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Man and environment

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ABSTRACT

Human Evolution is traced to a period of about two million years. The early evidence comes from East Africa. Gradually human occupation spread to other parts of the world. With the invention of making and controlling fire, man could adopt himself to cold environments. In the course of his adaptations, many inventions made his life comfortable and enjoyable. Man's activities have considerable impact on the earth. It may be quite difficult to isolate the contribution made by man for the changing environment. The expansion of holes in the protective layer of Ozone in the atmosphere IS attributed to the release of certain chemicals produced by man for the purpose of cooling used in refrigerators, many observations regarding the temperature of the earth indicate that slowly the atmosphere is getting warmer which may lead to the melting of ice and rising of water levels in oceans and endangering a larger populations which lives in low-laying coastal areas of the world. Part of the warming is traced to the release of emission gases resulting in farm fuels. There are moves to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels so that the global warming can be checked to a great extent. An evolution of the state of environment and the measures taken to maintain the balance is presented in the paper.

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Introduction

The Earth is probably the only planet where environment is suitable for supporting life. Though earth is capable of supporting various forms of life, it is the man being capable of adapting to environment. Since he is capable of adjusting to various situations and capable of changing various situations to his advantage, his occupation on this planet earth is extending. This adaptation capacity leads to increase of his population. As the population increases his activities demand more and more resources. As a result more and more depletion of resources and also more pollutants resulting due to his activities will gather on this planet.

Once man produces the unwanted materials in the environment, these materials in turn affect him and also other living organisms. These effects alter the environment. Altered environment influence the quality of human race. Thus, effects and counter effects will follow the generations.

Environment is the life-supporting medium in which living and non-living components act and interact. This environment with life activity appears to function in a systematic way referred to as ecosystem. In ecosystem there are various factors which determining the function of ecosystems. Man is one such factor.

Man being a one factor has to function and contribute to environment system. If these functions and contribution are within the limits where no harm is done to ecosystem then there is no need to worry about the ecosystem. However, there are various activities which most of them due to modern innovation are creating the doubt that man is crossing the limit.

Petrol is the fossil fuel; it is the energy of sun hidden in the form of carbon compounds. Earth got adjusted to the hidden energy for millions of years. Now man is digging those sources

of energy and bringing those carbon compounds out and realising that energy. This extra energy and extra carbon has to create either damage to system on earth or both carbon and energy has to find a proper way or procedure so that ecosystem is not going to get affected.

Release of energy from fossil fuels is being utilized for the moving transportation etc. during this the released carbon in the forms of carbon dioxide and hydrocarbons enters the air. This forms the main cause of air pollution. Air pollution due to carbon dioxide and hydrocarbons effects not only humans, plants and animals but also buildings and materials.

Though there are natural and artificial sources of air pollution, automobile, exhaust contributes upto 60% for the 'pollution of air, then industries which uses fossil fuels contributes about 10% of pollution.

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Advancement due to utilization of technology is needed but after effects of these advancement taxes the environment. After realizing fossil fuels are not constantly cope with the demands, man turned his attention towards atomic energy. His tests about atomic energy proved to be more detrimental if radiation gets out of his control.

Development of large-scale industries started only in middle of 19th century. The Second World War added a great stimulus to the industrialization to the maximum capacity. With the rapid growth in industries question of environmental protection is left far behind. However, human population is not devoid of the

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brains, which are not capable of realising the dangers of continuous exploitation of environment. Several environmental hazards were so obvious that they attracted the attention of the people who are concerned with environment. Los Angeles smog is the classic example of the air pollution, caused by the combination of hydrocarbons, humidity and due to photochemical reaction. Minamata disease in Japan is the another classic example of water pollution cause due to Methyl mercury.

Today problem of environment is not the question of some groups or some individuals, it is global issue. Since biosphere a layer of life containing layer of earth is under danger, any country, which is contributing to air pollution, will certainly affect the neighbouring country. Adverse effect will change rain and temperature factors.

If one country is contributing fossil fuel residues, these residues may cause rise in global temperature, if temperature rises little 2°C-3°C than the present temperature of global, the low laying cities of Bangladesh, Maldives, Bombay city of India London of England may get submerged.

It is very interesting to note that apart from several examples and evidences, environmental deterioration is still continuing. Environment today is under severe threat from the pressure generated by rise of development and unplanned use of natural resources. Now environment can be compared to the kid who is spending for his fascination from his pocket money. Without realising that If it exhausts within short period he has to sleep without food. Man needs development but he should realise that development should be within certain limits.

Even today he knows very little about the delicate relationship within the biosphere. He knows very little about how ecosystem functions. But he has done lot of damage to the several networks in the environment.

Despite all our knowledge, and efforts it is very difficult to stop environmental degradation. There will be big power hungry

people they dominate and succeed in projects, which are detrimental to environment. One or two organisations, which fight for some forestland or for some river, fail to realise that during their fighting period. Other parts of globe will allow many industries, which begin to spoil environment. What is required is a national conservation policy for industrial developments.

Development against environment should be discouraged. Pollution and human efforts for betterment of living standard are the two contradicting factors. If we neglect environment, environment will neglect us.

Conclusion:

Environment of man involves other organisms. Most of these organisms are decreasing in number. Man knows very little about the earth's play to have such a large number of varieties of organisms. For such long time, now the rate at which they are disappearing really cautions dare consequences.

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