

CONCERNS OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES

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Abstract

This article highlights the causes and prevention of degradation of natural environment in South Asian countries. The concerns of the environment listed can provide a strategy to deal with this serious issue on urgent basis.

Keywords: *Environment, Pollution, Population, Planning, Management, South Asian.*

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Introduction

Environmental degradation is a global problem. In particular Environmental Pollution has reached at an alarming situation and has resulted in Global Warming, Natural Disasters like Floods and Climate Change. This problem has attracted attention of entire world.

However, environmental degradation is by and large a macrolevel activity and can be attributed to effluence and poverty. Rapid industrialization and climate simulation is major reason, on one side, for major macrolevel damage. While on the other side underdevelopment and ignorance in several parts of the world have cumulative effect on the health of the environment. In this article the second side is touched.

The problem and solution

The Natural or Biological Environment of most South Asian Countries is deteriorating very fast due to following reasons:

1. Poverty
2. Rising Population Density
3. Ignorance of Law
4. Haphazard Growth
5. Administrative Malpractices
6. Lack of Systematic Planning
7. Political Instability
8. Frequent Disasters
9. Industrial Pollution.

Let us go into the details as follows.

1. Poverty:

The persistence of poverty is one of the major causes for environment degradation and mismanagement. Still millions of people live in unauthorized mud-thaw houses, burning forest wood and poaching the animals. There are no toilets and sewage disposal systems in many villages.

2. Rising Population Density:

The uncontrolled growth of human population in certain parts puts extra and continuous load on the environment. It increases the use of natural resources including land and water.

3. Ignorance of Law:

Almost all the South Asian Countries have illiterate masses and have no knowledge of environmental protection laws. Knowingly or unknowingly the people defy the rules and assault the environmental ecology of the region.

4. Haphazard Growth:

Most of the countries are witnessing unplanned haphazard growth due to change in economics. This causes imbalance in the environment and the ecosystem. Many big cities like Dhaka, Karachi, Kathmandu, Mumbai and Kolkata have swollen all around and have choked rivers, reveretts and breathing spaces. The garbage disposal systems in many cities and towns have crossed bottle necks and encroached adjoining forests and other natural domains.

5. Administrative Malpractices:

The administration in government and public sectors of these countries is

plagued by corruption, favouritism and politics. Influential people supported deforestation and illegal mining in several parts have destroyed some of the eco – systems.

6. Lack of Systematic Planning:

The government and civil authorities do not take help of professional planner in many cases. Many projects have been taken on adhoc basis causing negative impact on environment.

7. Political Instability:

Most of these countries have democratic or pseudo–democratic systems. Some have frequent change of governments. The keeps the authorities pre – occupied with day by day affairs and they adopt adhocism causing negligence towards environment conservation and long term planning.

8. Frequent Disasters:

Nature is not kind in many areas of South Asian Countries. There are wide spread floods which destroy the natural topography and alignment. Forest fires and earthquakes are also common in certain areas.

9. Industrial Pollution:

Pollution is a global problem. In South Asia also it is a matter of concern and damages flora and fauna. Above discussion emphasis the urgent need of proper environment management with determination. It can be done through following steps:

1. Quantitative and qualitative analysis of the global, sub – global and local environment systems.

2. Identifying the factors and parameters of concern and relating it with the root causes.

3. Planning long term measure and remedies using new technology.

4. Involving administrators, policy planners and decision makers in implementing necessary steps for the environment.

5. If necessary, arranging exchange of expertise between the countries. Also importing experts from other countries through international agencies.

6. Establishing centralized computerized monitoring centers and sub – centers in each region and sub – region of the country.

7. Enacting tough laws of environment safety and evolving management strategies to assign projects and consultancy services to specific education institutions and universities of South Asian Countries. The concerning Government and Judiciary should take lead in this direction.

8. Educating the public regarding hazards of environment degradation. Help of religious heads and preachers may be taken for this purpose. Most of the people of these countries are God fearing and faith bound.

9. Extensive publicity measures are taken to make people aware of healthy natural environment and its implications in providing healthy conditions for human living.