

## Pollution and Environment

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### Introduction

Earth is the only planet in the solar system with life. It is home to numerous species. But today's, our planet is afflicted with environmental issues that are life threatening. Now water, air, and soil is polluted. Because of the increasing population and the irresponsible human behavior, the environmental conditions are becoming worse and perhaps uninhabitable. Some of the major environmental problems faced by the world looming large are listed below.

### Global Warming and Climate Change.

Global warming is responsible for the higher percentage of CO<sub>2</sub> present in the earth's atmosphere. The earth is made warmer by the greenhouse effect. This is causing depletion of glaciers which in turn are increasing sea level. If the temperature keeps increasing at such a rate, then slowly the entire land will be submerged in water.

### Deforestation:

Forests are central to the ecological cycle and the source that supply Oxygen, rainfall, etc. But deforestation has drastically changed the ecological balance of the Earth. It takes years for a tree to grow and every year approximately 16 million hectares of forests are cut down for various purposes. Such deforestation has resulted in a climate shiftless rainfall, soil erosion due to hot wind, danger to wild animals etc.

### Energy Crisis

Our energy sources such as petroleum, biofuel, Coal, etc are mostly non-renewable sources. The energy crisis due to the excess usage of these energy sources are not only depleting the sources fast, but are also adding to the global warming conditions, So, most countries are looking for alternative energy sources such as wind energy. Solar energy, nuclear energy etc., which will be helpful in the future.

### Ozone Layer Depletion

Ozone, a protective layer, is what saves the earth from harmful ultra-violet rays of the sun.

But due to the emission of the CFC ( Chloro-Fluorocarbon) gases the ozone layer is getting depleted. If the emission of these gases and other harmful gases are not checked the ozone layer will disappear very soon. This may expose the living beings to harmful radiations which cause life –threatening diseases like skin cancer.

### **Pollution**

There are many types of environmental pollution, water pollution, air pollution, soil pollution, noise pollution, .All these pollutions are very harmful and can seriously effect the living beings. Air pollution is related to the emission of harmful gases in the earth's atmosphere causing health problems. Water Pollution on the aquatic as well as terrestrial life. Soil pollution is also related to the dumping of waste material fertile run –offs, pesticides and in the soil which degrades the soil. Now comes noise pollution, radio waves from mobile towers and mobile phones, smell pollution, which is related to the high frequency sound waves and pungent smell which are harmful for the ears, brains ,nose and lungs.

### **Waste**

The World has progressed a lot but with this progress, the amount of harmful and toxic wastes have increased. This problem is on the top of the list of environmental issues world wise. Many industries which have waste materials like mercury,lead,motor oil, etc. not process them properly and dump it in land or water which further results in the toxification of soil and water. this waste may also include radioactive waste which is very difficult to neutralize.

### **Oil Spills**

It has become a major cause for the extinction of many marine species. This is mainly caused due to carelessness, accidents, wars natural disasters etc many oil industries have contributed to this environmental issue . Though there are many ways to clean up the spilled by the time the work start gets completed many marine and birds lose their life. There many incidents which show the effect of oil spills on animals human beings and the environment. The biggest oil spill in the world history was a result of gulf war and it took place in Persian gulf where more than 420 million gallons of oil was spilled by the Iraqi forces just to stop the Americans soldiers from landing.

### **Overpopulation**

Experts consider overpopulation to be the worst among the other environmental issues. to the estimation of the united nations world population prospects report, current population is growing by 74 million people per year approximately. With the increased in population will also increased. Land resources food, other basic necessity may give birth to many other problems and

may also contribute to the existing ones. Hence it is very important to keep an eye on the growing population not just for the sake of the environment but for the existence of our planet.

### Go Green to Save Earth

**In order to save the planet, the only way is to go green. We need to:-**

- Save Energy to reduce the energy crisis.
- Switch off all electrical appliances when not in use.
- Try avoid non renewable energy sources and concentrate on renewable energy like solar energy.
- Save water preserve rainwater and stop water pollution.
- Use recycle things stop using plastic bags and bottles.
- Save trees, Plant trees avoid using papers.
- Turn your computer off at the end of work.
- Clean your refrigerator coil.
- Buy rechargeable batteries.
- Use cloth napkins instead of paper napkins.
- Share your magazines read them and then pass.
- Take a hike
- Donate old news paper to animal shelters
- And take your cloth bags for shopping.
- Get e-tickets for the movies and travelling.
- Replace Your light bulbs with CFLS.
- Save water while working in house.

### Conclusion

So the environment is very important for human being the ways to go green are most impactful steps, you can take towards sustainable living most of these ideas are simple to implement cost little to no money and huge impact on the environment.