

The Human Population is a Main Cause of Global Warming

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ABSTRACT

The Global warming, an important aspect of climate change is closely associated with the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The Climate change is a general term. It means change in climate. But the Global warming is a kind of climate change. Global warming means the gradual increase in the temperature of the earth. Scientists are supporting the fact that this global warming is resulted from the enhanced greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Therefore, it is closely associated with the greenhouse gases. It mainly includes carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide etc. It is proved that in these gases allows the incoming short-wave radiation from the sun, but they are responsible to block outgoing long-wave radiation from the earth. It results into increase of the earth temperature. Thus, the climate change is occurred. Since, the greenhouse gases are mainly responsible to the global warming. They are produced due to human activities i.e. the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, the application of fertilizers and the growth of particular types of agricultural production etc. Thus, the population is a significant cause of global warming. The luxuries of population like automobiles and refrigeration are mainly responsible to global warming. There is a close relationship between the population and the release of the greenhouse effect gases in the environment. Therefore, the present research paper is mainly concerned with the research problem that the growth of population on the earth stimulated the global warming as a global concern. The increased proportion of CO₂ and other GHGs are the main causes of the global warming. Nevertheless, global warming is the human population induced danger to the planet. Thus, the growth of human population is the main cause of global warming on the green planet.

Key Words: global, warming, surplus, climate, change, penalty, freedom, control, effect, greenhouse effect, policy, public, constitution, right and legislation.

INTRODUCTION

The term greenhouse effect was firstly used by the Swedish chemist Svante Arrhenius in 1897. It is closely associated with the global warming. Global warming means increase in the temperature of the earth. It is proved that the earth temperature has increased by about 0.5°C in last century. The scientists have supported to the view that the increased proportion of CO₂ and other GHGs are the main causes of the global warming. Since, it is the human induced mechanism to trap the survival of the earth.

There are different factors are responsible for the destruction of the green house effect like the burning of fossil fuels, land clearing and agriculture, etc. It affects the temperature on the earth and leading to the global warming. Moreover, the human activities are mainly responsible for the global warming. It is only recently, however, that some scientists specializing in the great variety of aspects involved in climatic studies began to evince serious concern that the warming process was so far underway, following the dramatic growth in world population, industrialization and other factors, that dire consequences for humankind might already be irreversible. Scientific rather than legal studies have thus dominated research in this field to date.(1)

"Climate change" means a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.(2) Scientists believe that this global warming trend is resulted from the enhanced greenhouse effect.(3) The earth's atmosphere alone is being barraged by the effects of almost every human activity imaginable; from our diets and farming practices to the way we heat and energize our homes, travel, work and recreate. Projected increase in atmospheric concentrations of anthropogenic GHGs could have an adverse impact on the earth's temperatures.(4)

Objectives

Following are the objectives of the research paper.

1. To study the global warming.
2. To understand the causes of global warming.

3. To give suggestions to face the effects of global warming.

Nature and Scope of the study

The nature and scope of the study covers the comprehensive analysis of the current state of the causes of global warming in India and the way how its measures became more effective. The main points to be focused through the current research paper are the definition of global warming, background, and review of literature, international aspect, judicial contribution, constitutional provisions and suggestions to cure the lacuna. The Environmental Protection Act, 1986, Article 21 of the Indian Constitution is the scope of this research paper.

Hypothesis

The human population is a main cause of global warming.

METHODOLOGY

This is the conceptual research paper. Therefore, the secondary data like the books, newspapers, and websites, views of the authors expressed through the research papers, journals, case laws and commentary on the concept of the causes of the global warming are studied and necessarily used to complete the research paper.

1. Meaning and definition of global warming.

A gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere generally attributed to the greenhouse effect caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide, CFCs, and other pollutants. It is also defined as changes in the world's weather, in particular the fact that it is believed to be getting warmer as result of human activity increasing the level of carbon dioxide in atmosphere."(5)

2. The Right to life also includes right to purity of environment

1). Article 21 reads as:

"No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to a procedure established by law."(6)

According to Bhagwati, J., Article 21 “embodies a constitutional value of supreme importance in a democratic society.” Iyer, J., has characterized Article 21 as “the procedural magna carta protective of life and liberty.

2). Judicial interpretation of right to purity of environment

i).Right to get Pollution Free Water and Air: In **Subhas Kumar v. State of Bihar(7)**, it has held that a Public Interest Litigation is maintainable for insuring enjoyment of pollution free water and air which is included in ‘right to live’ under Art.21 of the constitution. The court observed: “Right to live is a fundamental right under Art 21 of the Constitution and it includes the right of enjoyment of pollution free water and air for full enjoyment of life. If anything endangers or impairs that quality of life in derogation of laws, a citizen has right to have recourse to Art.32 of the Constitution for removing the pollution of water or air which may be detrimental to the quality of life.”(8)

ii)Right to Clean Environment: Indian judiciary is an activist judiciary. Since, it is held by the judiciary that the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution includes the right to dignity i.e. to live in a proper environment free from the dangers of diseases and infection. Following are the cases supporting this judicial philosophy. In **M.C. Mehta v. Union of India(1988)(9)**, the Supreme Court ordered closure of tanneries that were polluting water. In **M.C. Mehta v. Union of India(1997)(10)**, the Supreme Court issued several guideline and directions for the protection of the Taj Mahal, an ancient monument, from environmental degradation. In **Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India(11)**, the Supreme Court took cognizance of the environmental problems being caused by tanneries that were polluting the water resources, rivers, canals, underground water and agricultural land. The Court issued several directions to deal with the problem.(12) In **Milk Men Colony Vikas Samiti v. State Of Rajasthan(13)**, the Supreme Court held that the „right to life“ means clean surrounding which lead to healthy body and mind. It includes right to freedom from stray cattle and animals in urban areas. In **M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (2006)[14]**, the Court held that the blatant and

large-scale misuse of residential premises for commercial use in Delhi, violated the right to salubrious sand decent environment. Taking note of the problem the Court issued directives to the Government on the same. In **Murli S. Deora v. Union of India[15]**, the persons not indulging in smoking cannot be compelled to or subjected to passive smoking on account of act of smokers. Right to Life under Article 21 is affected as a non-smoker may become a victim of someone smoking in a public place.[16]

3. The Green House Effect

The earth’s climate is driven by solar radiation. In the long term the energy absorbed from the sun must be balanced by outgoing radiation from the earth and the atmosphere. Part of this outgoing energy is absorbed and re-emitted by radioactive atmospheric gases (‘greenhouse gases’), thereby reducing net emission of energy to space. To maintain the global energy balances, both the atmosphere and the surface will warm until the outgoing energy equals the incoming energy. This is the green house effect.[17]

The greenhouse effect is perfectly natural and has always existed since the earth took its present form: indeed without it, the earth would be very much colder and subject to violent fluctuations in temperature so that it would be uninhabitable. More recently, the term greenhouse effect has taken on a new shade of meaning to refer to an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere from man-made missions, which is leading to more of the sun’s heat being trapped and the earth becoming warmer.[18]

3.The Population is a significant cause of global warming:

It is found that there are different causes are responsible for the global warming. But the most important cause is the human population. Human population is mainly responsible to develop the Halocarbon. Halocarbon is a collective term for the group of partially halogenated organic species, including the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs), halons, methyl chloride, methyl bromide, etc. These halocarbons have large Global Warming Potentials. Moverover, The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) International has observed that the population

explosion, sustained by human science and technology, is causing almost insoluble problems for future generations. It is responsible for the degradation of the environment through the pollution of the air and water; it is consuming essential as well as non-essential resources at a rate that cannot be sustained. Above all, it is condemning thousands of our fellow living organisms to extinction.[19]

Degradation of the world's environment, income and equality, and potential for conflict exist today because of over-consumption and over-population. If the unprecedented population growth continues, future generations of children will not have adequate food, housing, medical care, education, earth resources and employment opportunities. Humankind cannot continue to grow indefinitely. We are now adding more people to the world's population every decade than we used to add in a century.[20]

Criticism

It is found through the research paper that the human population is the main cause of production of halocarbons. It leads to destruction of the green house effect. Nevertheless, it is the sole criteria of the global warming. It is the unfavorable climate change. Therefore, it is the danger to the life of the green planet. Human luxurious activities are mainly responsible greenhouse gases. It is the root cause of global warming.

Different of the GHGs like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide etc. are human originated. It is beyond the Earth's natural capacity to remove these gases from the atmosphere. Since, the human population is mainly responsible for the global warming.

Hypothesis

1. The human population is a main cause of global warming.

It is verified and found true on the basis of the secondary data.

CONCLUSION

It may be concluded that as the population grows, it influences directly and indirectly on the environment.

Therefore, it is the pressure on the planet. If the planet like earth failed to deal with the impact of the factors produced by the human population then it is a threat rather than a challenge to the survival of the planet in future. Since, the need of the time is to control the rate of growth of the human population and to adopt other technological measures to face the peril of the global warming. It may be also concluded that the destruction of forests and the use fertilizers and pesticides should be minimized so as to avoid danger of global warming. Moreover, deterrent penal provisions should be followed for causing environmental pollution. Thus, the population should act as a catalyst in prevention of global warm in grather than an obstacle in it.

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