



ALL PERVASIVE & AFFLICTING GLOBAL WARMING

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ABSTRACT

Global warming is the greatest menace that the world faces today which is said to be the outcome of the ongoing exploitation of the earth by men who are termed God's noble creations. The gas that absorbs infrared radiation (using radiation just beyond red end of spectrum) emitted from the earth warms the earth and that is called the 'greenhouse gases. The main cause of global warming is the human beings' careless or irrational activities. The multiple increase human population has been demanding or has been in greater insistent on more resources to live an easy and healthy life such as land for maintaining or sustaining life, crops for or farming cultivation, and technological growth for comfort which has made man deal with increasing temperature of atmosphere. The excessive dependency and consumption of fossil fuels has ultimately resulted in the increase of global warming. However, human beings, the most dangerous animals on the face of the earth, are wasting natural resources and polluting the air, water and soil.

KEYWORDS: *Global warming , dangerous animals , human beings.*

INTRODUCTION

Global warming means the warming of the earth that may occur and befall due to natural and anthropogenic forces. Global warming is a major concern nowadays because of the incessant increasing temperature of the whole atmosphere. It is continuously becoming a devilment that turns into menace to the existence of life on earth. There are many reasons for its ever increasing nature. The major cause of it is greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, chloro fluoro carbons, etc which are dangerously increasing in the environment chiefly by the human activities or because of the exploitation of the earth by man. Some of them are increasing number of automobiles, mushrooming or developing of industries, fossil fuels combustion, etc. Such activities emit or send out more CO₂ into the atmosphere which enhances global warmth of Earth. This increasing phenomenal atmospheric temperature causes glaciers to melt, health disorders to occur and ushers in so many natural disasters.

The "Why" of Global Warming

Man is said to the custodian and curator of the earth. Human beings' disproportionate and exorbitant covetousness to make life easy and luxurious made them invent technologies such as refrigerator, AC, car/automobiles, electric machines, oven, microwave, washing machine, etc. All such resources ultimately contribute to the global warming. Burning fossil fuels in the automobiles emits various green house gases which get collected in the atmosphere and force it to heat. Increasing need of land for cultivation or living by human being results deforestation which contributes to increase in CO₂ and decrease in the amount of oxygen. It affects the human health and life style, calls diseases and calls natural disasters like hurricanes, heat waves, drought, climate change etc. Man is to be disparaged for being coxcombs who unreasonably and inequitably dilapidated the surface of the earth for his benefits.

The modern society is envisaging a lot of problems related to environment. Be it the pollution due to industrial gases being released in the ocean water, or harmful gases released into the air we breathe, troubles are ever unending. Where does it all lead to? A major catastrophe facing us today is the global warming. Look at the events that shook us in the past few years - heat, fire, storm, and flood, all this is like mother earth is warning us about something. Some of the serious consequences of global warming cited by scientists sound alarming but not yet realized by the common people. These include: (1) more intense tropical cyclones and stronger hurricanes; (2) rise in sea levels and destruction of coastal trees; (3) warming of seas and erosion of coasts, inundation of shoreline, salt water intrusion into groundwater; (4) deterioration in marine species and eco-systems; (5) more flood and more drought; (6) increase in the infectious diseases through increase in the rainfall in some places and drought in some places, migrations and water shortage and contamination; (7) increase in heat-related fatalities; (8) increase in air pollutants and allergies.

Earth is a planet, which permits life on it because of the balance it allows. It is neither too cold in winter nor too hot in summer. The earth offers a plethora of wonderful things, like water, air, sufficient space, etc. With the increase in pollutants, man-made chemicals and automobile exhausts, etc., certain equilibrium is shifting or drifting. While a certain degree of hike per year is normal, for the past 30 years, the average temperature has increased threateningly, with 2012 rendering, one of the hottest years in a century. Since, biologically, human beings or animals adapt or refashion slowly to the surroundings, this sudden change in temperature might be harmful or dangerous to them and other living things on earth. While a change occurring naturally is uncontrollable, like a Tsunami coming up after earth quake, or the earth quake itself, global warming is controllable or can be kept in check.

Everyone knows that global warming is a serious environmental health hazard with its effects reflecting on nature and all of mankind on the Earth since the mid-twentieth century - emission of concentrated greenhouse gases which has made the rise of sea levels, melting of polar ice caps or glaciers, and increase in global surface air temperature. The rise in global surface air temperature badly results in occasional droughts in dry areas and accelerated ocean warming and hence the rapid rise in sea levels and melting of the polar ice caps or glaciers.

CONTENT

Global warming poses a great threat to the bio-diversity of the earth. A large number of species of them may become extinct. About 20 to 30 per cent of species assessed or calculated so far are likely to become extinct if global average warming surpasses 1.5-2.5 C. Deserts would increase, low rainfall and rising temperature could add to the intensity and density of global warming and frequency of dusty storms would suffocate the lives of men on the earth. This, in turn, will immensely and vastly affect the quality of agricultural land, ultimately causing adverse or unfavorable effect on agricultural produce. As humanity endeavors to achieve better living standards for all, there is an increase in fuel consumption, industrial production and other such activities that increase emissions. So in the present technological and political climate, economic growth means higher emissions. The development or environmental threats will certainly go hand in hand or we can say that progress means a simultaneous damage to the face of the earth.

We can help prevent global warming in numerous ways. Efficient use of energy, plantation of trees and adopting a clean approach for the environment are the different ways to help prevent global warming. The modern environment movement started with fighting against polluting factories, power plants, oil spills, sewage and toxic dumps. Every individual should be aware of the importance of protection the environment. With effective co-operation and corroboration from citizens and government officials only, we may be able to slow down or reduce the effects of global warming.

Rise in global temperature is not uniform in all parts of the world. The change will be more intense or denser at the poles where most of the heating occurs. There will be changes or alterations in the ice sheet in the Polar Regions. It is said that the change is already taking place. It is feared that melting of the Antarctic ice sheet would raise sea level- a process started already and a matter of concern to the whole world. A new

term “environmental refuge” has been coined to refer to forced migrants under environmental changes. Emissions of greenhouse gases have become inseparable part of our daily life. They arise from our modes of transportation, our production methods and consumption patterns. It is calculated that more than 80% of industrial activities use or consume fuels which produce greenhouse gases.

And plant growth can get negatively affected when a warmer earth increases evaporation resulting in drier soils. Food crops depend on many factors like soil type, climate and moisture content in soil. Any change in even one of them can affect a particular crop. Some trees are beginning to move towards higher and less hot latitudes and some fish, unable to bear the increasingly hot waters of the tropics, are moving north. Glaciers are retreating for kilometers, the tropic is expanding, hurricanes are becoming more frequent and drought and floods are increasingly seen. All these necessitate human beings to adopt and adapt methods that could reduce global warming.

While a few warmer winters cannot be attributed to global warming, more number of such warmer winters over an extended time period is more likely to be due to warming. There is evidence from ice core samples, tree rings, and ancient corals that global temperature has been increasing. For instance, ice cores drilled from the Antarctic ice-sheet show a very close correlation between greenhouse gas levels and temperature over the past 800,000 years. A recent study has concluded that Antarctica warmed up by 0.5 degree C between 1957 and 2006, with particularly strong warming in west Antarctica.

De facto, the strongest evidence of global warming come not from actual records of past temperature but from physics and chemistry. That is the reason why scientists could predict global warming long before an increase in temperature over the 20th century became obvious. But a warmer globe does not produce a uniform change across the world. While some parts may see increased rainfall and floods, others may witness droughts. Even within a country, say India, average annual increase in temperature will not maintain uniformity. It remains uncertain on how the warming will change the rainfall pattern on a regional scale. While most of the continents experienced above-average temperature in 2009, North America actually cooled down. The government of each country in the world takes assiduous and persevering labors for bringing about or sustaining forestry in order to compete with the global warming. ‘Social forestry’ is a term used by the government of India to say forestry as the forestry of the people, by the people and for the people. Social forestry means the management and protection of forests and afforestation of barren lands with the object of protecting the environment and promoting social and rural development as against the traditional practice of securing revenue. It is classified as urban forestry, rural forestry and farm forestry. Forestry plays a significant role in promoting rural economy and in improving the environment.

Drought has become a recurring natural calamity faced by many countries in the world. Thousands of marginal farmers and landless laborers are reportedly on the verge of starvation. In fact, the rise in the global warming has become a major reason for the occurrence for the drought. So there arises the problem of water scarcity. The traditional methods of saving and collecting water should be adopted to fight the menace of drought. Rain water harvesting through tanks, ponds, check dams, percolation dams and many other structures may be designed to catch and store the rain water. On farm water management should be improved and water saving micro irrigation technologies such as drip irrigation should be promoted. There is also need to develop disease resistant crop varieties to offset the decline in the production of agricultural crops. All these are the after effects of global warming.

The science of climate change is growing ever more robust as researchers zero in on how the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are radically altering Earth’s systems and shaping the future. The big questions now are how these changes will reverberate or emanate throughout the rest of the world, and what we should do about them. The answers bridge or connect decades of research across geology, economics, and social science, which have been confounded or perplexed by uncertainty and obscured by jargon. That’s why it can be a bit daunting to join the discussion for the first time, or to revisit the conversation after a hiatus. If wise decisions are not taken, possibly we will envisage concomitant concurrence of natural calamities.

A global problem requires global action, but with climate change, there is a yawning gap between ambition and action. You can think of global warming as one type of climate change. The broader term covers changes beyond warmer temperatures, such as shifting rainfall patterns. Hard evidence, including studies that use radioactivity to distinguish industrial emissions from natural emissions, shows that the extra gas is coming from human activity. Carbon dioxide levels rose and fell naturally in the long-ago past, but those changes took thousands of years. Geologists say that humans are now pumping the gas into the air much faster than nature has ever done. So man turns out to be the greatest enemy of himself without compromising the ongoing industrial production.

It is the moral obligation on the part of every human being to transcend or hand over the earth with any damage to the next generation. Global warming is the major challenge for our global society. There is very little doubt that global warming will change our climate in the next century. So what are the solutions to global warming? First, there must be an international political solution. Second, funding for developing cheap and clean energy production must be increased, as all economic development is based on increasing energy usage.

CONCLUSION

According to a study made by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature in Britain, global warming is capable of destroying or radically changing one-third of the world's plants and animals habitat within a century. The species of the Arctic and the mountains are said to be most vulnerable. The potential health effects of climate change on human beings are expected to be more serious as air pollution as they travel through a number of ways. To counter and arrest the rate of global warming, radical change in lifestyle may be required. This is not possible in the absence of collective will and political commitment. There are also skeptics and vested interests who disbelieve in the climatic change as motivated exaggeration. Global warming is not just a geographical problem. It has political, social, economic, psychological and other dimensions.

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