

# THE ENVIRONMENT HAS GONE BEYOND THE TIPPING POINT NOW

## 1. Introduction:

Thesis Statement: The rise of  $CO_2$  in the environment from 0.03 to 0.04 seems like a tiny difference like an ant, but has the potential of destruction equal the size of an elephant.

## 2. The Change in Environment has touched the Borderline.

## 3. Factor Contributing in the change in Environment.

- (a) Human Activities majorly using harmful resources.
- (b) Heavy dependence on fossil fuels.
- (c) Excessive use of non-renewable things.
- (d) Competing Countries, Compromising the environment.



- (e) Eating Animal-based diet, increasing the production of methane gas.

#### 4. Adverse Effects of Environment Change on the World.

- (a) Extremeties like flash floods, heavy rains, volcano eruptions etc.
- (b) Food insecurity rapidly increasing.
- (c) The rise in temperature, lowers the survival rate.
- (d) Rise in the mean sea level, threatening the coastline countries.
- (e) Abnormal melting of glaciers, causing flash floods.
- (f) Multiple health issues or long-term illness especially in the most affected (rural) parts of the world.



## 5. Control on the ever-shifting Environment immediately.

Way forward:

- (a) Transitioning from non-renewable to renewable resources, focus on local and cheaper things.
- (b) Reducing the emissions of  $\text{CO}_2$ , CH, GHGs, completely removing  $\text{CO}_2$  from the environment by 2030.
- (c) Operationalizing the Loss and Damage funds to the worst-affecteds of environment change.
- (d) Shifting from animal-based diet to plant-based, improving self-habits to improve the environment.
- (e) Strict implementation of Article VI of NPT.



## 6. Conclusion



Nature is a gift from God but it has its own karma, hitting back hard if not taken care of. The climate change due to constant temperature shifts, rising the temperature to its borderline has disturbed everything. The environment has gone beyond the tipping point now. The gradual increase in GHGs, CO<sub>2</sub>, human activities, nuclear arm proliferation, industrialization etc has all contributed to the worsening of the environment. It seems to be a minor change by looking at the facts and figures but what's upcoming is going to be unexpected. The environment change, holding all the harmful gases will have severe affects not only on the human lives but also on the animals, plants, transforming the ecology



and ecosystem.

The change in the environment has gone beyond the tipping point now, touching its borderline. Till 1800, the rise in temperature was 1 degree and till 2100, it was expected to reach 1-2 degree more. But analyzing the current environmental condition it is to be rise this much only by 2030, meaning that there are only 6 years left to control this major shift which seems near to impossible. This has shook the world as the drastic affects and the consequences of it has started, extremities can be witnessed in many countries around the world.

Moreover, human activities majorly contribute in the environment change. According to



a survey by Gallup, around 96% of human activities are responsible for the environmental problem. The choices of individuals on a daily basis contribute to the environment. The habits, attitudes, and the lifestyle adopted impacts the environment in each possible way. Such as, not using public transport and preferring own vehicle contributes to more pollution same as not using renewable things and discarding things also contribute to environment abuse. Therefore, human harmful choices affects the environment in many ways.

Other than the human activities on basic levels, comes the heavy dependence on fossil fuels. Pakistan in focus has the most expensive electricity generation in the South-Asia and



is on 3rd position globally. That's because around 95% of electricity is generated through **Hydrocarbons**; diesel, LNG, coal all are the major pollutants. According to a report by **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, there is 50% rise in  $\text{CO}_2$  following post-industrialization. This report confirms how the rapid increase in  $\text{CO}_2$  in the environment is shifting the temperature making it closer to chaos with every passing year. Albeit, the goal of reaching **Net-Zero** is to be achieved as soon as possible, by limiting the  $\text{CO}_2$  emission.

Along with this, the greed of hegemony, driving countries crazy, competing with each other compromising the environment is visible to the whole world. **The rivalry of two**



**Superpowers ; CHINA and US.** Both the countries are fighting to be on the top of the world but in this race they didnot focus on the bigger picture plus being super-powers instead of playing role of mediators they chose to take sides and enjoy the match in which the world is getting destroyed. Especially the west, the contemporary example of US providing constant military aid to Israel for bombardments, shellings, firing etc has showed its concern for the environment of the world. Other than that, China particularly contributes **27% of carbon globally (World Bank)** Therefore, to save the environment and to control the destruction it can cause is in the hands of Superpowers.

Last but not the least, majority of population



prefer eating Animal-based diet rather than plant-based diet which eventually leads to the more production of methane gas.

Methane gas ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) is 80% more harmful than  $\text{CO}_2$  in the environment. The intake ratio of animal based diet is expanding over time which means more reproduction of animals which will eventually create a vicious cycle, transforming the ecology and ecosystem completely. So, just by eating animal-based food contributes a lot in the change of environment.

All the factors contributing to the change in environment has severe effects on the world. This change will witness extremities like flash floods, melting of glaciers, tsunamis, volcano eruptions, heavy rains etc. After Arctic



and Antarctic region, the glaciers in Himalayas are a major threat. The rise in temperature will result in the abnormal melting of glaciers, causing flashfloods, threatening the coastal countries the most. The rise in the sea level will vanish the countries on the coast. Countries like **Miami, Osaka, Venice** may not exist till **2060**. According to a report by Vixi Dripteer, **Pakistan** is among the **Top 20** worst affectees, caused by the climate change extremities. Therefore, the environment change will annihilate the countries on the edge (~~already~~) already dealing with multiple crisis.

The other major negative effect of environment change is **Food Insecurity**, this is definite that flash floods will destroy the agriculture



fields not only that but also the heavy-rainfall patterns will ruin the production of crops. As with the change in environment, in some regions there seems to be extremely <sup>heavy</sup> rainfalls but for a short period of times and then there is no rain at all causing draughts and leading to forest fires. **Margalla Forest on Fire** is one of the victim of extreme environment change. In Pakistan, **27%** of children cannot survive till their 5th birthday and **19% of children** are victim of stunted growth, due to which they do not survive for a long time. Children are malnourished, lacking basic needs for the survival. (**United Nations Development Program, UNDP**).



Moreover, the extreme rise in temperature makes it deadly for everyone to survive. According to WMO, in the last 174 years, the year of 2023 is marked as the hottest year.

July 2023, being the hottest month of the year. This does not only affect the regions with extreme hot but also having the extreme cold weathers at the same time in some regions of the world. Europe witnessed the coldest year, as Antarctic and Arctic. This clearly reflects how environment change is affecting the world. Greenland has seen its absolute low in the last year. The rise in temperature is causing chaos in all over the world.

Furthermore, health issues especially in the



rural areas and the areas that got hit by extremities are worst. **Lahore is the top-most polluted (country) city in the world.** According to a survey by **Macrotrends**, Lahore is the most polluted with highest number of health issues caused by the polluted air most commonly asthma, eye-infection, also affecting hormones and many more which can be fatal in long-term. In the last months of year **2023**, the smog in Lahore was uncontrolled and to control that **Artificial Rain** was used for the very first time. All these adverse effects due to environment change are turning the dynamics of world moving it closer to destruction.



Although, there have been a number of Agreements ongoing from a long time such as **Kyoto protocol, Paris Agreement 2016 etc.**

All the global leaders met together on different occasions to cope up with this urging issue before its too late. In the **Paris Agreement**, the global leaders decided to control the emissions and to plant more. **Pakistan** promised to cut down its emission by **300%** and to plant **ten million trees** by 2030 but luckily fulfilled the plantation before time. The recent **COP-28** in **UAE**, discussed about the climate change and the urgency to control it '**Now or Never**'. This reflects the hope for the collective effort of world to save the environment.



Then comes the second big step to attain **Carbon Net-Zero by 2030**, historically all the countries accepted the fact that the emission of CO<sub>2</sub> is damaging the environment and agreed upon cutting the carbon emissions collectively and transitioning from non-renewable to renewable resources. This will cut down a whole lot of CO<sub>2</sub> from the environment. **Pakistan** is looking forward to generate electricity from solar, thermal, wind projects. The net-zero carbon will definitely turn the tables in the environment change.

Additionally, the activation of **Loss and Damage Funds** for the worst (expect) affected and developing countries from the developed countries is now operationalizing. This will help them to overcome the crisis



and to survive. It will not only help the affectees to revive but also make them stable to overhaul the aftermaths and advance effective preparedness in them for the future threats.

**Japan** is one of the major and worst affectee of all time but with its advanced installed **Alert systems** make them cautious and prepared for the upcoming challenges. Therefore, with the help of LDGs and support of developed countries, the world can deal with the environment change more quickly.

Moreover, the shifting from **Animal-Based diet** to **Plant-Based diet** will reduce the **CH<sub>4</sub> (Methane gas)** in the environment. The self-improvement with a little change in the habits and attitude will not only benefit the environment



but also the overall well-being of human being. Plus the little changes like using environment friendly accessories, vehicles etc. **Prioritizing environment over personal comfort is the crucial need of time.** For this, a holistic approach is to be followed with collective efforts but it starts from one's ownself. Analyzing own negative role contributing to the environment change and changing it for the betterment of environment. This will help in controlling the rapidly changing environment.

Lastly, there should be strict implementation of **Article VI of Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**, which bounds all the members to the disarmament and strict following of the preventive measures and any violation



of the treaty will put the ~~the~~ country who violated the rules under heavy sanctions, leaving it in isolation. Moreover, the competition to rule and to be on the top of the world should be stopped and the only focus now should be on the controlling of environment change. By following the treaties, agreements altogether and maintaining check and balance, only this way the environment can be saved from deteriorating.

The environment change is a issue of all and to deal with this the world has to unite and realize the urgency to deal with the destruction that has started and are visible now more than ever **deadly tsunamis in Japan, Volcano Eruptions**



in Finland, Earthquakes in multiple regions, Margalla Forest Fires, Amazon drought, Floods, heavy-rainfalls etc in just one year. This is the high-time for the world leaders to focus on this deadly change in environment and to use all the measures to prevent this ever-shifting environment and rise in temperature at any cost.

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