

The Environment has gone beyond the tipping point now:

Essay Outline

1. Introduction:

Thesis statement. The global community has warned that environmental challenges are posing a grave threat to the world. Rising global temperature and climatic catastrophes have both causes and repercussions. However, implementing a stern policies can resolve the issue of environment which has gone beyond the tipping point now.

2. Decoding Environmental Threats

3. Causes of Environmental Degradation:

a. Rapid industrialization and emission of toxic gases

b. Growing urbanization and deforestation

c. Increasing transportation and excessive use of fossil fuels

d. Poor solid waste treatment mechanism

e. Unethical consumption and wide use of plastics

4. How Environment has gone beyond the tipping point: Repercussions

a. Rise in global average temperature:

b. Changing precipitation patterns:
Snowless winter 2023-24 in Himalayas

c. Polluted air and formation of
fifth weather: Lahore Smog crisis

d. Melting glaciers and resultant
water scarcity

e. Climate-induced disasters: urban
floods and droughts

5. Efforts taken by Global Community:

a. Montreal protocol and reduction
in CFC emissions

b. United Nations framework: COP28

6. Collective efforts can Reverse
the Pace of Climate Crisis

a. Binding commitments by
global emitters should be made
binding

b. Revival of Kyoto Protocol

c. Transition to Green Energy

7. Conclusion

The day world community derailed from the path it was pursuing through Kyoto protocol, the horrific images of climatic disasters startingly appearing on the horizon. The destructive floods across Asia, catastrophic earthquake in Middle Eastern and European plate, and unprecedented weather variations across the globe are some of the instances of environmental degradation.

These incidents are caused by anthropogenic activities which have shifted global warming to global boiling due to intense heatwaves on the earth. Human progress in manufacturing and invention has led to severe outcomes in the form of rising temperature and resultant glacier melting which in result brings water and food insecurity. Therefore, the environment has gone beyond the ticking point.

Environmental degradation

refers to the occurrence of unfavourable changes in environment. The Oxford dictionary defines climate change as the change in global temperature due to the emission of green house gases. Moreover, it is a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of global atmosphere (UNFCCC, definition). This shows that environment changes which are posing a threat to human beings is largely induced by humans.

To begin with the causes of environmental degradation one of the causes is rapid industrialization. The invention of steam engine in nineteenth-century caused an increase in industrialization across the west. The process of installing industries resulted in emission of toxic gases in the environment. For example, a significant mining

of coal needed for iron and steel production contributed to the emissions of green house gases. This shows that rapid industrialization led to the concentration of toxic gases in the environment which eventually has gone beyond the tipping point now.

Besides, growing urbanization and resultant deforestation have also contributed in environmental degradation. Due to the employment opportunities and provision of quality education in urban sectors, people prefer to migrate from rural to urban areas. This mass migration leads to cutting of forest in order to initiate settlement of masses. Despite the fact that trees are huge source of consuming Carbon dioxide which is one of the green house gas, urban managing authorities compelled to proceed deforestation. Reportedly, around 46% of the world forest

have been cleared due to urbanization. Hence, deforestation due to urban settlement has contributed to environmental problems.

Likewise, increasing transportation and excessive use of fossil fuels have caused environmental crisis. Advancement in science and technology has mushroomed the growth in movement of goods. This led to an increase in transportation which requires burning of fossil fuels. In fact, it is estimated that nearly 28% of global energy related CO₂ emissions is caused by accounts for transportation. According to the recent data by UNECC 30% of global toxic emission is due to the consumption of fossil fuel including coal, oil, diesel and petrol. ~~It is~~ Thus, transportation sector is one of the factors that results in climate crisis.

Moreover, mismanagement of solid waste treatment also causes environmental pollution. Owing to the highening population growth across the world, the amount of solid waste is skyrocketing. However, turning waste into useful material is ~~common~~ poorly managed in developing countries. Unlike Western countries where waste is transformed and conserved into energy, the similar practices are unfamiliar in global south which contribute in environmental pollution. E.g: 30% of water-borne disease are calculated in 2023. Therefore, solid waste mismanagement is one of the causes of environmental problem.

Last but not the least, unethical consumption and wide use of plastics are also factors negatively impacting environment. Due to the growing trends of continental goods and brand-conscious wearing

consumption of global goods has multiplied. Moreover, use of plastic due its cheaper cost is increasing. Reportedly, micro-plastic pollution is even found in suckling of mother's milk. Besides, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is also an example of unethical consumption of plastics and other goods. This shows that immoral consumption result in environmental hazards which have gone beyond ticking point now.

To highlight how environment has gone beyond ticking point it is crucial to discuss repercussions

To start with the repercussions of environmental degradation one of the consequences is rise in global temperature. Due to the immense amount of green house gases ~~is~~ concentrated in environment, global temperature is rising at tremendous level. According to the

recent report by World Meteorological Organization, the amount of CO₂ and methane have tripled than pre-industrial level in environment. This can be ascertained from UNFCCC report record 2023 which stated that global average temperature was recorded at 2° highest ever in ~~November~~ October 2023. Therefore, surge in global temperature is an instance how environment has gone beyond the tipping point.

Moreover, changing precipitation pattern is one of the illustrations of environmental degradation. The world is experiencing weather variation at an unprecedented level due to climate change. Climate crisis has disrupted the Earth's natural climate because intense temperature lead to moisture in atmosphere which either hinders precipitation. For example, the ongoing winter is marked by snowless season

in Himalayan region (Dawn, the snowless winter, 2023). This shows that climate crisis is leading towards dangerous precipitation patterns.

Furthermore, polluted air and formation of fogg weather are also negative impacts of environmental issue. Due to the emission of green house gases, air pollution is increasing. As a result of this winters in Pakistan are marked by smog. According to the Pakistan meteorological report, Lahore is the world largest polluted city with fatal smog. It not only hinders economic activities but also causes many deaths and fatal lung disease. Therefore, air pollution and smog are severe result of environmental pollution which has gone beyond the ticking point now.

In addition to this, melting glaciers and resultant water scarcity are

also some of the repercussions of environmental issue. Glaciers are melting due to global warming caused by intense temperature. Owing to the fact that glaciers are the largest source of fresh water on the earth their melting is harmful. This can be seen from the latest report by UNFCCC which showed that nearly 1 million km of Antarctic snow has melted. Another finding has shown that half of the Kilimanjaro glacier has disappeared posing a grave challenge of water scarcity in sub-Saharan region. Thus, disappearance of glaciers speaks louder how environment has gone beyond ticking point.

Lastly, climatic catastrophes are some of the repercussions of environmental degradation. Rising threats of global warming inducing frequent natural disasters due to deforestation which ~~sets~~ has on these disasters. Without the natural

protection of trees the risk of floods and drought are higher. This can be ascertained from more than 15 urban floods incident in Germany and China last year. Moreover, persistent drought in California since 2011 is also an example how environmental issues are posing serious challenges. This shows that climate induced disasters and their socio-economic repercussions are mainly due to environmental pollution.

To shed lights on the efforts taken by global community to address climate crisis, it is imperative to discuss Montreal protocol 1987. This initiative was the first step taken by the global village to mitigate depletion of ozone layer (protective layer). It is one of the successful protocol which has been able to reduce depletion of ozone layer from atmosphere (98%).

Under this protocol green house gases including CFC, HFC, HCFC which were the major contributors to ozone depletion have been reduced immensely. Nearly 180 countries are signatories to this protocol and their collective efforts have resulted in laudatory outcomes. ~~Thus, this~~ This shows that the world has been actively participating in mitigating risks of environmental degradation.

Apart from this, Conference of parties convened by United Nations Framework on Climate is another effort taken by the world to address environmental challenges.

Annually, nearly all the countries and NGOs participate in these conference. Some of the efforts taken under Cop-28 which was held in last December are: institutionalization of funds for countries who are bearing the brunt of climate

disaster, achieving zero net emission by 2050, and restoration of forests, including Mangrove trees. Moreover, the Middle Eastern countries i.e OPEC and also EU have pledge to transitioning away from fossil fuel and tripling green energy. This shows that the world is thriving to address climate crisis.

Although the world community is engaged in co-operation over climate crisis and environmental degradation, but some actionable steps can also be helpful such as making their commitments binding. International law is often operates on non-binding phenomenon. As a result of it largest contributor to pollution via emissions such as US walked out from climate related treaties. For instance, in 2017 US withdrew from Paris Agreement 2015. This

encourages other countries to follow suit such as in last COP-28 Biden and Xi president of US and China respectively were absent. So, in order to operationalized on the commitments by countries it is mandatory to make these conference and treaties legally binding.

Another actionable step which can be helpful is reviving Kyoto protocol. This protocol was an ideal aimed at compelling industrial countries to be accountable for their emissions and afforestation. However, due to certain technical issues all major emitters such as US, Russia and other EU states withdrew it. Resultantly, it became dormant in 2021 December. The revival of this treaty will be fruitful by contributing in reduction of green house

gases.

lastly, the world needs to transit from non-renewable to renewable gases. In this regard, Green initiatives such as mainstreaming of solar energy and wind energy is crucial. By transforming energy sources the world can tackle the ~~issue~~ persistent issue of climate change. Hence, transition to green energy would be useful.

To encapsulate it would be pertinent to state that environmental ~~poll~~ pollution has gone beyond the tipping point. However, it is not over here, there is still a silver lining that the world can overcome climate crisis. Environmental degradation is mainly caused by excessive industrialization, rapid increase in

transportation and rural-urban migration. As a result, the world is suffering from intense temperature which has induced many man-made disasters such as water scarcity. Nonetheless, global community has been struggling to address this issue since the last century.

This shows that ~~even~~ although the climate has gone beyond the tipping point, the world can contribute to mitigate the risks of environmental degradation.