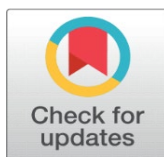
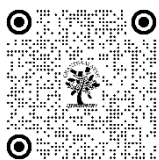


ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: A GLOBAL CRISIS

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ABSTRACT

Today, the world has reached a point where it has obstructed the very source of its development-sustainable growth. Environmental issues have become one of the most critical challenges globally, and sustainable development has stagnated, which is severely affecting the overall progress of life on Earth. If attention is not paid to environmental issues, it may become increasingly difficult for future generations to survive. Problems such as climate change, pollution, and the extinction of plants and animals are continuously escalating. The solution to these issues is only possible through collective efforts. All countries must collaborate and take responsibility for environmental conservation. If we fail to act today, these problems may become even more severe in the future, posing a grave threat to both humanity and the planet.

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1. INTRODUCTION

We can observe that the world's infrastructure is gradually crumbling, and a significant cause of this is the failure to achieve comprehensive environmental development. The progress of the world has been facilitated through the environment, and it is also the environment that can lead to its destruction. If we do not address this in a timely manner, the consequences could be catastrophic. At various levels, we are witnessing how humans have contributed to climate change.

Let us begin with global sustainability because it was here that humans began the partial and full exploitation of the environment. In the industrial era, all nations at some point have faced this issue, where humanity extensively exploited the environment for raw materials, resulting in numerous imbalances in the environment. The Green Revolution also occurred worldwide, which had a significant impact on all countries, leading to severe negative consequences on soil and water, effects that we can clearly see today. These two factors have created imbalances and crises in the environment, which need to be addressed urgently.

The global human population is continuously increasing, and to meet its needs, the environment is being continuously exploited. For social, economic, and political development, the environment is being exploited in every way. The one percent increase in human population comes at a significant environmental cost. The entire exploitation of the

environment is a consequence of human actions. Humans are extracting resources from the environment at an unsustainable level to full-fill their social, economic, and political goals.

The primary goal of social development has been to exploit the environment completely. Through this, society advances, but this process results in environmental degradation. Today, we are witnessing the rapid melting of glaciers, leading to rising sea levels. As a result, many countries could be submerged after decades. We are also witnessing the degradation of soil quality. There is a growing shortage of essential elements in the soil for food production because we have overexploited it.

E-waste (electronic waste) has become a major issue worldwide. It is not being properly disposed of, and many of its forms have ended up in the oceans, contributing to ocean pollution. This poses a significant threat to aquatic life. Due to industrialization and the ideologies promoting competition, the construction of dams and roads has increased, leading to severe consequences for the environment and life on Earth.

The growing human population has also affected the habitats of wildlife. We are destroying their natural habitats and forcing them to live in reserves or parks, which is endangering their populations. Human political development has also contributed to environmental exploitation. Conflicts, civil wars, and wars constantly occur around the world, leading to significant environmental damage. Wars cause deforestation, pollution, and climate change.

Currently, the world is adopting an expansionist policy, which leads to nuclear and biological wars, contributing to the deterioration of water, soil, forests, and pollution. This pollution cannot be eliminated quickly by the environment. Large-scale deforestation is taking place at borders, which is affecting the oxygen supply for densely populated areas. This is increasing pollution and creating a shortage of essential resources for life.

In this way, humanity has relentlessly exploited the environment to full-fill its needs, and today, the environment is facing a crisis. If corrective measures are not implemented immediately, it could lead to a catastrophic future for the Earth and all its life forms.

Economic development has paved the way for reckless environmental exploitation, leading to several problems that we can observe:

Excessive Extraction of Raw Materials has become a major concern. Humanity has exploited raw materials to an extreme extent for its development, causing a significant impact on the environment. This has led to climate change, which is adversely affecting water, aquatic life, soil, and the entire ecosystem. The overuse of natural resources is felt globally. All nations are ignoring the environment in their pursuit of development, and due to competition, they are hesitant to take firm steps toward resolving these issues. Countries have not adequately addressed climate change. Despite the construction of dams, water resource control, and efforts to manage climate imbalance, problems such as floods and droughts have emerged in some regions, signaling a severe crisis in the future.

Development of the Secondary Sector has contributed a lot to Air Pollution. Industrialization and the growth of the secondary sector have greatly contributed to air pollution. Today, many countries suffer from poor air quality to the extent that people cannot breathe clean air. Cities like Delhi and Lahore, the capitals of India and Pakistan, are among the most polluted places in the world. The level of air pollution in these areas has become such a severe health threat to citizens. Governments are trying to implement measures such as the odd-even car policy and strict pollution control regulations, but controlling this situation has become a significant challenge.

Economic Policies of the world has led to Environmental Exploitation. Today's global mindset is entirely based on an economic perspective, with all countries engaged in competition. This competition has fueled the exploitation of natural resources. Each country depends on raw materials for its development, reflecting the complete depletion of the environment. As long as these raw materials are available, the environmental pressure continues to be ignored. This situation not only damages the Earth's ecosystems but also threatens life on Earth.

Humanity has excessively exploited the environment's resources for its economic and social progress, resulting in the severe environmental crises we face today. Climate change, air pollution, soil contamination, and water scarcity are visible consequences. All nations must realize that development can only be sustainable if the environment is protected. We must shift toward a model of sustainable development that benefits both the environment and humanity. If concrete steps are not taken soon, this crisis may worsen for future generations.

The Impact of Excessive Environmental Exploitation on Human Existence is very detrimental. Human existence itself is being affected by the excessive and complete exploitation of the environment, which can be seen in the several ways.

Many communities worldwide do not cremate their loved ones after death, and the excessive use of chemical medicines has led to the death of birds, endangering their existence. The absence of birds raises the risk of diseases spreading from dead bodies, potentially endangering human survival. Humanity has started eradicating biodiversity, which is disturbing the balance of ecosystems.

Uncontrolled deforestation has led to a shortage of fresh air, and pollution is not being adequately managed. This has contributed to rising air pollution, which poses a serious health threat to humanity. If this environmental exploitation continues, even efforts to ensure economic, political, and social security will fail because resource depletion and environmental imbalances will affect these aspects. The environmental crisis could force the halt of human civilization's development.

Therefore, sustainable environmental use and development are vital for ensuring that future generations can not only survive but also use and manage the environment correctly for continuous development.

Today, it is clear that the unsustainable exploitation of the environment has led to numerous global challenges. The degradation of ecosystems, loss of biodiversity, climate change, and the depletion of natural resources are major indicators of this crisis. The solution lies in embracing sustainable development, where the environment is protected, and resources are used wisely to ensure the survival of all life forms on Earth. Immediate action is necessary to address these issues and prevent further environmental damage, ensuring a livable planet for future generations.

Let's discuss India's response to this global environmental crisis as: Environmental issues are one of the most critical concerns of our time. As the world grapples with challenges like climate change, pollution, and the loss of biodiversity, urgent action is needed to secure a sustainable future for our planet. From the ozone layer depletion to rising temperatures and natural disasters, human activity has led to environmental degradation. India, being one of the most populous countries, is at the forefront of addressing these challenges, but the road to a sustainable future requires global cooperation and local commitment.

In 2021, India made a significant commitment at the COP26 summit, pledging to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. This ambitious goal is a crucial step in the global effort to mitigate climate change. India has been one of the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases due to its rapid industrialization and dependence on coal for energy. However, the country recognizes the need for change, and achieving net-zero emissions will require a massive shift toward renewable energy, improved efficiency, and the reduction of carbon-intensive practices across various sectors.

India's focus on clean energy, particularly solar and wind power, is vital for achieving this target. The country has already made considerable progress in expanding its solar power capacity, making it one of the world's leaders in renewable energy. By focusing on solar energy, wind power, and other green technologies, India aims to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and contribute to global efforts to combat climate change.

One of the most significant and controversial environmental issues in India is the construction of large dams. The Narmada River Project, which involves the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Dam, is an example of a major infrastructure project that has sparked debates over its environmental and social impact. The Narmada River, which flows through Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra, is one of the most important sources of water for millions of people in the region. The dam is intended to provide water for irrigation, drinking, and hydroelectric power. However, it has raised concerns about displacement of local communities, loss of biodiversity, and the submerging of vast forest areas.

While such projects contribute to economic development, they often come at a significant environmental cost. The ecological consequences of altering river systems and the loss of natural habitats are serious challenges that must be addressed when planning large-scale infrastructure projects.

A new initiative in Madhya Pradesh aims to create a river route for transportation, which was recently inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Khajuraho. This project will pass through tiger reserves, an area of immense ecological value. Such development projects are often seen as a way to boost economic growth, but they also raise concerns about the protection of wildlife and natural habitats. The balance between development and conservation is crucial, and policymakers must ensure that ecological safeguards are in place to protect the habitats.

Carbon emissions are one of the primary contributors to global warming and climate change. These emissions are produced by burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, as well as by deforestation, industrial processes, and transportation. Everyday activities, such as running air conditioners, using refrigerators, and the disposal of waste, also

contribute to carbon emissions. The accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere traps heat, leading to an increase in global temperatures, changes in weather patterns, and extreme events like floods, droughts, and heatwaves.

The global demand for energy is growing, and with it, the emissions from power generation, transportation, and other industries. To mitigate the impact of carbon emissions, a transition to renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydroelectric power is essential. In addition to reducing emissions, promoting energy efficiency, and encouraging sustainable practices are necessary steps toward reducing humanity's carbon footprint.

Sustainable development is a key concept in addressing environmental challenges. It focuses on meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In India, this means adopting policies that promote environmental protection, economic growth, and social development simultaneously. The idea is to ensure that resources are used efficiently and responsibly, with a long-term perspective on the planet's well-being.

India's commitment to sustainable development is evident in its focus on renewable energy, afforestation, and promoting eco-friendly technologies. However, the challenge lies in balancing economic growth with environmental protection. It is essential for India to pursue development in a manner that does not harm its natural resources or contribute to environmental degradation.

One of the major consequences of human activity is the depletion of the ozone layer, which protects life on Earth from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in refrigeration, air conditioning, and aerosol propellants has caused significant damage to the ozone layer, leading to an increase in skin cancer rates and other health problems, as well as disruptions to ecosystems. While international agreements like the Montreal Protocol have helped reduce the use of ozone-depleting substances, the recovery of the ozone layer remains a long-term process.

The depletion of the ozone layer is closely linked to global warming, as both are driven by human activity. Rising temperatures, in turn, lead to a range of environmental issues, including melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and changing weather patterns.

The world has witnessed several devastating environmental disasters in recent years, many of which are linked to climate change. Wildfires in California, floods in India, and extreme heatwaves across the globe are just a few examples of how climate change is altering natural systems. The recent fires in California have caused widespread destruction, burning millions of acres of forest and affecting air quality. In India, floods have become more frequent and intense, displacing thousands of people and causing significant damage to infrastructure.

The melting of glaciers in the Himalayas is another alarming consequence of climate change. As temperatures rise, the glaciers are retreating at an unprecedented rate, which not only threatens the water supply for millions of people but also leads to a rise in sea levels. The loss of ice cover in the Arctic and Antarctic regions further contributes to global warming, as less sunlight is reflected back into space, leading to more heat absorption.

War has a significant impact on the environment. Conflicts often lead to the destruction of ecosystems, contamination of water sources, and the displacement of wildlife. The recent war in Ukraine has caused immense environmental damage, including the destruction of oil tankers and the release of toxic substances into the sea. Wars also contribute to the release of carbon emissions through military activities, further exacerbating the global climate crisis.

E-waste and plastic pollution are two of the most pressing environmental challenges today. E-waste, which includes discarded electronics such as phones, computers, and televisions, poses significant environmental risks due to the toxic chemicals used in their manufacturing. Improper disposal of e-waste leads to the contamination of soil and water, affecting both human health and the environment.

Plastic waste, particularly in oceans, is another critical issue. Millions of tons of plastic waste enter the oceans each year, threatening marine life and ecosystems. Efforts to reduce plastic consumption and improve waste management are essential to addressing this global problem.

The Road Ahead: Needs of Collective Effort:-

The environmental challenges we face are complex and interconnected. It is crucial for countries like India, along with the global community, to take bold actions to reduce carbon emissions, protect biodiversity, and promote sustainable development. India's commitment to net-zero emissions by 2070, along with its focus on renewable energy, is a step in the right direction. However, solving the environmental crisis requires collective action, cooperation, and a

shared sense of responsibility to safeguard the planet for future generations. Only through such efforts can we hope to preserve the Earth's ecosystems, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and create a sustainable future for all.

Today, the world has reached a point where it has obstructed the very source of its development—sustainable growth. Environmental issues have become one of the most critical challenges globally, and sustainable development has stagnated, which is severely affecting the overall progress of life on Earth. If attention is not paid to environmental issues, it may become increasingly difficult for future generations to survive. Problems such as climate change, pollution, and the extinction of plants and animals are continuously escalating. The solution to these issues is only possible through collective efforts. All countries must collaborate and take responsibility for environmental conservation. If we fail to act today, these problems may become even more severe in the future, posing a grave threat to both humanity and the planet.

We can observe that the world's infrastructure is gradually crumbling, and a significant cause of this is the failure to achieve comprehensive environmental development. The progress of the world has been facilitated through the environment, and it is also the environment that can lead to its destruction. If we do not address this in a timely manner, the consequences could be catastrophic. At various levels, we are witnessing how humans have contributed to climate change.

Let us begin with global sustainability because it was here that humans began the partial and full exploitation of the environment. In the industrial era, all nations at some point have faced this issue, where humanity extensively exploited the environment for raw materials, resulting in numerous imbalances in the environment.

The Green Revolution also occurred worldwide, which had a significant impact on all countries, leading to severe negative consequences on soil and water, effects that we can clearly see today. These two factors have created imbalances and crises in the environment, which need to be addressed urgently.

The global human population is continuously increasing, and to meet its needs, the environment is being continuously exploited. For social, economic, and political development, the environment is being exploited in every way. The one percent increase in human population comes at a significant environmental cost. The entire exploitation of the environment is a consequence of human actions. Humans are extracting resources from the environment at an unsustainable level to fulfill their social, economic, and political goals.

The primary goal of social development has been to exploit the environment completely. Through this, society advances, but this process results in environmental degradation.

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Currently, the world is adopting an expansionist policy, which leads to nuclear and biological wars, contributing to the deterioration of water, soil, forests, and pollution. This pollution cannot be eliminated quickly by the environment.

Large-scale deforestation is taking place at borders, which is affecting the oxygen supply for densely populated areas. This is increasing pollution and creating a shortage of essential resources for life.

In this way, humanity has relentlessly exploited the environment to fulfill its needs, and today, the environment is facing a crisis. If corrective measures are not implemented immediately, it could lead to a catastrophic future for the Earth and all its life forms.

Economic development has paved the way for reckless environmental exploitation, leading to several problems that we can observe: Humanity has exploited raw materials to an extreme extent for its development, causing a significant impact on the environment. This has led to climate change, which is adversely affecting water, aquatic life, soil, and the entire ecosystem. The overuse of natural resources is felt globally. All nations are ignoring the environment in their pursuit of development, and due to competition, they are hesitant to take firm steps toward resolving these issues. Countries have not adequately addressed climate change. Despite the construction of dams, water resource control, and efforts to manage climate imbalance, problems such as floods and droughts have emerged in some regions, signaling a severe crisis in the future.

Economic Policies and Environmental Exploitation: Today's global mindset is entirely based on an economic perspective, with all countries engaged in competition. This competition has fueled the exploitation of natural resources. Each country depends on raw materials for its development, reflecting the complete depletion of the environment. As long as these raw materials are available, the environmental pressure continues to be ignored. This situation not only damages the Earth's ecosystems but also threatens life on Earth.

Humanity has excessively exploited the environment's resources for its economic and social progress, resulting in the severe environmental crises we face today. Climate change, air pollution, soil contamination, and water scarcity are visible consequences. All nations must realize that development can only be sustainable if the environment is protected. We must shift toward a model of sustainable development that benefits both the environment and humanity. If concrete steps are not taken soon, this crisis may worsen for future generations.

The Impact of Excessive Environmental Exploitation on Human Existence is hugely negative. Human existence itself is being affected by the excessive and complete exploitation of the environment, which can be seen in the following ways:

Many communities worldwide do not cremate their loved ones after death, and the excessive use of chemical medicines has led to the death of birds, endangering their existence. The absence of birds raises the risk of diseases spreading from dead bodies, potentially endangering human survival. Humanity has started eradicating biodiversity, which is disturbing the balance of ecosystems.

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Sustainable environmental use and development are vital for ensuring that future generations can not only survive but also use and manage the environment correctly for continuous development.

2. CONCLUSION

Thus, it is clear that the unsustainable exploitation of the environment has led to numerous global challenges. The degradation of ecosystems, loss of biodiversity, climate change, and the depletion of natural resources are major indicators of this crisis. The solution lies in embracing sustainable development, where the environment is protected, and resources are used wisely to ensure the survival of all life forms on Earth. Immediate action is necessary to address these issues and prevent further environmental damage, ensuring a livable planet for future generations.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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