

Global Warming is an Expensive Hoax

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Global Warming is an Expensive Hoax

The threats posed by global warming have grabbed attention of the world and raised apprehension among scholars, questioning the very survival of humanity. It has become one of the most pressing challenges of twenty-first century. However, the skeptics still believe that it is an expensive hoax rather than a reality; even though the evidence suggests otherwise. Nonetheless, the countries are thriving to adopt sustainable practices in order to mitigate its adverse effects. But the scale and speed remain inadequate. To expedite this process, a global consensus is necessary where each and every individual accept the reality of global warming and take responsibility towards its mitigation and adaptation. It is a global threat that demands collaboration of all individuals and leaves no room for skepticism.

One of the major reasons for people believing global warming to be a hoax is the historical evidence that suggests - the climate of Earth oscillates between hot periods - warm ages - and cold periods - ice ages -

if viewed over long periods of time. It is due to this reason that Russians refused to take any action against global warming for several years.

Another major reason for human skepticism towards global warming is that it affects nations disproportionately. Due to which, some nations are unable to view it a real threat while others bear the brunt of their negligence. It has been observed that already vulnerable nations are adversely affected by climate change due to resource scarcity and economic constraints. This further exacerbates the existing inequalities between nations.

Developed nations view mitigation measures equivalent to economic regression. Therefore, they shy away from adopting sustainable practices to curb global warming. Moreover, due to economic resources, they are able to tackle the climate disasters more efficiently. On the other hand, the vulnerable nations, despite having negligible carbon emissions, are adversely affected by disasters such

as floods, hurricanes, wild fires, etc., causing massive life and economic loss. Trump, during his first term, withdrew America from Paris Agreement as he believed that mitigation measures were hampering economic progress. America, being a super-power, set a wrong precedent for the world to follow. As a result, many countries withdrew from the agreement which led to its ultimate failure.

Even though people still believe global warming is a myth, there is strong evidence that prove it is a reality. Scientists have observed global warming for the past one to two centuries. Consequently, a direct relation can be established between global warming and age of industrialization. Industries require huge portions of land, leading to deforestation. As forests are said to be huge carbon sinks as they absorb massive amounts of carbon dioxide, levels of carbon dioxide increase in the atmosphere. Moreover, industrial processes rely on burning of fossil fuels to meet energy needs. Burning of fossil fuels

release huge amounts of carbon dioxide into the air, further increasing its concentration. Similarly, industries release toxic chemicals such as sulphur dioxide (SO_2) and Nitrous oxides (NO_x), contributing toward pollution. Consequently, industries produce an ideal environment for greenhouse effect-phenomenon which results when greenhouse gases (CO_2 , SO_2 , NO_x , etc.) trap heatwaves from the sun into the Earth's environment. This greenhouse effect leads to global warming. According to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global temperature has risen by 1.1°C as a result of industrialization. Without adequate measure, this temperature would continue to rise beyond 1.5 to 2°C , causing catastrophic damage.

IPCC and International Meteorological Organization (IMO) have observed a direct relation between global warming and increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters. Global warming refers to increased global temperature which results into heatwaves, causing

intense health problems among people and animals. Moreover, increased temperature expedite the process of evaporation, rapidly drying out the soil and exacerbating drought conditions. It also results into warming the sea levels, leading to more energetic and intense storms. The dry and warm conditions also give rise to wildfires as evidenced by the ongoing Los Angeles fires in United States. It is the largest fires in the history of LA which has been going on for more than almost a week now with no signs of slowing down. It has led to around 30 deaths and destroyed more than 10,000 structures. Disasters like this prove that climate change is a global threat which demands global attention.

Global warming also results into melting of ice caps, leading to increased water levels in the sea. The rising sea levels result into constant flooding in coastal regions. Anatol Khan in his book "Pakistan: A hard country" has described Pakistan a resilient nation with no threat to its existence but

one: climatic change. He explained that it is a massive threat not just for just Pakistan but whole of South Asia.

Increasing sea levels have caused existential threat to coastal and island countries. For example, Bangladesh with an average elevation of 1.5 meters above sea level face frequent floods. According to United Nations (UN), more than half of its population are at risk of being displaced by 2050. Similarly, Maldives, an archipelago with most of its land barely above sea level risk complete submergence by 2100. The islands of Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, etc. face similar threats which demand global attention.

A well-acclaimed book "Prisoners of Geography" by Tim Marshall explains climate plays crucial role in global politics. This has been evidenced by increased tensions between nations as resources become more scarce due to global warming. For example, water dispute between Pakistan and India has

been a perpetual issue ever since the inception of two countries and it is at risk of getting more intense with exacerbating water scarcity due to global warming in the region. A conflict between two nuclear states can have grave consequences for the world. Therefore, it is essential that the international community consider global warming a real threat and work towards its mitigation.

Since all the evidence suggest global warming is a reality, the only logical choice for humanity is to take adequate adaptive and mitigation measures to ensure safe future.

The first step in this regard is to transition from fossil fuels towards renewable energy resources - ~~and~~ solar, wind, biothermal and hydropower. This would reduce carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere and ~~ensure~~ safe prevent greenhouse effect.

Industries release massive amounts of carbon dioxide. But since they are essential for human progress, it is ~~ess~~ important to adopt sustainable practices in order to make them

more environmental friendly.
Techniques such as Direct Air Capture (DAC) and Carbon mineralization should be adopted.

Orthodox agricultural practices also give rise to global warming. To make them environmental friendly, techniques such as vertical farming and precision farming using Artificial Intelligence should be adopted to ensure efficient use of resources and fertilizers.

Green infrastructure should be adopted to prevent water runoff. Sponge city project by China is a step in this direction. China has implemented it in the cities of Xijiang and Wuhan and has obtained impressive results in the form of reduced flooding and increased water levels in soil.

Global warming is a threat that has transcended borders and impacted all corners of the world. Therefore, it is essential to ensure global collaboration to curb its effects. More global initiatives such as Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement

should be initiated and their enforcement mechanism should be ensured.

Global warming has disproportionately affected the nations. It is the responsibility of international community to ensure climate justice. All major emitters of carbon dioxide should be held responsible for global warming.

It is the responsibility of international community to ensure climate financing from developed nations to help vulnerable countries fight climate change. Moreover, the major emitters should ensure capacity building of developing nations to equip them with necessary technology to protect themselves from natural disasters.

Climate change has caused massive damage to humanity but the world has yet not accepted it as a threat. In order to tackle its effects, swift and adequate action is imperative. This necessitates global consensus among people to accept global warming as a reality, not a hoax.