

Environment Conservation Measures

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Abstract—*Environmental degradation these days is very serious challenge to the life forms on the planet earth but now with the pollution on the rise, rain forests disappearing at an appalling rate and population reaching truly astronomical proportions, how long the earth will continue to be able to sustain bio-space without dire consequences. We have pillaged and polluted our environment to the point where the very life support system that sustains us is on the verge of collapse. Every individual can contribute significantly to the protection of the environment and it requires at a first place awareness and immediate conservation measures at individual, NGOs and government level otherwise we will wipe out the creations of millions of years. We have resources but there is need to change our priorities and views. We should not perceive environmental problems as abstract concerns that can only be addressed by government and businesses. NGOs should enlighten every individual on environmentally vulnerable issues, environment conservation and adoption of green technologies. They should convert the people into powerful weapons to fight against the environmental problems by creating positive attitudes towards environment. Government should make environmental laws widely known and rigorously enforced. Pollution Control Boards should take stringent steps to check industries and factories that release their toxic wastes and responsible for pollution.*

Keywords: *environment, degradation, conservation measures, government.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Modern era no doubt has made us to reach the moon but in this process we failed miserably in protecting our environmental wealth. Environmental degradation these days is very serious challenge to the life forms on the planet earth but now with the pollution on the rise, rain forests disappearing at an appalling rate and population reaching truly astronomical proportions, how long the earth will continue to be able to sustain bio-space without dire consequences. It is adversely affecting not only individuals and human societies in various ways and in different degrees but is also influencing the changes that are detrimental to the healthy growth of all forms of life.

Only recently human beings have realized the extent of damage done to the earth by their over enthusiasm. We have pillaged and polluted our environment to the point where the very life support system that sustains us is on the verge of collapse. The wounds inflicted on the environment are so

severe that nature has started sending us warning signals in the form of droughts, tsunamis, floods, global warming, acid rains, depletion of ozone layer in atmosphere and many unheard diseases. Whole spectrum of neurological disorders from learning disabilities to severe mental retardation and from pains to physical handicaps is on the rise. Liver, kidney, skin, muscular skeletal and ear, nose and throat diseases are becoming highly prevalent. Tumors, cysts, cancers, asthma and allergies are becoming common and cutting the life span of human beings. If this situation continues, then future of the mankind is not safe.

2. CONSERVATION MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED

The integration of scientific and technological advancement into quality of everyday life has resulted in degradation and imbalances of environment. It has become imperative to nurture and preserve the environment. Unless some deliberate attempts are made to conserve the environment, there will be serious problems in future. Attention of educationists, politicians and social workers should be attracted to these problems and a serious thought should be given to environmental issues. These issues are no more confined to specialists in environmental sciences, rather these are being everybody's concern. Every individual can contribute significantly to the protection of the environment and it requires at a first place awareness and immediate conservation measures at individual, NGOs and government level otherwise we will wipe out the creations of millions of years.

3. CONSERVATION MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED BY INDIVIDUALS

- We have resources but there is need to change our priorities and views. We should not perceive environmental problems as abstract concerns that can only be addressed by government and businesses. Today environment conservation, ecological balance and prevention of environmental pollution should concern every individual. We should adopt concerted campaigns to save the environment so that mankind can flourish.
- We should strike a balance between the developmental process and environment. The ruthless destruction of forests, wet lands, game hunting and indiscriminate use of

pesticides and other toxic substances should be discontinued. We should realize that our future and ecological security is at stake. We must think of earth as a habitat not of today but of a distant tomorrow.

- We should make our best efforts to conserve biodiversity as it is nature's insurance against disasters. The evolution and extinction of biodiversity is a natural phenomenon. The earlier mass extinction of species was attributed to their inability to adapt to a changing environment but the recent species losses are a direct result of changes resulting from human growth that have managed to disrupt and damage vital links in the sustainability of species. Biodiversity has been under threat for the last century due to bulldozing development initiatives by human beings. Biodiversity conservation should come from within and not by enforcement of laws if we love the earth and all living beings thereof.
- We should spare some time and calculate our individual carbon emission i.e. personal measure of how much carbon dioxide we generate in our day to day life as an individual or as a part of the household leading to climate change and global warming. At least an individual should plant ten trees to take care of the carbon dioxide that he or she is emitting.
- The rich and the middle class should cut the existing consumerist life style. They should reduce their non-essential and wasteful consumption so as to lower the green house gas emissions and to keep adequate carbon space for the present day poor people. There are several indications that even those leading highly consumerist life style of excessive consumption and spending are suffering from high levels of depression, insecurity, loneliness and social disruption and also chronic health problems like obesity. While voluntarily reducing consumption we can rediscover all the things that we can make, do, create, invent and give freely to each other that have been enclosed, marketed and sold back to us by the developed countries. With the ill effects of global warming and climate change, there is an urgent need for rational use of natural resources by changing our life style.

We should try to cut the energy expenditure as follows:

- Switch to energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs for most used light.
- Do not overheat or over cool rooms. Clean or replace air filters as recommended.
- Turn down the heat setting for the water heater. If we turn our water heater thermostat by 20 degrees, we can prevent more than 45 million tons of annual carbon dioxide down emission.
- Set the temperature of refrigerator as per need.
- Select energy efficient models and look for the energy star label which means the product saves energy and prevents pollution.

4. CONSERVATION MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED BY NGOS

NGOs should enlighten every individual on environmentally vulnerable issues, environment conservation and adoption of green technologies. **They should convert the people into powerful weapons to fight against the environmental problems by creating positive attitudes towards environment as follows:**

- They should plan the environment activities correlated with traditions and customs of the society
- They should conduct field visits to industries and polluted areas to enable the people to feel the need and importance of environmental protection.
- They can take up projects like recycling, building of nests, rainwater harvesting and survey of utilization of energy resources and making decorative items from waste.
- They should conduct health weeks and celebrate important days viz. world population day, world forest day and world conservation day. They should also promote dustbin culture to be followed at various places like railway stations, bus stands and other public places. They can campaign against the use of plastic bags and help in implementing the habit of using alternatives of plastic in day to day activities.
- NGOs should make it clear to the general public that they are the part of environment and if they protect the environment and same will protect them, otherwise everyone has to face the repercussions.

5. CONSERVATION MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

- Government should keep a check on migration of rural population to the urban areas. Government should set up industries in rural areas. This will result in reduction in migration of rural population to urban clusters otherwise major problems of water, electricity, healthcare, sanitation, housing, road and transport facilities will be created in urban areas.
- Government should make environmental laws widely known and rigorously enforced. Pollution Control Boards should take stringent steps to check industries and factories that release their toxic wastes and responsible for pollution and board should confiscate their licenses. The government should insist that the generators of bio-medical waste should set up their own facilities for its management or have a common facility for its disposal.
- Government should also take immediate steps to halt biodiversity loss. India is among the 17 mega-diversified countries that are custodian of 70 per cent of world's biodiversity. There is need for the prevention of extinction through sound planning and management. The concerted focus should be preservation of varieties of food crops, livestock, plants, animals and their wild host. In addition habitats of wild relatives where species feed, breed, nurse their young ones and rest should be identified, safeguarded and protected.
- There is a need for policy framework to stroke the passion that the youth displays for the green cause. School

education can play a major role as it is more concerned with the masses and through these, environmental values can be imbibed in young generation so as to motivate them to work for the green India. Ideas on reduction in chemical emission echo, audit movement, alternatives fuels and waste management should be shared with them. Green education should go beyond awareness to address future requirements. By teaching at school level, we may encourage parental involvement in environment issues and activities which demonstrate the role of environmental awareness in daily life as well as sustaining natural resources. In order to sustain a low carbon economy in India, a large number of students can be motivated to enter into viable professions of environmental issues. So more dynamic efforts are required under which green collar jobs to be created. Students have to be given an assurance that their passion for environment conversation should collaborate with other industries and institutions such as NGOs and national parks.

- With faith in ourselves, belief in our capacities and hope for a better pollution free environment, let us all head towards the coveted destination. All of us living on this planet, whether rich or poor, industrialist or workman, farmers or labourers, office goers or housewives, individuals or groups are responsible for the present dismal state of our environment and each one of us has to contribute towards its rehabilitation and conservation.

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