

# Environmental Issues and Environment Conservation

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**Abstract – “Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites.”**

—William Ruckelshaus

*The word “Environment” is most commonly used to describe “natural” environment and means the sum of all living and nonliving things that surround an organism, or group of organisms. Environment includes all elements, factors, and conditions that have some impact on growth and development of certain organisms. In the recent past the issues pertaining around environmental issues have seen a surge and with the fact, that more than a billion of people live under the dire circumstances of poverty it becomes quite obvious. The biggest problem that prevails is the lack of environmental education been given, the infrastructure of most of the industries are so such they lack the bare minimum parameters. To the shock is the fact there are many laws which any organization has to follow to be friendly with environment but the enforcement of such law becomes difficult with the use of power, corruption and lack of resources. One of the severe most ecological problems which is faced across the globe is is global warming which is often a result of emission of carbon dioxide omitted in the atmosphere by vehicles, large industries etc.*

**Keywords – Environment, Lack of Education, Population, Poverty, Industries, Deforestation, Government Legislation, Corruption, Global Warming, Pollution**

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## 1. THE MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN INDIA

The major reason behind the growing problems around environmental issues are due to the rapid and growing population and the economic development. Most common of the issues are forest and agricultural degradation, depletion of resources like water, mineral, forest, sand, rocks etc. The four basic demographic factors of births, deaths, migration and immigration produce changes in population size, composition, distribution and these changes raise a number of important questions of cause and effect. Population growth and economic development is contributing to many serious environmental calamities in India.

These include heavy pressure on land degradation, forests, habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity. Changing consumption patterns has led to rising demand for energy. The final outcomes of this are air pollution, global warming, climate change, water scarcity and water pollution.

## 2. FOREST AND AGRICULTURAL LAND DEGRADATION

Forest and agricultural land degradation an estimated 60% of cultivated land suffers from soil erosion, water logging, and salinity. It is also estimated that between 4.7 and 12 billion tons of topsoil are lost annually from soil erosion. From 1947 to 2002, average annual per capita water availability declined by almost 70% to 1,822 cubic meters, Overexploitation of groundwater is problematic in the states of Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute has estimated that a 3 °C rise in temperature will result in a 15 to 20% loss in annual wheat yields. These are substantial problems for a nation with such an outsized population counting on the productivity of primary resources and whose economic process relies heavily on industrial growth. Forest area covers 18.34% of India’s geographical area (637000 km<sup>2</sup>). Nearly half of the country’s forest cover is found in the state of Madhya Pradesh (20.7%) and therefore the seven states of the northeast (25.7%) ; the latter is experiencing net forest loss Forest cover is declining due to harvesting for fuel wood and therefore the expansion of agricultural land. These trends, combined with increasing industrial and

motor vehicle pollution output, have led to atmospheric temperature increases, shifting precipitation patterns.

### 3. POLLUTION

#### 3.1 Air pollution

Indian cities are polluted by vehicles and industry emissions. Road dust thanks to vehicles also contributing up to 33% of pollution in cities like Bangalore around 50% of youngsters suffer from asthma one among the most important causes of pollution in India is from the Transport system. It also appeared that the excessive pollution was having an adverse effect on the Taj Mahal . After a court ruling all transport within the area was pack up shortly followed by the closure of all industrial factories within the area. The pollution within the big cities is rising to such an extent that it's now 2.3 above the quantity recommended by WHO (world health organization). [ On the positive side, the govt appears to possess noticed this massive problem and therefore the associated health. An Empirical Study on Environmental Issues in India 951 risks for its people and is slowly but surely taking steps. The first of which was in 2001 when it ruled that its entire conveyance system, excluding the trains, be converted from diesel to gas (CPG).

#### 3.2 Water pollution

Water pollution Out of India's 3,119 towns and cities, just 209 have partial treatment facilities, and only 8 have full wastewater treatment facilities 114 cities dump untreated sewage and partially cremated bodies directly into the Ganges River.

Downstream, the untreated water is employed for drinking, bathing, and washing. This the situation is typical of many rivers in India as well as other developing countries.

#### 3.3 Noise pollution

Noise pollution The Supreme Court of India gave a big verdict on sound pollution in 2005. Unnecessary honking of vehicles makes for a high decibel level of noise in cities. The use of loudspeakers for political purposes and by temples and mosques bring sound pollution in residential areas. Recently Government of India has found out norms of permissible noise levels in urban and rural areas. How they will be monitored and implemented is still not sure.

#### 3.4 Land pollution

Land pollution Land pollution in India is thanks to pesticides and fertilizers also as corrosion. In March 2009, the difficulty of Uranium poisoning in Punjab came into light, caused by ash ponds of thermal power stations, which reportedly cause severe birth defects in children in the Faridkot and Bhatinda districts of

Punjab Although the British started deforestation in India, the pressures to modernize since the partition of 1947 have only increased the rates of deforestation, which causes soil erosion which leads to Land Pollution.

#### 3.5 Biodiversity conservation in India:

Biodiversity conservation in India India lying within the Indomalaya ecozone, hosts significant biodiversity. It is home to 7.6% of all mammalian, 12.6% of avian, 6.2% of reptilian, and 6.0% of angiosperm species. In recent decades, human encroachment has posed a threat to India's wildlife in response, the system of national parks and guarded areas, first established in 1935, was substantially Expanded. In 1972, India enacted the Wildlife Protection Act and Project Tiger to safeguard crucial habitat; further federal protections were promulgated within the 1980s. Along with over 500 wildlife sanctuaries, India now hosts 14 biosphere reserves, four of which are a part of the planet Network of Biosphere Reserves. 25 wetlands are registered under the Ramsar Convention.

### 4. FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES OF THE CITIZENS OF INDIA WITH REFERENCE TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Clause (g) of Article 51 A 2 (g)1 Clause (g) provides that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India - TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT INCLUDING FORESTS, LAKES, RIVERS AND WILDLIFE, AND TO HAVE COMPASSION FOR LIVING CREATURES.

Clause 2(g)4 Provides that- Earth is that the common heritage of man and animals. We have no right to annihilate or chase away from their territory or natural habitat the wild denizens. Ancient Indian thought talks of Sarvesham Shantir bhavatu (peace unto all living beings and the entire environment) or Ahimsa paramo dharma. Ahimsa paramo tapah (non-violence is that the greatest duty and therefore the greatest penance

Clause 2(g)5 Provides that - The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, is an important step in that direction. The range of its provisions and therefore the far-reaching measures which will be undertaken through statutory rules and orders which will be issued under the Act, show that the duty to protect and improve the natural environment has been spelt out quite elaborately in our law.

### 5. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACTS:

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 Objective to supply the protection and improvement of the environment. To make rules to regulate environmental pollution; notify standards and

maximum limits of pollutants of air, water, and soil for various areas and purposes; Prohibition and restriction on the handling of hazardous substances, and site of industries or with fine which can extend Whoever Person found to be the explanation for pollution, could also be responsible for punishment for a term which can reach five years to one lakh rupees or both (Sec 15, 16, 17) If not comply fine of Rs. 5000 per day extra, still if not comply for more than one year, then imprisonment may extend up to 7 years. PENALTY.

## 6. FOREST AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT

Forest and Wildlife Protection Act. 1927 –The Indian Forest Act and Amendment 1984; 1972 – The Wildlife Protection Act Rules 1973 and Amendment 1991 1980 – The Forest (Conservation) Act and Rules, 1981

WATER 1882 – The Easement Act. 1897 – The Indian Fisheries Act. 1956 –

The River Boards Act. 1970 – The Merchant Shipping Act. 1974 – The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act. 1991 – The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification.

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## 7. THE AIR (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) ACT

The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act the Factories Act and Amendment in 1987-1981– The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1982

- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules 1982
- The nuclear energy Act 1987 – The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act 1988-The automobiles.

## 8. THE BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY

The Bhopal Gas Tragedy the Bhopal disaster is that the world's worst industrial catastrophe. It occurred on the night of December 2–3, 1984 at the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. A leak of methylisocyanate gas and other chemicals from the plant resulted in the exposure of hundreds of thousands of people. A government affidavit in 2006 stated the leak caused 558,125 injuries including 38,478 temporary partial and approximately 3,900 severely and permanently disabling injuries and therefore the estimated death was 15,000 Environmental rehabilitation after Bhopal Gas Tragedy. When the factory was closed in 1985 – 1986, pipes, drums and tanks were cleaned and sold. The area around the plant was used as a dumping area for hazardous chemicals. Reported polluting compounds include naphthol, naphthalene, Sevin, chromium, lead, hexachloroethane,

hexachlorobutadiene. In order to supply safe beverage to the population round the UCC factory, there's a scheme for improvement of water system . [34] In December 2008, the Madhya Pradesh supreme court decided that the toxic industrial waste should be incinerated at Ankleshwar in Gujarat

Lavasa– A hill city or a controversial city? Lavasa City, Lavasa is India's first hill city since Independence. The First controversial issue is about the environmental impact. government has granted clearance to the present project which can have adverse impact on biodiversity and which is violation of environmental laws. If the water from Varasgaon Dam is diverted to Lavasa, it'll end in problems in water system to Pune city. On January 19, 2011, the Indian ministry of environment and forest ruled Lavasa hill-city is illegal, because of environmental issues. It is very close to Pune and Mumbai. It is 50 km faraway from Pune and 180 km faraway from Mumbai Second Issue involved here is – Clearances which the Lavasa Corporation got during the amount 2002-2004 because of the shares held by daughter, son-in-law and shut associates of Sharad Pawar. The Lavasa project issue may be a clear example of dirty politics. It clearly shows that some politicians have no concern for the environment, people and country; they are only concerned about the profit or money.

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