

Local and Global Environmental Problems

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INTRODUCTION

An environmental problem occurs when there comes a change in quality or the quantity of the environmental factor that directly or indirectly affects everything on earth. There are several environmental problems that could be local or global.

Factors which cause these problems are:

- Population Explosion
- Rapid Industrialization
- Urbanization
- Modern Lifestyle

Local Environmental Problems

- Pollution
- Deforestation
- Waste Disposal problem
- Over-Exploitation of natural resources

Pollution:

Introduction of contaminants into the natural environment that causes adverse change is called pollution and the components of pollution are known as pollutants.

Types of pollution:

- Air Pollution
- Water Pollution
- Light Pollution
- Soil Pollution
- Noise Pollution

Waste Disposal Problem:

Removing, storing or destroying damaged, used or other unwanted domestic, agriculture or industrial products is known as waste disposal.

Solid wastes:

Garbage, rubbish, sewage treatment, dead animals



Pollution Deforestation

Harms:

Waste disposal in lands creates problems such as ground water contamination, methane gas formation and disease vector hazards.

Over Exploitation of Natural Resources:

The act of using resources unfairly for the own advantage is known as over exploitation of resources.

Following consequences can arise from the careless and excessive consumption of these resources:

- Deforestation
- Extinction of species
- Soil erosion
- Natural Disasters

Global Environmental Problems:

- Global Warming
- Green House Effect
- Ozone Layer Depletion
- Acid Rain

Global Warming :

The gradual rise in the overall temperature of the atmosphere of the Earth is known as global warming. Temperature increase is caused by an increased concentration of greenhouse gases.

Major Gases :

- Water Vapour
- Carbon dioxide
- Methane
- Ozone



Causes of Global Warming:

Some causes of global warming are following:

- The emission of Greenhouse gases like Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide etc., into the atmosphere.
- Burning of Fossil Fuels
- Deforestation
- Agriculture

The results of global warming are melting of glaciers, effects on marine life, sinking of

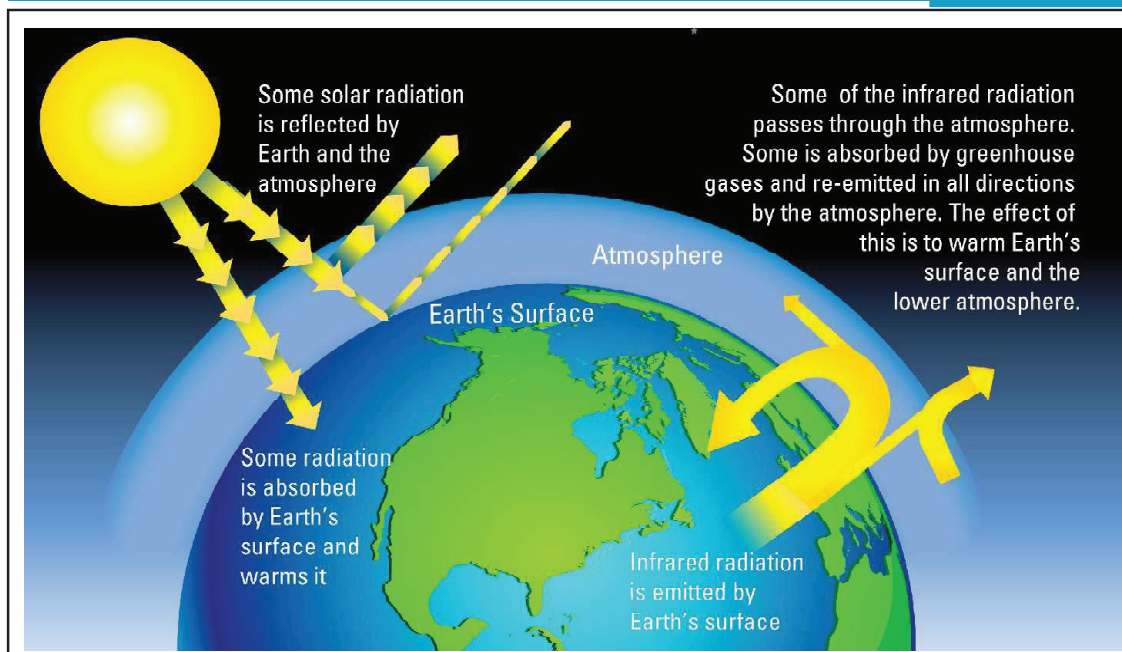
coastal regions etc.

Green House Effect

It is a process that occurs when gases in Earth's atmosphere traps the Sun's heat. It is due to the blanketing effect of man-made CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Green House Gases:

- Carbon dioxide
- Methane
- CFCs
- Ozone



Sources:

Sources of greenhouse gases are following:-

- Burning of coal and natural gas
- Forest fire
- Burning of fossil fuels
- Automobiles fumes



Automobile Fumes



Forest Fires

Ozone Layer Depletion:

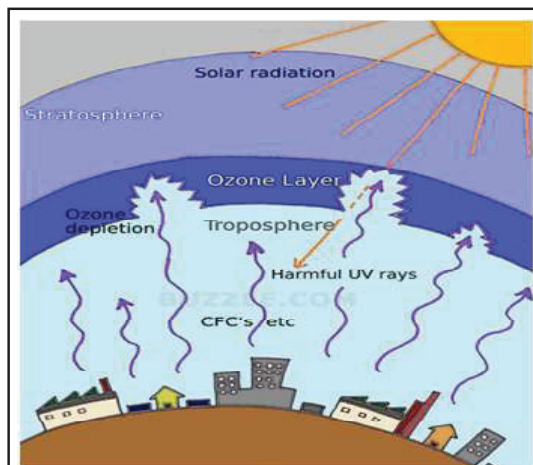
The gradual thinning of earth's ozone in the upper atmosphere is known as Ozone layer depletion. It is mainly caused due to Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Ozone layer prevents the harmful UV rays of the sun to enter the earth. UV radiation breaks the CFCs and chlorine atoms released. Each chlorine atom can break as much as 100000 ozone molecules. The chlorine from CFCs depletes the amount of Ozone

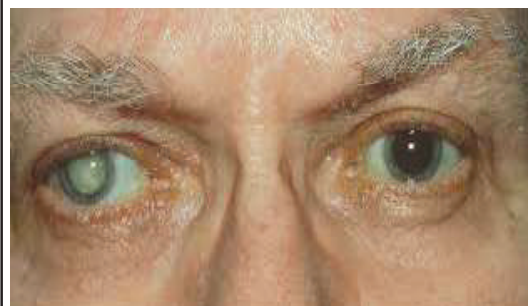
Pesticides such as Methyl bromide, halons used in fire extinguishers, methyl chloroform etc.

Below are some effects of Ozone layer depletion:

- Skin cancer
- Damage to plants and animal
- Cataracts
- Premature Ageing of skin
- Mutation



Diagrammatic view of ozone layer depletion



Cataract

How to Minimize Environment Issue?

Now we know the major issues which are causing damage to the environment. So, now we can discuss the ways by which we can save our environment. For doing so we have to take some measures that will help us in fighting environmental issues. Moreover, these issues will not only save the environment but also save the life and ecosystem of the planet. Some of the ways of minimizing environmental threat are discussed below:

Reforestation – It will not only help in maintaining the balance of the ecosystem but also help in restoring the natural cycles that work with it. Also, it will help in recharge of groundwater, maintaining the monsoon cycle, decreasing the number of carbons from the air, and many more.

The 3 R's principle – For contributing to the environment one should have to use the 3 R's principle that is **Reduce**, **Reuse**, and **Recycle**. Moreover, it helps the environment in a lot of ways.

To conclude, we can say that humans are a major source of environmental issues. Likewise, our activities are the major reason that the level of harmful gases and pollutants

have increased in the environment. But now humans have taken this problem seriously and now working to eradicate it. Above all, if all humans contribute equally to the environment then this issue can be fight backed. The natural balance can once again be restored.

Conclusion :

The environment plays a significant role to support life on earth. But there are some issues that are causing damages to life and the ecosystem of the earth. It is related to the not only environment but to everyone that lives on the planet. Besides, its main source is pollution, global warming, greenhouse gas, and many others. The everyday activities of humans are constantly degrading the quality of the environment which ultimately results in the loss of survival conditions from the earth.. To tackle these environmental issues, protecting the environment is very vital. This not only helps in preventing the detrimental effects but also helps us to conserve the natural resources and natural environment for future generations. Protection of the environment is not only a social movement but is also backed by various laws that have been passed to ensure that humans do not misuse the resources any longer.

