

# ENVIRONMENT AS A BLESSING TO THE PEOPLE: VALUE IT!

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**ABSTRACT**—Environment is the surrounding in which we live in. It composes of all the heavenly object like water, air, soil, animals, trees etc. Some other artefact like machines, products, pollution, discarded items etc. If one wants to attain a nourishing ecology then one must stand forth to maintain a equilibrium between natural and man-made sources. In this paper it will state about the issues related to environment. Another part of the paper will highlight about the plastic pollution. Plastic is a requisite pollution in the present scenario. It is pervasive and omnipresent in the life of everyone. People are using plastic either for shopping or using for constructive work, such as pipes which is used in kitchen or in any offices. Improper handling of plastic may cause disastrous effect on the life of individual. It is found in every area whether it is land or in ocean. Huge piles of plastic wastes is heaped near the river and in land areas.<sup>1</sup> Plastics are non-biodegradable in nature. Once it is dumped into the soil will remain there for years without being treated or managed posing threat to the humankind. Several states joined hands to say 'No to plastic'. This paper also states about the environmental crimes found in several parts of India. Due to the emergence of environmental crimes large number of species is declining day by day. This paper aims to understand the importance of environment. What are the current environmental. This paper aims to understand the importance of environment. What are the current environmental concerns or issues? What the government is doing in order to protect the natural reserves? Whether the laws are effective, made by the administration? Discussing about the environmental crimes in India. How pollution has disturbed the survival of the mankind? Usage of plastic bags, pose threat to many aquatic and land species. Answer to these question is illustrated in this paper.

**Keywords:** Environment, Current environmental Issues, Government initiative to cut down plastic, Environmental crimes.

Environment is one of the previous gift for people on Earth, it is not only the source of life but also helps in to the progress, development of mankind. People in the ancient time were dependent totally upon nature for their livelihood. Some were busy in hunting wild animals, fruits while others were busy in carving monuments from mud and woods, doing pottery etc.

They do not have any sense of mine and thine.<sup>2</sup> But with the passage of development people thought about themselves and started to fight, as Herbert Spencer coined in relation to Darwin's idea, survival of the fittest. In ancient time people were less concerned about the preservation of environment. They were unknown about the damage they have posed to the environment. But there were no need for it as nature could renew by itself by whatever damage earlier people were inflicted.<sup>3</sup> As the territory started to develop, people's demand grew in scope and dignity. People started to assume nature as a giver, so one should only take them. People were not thinking about the result of this 'taking' from the nature only. At that time people were not so intellectual that they will investigate about the environment. They only think that the nature itself will restore. Recently people understood about the preservation and protection of Environment is an important aspect. This could be possible only by the introduction of science and technology which made people to think rationally. By the continuous usage of natural resources, the nature has deteriorated, reinstate potentiality have drastically diminish and the condition of human is worsening day by day, not only their health is affected but also the actuality of the humans are at stake. By this man could perceive the need to protect and ameliorate the condition of Environment. Environment is composed of all the biotic and the abiotic components present on the Earth. It comprise of all the physical parts such as water, air, soil, species, minerals etc. All the components are connected and interlinked with each other and are formed in a systematic manner. By studying the importance of environment one has to first understand the ability to preserve it. If it will not be safeguarded then the people will not able to lead a prosperous life.<sup>1</sup> **Article 48 A** – suggest that the country

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<sup>1</sup>Dutta, Joystu and Moharana Chaudhury (2018) Plastic pollution : A global problem from a local perspective, Medwin Publishers, India, pg.1

<sup>2</sup>Chandra, Mahesh (2015) Environmental concerns in India : Problems and solutions, Journal of International business and law, pg.1-2

<sup>3</sup>Rangarajan, Mahesh and K. Sivaramakrishnan (2014) Shifting ground: People, mobility and animals in India's environmental histories, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pg. 1-2

has the responsibility to protect and preserve the wildlife and forests. They should not kill the animals and torture them<sup>4</sup>

**Article 51 A (g)** –It is the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife to have compassion for living creatures.<sup>5</sup>

Thus, people should always think in protecting the environment because it is the basic survival of all the mankind. If the environment is not safe then the life of the humans is not safe, so in order to protect yourself one should think to first protect the environment.

### Current Environmental Issues

Pollution is termed as a waste material whether it is in the form of air, water or solid wastes. Pollution is the threat for all the human beings. In spite of so many laws been introduced but still the problem continues to rise. This is mainly because one has not studied properly about the root cause of the pollution. Some issues of environment are as under:-

#### State of health of people

Health of the people is one of the important aspect which needs to be taken care of. The World Health Organisation (WTO) has conducted a survey and listed that over 1600 cities across 91 countries is infected by air pollution. The air pollution is mainly due to burning of fossil fuels, power plants, transportation, use of biomass for cooking and heating. By this the people consume large amount of pollutants which further result in several types of diseases, such as; respiratory infection, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, stroke, heart disease etc. Government has organised several hospitals, clinics and other medical institute for people who are suffering from these types of disease.<sup>6</sup> Health of the human is essential factor of human's development. If the man will be not physically fit then the nation will never attain success.

#### Pollution

Mostly everyone knows the basic meaning of pollution but no-one is ready to face the disastrous effect of pollution-Pollution is not only restricted to air, water, soil, noise but it covers the vast area such as crimes, violence, visual etc. Pollution is the result of the actions of the human being. Air pollution is mainly caused by the gases transmitted by the vehicles, industries, chimneys, burning of fuels, firing etc. Water pollution is result of oil spills, wastes from industries, soil wastes transmitted from fertilizers, pesticides, dumping of

dead bodies, bathing of animals etc. Soil is also composed by the effects of pesticides and fertilizers only.<sup>7</sup>

### Change in Climate

The fluctuations in the climate is due to the acts of human being. The change in the climate result in to cause of greenhouse effect, global warming. Due to global warming the ozone layer is depleted which further result in the cloro floro carbon which is too hazardous for human health. Climate change is also result of coal industry, urban heat etc.<sup>8</sup> When there is a sudden rise and decrease in the temperature then the ice in the polar region starts to melt which affect the animals but also cause threat to human beings as it increase the chances of occurrence of new kinds of disease and inhibit into the plants.

### Deforestation

With the increase in population there is an increase demand for food, shelter and cloth etc. To meet the demands of growing population the main problem of deforestation occur. When the people tries to cut down the trees, forests for doing agriculture, expansion of industries or any commercial use then it is termed to be a deforestation. It means to completely clear of the particular area to do any particular business. When the forest cover is destroyed then the species who are living in these areas gets misplaced. They lose their habitat. The animals and species either start to run from here to there or die. Oxygen rate is decreased which result to more pollution but less clean air. The cause of deforestation are many but people do not think about it. If one is cutting the trees then they must think to plant the trees too.<sup>9</sup>

### Extinction of species

This is one of the major concern in present generation. People are making their hobby to hunt animals, porching but do not realise that if they will not stop to this then they have to face the consequences. As there are several issues which result in the extinction of the species such as deforestation, pollution etc. By 2050 one out of 10 species are in the verge of extinction. The rate of extinction is increasing day by day. Climate change is another reason for the extinction of polar region animals. If one wants to protect the species then they must have to combine hands with each other to protect the environment. If environment will be clean then ecosystem will automatically be safe.

### Urban slouch

<sup>4</sup>Singh, Gobind, Environmental policy in India, Institute of lifelong learning, University of Delhi, pg.2-4

<sup>5</sup>Singh, Gobind, Environmental policy in India, Institute of lifelong learning, University of Delhi, pg.2-4

<sup>6</sup><https://www.google.com/amp/s/schooledbyscience.com/environmental-issues/amp/>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.google.com/amp/s/schooledbyscience.com/environmental-issues/amp/>

<sup>8</sup>Schneider, S.H., A. Rosencranz and J.O. Niles (2002) Climate change policy : A survey, Island press, Washington D.C., Pg.5-7

<sup>9</sup><https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/deforestation/>

In this the people from the rural areas shifts to urban cities and people of the urban areas gets transferred from one place to another. The main reason for this shifting is due to the works of builders and contractors. The contractor in order to earn more profit tries to built building in the areas where slums are situated. By giving them small amount, they try to settle them in a totally new place. Which cause them to fall ill specially the old ones due to the changing atmosphere. Either they get depressed or face difficulty in earning more money. The living pattern of the people change which directly affect their health.<sup>10</sup> When the contractors built the high storeyed buildings then there is a major chance of catastrophic events. When any disaster occur then the high situated building falls down and cause large number of people to death.

### **Plastic Pollution**

When the plastic is dumped after the use by the people then it is piled up on the soil and becomes a waste is known to be a plastic pollution. It is deteriorating the condition of the environment quickly. Plastic are non disposal in nature. When the people try to burn the plastics then it creates more devastating effect on environment. Recently, the people are using more and more plastics such as bags, plastic gadgets, plastic furniture etc. further creating additional pollution in the atmosphere. As plastics are non-biodegradable so it persist for thousands of years and leads to increase air, water and land pollution. Materials made of plastics are very attractive. People while purchasing specially buy plastic spoons, glasses, bags and other materials. They also give plastic toys to their children to play without even paying attention to what will be the effect of those. Now-a-days people are running away from doing labour so they use plastic plates, spoons in the parties or small gathering, which people throw after using into the ground. Plastics are too economical and easy to avail. So even the poor people use the plastic made products and furniture in their home. No-one is paying heed to think about animals, species, humans who when come into contact with the plastic pollution will suffer from numerous disease. Animals, birds and marine creatures when shallow these plastic die due to pollution.

### **Governments programme to recycle plastic to fuels**

#### **Dehradun's attempt to recycle plastic wastes**

In most of the cities like in Dehradun a constituent laboratory of council of scientific and industrial research (CSIR) in 2014, has created an accentric machine which convert the wastes from plastic to gasoline or diesel. It has the capacity to crush 1 kg of plastic to 750 ml of self-propelled or automobile gasoline, with no sulphur. These gases are eco-friendly with adverse effects on humans. By the introduction of this

machine most of the plastic wastes from urban cities and in rural towns has become pollution free environment.<sup>11</sup>

### **Maharashtra pledge to ban plastic products**

When the government passed a resolution to ban the plastic bags then Maharashtra being one of the populous state in India's list stood 18<sup>th</sup> position to ban plastic products. They boycott in the production, usage, sale of any types of products which is made of plastics.<sup>12</sup> Only some items such as for packaging of medicine, food can be packed in virgin plastic which should be less than 50 microns thickness.

### **Delhi to participate in the motion**

The people in Delhi do not reacted to this cause very seriously. The municipalities though send a notice that whoever uses the plastic bags will have to pay a fine of rupees 5000. People for some day try to use paper bags or the bags which is less than 50 microns but not for long time. The main reason for this failure was lack of manpower and budget.

### **Green protocol for Kerala city**

When the government passed the law for banning of plastic bags, then the people in Kerala set a target to not to use plastic material or product in any of the marriages. There the people used disposals. They named this motion to be Green Protocol and Green Weddings. By the acts of the people, there was a significant reduction of wastes. Restaurants and hotels too stopped using plastic straw. As the Kerala itself stand in one of the clean city in India also ensured the government to totally ban the use of plastics from every aspect. This Green Protocol was so effective that the city named Kannur started to give marriage certificate if the green protocol is met.<sup>13</sup>

### **Jammu and Kashmir's role in this revolution**

Jammu and Kashmir being a tourist place is a authentic place to make a success to this attempt to ban plastic. The government ordered that if any tourist use any polythene bags and plastic products then their licence would be cancelled. Various places in Kashmir like in Laddakh, made a no polythene zone. By this act, people drastically reduced to use the plastic material there.

### **Sikkim, a successful place against plastic**

<sup>11</sup><https://www.google.com/amp/s/swachhindia.ndtv.com/year-ender-2018-waste-management-plastic-waste-india-performance-against-plastic-29144/amp/>

<sup>12</sup><https://www.google.com/amp/s/swachhindia.ndtv.com/year-ender-2018-waste-management-plastic-waste-india-performance-against-plastic-29144/amp/>

<sup>13</sup><https://www.google.com/amp/s/swachhindia.ndtv.com/year-ender-2018-waste-management-plastic-waste-india-performance-against-plastic-29144/amp/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.google.com/amp/s/schooledbyscience.com/environmental-issues/amp/>

Sikkim was the first state who adopted the ban of plastic. They tried to ban on plastic bottles in government offices and events. They also cut down the use, sale and purchase of styrofoam and Thermocol made materials like spoon, cup, bottles, plates etc. Sikkim was the first place who got success in reduction and banning of plastic pollution.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

This is one of the serious problem which is faced in the recent time. People are doing this in order to earn more and more profits. These crimes are associated with unlawful exploitation of wild fauna and flora, waste disposal and it's business. Some of the Environmental crime are listed under;

### Bargaining and trade of wild animals

This business is among the third largest in the world after drug and arms trafficking. This poses a great threat to biodiversity. Even the rich people are indulging in this activity. They put the price according to the species and animals.<sup>14</sup> The animals or species who are in the verge of extinction their price is too high and the tropical birds such as parrots, macaws are the pet birds so their price is also high. Some use the animals as for decorative purposes or take them to zoo for business. By this the animals get disturbed which result in the dying of the species.

### Stocking of the woods for business

People try to lodge the wood for furniture and for production of other goods is the most significant cause of Environmental crime.<sup>15</sup> People are clearing the forests in Amazon for doing their business which drastically pose threat to Environment.

### Finning

In this, thousands of species like whales, sharks are captured for their fins and then dumped back to water causing harm to aquatic species which result in painful death of these species. Sharks fin is one of the most expensive one in Asian countries, so people deal in this type of business to earn more. These fins are used in hotels and restaurants to make their meals a delicious one.<sup>16</sup>

Thus, the people now-a-days are becoming so inhuman that they do not have any feeling for those innocent animals. Environment crime is becoming one of the popular business among the people now, even the rich people are also dealing

with it. This should be stopped otherwise the species and animals will be in danger.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programme of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

The motive of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was to fulfill one of the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi who was the 'Father of the Nation' because his wish was to create the country to a clean and unpolluted country. His life was surrounded by the works of uplifting of sanitation and hygiene. Primer Minister Shree. Narendra Modi launched this on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2014 with the target to provide clean water to every household, providing sanitation facilities, proper disposal of wastes and to lead a life in a clean atmosphere. It is enlisted that if the people of the country will not support in attaining the target then the progress will not be effective. The people should unite themselves in making this policy to be a success.<sup>17</sup> By the implementation of this programme, about 3 million government employees including students participated and join hands to clean their surroundings.

<sup>14</sup><https://www.activesustainability.com/environment/crimes-against-the-environment/>

<sup>15</sup><https://web.unep.org/youngchampions/blog/get-facts-6-things-know-about-environmental-crime>

<sup>16</sup><https://www.activesustainability.com/environment/crimes-against-the-environment/>

<sup>17</sup>[www.pmindia.gov.in](http://www.pmindia.gov.in)