



Environmental impact of overpopulation in India.

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Abstract

Human overpopulation has various effects most of which are negative. The direct negative effects are mainly scarcity of food, scarcity of fresh water, unemployment, poverty, misuse of resources, deforestation etc. Similarly there are various indirect effect like increase in greenhouse gases, cutting hills, ozone layer depletion and global warming which occurs mainly due to human activities. The problem of overpopulation become a serious threat to our own existence and therefore it is a global problem. Developing countries like India, China, Brazil etc are facing tremendous problem due to increase in human population. The impacts of overpopulation are not only on the environment but it also affect the socio- economic condition of these countries. India ranked third in emitting Carbon Di Oxide gas contributing 6.8% of global emission as per world economic forum 2019. Several policies and planning are being used to control population explosion by the government like family planning and reproductive health programmes for women, sterilization of man etc. but no government of India has successfully formulated policies.

Keywords: Deforestation, global warming, greenhouse effect, population explosion, reproductive health, sterilization.

1. Introduction

The undesirable condition where there are too many people for the environment to sustain is called overpopulation. The problem of overpopulation has almost become a world phenomenon creating strain on the global environment. It indirectly affect the environment causing huge problems like climate change, greenhouse effect, global warming etc. the problem of overpopulation is mostly faced by the developing countries like India, China, Brazil etc. India is the second most populous country after China with a total population of 1,380,004,385 according to UN data in 2020. India is equivalent to 17.7% of the total world population. As per recent studies India is projected to become the most populous country by 2027 surpassing China and host 1.64 billion people by 2050. The rapid growth of human population causes excessive urbanization, industrialization which in turn cause harm to the environment. Natural resources like fossils fuels, coal are excessively used by people more than the rate of regeneration which cause serious harm to the

environment. Seviour phenomenon of climate change, melting of glacier, flood, and drought are the results of man-made activities. Economy of India is also getting affected due to overpopulation.

Overpopulation is considered as one of the most serious problem. The optimum total human populations a planet can hold is calculated according to how much arable fertile land is available. There are several factors which can cause overpopulation. The main factors are high birth rates, illiteracy, poverty, illegal migration, low rate of mortality, lack of sex education, poor contraceptive use, lack of proper knowledge of population control etc. India is facing problems due to illegal migration from several decades which become a serious socio-political issue. The problem of overpopulation in India is a serious threat to our existence. India's economy is highly affected due to overpopulation. It also causes serious social and environmental problems. The other consequences of population explosion are war, conflict, poor economic condition, poor GDP, unemployment, etc. The natural resources are over exploited by people which causes

scarcity of resources creating threats to sustainable development.

The effect of overpopulation can be found out in a family itself where there are more children than the affordable capacity of parents. The family members will face problems like lack of room, food and clothes; children will be deprived from better education facilities; poor living standards; unemployment etc. Thus overpopulation can cause various socio-economic as well as environmental problems. Due to rise in human population there is a scarcity of resources. People started using more and more natural resources without saving it for future. For creating employment more and more industries are built clearing forest causing deforestation. Deforestation is a direct effect of overpopulation. People needs more land to use either for living or for agricultural purposes. So people remove the trees of forest permanently to make room for something besides forest. Due to the focus on its economic development India has seen rapid deforestation in recent years. According to government data, 14,000sq km of forests was cleared to accommodate 23,716 industrial projects across India over the last 30 years. Since forest resources has a major contribution to the economy of India, deforestation leads to poor economic growth.

Due to deforestation, soil erosion occurs. There is an increase in green house gases like Carbon Dioxide gas, methane, water vapour, nitrous oxide, fluorinated gases etc. due to human activities. Man-made disasters are more dangerous than that of natural one. Deforestation also causes green house effect, acid rain and depletion of ozone layer. Overuse of vehicals, industries, agricultural farming, diary, mining etc. can cause air, water and soil pollution which are the main parts of the environment. Population explosion is indirectly related to global warming. Global warming is an average increase in the temperature of the atmosphere near the earth's surface and in the troposphere. human activities like burning excessive fossil fuels give off carbon di oxide gas which is a greenhouse gas. it contributes about 55% to total global warming from greenhouse gases produced by human activity. Another greenhouse gas methane increases due to excessive use of cattle and diary farming and agriculture as more people need more food. Another serious effect of overpopulation is depletion of ozone layer which is caused by the release of chemical compounds containing chlorine or bromine from industries and human activities. India is the world's third largest emitter of carbon dioxide gas, after china

and the US. Increase in greenhouse gases leads to global warming. Global warming can cause climate change as well as extreme weather condition.

The quality of agricultural field is also getting affected due to excessive use in producing food to meet demands. More people need more food. So agricultural mining is also done excessively which leads to reduction of ground water as well as surface water. Use of fertilizer can cause harm to the environment. Excessive fertilizer also affects our health. It can cause serious health issues. Lack of fresh water is another consequence of overpopulation. Due to excessive use of ground water in agricultural field, water level reduce and results in water crisis. It is very serious problem in India which is expected to worsen as the overall population is expected to increase to 1.6 billion by year 2050. Hill cutting is another problem where many people illegally collect materials from hill-slopes to build homes. The reduction of hill can cause landslides during rainy season.

Overpopulation is also a political problem. Illegal migration in India is a serious political issue in India. It acts like a barrier in all round development of our country. War, conflict are the consequence of increased rate of human population. Overpopulation causes poverty and poverty results in crime in some cases. Rapid population growth strains political institutions and increases pressure on services.

It becomes very important to control population as it has various negative impacts. Population of India is increasing day by day. There are several measures that can be taken to control population growth like family planning, sterilization, sex education, raising status of women, good medical facility, proper education of population etc. India is the first country in the world to begin a population control programme in 1952 which emphasized the use of natural devices of family planning. In 1965, the sterilization technique for both men and women was adopted under third five year plan. The technique of copper-T was also introduced with setting up of an independent family planning department. All kinds of birth control methods were encouraged in fourth five year plan. Under the fifth five year plan the national population policy 1976 was introduced wgere the minimum age for marriage was increased for boys from 18 to 21 and for girls from 14 to 18 years.

In India, the National Population Policy 2000 was announced on February 2000 which mainly aimed at meeting the needs for contraception, health care infrastructure, health personnel and integrated service

delivery. The mid-term objectives are outlined as aimed at bringing the total fertility to replacement levels-two children per couple. The long term objective is stabilization of population for 2045. National commission on population is a Statutory body to implement the National Population Policy 2000. One of the major objectives of this commission is to work on the policy of family planning and the limitations on child birth. This objective in turn is expected to lead to family happiness, national welfare and development of the social economy. The ministry of health and Family Welfare is the government unit responsible for formulating and executing family planning in India. Multiple Indian states have adopted a limited China-like two child policy commonly known as “hum do, humare do”. In 2005, government of India established the National rural health Mission (NRHM) in order to address the issues like maternal mortality. It aims to provide medical facilities in rural areas and special provisions have been made to address concerns for adolescents who are more likely to participate in risky sexual behaviours.

According to Press Information Bureau of government of India, the total fertility rate (TFR) has

declined to 2.2; the crude birth rate has declined from 23.8 to 20.2 from 2005 to 2017; the teenage birth rate has halved from 16% due to the several steps taken by the government for population control. Some of the important initiatives includes 360 degree media campaign, mission parivar vikash, new contraceptive choices, introduction of post-partum IUCD method, compensation scheme for sterilization acceptors, scheme for home delivery contraceptives by ASHAs etc.

2. Conclusion

Thus, the effect of overpopulation is causing harm to the proper growth of our country. population can be controlled by proper government policies and its formulation. Although various policies are being implemented successfully but still people are unaware of damages causing by overpopulation to the environment. In this technological era, people can easily spread message globally by individual effort to aware people to save our ecosystem. A mass revolution is needed to control population explosion. Sex education should be imparted to young kids as mandatory subjects.

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