

People Participation in Reducing Air Pollution in Delhi

Sonia Varma

M.A Public Administration,
Panjab University

Abstract

Our motherly earth has every right to prosper in absence of pollution. What human being must understand is that environment is necessity of life and therefore should not be polluted for his/her own selfish interest. Today, the national capital (Delhi) is going through its worst phase due to the burgeoning problem of air pollution. In 2014, (WHO) World Health Organization came out with a report which prescribes Delhi as the most polluted cities among the total of 1600. Therefore, Delhities should tackle this issue in such a way that the very concept of sustainable development does not left behind. No doubt, that the modern innovational technology can help the government to reduce pollution but the active participation of people can be proved as a magic wand. People are biggest asset for any place and Delhi can prove this by involving people in managing environment. This paper tries to analyze that how people can directly participate and influence the policy makers to work for the benefit of clean environment in Delhi and how governmental policies can be implemented in best way when people and administration work in tandem.

Key words: People Participation, Air Pollution, Causes and Control measures of air pollution

Introduction

The present 21st century is the century of industrialization, development, growth, production, manufacturing etc for India as it is leading as the largest emerging country in the world. But all of the above developments should not come up with the cost of clean and green environment. Unfortunately, our national capital (Delhi) is suffering from very critical stage now-a-days. As every day we see headlines which call our attention towards the multiplying air pollution in Delhi. Recently in December 2017, during a test match between Srilanka and Indian cricket team in Delhi Sri Lankan players began to feel breathing problems and several players vomited both in rest rooms and in the field and had to use face masks until the match was stopped. This severe air quality forced our Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli to issue an appeal to the public to contribute in their own way to reduce pollution in the national capital. This shows the height of growing pollution in Delhi. Government on its own level has taken various steps to control it but none of the measures can beat the active involvement of people in handling this issue. Hence, here comes the role of people who can contribute significant not only in reducing pollution in the metropolitan city but in becoming it a more green and clean. People participation can also help the government in implementing policies in a much more effective and efficient manner

Review of Literature:

1. Sarath gullikunda, Air pollution in Delhi, Economic and political weekly (2012) studied that to control pollution in Delhi it is important to keep check on every aspect which further adds to pollution in Delhi whether it is emissions from power plants, industrial unit or waste burning etc.
2. SA Rizwan, Sanjeev kumar gupta and B Nongkynrih, air pollution in Delhi its magnitude and effects on health, Indian journal of community (2013) found that there is a profound need to emphasis on community role in reducing pollution.

Research Methodology:

I) Need and significance of study: Air pollution mainly in Delhi has reached at its peak of height. Government has taken various steps to eliminate it but all these measures do not came up with the expected

results therefore this study try to bring out the importance of people participation to help the government in reducing pollution in the national capital.

II) Objective of study: The objective of the study is:

- i. To define participation and air pollution with regard to the national capital region
- ii. To identify various reasons of increasing pollution in Delhi.
- iii. To state that how people participation can help in a big way to reduce air pollution to a minimum level.

III) Method of data collection:

Data is prerequisite of any research because on the basis of data collected any analysis and interpretation can be done. For this paper secondary data has been collected from various sources. So, this paper is wholly in descriptive form.

IV) Limitations of study:

This study is based on the secondary source of data. The limitation of this study is that it is not being based on the primary data due to

- i. Cost and limited financial resources
- ii. Time constrains
- iii. Limited contacts and resources

What Is Air Pollution

According to Wikipedia: Air Pollution occurs when harmful substances including particulates and biological molecules are introduced into Earth's atmosphere.

In the words of Business dictionary: Air Pollution consists of gaseous liquid or solid substances that when present in sufficient concentration and under certain conditions, tend to interfere with human comfort, health or welfare, and cause environmental damage.

World Health Organization (WHO) defines air pollution as contamination of the indoor and outdoor environment by any chemical physical and biological agent that modifies the natural characteristics of the atmosphere.

According to UNDP (United nation development programme): "Participation means that People are closely involved in economic, social, cultural and political process that affects their lives".

Participation

People's participation may be defined as, "Behavior through which people directly express their opinions".

Participation is a mechanism through which people express their opinions and ideas and exert pressure on political economic and social decisions. Participation of people in any activity makes its output fruitful. Active involvement of people especially in the working of administration is need of an hour. All the policies and programmes formulated by government can be best implemented if people participate in them. Now-a-days involving people in decision making make any government more effective and popular also.

Various Reasons of Increasing Air Pollution in Delhi

Over-population and limited resources in the capital.

Low Investment in public transport and infrastructure which leads to congested roads, and hence air pollution.

Large scale construction in Delhi-NCR is another cause that is increasing dust and pollution in the air.

Industrial pollution and garbage dumps are also increasing air pollution and building-up smog in the air.

Pollution caused by the traffic menace in Delhi is another reason contributing to this air pollution and smog. The air quality index has reached 'severe' levels. Vehicular emission is increasing the hazardous effects of air pollution and smog. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) have declared vehicular emission as a major contributor to Delhi's increasing air pollution. PM 2.5 is very dangerous for human which also emitted from vehicular traffic.

One of the main reasons of increasing air pollution levels in Delhi is crop burning by the farmers in these states. Farmers burn rice stubbles in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. It is estimated that approximately 35 million tonnes of crop are set afire by these states. The wind carries all the pollutants and dust particles, which have got locked in the air.

- Lack of method for proper treatment of solid and liquid waste in the city.
- More reliance on fossil fuels such as coal fired power plants.
- Carbon monoxide a dangerous gas emission is around 6,000 microgram per cubic meter in Delhi, which is much above the safe level of 2,000 microgram per cubic meter.

Consequences of Ever-Increasing Pollution in Delhi:

- i. Delhities are more prone to diseases like cancer, hypertension and diabetes.
- ii. Various research has shown that pollution has reduced the children capability of intelligence and increased the risk of autism, lung damage etc.
- iii. Emergency like situation in winters where due to smog all schools are closed, trains and airlines need to be cancelled.
- iv. Low rankings at international level in combating pollution.
- v. As the winter season sets in, dust particles and pollutants in the air become unable to move. Due to stagnant winds, these pollutants get locked in the air and affect weather conditions, resulting in smog. The concentration of particulate matter or PM 2.5 is very high here which forces people to wear mask as this pollutant emitted from vehicles has thirty times smaller size than a human hair strand which can cause respiratory illness.
- vi. Many times air quality index has also shown 'very severe' or 'very poor' category of environment in the NCR region.

Reducing Pollution: People's Participation

People of Delhi must work together to uproot this curse from the atmosphere. Citizens can take steps to plant more and more trees. Afforestation campaign must be started as trees can consume more of carbon dioxide and make our environment cleaner. Every citizen should follow the rule of 3Rs: Recycle, Reduce, Reuse. Bursting firecrackers at the time of Deepawali (Hindu fest), New Year or weddings should be totally boycotted by the people. Every man should keep a proper check on the pollution emissions of his/her vehicle as according to a study nearly 75% of PM2.5 (fine particulate pollution) is emitted by the vehicular traffic. In this context recently the apex court has made it clear to all automobile manufacturing companies to make vehicles with (bharat stage IV) engine having upgraded technology. Moreover, Electric buses should be started in the region and people should prefer to buy electric vehicles or those which are energy efficient. Especially, in Delhi like busy road area one should prefer car pool, ride share or something which is economical like using public mode of transportation which will not only reduce the vehicular traffic on roads but also create less emission. And as far as possible preferences should be given to the CNG auto rickshaws or

metros as they are environment friendly. The latest magenta line of metro inaugurated in December 2017 by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has further made it easier to travel in various parts of Delhi and Noida.

As the government is promoting digital ways of communicating with people so this technique can also be used as the main source for creating awareness among people that how can one contribute towards reducing pollution. A Mobile pollution App can also be created by the government so that complaints can be easily filed and faster grievance redressal is possible. This mobile app should have features that anybody can click photo of an area where any illegal activity of rule violation is going on adding to pollution and upload it for quick remedial action. Therefore, various policies which are made by government can be implemented more effectively and efficiently when people support and participate in them with full enthusiasm. Whether it is odd even rule, where in cars with odd number registration ply on odd dates and vice-versa or banning of registration of luxury SUVs and diesel cars above 2000Cc all these rules can be properly implemented only when the people come forward to show their interest and abide to all these rules and regulations.

Further, farmers in India, burn tonnes of farm stubble to make room for winter crops, but this leaves a very poor environment as burning of stubble pollutes the environment in big way. To discourage the farmers to burn their crops, a new project has been launched by government. Under this plan large utilities like (NTPC) is asked to purchase farm residue and use it to make biomass and fuel. The national green tribunal (NGT) has noted that this move will not only help to reduce pollution but as well as help the farmer financially. So in such kind of schemes farmers should show their interest and follow all the rules regarding farm waste.

Conclusion:

No doubt, that Delhi pollution rose to an alarming level as the air quality in the national capital region has touched the emergency and very poor category but even at this alarming situation we can get back our clean and green environment if people come forward and participates with full enthusiasm. Therefore government with the support of people at large can delete this curse on our motherly earth and make it a more pure.

Let Go Green To Make Our Atmosphere Clean...

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