

The environment has gone beyond tipping Point now

OUTLINE

1- Introduction

Thesis statement: The world is facing myriads of problems with environmental degradation securing the top position on that list. The environmental changes has gone beyond the tipping point now posing existential crisis on humanity. Extreme weather events like floods, droughts, heatwaves, cyclones, wildfires and what not has ravaged the world.

2- The worlds contribution towards environmental degradation

3- Devastating Consequences of environmental degradation

- a- Increase in flood events globally
- b- Extremely bad air quality
- c- Increase risk of water scarcity
- d- Augmenting economic loss
- e- Internal displacement across the globe
- f- Increase in health crisis
- g- Climate - conflict nexus
- h- Increase in the events of wild fires.

4- Recommendations to mitigate the effects of environmental degradation

- a- Shift to ~~non~~ renewable energy sources
- b- Promote the use of public transport
- c- Increase awareness regarding the devastating impacts of climate change
- d- Increase forestation and discourage deforestation
- e- Design effective policy measures to

counter this problem

5- Conclusion.

"Humanity has opened the gate of hell"

Antonio Guterres

Environmental degradation is one of the grave reality that humanity is facing currently. The environmental changes has gone beyond the tipping point now posing existential (crisis) threat.

Extreme weather events like floods, droughts, wildfire, cyclones, heatwaves and what not has ravaged the world. In 2023, the temprature level has been raised to 1.45°C above pre industrial level with marking as the hottest year. The increase in temprature has been contributed by humans with increased use of non-renewable energy sources, deforestation, solid waste and (many*more) what not.

The rapidly deteriorating environmental condition is heralding towards the formation of horrendous society which will not remain even worth living.

As per Intergovernmental Panel of Climate change (IPCC) the temprature will raise above 1.5°C by 2050. These figures underscore the catastrophic impact of environmental degradation.

Sadly, humans are doing everything possible to destroy their only home, earth.

The increase use of non-renewable energy sources like coal, diesel, petrol is having negative impacts to the environment

As per intergovernmental panel of climate change (IPCC), energy sector is responsible for 50% of global emission,

agricultural sector is responsible for 25pc of global emission, Industrial sector is responsible for 21pc and transport sector is responsible for 15pc of global emission. All these sectors are highly dependent on fossil fuel consumption.

Along with that, massive deforestation over past few years has greatly contributed towards environmental degradation. Forest act as carbon sinkers and due to

deforestation its amount is reduced massively

As per Global Forest Watch; over 10 million hectares have been deforested in only past 6 years. Rapid urbanization, industrialization, population explosion, wild fires has also contributed in already declining state of environmental (degradati) condition. We won't have a society if we destroy the environment. **Margaret**

Mead. So, humans have contributed with their full potential to devastate the already horrible situation of environment. (by)

These factors have devastating impacts on society. Firstly, there is increase in flood events across the globe. The rapidly melting glaciers due to global warming has contributed to the events of flood. In 2023, India, Pakistan, Libya, China, Russia became the victims of flood. In 2022, floods in Pakistan and its devastating consequence has underscore the threat it pose on the economies of developing countries.

As per a report published by World

Bank; Pakistan has faced the loss of more than 30 billion dollars in 2022 flood event. As per Inter governmental Panel of climate change (IPCC); 2022 floods in Pakistan resulted in destruction of more than 1500 roads, 500 bridges and death of more than 1000 livestockes

As per the statement of secretary General of WMO: The floods in Libya and its devastating consequences highlights the grave threat that climate change pose to the developing world.

So, floods has contributed to the destruction of social as well as economic conditions of the developing world leaving them vulnerable to climate change threat.

In addition, environmental degradation has extremely worsen the air quality of the world. Bad air quality is a looming threat to the health of people. As per the research conducted

by University of Chicago: India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh are the nations with extremely bad air quality. The life expectancy in these nations (ire) is expected to decrease by five to seven years if the situation remains same. As per Air Quality Index

report 2023: Lahore is ranked at top position among the cities with extremely bad air quality. Increase in smog and bad air quality have contributed to respiratory tract problems.

Hence bad air quality remains as the grave concern contributing to spiralling health crisis

Furthermore, environmental degradation bestowed people with water scarcity. (Ocean water's) 85pc of ocean water is salty with only 3pc availability of fresh water. Rapid melting of glaciers are contributing to spiralling water scarcity.

As per a report published by International commission of ice and snow in 2022:

There is 50pc glacial retreat occurred in Russia, 25pc in Vietnam, 21pc in North America and 11pc in New Zealand in 2022.

As per report published by NASA: Himalayan and European glaciers are the most rapidly melting glaciers in the world.

As per World Bank report: Pakistan is among extremely water insecure country.

Hence, the Leviathan of rapidly melting glaciers due to global warming is contributing to water scarcity.

Moreover, environmental deterioration is putting a strain to the economic condition of the countries especially developing countries. Developing countries having already fragile economies face a huge challenge to combat this threat.

As per World Bank country climate and development report: It is estimated that there will be 5-6pc loss in

the GDP of countries by 2050 owing to the climate change. Countries with weak economies faces problem in thwarting the catastrophic impacts of Climate change. Hence, environmental degradation pose a threat to the economies of countries

In addition, there will be increase in the internal displacement of people due to climate change. People are leaving their homes behind due to increase in the events of floods, droughts, wildfires etc. **As per a report published by world Bank:** It is estimated that more than 216 million people will be internally displaced by 2050 due to climate change especially in Asia and Africa. Hence, extreme weather events have ravaged many hometown leaving no choice for people to migrate and leave their houses behind.

Along with the above problems, environmental degradation have contributed towards extreme health crisis. Increase cases of dengue & malaria have been reported. **As per report of world Health organization:** Climate change will result in additional 250000 deaths by 2050 due to increase events of dengue, malaria etc. Extremely bad air quality have exacerbated the respiratory problems of individuals. Climate change is a terrible problem and it absolutely needs to be solved. It deserves to be a huge

priority — **Bill Gates** In a nutshell, climate change is a great threat to the health of people due to extremely bad air quality and spread of diseases.

Moreover, the harrowing situation of environmental destruction contributes to increase strife within communities. People are resistant to accept the new entrants in their areas that comes their due to environmental displacement. Resource based clashes are increasing due to crop destruction; environmental degradation and commodities price hike. For example Gilgit host the victims of Attabad extreme weather event victims. Gilgit is already prone to sectarian conflict between Shia and Sufi community and now they have with them Ismaite community too. They are prone to exploitation by religious clergy man and clerics. Hence, the extreme weather events not only contribute to economic and health crisis but also social crisis.

In addition to the above factors, global warming has resulted in increase events of wild fires. Wild fires are the result of deteriorating environmental situation and in return it further contributes to environmental pollution through ashes and smoke. In 2023, Canada, Hawaii and Greece became the victims of wild fires. According to the secretary General of United Nation, Antonio

Conclusion; the era of global warming is over, this is an era of global boiling.

To conclude, wild fire is a threat to environmental degradation and is itself a product of environmental degradation.

Truly, environmental deterioration pose a great threat to world and it is mercilessly destroying everything. But several measures can be taken to mitigate its devastating impacts.

Firstly, a shift towards the use of renewable energy sources would be a step towards right trajectory. Solar, hydel, tydel & wind energy sources could be used instead of coal, petrol & diesel.

These resources are more economic and environmental friendly.

Secondly, public transport should be promoted instead of private vehical.

It would greatly contributes to decrease the emission of carbon in environment.

Taxes should be imposed on the vehicals with old engine as they greatly contributes in the global carbon emission. A shift toward electric vehicals will be a laudable step.

In addition to the above factors, awareness is very crucial to mitigate the catastrophic impacts of climate change. A well informed public will take into account the factors that result in increasing the environmental pollution. (Aware) Awareness will lead toward individual level change and greater outcome.

Moreover, increasing forestation

is very crucial to prevent the declining state of environment. Forest will act as carbon sinkers and will decrease the carbon level from environment which ultimately leads toward clean environment. As per National ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): In these days, CO_2 level is raised to more than 424 parts per million. These figures underscore the need of forestation. Hence forestation will be a laudable step to prevent the environmental degradation.

At last, effective policy design by powers is very crucial to counter the environmental deterioration. An effective policy that aligns with international commitment of climate action can prevent the further exacerbation of environmental degradation.

In a nutshell, the augmentation of catastrophic consequences of environmental degradation pose an existential threat on humanity. Extreme weather events like floods, droughts, heatwaves, wild fires, cyclones have ravaged the living condition of people. These factors contributed to social, economic and health crisis. Several measures like forestation, shift to renewable energy sources, effective policy measures can be taken to mitigate this problem.

“The earth does not negotiate, it does not wait and it does not compromise.”

~ Leonardo DiCaprio