

# Environmental Issues & Preventions for “Save Today Shape Tomorrow”

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## Abstract

Environmental issues are a big problem in the world and all humans need to recognize the need for our social obligations. The effect of humans on our planet has increased significantly over the years. Constantly growing population, new technical power to dig deeper, cut faster, build larger, automobiles, pollution and global warming affect not only us as humans, but also everything around us. It is we humans who live on this earth, so it is important to think of the environment and how to keep it clean and green. The aim of this paper is to review the environmental issues and their protection for the aim of “Save today Shape tomorrow”. In recent years, researches governments and scientist have been rapidly discussing the environmental issues and protection for present and future generations. This action seeks to promote ethical and moral principles as solutions. However, it is generally accepted that sustainability consists of three factors that contribute to an ideal society - financial, environmental and social stability. Most people on the planet are concerned about sustainability because it is human nature to care about the future, but the way in which different people go about it can vary greatly. Like the rest of the society, all governments are also concerned with sustainability. This paper has allowed me to reflect on my perspectives that represent my understandings about environmental issues and protection for present and future generations. It is high time for human beings to take the right action towards the aim of "Save today Shape tomorrow", protecting our earth from major environmental issues. If ignored today, these ill effects are sure to curb human existence in the future.

**Keywords:** Environmental Issues, Prevention, Sustainability, Generations, Social and Economic.

## Introduction

A process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development and institutional changes are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations (UN WCED 1987).

Here, I am representing my understandings about environmental issues and their protection under the aim - "Save today Shape tomorrow". Environment plays an important role in healthy living and the existence of life on planet Earth. Earth is a sweet home for different living species, and we all are dependent on the environment for food, air, water and other needs. So, it is very important for every individual to save and protect our environment. The environmental issues are the harmful effects of human activities. These include generating power, population, waste disposals, climate change, global warming and greenhouse effect, wastage, different types of pollution etc. Various environmental protection programs are being practiced at the individual, organizational and government levels with the aim of establishing balance between man and environment. For examples-Swachh Bharat Swastha Bharat, plastic pollution per pabandi, etc.

## Objective of the Study

1. Main objective is to conserve natural resources and the existing natural environment and where possible, to repair damage and reverse trends.
2. To provide every person with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, values, attitudes, commitment, and skills needed to protect and improve the environment; to create new patterns of behavior of individuals, groups, and society as a whole towards the environment.

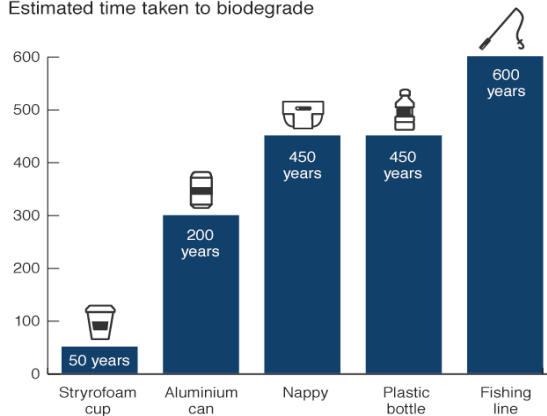
Crucial environmental issues are no more a blame game. While most of us complain about dirty air, smelly garbage, but the least to know it is "us" who are responsible for theseunfavourable circumstances leading to cautionary environmental issues. Here are some current environmental issues, where human beings play an important role and in their cause.

**Plastic Pollution**

Human beings and their bad actions are majorly responsible for causing all types of pollution. Water, air and soil pollution are majorly caused from industrial waste. Some incidents have attracted the attention of the whole world and have put up a question mark about the use of plastic in daily life. Nowadays the most popular plastic pollution is related with the use of PVC. When any food material and blood is stored in the plastic containers, then gradually the soluble chemicals get dissolved in them causing death due to cancer and other diseases. Should plastic be banned for the aim of "Save today Shape tomorrow"?

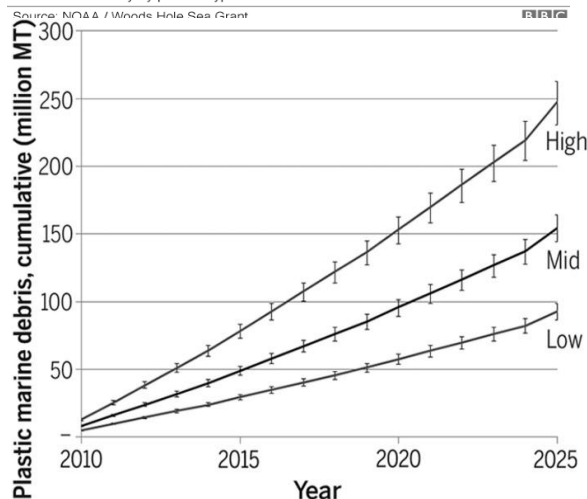
**How long til they're gone?**

Estimated time taken to biodegrade



Exact time will vary by product type and environmental conditions

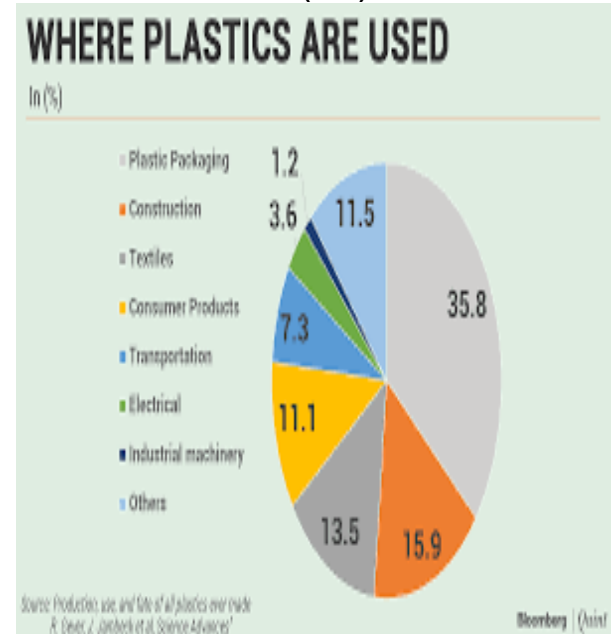
Source: NOAA / Woods Hole Sea Grant



Most importantly plastic harms the marine life as the marine creatures eat the plastic waste and eventually die. In short, we see how plastic pollution is ruining everyone's life or earth. We must take major steps to reduce plastic waste like we must use alternatives such as cloth bags and paper bags instead of plastic bags. If we are purchasing plastic,

we must reuse it. We must avoid drinking bottled water which contributes largely to plastic pollution. The government must put a complete ban on plastic throughout the country. All this can prevent plastic pollution to a large extent, otherwise this pollution can not only have harmful effects on the land and rivers by affecting wildlife and habitat, but also on human life.

**Where Plastics Are Used (In %)**



**Global Warming**

The burning of fossil fuels, emissions from the automobiles and chlorofluorocarbons add to the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Climate change caused by global warming is leading to the rise in temperature of the oceans and earth's surface causing melting of polar ice caps, rise in sea levels and alsodisturbance in natural patterns of disasters such as flash floods, excessive snow etc. Hence global warming has led to a change in climatic conditions around the globe. There are droughts at some places and floods other places at the same time. This climatic imbalance is the result of those human activities due to which plants are getting destroyed, and hence the global temperature has become uncontrollable.

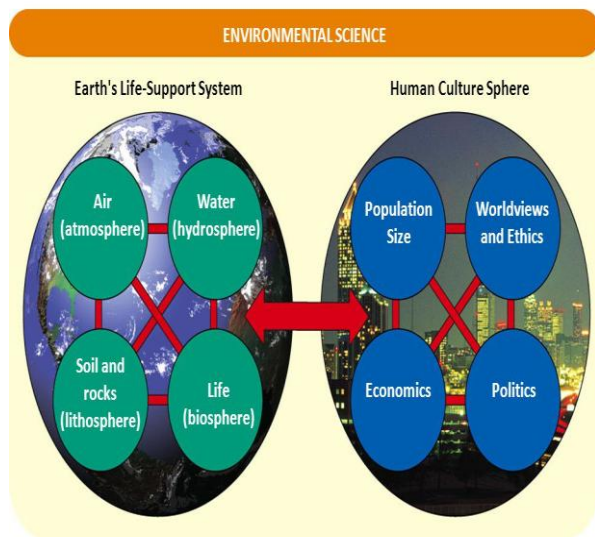
**Deforestation**

Deforestation continues to be a major environmental issue. Many forests are losing valuable trees and are getting destroyed. The trees protect soil from harsh weather conditions and protect us from excess carbon dioxide, enabling us to live longer and more comfortably. Forests are important to mitigate the climate change because there serve as carbon sinks, meaning that they absorb CO2 that would otherwise escape into the atmosphere and worsen global warming.

**Overpopulation**

Population pollution is the pollution caused due to overpopulation. The negative impact of rapid population growth on the environment, particularly with regards to public health, workers productivity and

ability to sustain development is growing many folds. Dirty water, inadequate sanitation, air pollution and land degradation cause serious diseases on an enormous scale in developing countries like India. Human activities create chain of reactions in the ecosystem. Explosion of human population has affected the ecosystem badly by creating high demands of basic needs like- agricultural land, water transportation, educational and medical facilities etc.



### E-waste materials

Pollutants are the key elements or components of pollution, which are generally waste materials. The over consumption of resources and creation of plastics are creating a global crisis of natural resources and dumping huge bulks of waste materials. Waste materials like fast food packaging cheap electronic wastes threaten the wellbeing of humans. When e-waste is heated up, toxic chemicals are released into the air damaging the atmosphere. Emissions from E-waste create a big environmental damage. Today's e-gadgets are tomorrow's e-waste.

### Ozone layer depletion

The Ozone Layer is an invisible layer of protection around the earth that protect us from the sun's harmful radiations. It prevents harmful ultraviolet radiations from reaching the earth. This is one of the most important environmental issues and effects on human health and environment. UV rays not only affect human skin, eyes, immune system, but wildlife as well. Any change in the balance of planet species can have serious effects, since all life is interconnected.

### Acid rain

Acid rain is a known environmental issue that can have serious effect on human health, wildlife and aquatic species. Acid rain means rain that is acidic in nature due to the presence of certain pollutants in the air, due to cars and industrial processes. It is easily defined as rain, fog or snow that has been made acidic by pollutants in the air as a result of fossil fuels and industrial combustion. Running of factories and automobiles due to human activities are few other reasons behind this activity.

### Climate Change

As per this year's Global assessment report of UNO for disaster risk reduction, countries like India are likely to face the adverse effects of climate change. Around 600 million Indians are moderately or severely affected by changes in temperature and rainfall. The increasing heat waves in the past years are an indication that global warming and climate change are really issues that the country is facing now. With the glaciers melting at an alarming rate, floods and other such natural disasters are occurring with increasing frequency. The number of forest fires, floods, earthquakes and other environmental issues over the past years has been unprecedented and there is change in overall weather scenario.

### Environmental issues' prevention for save today and shape tomorrow

Human beings cannot live all alone on the earth. They need a lot of other things to support their mutual harmony and survival. At the very start, we need to save our today and shape the tomorrow for prevention of the environment. Although the implementation of necessary steps to save the environment can be quite difficult, due to the current nature of our lifestyles and modernization that has taken place. However, some small yet fruitful steps can surely be the guiding force towards our need to save the environment for our own benefits. A number of initiatives have been taken by various governments in order to educate people on the need to save the environment like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the cleaning of rivers- NamamiGangeAbhiyan etc. All natural resources- soil, water, air, animals, trees, climate etc are very important to life, so much so that there would be no life without them.

The very large population of the environment and other natural resources are constantly and seriously being over exploited way above and beyond the natural limits. There are lot of things to save the environment from like- pollution, overpopulation, climate change, global warming, e-waste etc. Some of the prevention measures we can employ in to protect the environment for save today shape tomorrow are highlighted below.

The concept of 3R's (recycle, reduce and reuse) should be applied and promoted so that we can prevent the highly excessive use of resources that are non-renewable. Bulbs and tube lights that are energy-efficient should be used to save energy. The use of wood and paper products should be reduced, and the use of e-paper and e-book should be encouraged. Fossil fuels can be reduced by using public transport, walking, cycling and carpooling. Instead of using plastic bags, jute or cloth bags can be used. Solar panels and rechargeable batteries can be used as alternate sources of energy. Compost bins can be setup to produce manure instead of using fertilizers. It is everyone's duty and responsibility to protect and preserve the environment for save today shape tomorrow.

According to Lester Brown- "we have not inherited this earth from our forefather we have borrowed it from children." So, every individual on earth must contribute his quota towards the

prevention of the environment, just waiting on the government to do everything. Therefore, it is important that we do both our individual best and collective best to get involved in activities that help remove the environmental issues to save earth.

These activities could be recycling of products, engaging in rainwater harvesting, avoidance of wastage of natural resources like freshwater and resources like electricity. What really matters is that we are doing our best to save the environment. We can only save today shape tomorrow for healthy environment through proper resource management and sustainable development.

#### **Conclusion**

We are the first generation to fully understand the environmental issues and the last generation to be able to do something about it." (UNWMO) The main reasons for environmental issues are the exploding population and the needs of billions of people, making environmental sustainability very difficult task. The other big issue is the lack of environmental awareness and conservation. Despite the efforts of Government and environmental agencies, there is a lack of sustainable effort from the masses. Unless this changes, there is a very little hope for environment protection. We can only look forward to the youth and the younger generations of the nation to remain conscious and act in the best interest of future generations for save today shape tomorrow.

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