and contribute in fulfilling the energy needs of the world. Similarly, pollution and ocean acidification is putting a huge toll on global biodiversity, not to mention ~~to~~ their global health impact. Millions of people are dying around the globe from air water and land pollution. Hence, extreme weather events coupled with spectre of pollution signify that environment has gone beyond tipping point.

To add, global efforts in the domain of environmental protection has been a lost cause. National interests have always trump the global efforts to protect the environment and to avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference to it. It took UN led conference of parties 28 meeting

to finally build a consensus regarding the causes of environmental degradation. The global efforts to decarbonize the world have proved to be a major failure. Kyoto protocol failed because leading emitters like US and UK refused to ratify it. Efforts under Paris climate agreement turned out to be too little to make a significant shift. Hence, global efforts have failed to make a significant shift from unsustainable development, which is destroying the environment.

Moreover, there are numerous bottlenecks which have made the global consensus on environmental protection an elusive phenomenon. The major hurdle is differences between global south and global north on environmental protection. Global south opine that, it is responsibility of global north

to protect the environment, because they have started the phenomenon of global environmental degradation. They opine that poverty is the biggest polluter. They have to rely on fossil fuels to reach their development goals and feed billions of people. Global north contend that they cannot be declared responsible for a phenomenon, which they are not even aware of. They opine that China and India are the biggest emitters in contemporary world. They even know about the fact that their development model is hurting the environment. Hence, they are not the sole environmental villains. Hence, the issue of climate justice is a major hurdle to on the way of reaching a global consensus about environment. To add, the clash of tragedy of commons and national interest

is another major bottleneck. Environmental degradation is a classical case of tragedy of commons, that is why no one is taking the responsibility. Human's inherent nature of pursuing instant gratification in the form of narrow interests over long-term benefits have stymied the global efforts to collectively work for environmental protection. When it comes to ~~not~~ environment, national interests will always trump global interests. As they say, everyone's responsibility is no one's responsibility. Hence, the clash between global interests and national interests are affecting the global efforts regarding environmental protection.

Similarly, differences between climate scientists and climate skeptics are a major ~~not~~ constraint in the way of reaching of global consensus regarding environmental protection. According to America,

The issue of climate change is a Chinese plot to stop the economic development of America. Similarly, Brazilian president - the killer of Amazon forests is a major climate skeptic. Billions of dollars are being spent on numerous Oxford and Harvard based scientists to research about the fakeness of climate change and environmental degradation. They opine that claims of environmental degradation by climate scientists are grossly exaggerated. On the other hand, climate scientists are raising the alarm and urging the world to do something about environmental degradation and climate change before it becomes too late.

Climate change caused by environmental degradation is an existential challenge faced by the world. As Ban

Mr. moon said, it recognises no borders and affects everyone equally. It is the responsibility of mankind to repair the environment and protect the mother earth. Measures to repair and stabilize the environment are discussed in the following paragraphs.

~~Shift~~ Shift to renewables, clean energy and swift behavioral changes can mitigate the environmental damages. World has to go carbon neutral very soon to save the planet. Environment needs to be decarbonized. Green projects should be initiated and states need to shift towards blue economy. Sustainable and clean development should be the norm to make this earth a breathable place. Solar, wind and hydel projects should be enhanced to fulfill the energy need.

Electrical vehicles should be included in transport systems. ~~Case~~ Carbon and emission tax along with emission control measures should be initiated. Behavioral changes to decrease the carbon footprint on individual and societal basis should be formed to save the environment.

Moreover, technology should be incorporated in global environmental protection measures. Climate engineering should be the norm to sequester carbon and clean the environment. AI can be used to protect the environment and to shift towards, clean energy and clean production. Many countries like Sweden and Finland are using AI for climate adaptation, ~~Resilience~~ Resilience and adaptation measures. The scope of AI in the domain of environmental protection

Should be broadened to make a significant shift. With the help of technology, the shift to sustainable development and clean and efficient energy production can become possible. Environmental degradation and climate change is beyond the scope of any individual country. It is a transnational problem that needs a transnational solution. Hence, with the help of technological advancement and global efforts environment can be repaired and stabilized.

In conclusion, due to anthropogenic interferences environment has gone beyond tipping point and urgent global efforts are needed to repair it. Unsustainable development with excessive reliance on fossil fuels have affected the environment to a large extent.

There are signs of massive environmental degradation in

the forms of extreme weather events and loss of biodiversity. Dangerous anthropogenic interferences to environment has spurred the nature to wreak havoc on planet. Global efforts have failed to phase out fossil fuels and to make a significant shift to sustainable development. Countries narrow national interests and disagreements are affecting the global efforts to form a global consensus on environment. Environmental degradation has become an existential challenge. It is a transnational problem, which needs transnational solutions.

As Kofi Annan said, "move them ever in mankind's history we share a common fate, we can master it only, if we face it together".