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ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS AND ITS IMPACT ON HUMAN HEALTH

****S. MANJULA**, Ph.D, Research Scholar, (Part Time) External., Department of Economics, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu.

***Dr.P.NALRAJ**, Research Supervisor, Associate Professor, Department of Economics (On Deputation) Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu.

ABSTRACT

The term “Environment” which denotes surroundings is a composite phrase for the conditions in which organisms live. It connotes the sum of all living and non-living things that surround an organism. The meaning of the word environment is elastic. Environment is the sum of all social, economical, biological, physical or chemical factors which constitute the surroundings of man, who is both creator and moulder of his environment. The environment influences our health in many ways, through exposure to physical, chemical and biological risk factors and related changes in our behavior pattern. Environment pollution not only leads to deterioratly environment conditions but also adversely affects the health of people. This paper is explained the environmental hazards and its impact on human health.

Key words: Environment, health, Hazards, Pollution.

INTRODUCTION

Environmental health comprises those aspects of human health including quality of life that are determined by physical, biological, social and psychological factors in the environment. The relationship between the environment and its impact on human health is highly complex. Each of the effects is associated with a variety of aspects of economic and social development. Moreover, there is no single best way of organizing and viewing the development-environment-health relationship that reveals all important interactions and possible entry points for public health interventions. Human beings are exposed to a variety of chemicals including industrial chemicals, pesticides, air pollutants, natural and manmade toxicants etc in the environment through the skin, respiratory system and gastrointestinal tract that can affect vital body systems such as pulmonary, reproductive and nervous and immune system.

Increase in population pressure, urbanization, industrialization, mining and quarrying and other development activities various pollutants are contaminating the natural environment. Nowadays industrialization is considered to be a barometer of economic development of any country. The prosperity and position enjoyed by advanced countries is mainly due to industrialization. But, unfortunately it also brings some undesirable effects at local, national and global environment.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS STUDY

1. To know the Concept of Environment Pollution.
2. To study the relationship between environment and health.
3. To identify environment pollution and its impact on human life.
4. To suggest suitable control measures for environmental pollution.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on secondary data which is collected from the World Health Organization reports, published reports of news paper, journals, websites, etc

CONCEPT OF ENVIRONMENT

The word Environment is derived from the French word “Environ” which means “surrounding”. Our surrounding includes biotic factors like human beings, Plants, animals, microbes, etc and abiotic factors such as light, air, water, soil, etc.

Environment is a complex of many variables, which surrounds man as well as the living organisms. Environment includes water, air and land and the interrelation ships which exist among and between water, air and land and human beings and other living creatures such as plants, animals and micro organisms.

CONCEPT OF POLLUTION

Pollution is the effect of undesirable changes in our surroundings that have harmful effects on plants, animals and human beings. This occurs when only short-term economic gains are made at the cost of the long-term ecological benefits for humanity. No natural phenomenon has led to greater ecological changes than have been made by mankind. During the last few decades we have contaminated our air, water and land on which life itself depends with a variety of waste products.

Pollutants include solid, liquid or gaseous substances present in greater than natural abundance produced due to human activity, which have a detrimental effect on our environment.

ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The relationship between human health and the environment is complex. The term ‘environmental health’ includes the effects on human health from the broad physical and social environment that includes housing, urban development, land-use and transportation, industry, and agriculture. Environmental health is concerned with environmental factors that influence or directly affect human health either positively or negatively.

The World Health Organization (1994) has defined environmental health as ‘those aspects of human health, including quality of life, that are determined by chemical, physical, biological, social and

psychosocial factors in the environment'. The parts of the environment, like air and water or soil become polluted; it can lead to health problems.

TYPES OF POLLUTION

Major indicators of environmental health are outdoor and indoor air quality, water quality, toxics and wastes, healthy homes, healthy communities and good infrastructure. Up to 40% of all deaths worldwide have attributed to environmental exposure, such as use of tobacco, water pollution, and land degradation.

AIR POLLUTION

The air we breathe is heavy with toxins. The major sources of air pollution in India and around the globe are automobile exhaust and industrial emissions.

The prime air pollution has been classified as outdoor pollutions and indoor pollutions. Outdoor pollutions include remains of fossil fuel, Carbon particles and metallic particles in the atmosphere from industrial and automobile emissions, toxic gases i.e., Nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide etc.

On the other hand indoor pollution includes toxic gases produced from kitchen fuels, building materials, tobacco smoke etc. A workshop on "Burden of Disease" discussed the air pollution among top killers was organized at New Delhi on February 13, 2013 by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in collaboration with the Indian council of Medical Research, New Delhi and health institute. Their report showed that air pollution is one among the top ten killers in the world. Air pollution is the 6th most deadly killers in South East Asia and has been recognized as the 5th largest killer in India.

WATER POLLUTION

Water resources are under major stress around the world. Rivers, lakes, and underground aquifers supply fresh water for irrigation, drinking, and sanitation, while the oceans provide habitat for a large share of the planet's food supply. Today, however, expansion of agriculture, damming, diversion, over-use, and pollution threaten these irreplaceable resources in many parts of the globe. Providing safe drinking water for the more than 1 billion people who currently lack it is one of the greatest public health challenges facing national governments today. In many developing countries, safe water, free of pathogens and other contaminants, is unavailable too much of the population, and water contamination remains a concern even for developed countries.

Water is considered polluted if some substances or condition is present to such a degree that the water cannot be used for a specific purpose. Olaniran (1995) defined water pollution to be the presence of excessive amounts of a hazard (pollutants) in water in such a way that it is no long suitable for drinking, bathing, cooking or other uses. Pollution is the introduction of a contamination into the environment (Webster.com, 2010).

Water pollution has a dual effect on nature. It has negative effects on the living and also on the environment. The effects of pollution on human beings and aquatic communities are many and varied. Water pollution causes approximately 14,000 deaths per day, mostly due to contamination of drinking water by untreated sewage in developing countries. An estimated 700 million Indians have no access to a proper toilet, and 1,000 Indians children's die of diarrhea every day and so many other countries too. Nearly 500 million Chinese lack access of safe drinking water.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEASURES

- Reduce industrial emissions and vehicle pollution.
- Ensure access to clean drinking water.
- Promote proper waste management and sanitation.
- Use pesticides and chemicals safely.
- Increase environmental awareness and education.
- Strengthen public health policies and environmental regulations.
- Encourage renewable energy and sustainable practices.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESSTION

Environmental hazards remain among the leading causes of disease and premature death worldwide. Air pollution is currently the most significant environmental health risk, while climate change is expected to increase health burdens in the coming decades. Effective pollution control, safe water and sanitation, sustainable development, and public health interventions can substantially reduce these risks and improve global health outcomes.

Government of India already taken several measures to prevent and control air and water pollutions in the country. But, The Punishment under the laws is not sufficient. Similarly the amount of fine is too low. So, government should increase the punishment as well as fines. This helps to prevention of the environment.

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