

A Study on the Causative Factors of Deforestation with the Adverse Effect on the Habitat vis-à-vis the Survival

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Abstract: Deforestation though literally means the purposeful clearing of trees in order to make the land available for other type of projects that directly benefit the humans life existing in this universe. Throughout the ages this process of deforestation was in vague in order to make the land for the cultivation of agriculture, for the domestication of animals, construction works and for fuel purposes. But this modern man has misused this concept and has razed the forests in order to gain materialistic wealth and benefit to self. This modern man has forgotten that this universe is not only the habitat if himself/herself but the habitat for all the living creatures of the world. Deforestation has exiled the animals from their habitat and has ruined their dreams of existence. Though there are multiple factors responsible for the deforestation but this self centered man being at par. Deforestation can have a natural origin which nobody can omit in this universe as it occurs naturally. The natural cause of deforestation can be resulted through forest fire, droughts, plague, floods and climate change. But we should not forget that the human activities are the principal cause of the global deforestation and habitat loss of animals. In order to fulfil the worldly desires like expansion of agriculture, the breeding of cattle, the extraction of timber, mining, dam construction, oil mining etc. one never desists to kill the tress like a tyrannical ruler. This study clarifies that the increase of worldly desires like expansion of agriculture and urbanization is the sole cause of deforestation and habitat loss on a larger scale. The modern generation must think about this alarming problem and try every possible stop to avoid this deforestation and make this universe beneficial for both humans as well as animals. It is the time when everyone should be given environmental education in order to curb the hands that practice deforestation as a boon. The people should not use their power in order to mute the voices of the animals and make their ebony bodies naked and crush their herald dreams. The protection of forests and the concept of a afforestation only can give shelter to those animals who have been exiled by this hypocritical human in order to achieve the worldly desires.

Keywords:- Deforestation, Domestication, Habitat, Plague, Flood. Protection.

Introduction

Forests are the unique natural substances of earth and the essential part of natural ecosystem. The existence of forests in this universe remained before the human civilization came into existence. People depend heavily on

forests and other natural substances in order to survive on this planet. Forests not only provide us the ways of sustenance but also our life is impossible without the forests. Forests thus become saviors for our existence and we must not forget this and damage the treasure bestowed to the humans by God. We always should raise our voices in order to protect these forests so that we may be able to reign this world and authenticate our existence. But the sad story is that this precious gift is at the verge of death only because of our negligent behavior and attitude. Thus these pose a severe threat to the very survival of the mankind. Everything depends on people themselves and deforestation means to deteriorate our health which is at stake. Thus our health and our wealth is in our own hands and we should always protect the forests wisely so that this natural resource may flourish properly and may always sustain us.

Deforestation compels the animals present in this universe to leave their belongings and in turn gives rise to habitat loss. Man is not only the part of universe but there are thousands of species and animals that have a right to live in this universe. Humans should always consider their interests and the interests of the other species present in this universe. Humans pettiness should not indulge him to disturb the habitat of the other animals as they too are the creations whose survival is must for our survival. In essence, by conserving the forest, we do not just guarantee the survival of several other habitats but also the survival of the human environment. In the long run, we can have food security, enhanced agriculture, pastime pursuits and other type of benefits. Modern man is faced with the danger of environmental degradation and depletion of forests which is going to jeopardize our positive survival and our quality of life. Though sometimes we begin to think that our needs are genuine but on the whole while looking towards this deforestation we are very unkind to the nature. Finally we are left with no choice but to reap the consequence.

However, we must kept this in our mind that the problem which we are facing today has not appeared overnight but has been sown by people long ago. The obsession for growth, dream of materialistic gaining and rapid economic development has destroyed our environment to such an extent that the eco system which supports our life and makes our positive sustenance is at the helm of ruining. The peevish attitude of the people without paying any heed to damage caused to the environment has brought the life of the people under intensive pressure and we are heading towards Irreversible environmental dent which raises many questions for our positive survival in this universe. Despite this alarming circumstances, some countries of the world are still busy with their worldly

desires and are destroying the forest in their surroundings without any grudge and without thinking about their existence and the existence of those whose habitats are being crushed without any moan of protest. The poor countries of the world have relatively low rates of deforestation because their available income is limited in carrying out large scale exploitation in their environment; and as the incomes of these countries rises, more lands are being deforested for the purposes of development (Mayer: 29). The forest system of the world has been brutally destroyed, devilishly demolished, and felled by cutting tools, and the growth has remained only half in the course of recent hundreds of years. Clearing land for farming and development is a reason through which we make our demands genuine and create environment destruction. Laurance mentions in his book entitled Habitat destruction: Death by a thousand cuts that, “ last 100 years, the measure of land utilized for farming has nearly multiplied” (75). The land used for cattle rearing has increased many fold and had created a havoc in the environment by razing the forests mercilessly in to dust.

Forest degradation is a process which negatively affects the structural and functional characteristics of a forest in a course of time. Forest degradation usually results from human activities, which are greatly affected and influenced by the variety of macroeconomic, demographic, technological, institutional and political factors. “The degradation of the forest is not a sudden change like earthquake) but a gradual process, but takes many years when this dearth is ascertained”(Vasquiz: 726) implying that the forest degrades over time . The gradual

degradation of the forest is occurred due to amplified interruption resulting in slaughtering of forest products or the decline of forest quantity as well as quality When the worth and quality of the forest decreases, the forest’s biotic components may also be directly affected leading to reduction of the quality of the soil as well as water, and interactions between the individual components diminishes the ecosystem.



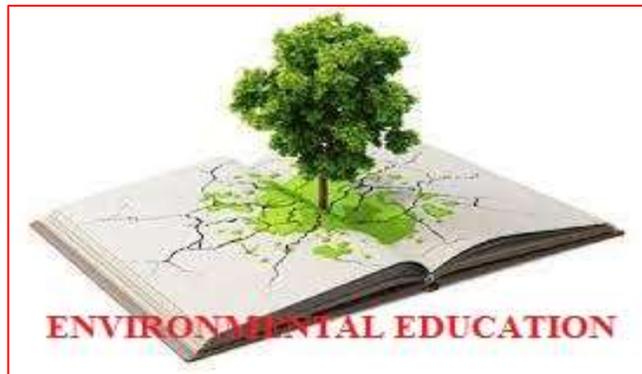
Man is directly and the primary cause responsible for forest degradation because of his unsustainable exploitation through excessive harvesting of forest products, overgrazing of animals, wildfires by carelessness, and the spread of poisonous herbicide and pesticides.

Industrialization which is hailed as achieving a milestone in the field of technology is the main cause of deforestation along with Urbanization and other developmental factors, firewood and shifting cultivation factors are also responsible for deforestation. These sordid boonic innovations compel to cut trees for fuel, fencing and construction of a decorated house. Over many years there has been a transition from constructive to destructive dependence on the forests. If a solution to this degradation of forest can be thought of impoverishments and environmental deterioration, one has to identify its real cause. Overpopulation and natural causes like fires, floods, landslides etc. are considered to be the main causes of Deforestation and these are responsible for the environmental destruction and exiling of animals. The modern man need to think thoroughly about this destruction and should try to solve it in a way so that it may not mute the voices of those species by which there is a melody and color in the universe. The projects like railway lines, loads, dawn, canals and industrial plants as well as the use of timber and other forest produce for few raw material have brutally damaged the property bestowed to the humans.

The most horrific and pronounced consequence of deforestation is the decay and destruction of biodiversity. The forests in which the animals jewel their dreams by building their habits are some of the most veritable hubs of biodiversity, covering mammals, birds, insects, amphibians or plants, the forest shelters many rare and fragile species. But the wiked motives of humans forget the real history of the existence of forests and engage in deforestation, they put the entire ecosystems in danger, creating natural imbalances, and putting their own lives at risk and at the verge of sudden death. The forests are responsible and indispensable part which support system or a web of connectivity. For instance, the trees provide shade and colder temperatures for animals and smaller trees or vegetation which may not survive with the heat of direct sunlight. Besides, trees also feeding animals with their fruits while providing them with food and shelter they need to survive. Most animals are forced out their natural habitat by hunters and other forest invaders. In the quest to escape from their hunters or in search for safer accommodation, some of these animals move into areas populated by humans which often resulted into fatal encounters with wild animals like tigers, lions and venomous snakes. When the conflict between humans and forest animals is beyond bearable limits, many farmers simply kill the offending animals.

“Environmental Education enhances the acquisition of knowledge, skills, desirable attitude by an individual, towards a better interaction with the natural world” (Sola: 45). Environmental Education is a best tool

and a process of learning that increases people's knowledge and awareness about their immediate environment and the challenges within it in order to use some remedial measures for its proper solution. this new avenue in education will definitely help in identifying environmental problems, developing the necessary skills and expertise.



Environmental Education equip individuals with the ability to address their challenges, foster attitudes, build the necessary motivations, and commitment to make informed decisions and take responsible action that will benefit them and their future generation for their smooth survival. The whole essence of environmental education is to bring the citizens to

full knowledge of their environment and the necessity of other species, creating abilities that help them solve or mediate current environmental problems and avert new ones by their wisely cooperation and interests.

Conclusion

Deforestation and habitat loss is not about losing a few plants and animals by the unjust motives of men, but also the existence of man who is wholly and solely dependent on this avenue. Deforestation aids the mechanism of altering the already endangered planet earth; making it dangerous for plants and animals to survive it. The quest for worldly desires and lands for agricultural activities and human expansions is further reducing the forested areas on the surface on the earth. Environmental education is the key to reversing continuous and deliberate human action through the protection of every natural forest. India is witnessing a rising demand for forest-based products. This is causing deforestation and encroachment into forest protected areas, which leads to a severe loss of natural resources. As the nation will have to depend heavily on imports to meet this growing demand, there is fear that this could result in loss of high conservation value forests and biodiversity elsewhere. The estimation shows that 0.6% of both closed and open forests are being deforested every year and within 2019 that might further 21% of the tropical forests have been deforested. But because of this devastating exercise the mankind suffers a lot because forests play a pivotal role for the existence of the human civilization. Its functions are enormous and which are life-saving. It plays a protective role in natural as well as social system of the environment, regulative role in natural as well as social system of environment and productive role in natural as

well as social environment. Apart from all these functions forest acts as a genetic reservoir. As a main functionary it acts in the World Climatic regulation. Environmental experts opine that if the present rate of deforestation continues then within next 60/75 years the earth will have hardly any rich forest cover. With i this forest destruction the biodiversity is also disturbed in the same proportion. India is the seventh largest country in the world so far as the biodiversity is concerned. Deforestation is seen with ecological imbalance, non availability of forest produce and raw materials for forest-based industries. But the causal factors of the deforestation are over-population, industrialization and natural causes like fire and accidents and Illegal cutting etc. Owing to deforestation many environmental problems are resulted and which are improper utilization of CO₂ which leads to global warming and concentration of which create serious damage to the environment, green house effect, noise pollution soil erosion, flood, draught, famine and fatal diseases like Malaria, Dengue, Yellow Fever and Sun-stroke etc. are mutually dependent on each other and on one's extinction the others also extinct.

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