



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Environmental Crises With Indian Economy: Challenges And Solutions

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Objectives:: Through the Study of this Research Paper we would provide the Readers to Relate to the Topic,

1. Generalized the basic concepts of Environmental Crises.
2. Causes of Environmental Crises.
3. Impacts of Environmental Crises on Indian Economy : solutions.
4. Conclusion.

Introduction:: India's Economy is highly dependent on nature and extremely vulnerable to climate risks. Economy of India is a Developing Economy. "Economy" is a wider concept that deals with those activities, programs and policies that serves the economical condition of any country. Economic relates with the major different sectors like agriculture, Industrial growth, Environment, GDP, Employment, Rural Development, Human Development, Liberalization, Privatization as well as Globalization, And also deals with the Sustainable Environment.

Today with discuss on the topic who relates to Environmental crises with Indian Economy. The Reason behind it is that all the standards which deal with progress of economy of India is major cause of Environmental Crises. 'The term environment includes of both physical environment and biological environment. The physical environment includes issues relating to land, water and air and the other hand biological environment includes relating to the plants, animals and other organisms. Both physical and biological environment are mutually dependent and connected each other.'¹

A situation where we found serious ecological problems, pollution, climate change, biodiversity losses reaches on serious level and scared the life to ability of survival. This is an Environmental Crises. The crises can endanger ecosystem and the survival of various species, including Humans. This situation demands immediate action. The problems affect a wide area and have widespread consequences.

Root Causes of Environmental Crises in India:

We find the some root causes of Environmental crises in India.

Over Population :: Over population means, presence of species is larger than the carrying capacity of Environment. Major reason of over population in India is Lower Death rate and Higher Birth Rate. India is the most populated country in the World Map. India has lagged China not only in population but also in average Birth Rate. ‘ With over 1.4 billion people and an estimated annual growth rate of approximately 1 percent, this demographic trend has complex and far-reaching implications on human development in India. India’s population is expanding at an unsustainable rate and is projected to surpass 1.5 billion people by 2023 and 2 billion people by 2050.’² Another one is the biggest challenges is over populated density. ‘India has one of the highest population density in the world (492/s.km)² which puts a lot of pressure on environment like land, air & water.’³ The future of Environmental Conditions of India are not able to hold and keep better future with the rapid population growth.

Climate Changes :

Climate change increases the most environmental crisis. As a result of climate change, the temperature of the earth increases due to which the forests set fire. Cutting forests for agriculture, drying of rivers, expansion of deserts, migration of wild animals , etc. are all increasing the expansion of the environmental crisis in India. The Government of India also needs to be conscious of climate change results.

The efforts that will first come out should be a lesson for the new generation coming forward. Climate change is also affecting environmental crisis in such a way that we will not be able to leave a good environment for generations ahead. In India, the problem of “Smog’ in winter season became a new challenge of the people of Delhi NCR. More in the population affected, more are being described on the youth and the care of these children and the elderly is being described more. Climate change is form of long - term changes in the average temperature and weather in which humans are living. Changes are mainly seen in the form of hot summers, chilly winters, heavy rains, floods, droughts, pandemics etc. In the main deeds of climate change, the human generations is considered both the factors. But at present, the main reason for increasing population, industry, urbanization, pollution forests etc. is responsible. Earthquakes, volcanic openings, etc. are natural causes that are promoting environmental crisis. The situation of a developing country like India is not very good. Developed countries have also contributed immensely.

Deforestation: Another issue to think about environmental cries in India which makes heavy pressure on Indian economy is that Losses of Forests. It is an alarming issue which is every now and the country has to deal with. In the context of India itself, it is known that since ancient times we humans started cutting the forests for agriculture. It takes an average of 10 years to mature the new tree. In view of this growth, new trees will take more time to reimburse the old tree, the pressure of more population in India has been the most on our environment, due to cutting the forests, the availability of more agricultural land has increased due to the excessive pressure on the agricultural land due to cutting the forests. For higher yields, more irrigation water and fertilizers are required, for which we can not only depend on monsoon water, excessive groundwater has been exploited. In the excessive use of chemicals, food has also been contaminated. Due to the cutting of forests, the natural residence of innumerable creatures whose natural habitat was now visible in the human environment, whose environmental crisis is being seen in the human environment.

‘The Global Forest Watch, which tracks forest changes in near real-time using satellite data and other sources, said the country lost, 4,14,000 hectares of humid primary forest (14.1 percent) from 2002 to 2023, making up 18 percent of its total tree cover loss in the same period.’⁴

Industrialization: Moving towards industrialization, every country is adopting Industrial action at such in a fast pace that it is no longer possible to stop. This is also the demand of the time. While Industrialization opened the doors of modernity for humans, the other environmental crises were mainly so serious that the existence crises has arisen for all living beings at present.

‘Impact of Industrialization on environment has significantly with both positive and Negative effects. While it can lead to technological advancements and economic growth, its also contributes to pollution, resource depletion and habitat destruction.’⁵

‘Statistics of 2022, show that there are about small, medium and large scale of 8 crore industries are established in India, cooperating in the economy of India.’⁶ The biggest problem of technology that we are using in developing countries like India, makes a very large amount of waste products. We don’t have an any option. We are forced to used it.

Weapons war :: Armed conflicts use large quantities of munitions containing heavy metals and depleted uranium, and explosive chemicals, all toxic even in modest quantities, with devastating impacts on human health and the environment. From contaminated lands and polluted waterways to the release of toxic substances and greenhouse gases, the environmental toll of war is immense and far-reaching. Recognizing this impact is the first step towards mitigating harm, promoting environmental remediation, and ultimately, preventing future conflicts.

‘High intensity conflicts require and consume vast quantities of fuel, leading to massive CO₂ emissions and contributing to climate change. The first three years of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine generated 230 mtCO₂e - equivalent to the annual emission of Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia combined. It is the first time that an effort has been made to calculate the emissions from any weapons conflict.’⁷

‘The use of explosive weapons in urban areas create a number of environment risks, including vast quantities of debris and rubble, which can cause air and soil pollution.’ In some cases, deliberate attacks on oil or industrial facilities are used as weapon of war, to pollute large area’.⁷

New Era’s of LPG in India: In 1990’s a financial Improvement adopted in India is known as LPG (Liberalization, Privatization & Globalization). To improve its economy in India, some concrete decisions were taken by government and from the liberating the Indian economy from the control of the government and Indian economy turns towards the new phases of liberalization privatization and globalization. Where the liberal system made the Indian economy flexible and privatization started adopting the government’s actions as per its convenience. In the same globalization, India’s economy was added to other countries of the world as well as new doors of investment and made a successful attempt to draw foreign currency into India. Huge progress of Indian Economy was started with the help of LPG. Along with the great progress of the economy, India started facing many environmental crises. Indian economy is majorly based on agricultural system. We got the new technologies in agricultural and reaches the new standard of production. Due to the increasing population of India started putting more pressure on production. To increase more production, we started harvesting ground water for irrigation and uses of chemicals and fertilizers as well as indiscriminate harvesting of forests.

As a result of indiscriminate harvesting of forests for agriculture and Human settlement in India, there was a serious threat to the existence of wildlife animals, due to which the animals formed to migrate to human settlements for their existence. Due to excessive exploitation of ground water, the problem of clean drinking water has increased the most. The condition of the metro’s cities is ever more anxious.

Lack of Efforts towards the Environment: Today’s in India, concerning authorities are most responsible for the environmental crises. Not only the negligence of concerning authorities, but also the negligence of the citizens and lack of serious efforts, the environmental crises in India reaches at the very serious level. India have an Adequate amount of natural resources, but due to lack of efforts done by concerning authorities, crises is increasing day by day.

‘These issues not only endanger the health and livelihoods of millions of Indians but also pose a significant barrier to sustainable development and country’s GDP growth. They increase income and social inequality, forcing people to migrate from rural areas to cities at a growing rate. This exacerbates issues in cities that lack of the infrastructure to handle the growth. India’s greenhouse gas emissions are very high, and it is prone to natural disaster and extreme weather events. It is population and economic growth also contributed to environmental degradation. Indian government should take more significant steps to address environmental issues. Tackling these pressing environmental issues in a case component of how the country can continue to increase its standard of living and support its rapidly growing economy.’⁸

Solutions of Environmental Crises on Indian Economy:

‘The country’s rapid population growth puts pressure on resources and services, leading to environmental degradation, poverty and inequality. The burden on the **Health Care System** increases, making access to quality health care a challenge. **Education** infrastructure struggles to meet the needs of a growing population and urbanization strains infrastructure and basic services. **Environmental concerns** arise due to the large population’s impact on natural resources. Additionally, population growth also create a dearth of employment opportunities.(Unemployment)(Poverty)(Wealth Inequality)(Rapid Urbanization)(Natural Resources)’²

‘According to the Global Carbon Budget Report 2022, India’s Coal, oil and Gas emissions are projected to grow by 6 percent. Sustainable management of natural resources and conservation practices are essential to meet these challenges and ensure long-term sustainability. India needs to implement green politics, promote renewable energy sources and adopt sustainable practice to mitigate the negative effects of climate change. Promoting a sustainable lifestyle and raising awareness of the importance of environmental protection are important steps that needs to be taken towards a greener future.’²

‘Indeed, for decades, India run massive public health campaigns to slow down the population growth.’⁹

“Environmental Protection is a practice of protecting the environment, on individual, organizational or governmental level, for the benefits of the natural environment and (or) humans.”¹⁰ ‘Due to the pressure of population and our technology the biophysical environment is being degraded, sometimes permanently. This has been recognized and governments began placing restraints on activities that caused environmental degradation.’¹⁰

Public support for environmental policies should ultimately depends on the extent to which citizens think that, as a generally, people think it ought to be the government’s responsibility to protect the environment.’¹⁰

‘Environmental activities are found among adivasi, peasants, teachers, scientists and concerned citizens. They move to courts against government’s decision and actions eventually that has become an important features of environment activism. The success of the **Chipko Movement** clearly indicates the thesis that the best way to protect, conserve and manage environment is through people’s

Participation at the Local level.’¹¹

‘The ignorance, poverty, illiteracy, per-capita consumption, traditional form of society etc are some of the factors which are inhabiting the process of people’s involvement in conservation. It is encouraging to not that some of the enlightened social workers and social action groups have been active in recent years in the field of pollution control’¹¹

‘Regionally such impacts have become more visible, say in India, all the four major rivers of India have now been declared polluted. The air quality of 10 major metropolitan cities shows variable level of pollution lead all above permissible limits. The vast tracts of wasteland in the country caused by mining, unsustainable agriculture and loss of land cover now amounts to nearly 30 percent of the country’s land area. Good canopy forests now exist in almost 11-14 percent of total forest cover.’⁵

Conclusion :: Indian economy is facing a hard task of environmental crises that threaten its growth and sustainability. Climate related disasters like droughts, floods and heat waves can causes significant economic losses. Water scarcity can reduce agricultural output, impact industrial production, and increase healthcare costs. Environmental degradation and pollution can have serve health impacts, leading to increased medical India's costs and lost productivity. India's rich biodiversity is under threat due to habitat destruction, overfishing and climate change. This can have long term consequences for the country's ecosystem and economy. Soil erosion, salinization and nutrient depletion can reduce agricultural productivity and impact food security. According to a world Economic Forum report, climate change could cost India up to 10 percent of its national income by 2100,taking 50 million people back into poverty. Water scarcity could reduce India's GDP by 6 percent by 2050.¹²

The impact of the environmental crisis in India is not only affecting the Indian economy, all the citizens who living in the country as well as all types of physical and biological creatures. All the citizens including the government and concerning authorities have to take affected steps to overcome the environmental crises, then any kind of change will be possible. Overall, addressing environmental crises is crucial for India's economic growth, poverty reduction and human well-being. A balanced approach that considers both economic development and environmental sustainability is necessary to ensure a prosperous future for the country.¹³

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