



EFFECTS OF CHANGE IN ENVIRONMENT ON SOCIETY AND HUMAN LIFE

M. S. Tamboli

Department of English, Dadapatil Rajale Arts, Sci.& Comm. College Adinathnagar
(India)

E.mail:- mstamboli10@gmail.com

ABSTRACT:

The human life is largely dependent on environment. All the human activities and behaviours have some or other connection to the environment. Any change in environment may affect our society and the effect visible in various things such as social, cultural and natural. The major effect of the environment change is human health including physical change, behavioural change and also psychological and economic change. The environment change may leave its adverse effects on human life. The environment change has resulted in leaving its effect on human health. The changes in eco system causes several health issues. It has drastically affected the human life. One can observe that birds and animals have tendency to adjust themselves to the changes in environment. However, human beings are severely affected by these changes. No doubt, the environment change is a natural phenomenon but human beings are also largely responsible for any such changes and subsequent calamities which happen due these changes. Various environmental changes such as air pollution, water pollution, wildfires and heat waves have significantly affected human life and human health in general. According to a report of WHO, about 1,50,000.00 people were being killed by various issues related to the environment change every year which is a grave concern. The human beings are largely responsible for such calamities. Most of the calamities happened in recent times are largely because of human interference in environment. Environment is always friendly with human beings. In fact, the whole of human life as well as animal life is dependent on environment. Any attempts to endanger this environment may cause disasters for the human beings and ultimately human life itself. Unfortunately, human beings are not ready to learn the lesson from their previous mistakes which may cause the ultimate doom of the whole human life. This research paper is an attempt to find out various effects of environment change on society and specially on human beings.

Keywords: *environment, society, human life, pollution, calamities, climate, nature, behaviour*

INTRODUCTION:

Environment and human life are closely connected to each other. We cannot think of a human life without the very existence of environment. In fact, human beings and all other animate things have their existence because of the environment. As environment leaves its impact on human life and society, the human life itself leaves its effect on environment. The mood of the environment depends upon the human activities. It behaves in a friendly manner

whenever the human beings try to be friendly with it. However, wherever there is an intrusion by the human beings, the environment shows its power and strength. It can be observed that environment had never been hurdle for human life and societies but on the other hand it is a human tendency to create hurdles for the environment which have resulted in several adverse effects on human life and which also witnessed the destructions of the societies over the years. WHO and other agencies have been

warning about the global warming and efforts are being made to reduce increasing effect of carbon dioxide which is having a severe effects on human health. Despite all these efforts, the human life and species on the earth are in danger. In this context, it would be appropriate to focus on various factors that are causing these environment changes and how they are going to affect human life and societies.

Physical Effects:

The recent surveys and evidences show the increase in temperature and drastic changes in climate patterns. There are signs of global warming which is causing imbalance in environment. As a result of this, there is sudden change in environment such as rise in temperature, frequent cyclones, earthquakes, flood situations and other several such physical effects which are ultimately affecting human life and societies as well. An example of this is the recent cyclones -Yass and Tauktae which caused massive destruction in Bengal, Gujrat, Odisha and Konkan regions of India. It is obvious that these cyclones are the results of global warming. It is just a hint what calamities the human beings will have to face if they don't make efforts to maintain the balance of the earth. It is obvious that the World needs to rethink seriously over the various causes which are creating such numerous changes in the environment. One can also notice the change in weather pattern worldwide. The heavy rainfall at places and drought at some other places are nothing but results of global warming. There is sudden increase in heat waves and wildfires causing human and animal casualties.

Human Effects:

Human beings are the most affected by the change in environment resulting in the problems related to health, water, air, settlement, economic effects and spread of several diseases. The research shows that human life has become unsafe and insecure. The change in environment are causing grave threats to the entire human existence on the earth. It is affecting the human health and human behaviour. In other words the environmental change is not only affecting the humans physically but mentally as well. During the recent days, the eruption of several diseases is a result of change in environment. The people of the underdeveloped and developing countries are being suffered due these changes but it is also seen that the effects on human health is reported in many developed countries as well which is going to be a challenge for the whole world.

Effects on Human Health:

The worst effect of change in environment could be seen in the several health issues in human beings. In fact the large population of the world is affected by some or other health issues. It has become a common phenomenon that the population of all ages are facing several health issues. The increase in temperature due to deforestation and pollution is creating several health issues for the human beings. The human health is largely dependent on environment. The pollution free air, the potable water and healthy food are essential things to maintain the health of the people. However, with the increase in population and burden on natural resources, the human beings are getting deprived of them. Environmental hazards or changes are creating several health issues for the human beings. It is observed that there is an increase in several diseases such as lungs diseases, viral diseases,

cancer, food contaminations and many others. Obviously, it is environmental imbalance which is causing such diseases. The eruption of Covid in the month of May in India and some other parts of the world is nothing but the environmental calamity for which the human beings were largely responsible. It took away lakhs of lives. It is now the time for the human beings to get ready for all the dire consequences. Despite all measures taken by Health Organizations, the menace of these diseases could not be completely erased. The environmental hazards are also creating mental health issues such as fear, anxiety, powerlessness and exhaustion. These effects are visible in the people of all ages and especially the young generation is more prone to such anxiety associated effects on health. The recent epidemics and pandemics have affected the mental health of these young people.

Economic effects:

The environment changes badly affect the economy of the people. The effect is severe with the people of the countries whose economy is largely dependent on agriculture. the flood situations, cyclones and other such calamities badly affect the economy of the nations. The recent cyclones in India affected the economy of the people badly leaving them homeless. The imbalance phenomenon of environment is causing several economic issues. The excessive rain or heat waves across the world affect the economy of the people badly. The environment hazards are either creating drought like situations or flood like situations ultimately affecting the overall economy of the people. In that context, the recent eruption of pandemic of Covid – 19 left millions of people jobless and affected the economy of many countries.

Human intrusions and environmental hazards:

Changes in environment have several effects on human life. However, for all such effects human activities are largely responsible. Human intrusion could be seen everywhere. The man is so much after the materialistic progress that he doesn't pay heed to the environment. The pollution level in the environment is increasing day by day. It is the human intrusion which is creating the several issues for human life itself. For the sake of materialistic development, human beings are trying to harm the very balance of the environment. The human intrusion is obvious everywhere on the earth, in to the water and into the sky as well which itself is creating problems for the human beings. It is obvious that in this modern era, man is after the money. For the sake of money, man is endangering the environment. Deforestation is only the result of human activities. There is huge growth in transportation and industry which are causing the pollution.

It is visible through the sudden increase in temperature and other similar effects. There is no proper mechanism for waste management. Along with the bio and chemical waste, there is the danger of e-waste which is probing high risk for the entire human life and human existence. Environment have so many positive benefits for the human beings. During the pandemic period, there was scarcity of Oxygen in India and many parts of the World. It was then and thereafter that people realized the importance of environment. It is now time for the human beings to be serious about the environment as it gives us more than our expectations which is not realized by the people in general.

Remedies to protect environment and human life:

It is the time now to think about the protection of environment seriously. It will require collective efforts from all the sections of people. Everyone should realize that his/her existence is only because of the environment and they have to give their best to protect it without intrusion. The only way to protect the environment is by creating awareness among the people towards the environment. It is the time to take the stern steps in this regard. The following may be some of the remedies.

- i. Everyone should take pledge that he/she won't harm the environment anyway. It should be considered a crime to cut off a tree or any other kind of harm to the environment. Only by following the strict rules, we can protect our environment. Everyone should be made aware that it is not only the moral duty but an obligation upon every person of the earth to protect the environment.
- ii. There are certain constitutional laws made by every country but these laws are not followed by the masses. It should be a punishable offense to do any kind of intrusion against the environment and as such everybody should be bound by these laws.
- iii. Green initiatives such as plantation and conservation of trees, proper waste management systems, use of solar energy for various household and commercial purposes need to be undertaken. It should be made mandatory for all the institutions and industries to implement these initiatives. The green audit of all institutions and industries and all other public sectors should be made mandatory. On that basis only that all the permissions and approvals should be granted.

- iv. The efforts to be made to reduce the air pollution. This can be done by the extensive use of electrical vehicles instead of the fuels which is the root cause for air pollution. The emission of carbon due to industrial productions and transportations is a grave concern for the human life. It is observed that the pandemics such as CORONA is a result of air pollution. In fact, the immunity of the human beings is getting affected due to high level of air pollution which caused several diseases including covid in the recent days.

These and several other measures need to maintain the environmental balance. It is reciprocal type of relationship between environment and human beings. Now, it is the time to change. Otherwise, the whole society and the human life will be destroyed. Everyone should realize that the destruction of the environment is the destruction of ourselves. In the words of famous poet, William Wordsworth:

*“The world is too much with us late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers,
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!”*
(1-4)

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