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Information Technology and Environmental Related Health Issues with Special Reference to Past, Present and Future

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ABSTRACT

An environment has become a threat for the existence of life. A study was made to assess the environmental problem issues with their various attributes in the past, present and future. Various attributes like Warming up of the atmosphere, the ozone layer's thinning, the process of dissertations, the progressive devastation of the tropical and rain forests etc. It is evident that the environment was adequately habitable during the past throw the traditional practices but at the present due to heavy industrialization, urbanization and deforestation, environment pollution has come to a such a saturated position that it has become increasingly difficult for the habitation for the man and animals. Measures have been suggested keeping in view information technology in mind to mitigate the above stated environmental issues.

KEYWORDS : Environment, Information Technology, macro polis

INTRODUCTION

Information Technology has made us to believe that existence of life on the lone planet called "earth" is highly unpredictable and incredible . From the very time immemorial the people has been trying to unfold the history of life in its own form, but it has been a hard task even to know a fraction of the varieties of life. Besides, the main governing forces on the existence of life on earth are still unexplored. The above ignorance did not stop the man to develop all sorts of technologies in all most all other sphere of existence. Information technology has given us the impetus to acquire the knowledge of the past, present and future.

Health issues in the past

It is an admitted fact that Hinduism, which being a way of regulating the life than a religion since it has the potentially to accumulate the other religions. It is stated that it is the most environmental eco-friendly religion on the earth. It has been asserted that the Vedic tradition of the Hinduism offer imagery that values the power of the natural world. Scholars of the Vedas put forth various texts and technologies those extol the earth ('bhu'), the atmosphere('bhuvah'), and sky('Sva') as well as the goddess associated with the earth('Prthivi'), and the god associated with water('Ap'), with fire and hit('Agni'), and the wind('Vayu'). Theses gods and goddess suggested various inputs on ecological sensitivity within the Indian tradition. In later Indian thought these Vedic concept became formalized into the Samakhya denotation of five great elements ('Mohabhuta: earth(Prthivi), water('Jal'), fire('Tejas'), air('Vayu'), and space('Akasa'). The ritual processes of Indian culture get emphasis on awareness of these constitutions for the sustenance of life. They follow these as worship to imbibe the power in them.

In the past Indian tradition has considered tree since 3000 BCE as a powerful symbol of abundance. These aspect has been referred in various literature, particularly in epic and poetic text. India has a long history of forest prediction from the era of Asoka to various kings to the latest 'Chipko' movement where even the women have saved many trees from destruction with their own bodies.

Rivers have been an integral part of Indian tradition even the Hindu sentiment is strongly associated with the river in relation to their religious practice. In Vedic hymns there are mentioned about rivers and their importance for existence of life in number of hymns. The river Sarasvati in the past was worshipped through the hymns as a traditional religious practice and this river was regarded as goddess of learning and culture .but unfortunately this river now has become dried up due to human interference. The Ganges river, which flows through various parts of India is also regarded as goddess . The water of it has been considered as holy and pure. But modern industrialization and human waste and pollutants have polluted the rivers in the present in spite of pollution the Ganges water is a must item in any of Indian ritual process. In the past attention was given on Hindus spirituality. Practice of yoga could enhance the health of the body and vitality of the senses. These spiritual aspect of Indian tradition was respected in the past. But modern India give stresses on material aspect over spiritual sense.

Health issues in the present

Tremendous boom and human population explosion in the present era have brought about many consequential ill effects on the total environmental degradation. The degradations which have emancipated through human explosion are in the form of natural human environmental degradation in the form of physical ,chemical, biological or social. The quality of life has been affected seriously due to manmade environmental pollution. The health issues have become so rampant that various planners are showing their concern about it and how to medicate this environmental health hazard. Various programs have been launched from time to time to address the issues related to health due to pollution. To preserve the nature in its own form by adopting scientific management of is natural resources and quality researches in the field of environmental studies have become a must.

Belmar[1] opined that the changes and progress on both health and health systems, started during industrial revolution to improve the people's living conditions. This scientific advancement could control many deadly and devastating diseases for which thousands of human death was normal phenomenon but advancement of medical & engineering sciences and other biological researches could abate the most important disease like tuberculosis in the past. The environmental conditions could be improved by better nutrition, housing and basic sewerage system which have created a significant influence on health conditions of man & animals.

The present upsurge of medical system could prevent many of the important diseases like rabies, cholera, malaria, pox etc. by the distinguished scientists. The fundamental contributions of Pasteur, Jenner, Koch and other researchers have developed immunization technique against cruel maladies. Many surgical procedures and diagnostic methodology with various modern technologies through bio-engineering could ameliorated many health risk problems and their early prediction. Death rate has slowed down.

The gloomy picture which has emerged in the present concerning public health is due to environmental pollution where man for his personal interest ignored many issues related to environment. Environmental equity is being permanently challenged by great problems both in the world's macro-environment and the local one[2][3][4]. The main threats apprehended by the above environmentalist are

- Warming up of the atmosphere.
- The ozone layer's thinning.

- The green house effect.
- The process of dissertations.
- The reduction of fresh water due to the salinization process.
- The progressive devastation of the tropical and rain forests.
- The loss of arable lands.
- The accelerated disappearance of animal and vegetable species.
- The accelerated urbanization and the development of the "macro polis".

Local environment or regional based environments are also under threats due to obvious reasons as under:

- Physical, chemical & biological pollution of the local /regional atmosphere.
- Specific physical and biological pollution of water used by man.
- The water, soil and the environment polluted by heavy metals (Pb, As, Cr, Al)[5][6][7][8].
- The presence of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides in the water and soil.
- Increase contact of human with solvents.
- Increase of solid wastes from cities and industrial areas in adequate methods of disposals of biomedical waste.
- The improper disposal of radioactive waste.

The above constraints relating to pollution in local and regional level are mostly observed in under developed and developing countries where overcrowding is a problem. It has been seen that atmospheric pollution caused by breathing particles, persistence organic pollutants (POP) and gases (SO_2) has grown in tremendous manner even in more developed country. The above problems can only be controlled by persistent human efforts and by present day technology specially information technology [3].

Based on the studies of world health organization and other International bodies the fact which came out as major issues which are faced by developing countries are more or less similar in nature. Measures to be taken are providing clean air, clean water, and safe environmental status conducive for maintenance for good health. Here good health stands for all components of health viz. the physical, physiological, mental, cultural, social, recreational and economic aspect of life. It is the ardent task and challenges how to provide free from arsenic, microbes, hazardous chemical and whole sum drinking water. Various action plans have been taken to free Ganges water from pollution. Still further action need to be taken to purify the Ganges water which being one of the sources of portable drinking water.

Health issues in the future

The detrimental effect of environmental pollution is currently failed by all concern. Government is planning to mitigate the problems which are emerging from industries as pollutants. There are states which are producing coal in the country. These coal producing states should take a major role to play in fossil fuel based energy production and thus mitigation of consequent contribution to global warming and other related to pollution. Planning should be made in such a manner so that on the one hand there should be a balanced growth, which should give equal importance to the environment and on the other hand development should continue to grow. But this is a hard task than to put it in the practice. Conflicting interest of the industry and public will stand in the way for such development. It needs to be understood that making a law alone can never solve the problem. Apart from rigorous attempt of implementation of various regulation, we also need to educate and make them more aware about their environmental rights and responsibilities which being demand of the day in order to save their own interest in life.

CONCLUSIONS

The crux of the environmental problem should be given serious attention by the academician, environmental scientists, statesman and the planner with dedication and devotion. Recommendation as suggested by the above resource persons should be strictly followed with the tools of information technology for mitigation. Safe environment to save life.

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