

THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION ON HUMAN HEALTH

C.HAMSAVENI

Ph.D. Research Scholar

Department of Business Administration
Arignar Anna Government Arts College
Namakkal – 637 002

Dr.D.KANCHANA

Assistant Professor and Head

Department of Business Administration
Arignar Anna Government Arts College
Namakkal - 637 002

Abstract

The impact of environmental degradation on human health is essential for the development of well informed policies by the health sector. Every living creature need healthy environment. But, the environment becomes worse or polluted so man, vegetation and all other living creatures also get affected. The subject of environmental economics is at the forefront of the green debate. The environment can no longer be viewed as an entity separate from the economy. Environment degradation consequences affect the health of the people. It is resulting from factors such as urbanization, population growth, intensification of agriculture, rising energy use and transportation, climate change, pollution arising from many sources. An unhealthy environment possess health hazards consequently a violation of the health. The modern technological progress, for which we are so proud of, is actually the root cause of the environment deterioration. The degradation has adverse impacts on human, plants, animals and micro organisms. This paper provides a review of literature on studies associated with reduced environmental risk and in particular focusing on human health.

Key words: Environmental degradation, deterioration, health hazards, consequences, health economics, etc.

1. Introduction

The environment plays a central role in the life of human beings. It directly affects the health status and well-being of human population whether in the urban cities or in hinterlands. It has been established that the potential adverse effects of climate change have been characterized as changes in the physical environment which have significant deleterious effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural or managed eco systems or on the operation of socio-economic systems or on human health and welfare. The degree of the environmental impact varies with the cause, the habitat, and the plants and animals that inhabitant it. Humans and their activities are a major source of environmental degradation. The environment of concern in these efforts has primarily been the household environment with unsafe water, sanitation, and hygiene, indoor air pollution, and outdoor air pollution comprising the bulk of the risks. In addition, they included some of the classic elements of environmental health: exposures associated with occupations, radiation, or heavy metals. Such analyses are enormously valuable in helping public health practitioners determine the relative gains that can be achieved in the

overall health of a population by modifying these aspects of the environment. However, they explicitly excluded natural environment or eco system that cannot reasonably be modified as beyond their scope and do not, therefore, provide us guidance on the relative importance of eco system change to human health.

Environmental pollution refers to the degradation of quality and quantity of natural resources. Different kinds of human activities are the main reason of environmental degradation. These have led to environmental changes that have become harmful to all living beings. The air pollution affects through smoke emitted by the vehicles and factories increases the amount of poisonous gases in the air. Another one is sound pollution; the main causes of sound pollution are vehicles, loud speaker, mill, etc. The excessive use of natural resources diminishes these resources creates the imbalance of the environment. The results in the over consumption of natural resources, deforestation, over use of pesticides, chemical fertilizer and insecticides, congested housing or unmanaged urbanization, industrialization and production of litters, sewages, etc. are the major reasons to deteriorate quality of the environment. The life of the creatures will be in danger if environment goes on deteriorating in the same way.

2. Objective of the study

The aim of the study is to protecting the environment from degradation in order to protect human health. The article examines the factors that cause environmental degradation and the attendant consequences on human health.

3. Research methodology

The present study is exploratory in nature to provide a clear guidance for empirical research. For this purpose, secondary data were collected through newspapers, magazines, books, journals, conference proceedings and websites.

4. Causes of environmental degradation

The major causes of the environmental pollution are modern urbanization, industrialization, over-population growth, deforestation, etc. The primary cause of environmental degradation is human disturbance. The main cause of the socio-economic problem is population growth it seems to be an asset rather than a burden for the balance of environment. The round connection amongst poverty and environment is a great degree complex marvel. Degraded environment can accelerate the process of impoverishment, again because the poor depend directly on nature. Pollution is another cause of environmental degradation. Pollution can come from a variety of sources, including vehicle emissions, agricultural runoff, accidental chemical release from factories, and poorly managed harvesting of natural resources. Air pollution is the

world's largest environmental health threat; it causes and exacerbates a number of diseases. Water pollution is primarily the contaminated of natural or manmade sources of fresh water.

5. Impact of human health

The environment affects human health might be at the receiving end as a result of the environmental degradation. The degradation occurs when earth's natural resources are depleted. It causes directly or indirectly by humans, including some factors that are modifying the environment to fit the needs of society is causing severe effects, which become worse as the problem of human over population. Technology is often perceived as unavoidable for several reasons, similarly transport is the fastest going emission sector. Areas exposed to toxic air pollutants can cause respiratory problems like pneumonia and asthma. Some of the air pollutants are carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide, and the main factors are vehicular pollution, industrial emission, automobiles exhausts are harmful to us. Water pollutants are sewage, industrial wastes, pesticides, fertilizers, garbage dumping and toxic waste into bodies of water, humans suffer. Water and soil pollution usually occur together as polluted. Water seeps into the soil and contaminated it. We are killing our planet and the consequences are tremendous.

6. Mitigation measures

There are a number of techniques that are being used to prevent this, including environmental resources protection and general protection efforts. Human population we need to control and limit with good planning. This is the major source of environmental degradation. Pollution prevention is a major global concern because of the harmful effects of pollution on a person's health and on the environment. Never throw, run or drain or dispose into the water, air, or land any substance in solid, liquid or gaseous form that shall cause pollution. Caring for our resources and subsequently for ourselves and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come will have a better and healthy environment.

7. Conclusion

Environmental degradation is one of the impacts of human health. This article has established that a degraded environment arising from factors such as water pollution, air pollution, climate change as a consequence of global warming because of greenhouse gases among so many other factors constitute grave human health. These could lead to premature deaths and hence increase in morbidity. A healthy environment is fundamental in the protection of the health of the people. The environment affects the lives of humans in so many ways including health of the people. When identifying the alternatives for mitigating the problems of environmental degradation, we should aim at reducing it, or at least restricting it to a level consistent with the society's objectives. Governments must endeavour to ensure that activities of

companies, organizations and individuals must be in conformity with environmental protection towards healthy environment. If this is done human health will be protected.

8. Reference

- Alam. P., & Ahmade, K. (2013). Impact of Solid Waste on Health and the Environment. *International Journal of Sustainable Development and Green Economics*, 2 (1), 165-168.
- Alberini, et al. (2006). Valuing Health Effects of Air Pollution in Developing Countries: The Case of Taiwan. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 34, 107-126.
- Bell, et al. (2008). Ancillary Human Health Benefits of Improved Air Quality Resulting from Climate Change Mitigation. *Environmental Health*, 7, 41.
- Hammit, J.K., & Zhou, Y. (2006). The Economic Value of Air Pollution Related Health Risks in China: A Contingent Valuation Study. *Environmental and Resource Economics*, 33, 399-423.
- Isin, S., & Yildirim, I. (2007). Fruit Growers' Perceptions on the Harmful Effects of Pesticides and their Reflection on Practices: The Case of Kemalpaşa, Turkey. *Crop Protection*, 26 (7), 917-922.
- Mazza, et al. (2015) Illegal Dumping of Toxic Waste and Its Effect on Human Health in Campania, Italy. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 12 (6), 6818-6831.

