

## Environmental Issues in India – A Short Review

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### Abstract

*There are many environmental problems in India. Air pollution, water pollution, garbage, and pollution of the natural environment are challenges for India. The situation of environmental problems was very bad from 1947 to current. According to a study by World Bank experts between 1995 and 2010, India is making the fastest progress in the world in addressing its environmental issues and improving the quality of its environment. Present paper reveals an overview on the issues of environmental in India.*

**Keywords** Environmental issues, India, air pollution, sound pollution, water pollution

### Introduction

India is an agricultural country and most of the industries are dependent on agriculture. Various pollution problems have arisen from this conglomerate. In India, air, water, noise, the main components of pollution are seen. Measures are taken at various levels, but its implementation is not the same in all areas.

The present paper analyzes the major environmental problems in India and the solutions to them.

### Objectives

The main objective of the present paper is to discuss the environmental pollution in an India.

### Data Source & Methodology

Present paper is based on the secondary source of data, it is compiled from various published books, journals, articles and available information on internet. The environmental issues discussed in four parts, i) Air Pollution, ii) Sound Pollution, iii) Water

Pollution and iv) Land Pollution. The remedies are suggested in the conclusion part of the present paper.

### Study Region

The study is based on the environmental issues in India. India is an important country in Asia and it lies in between 6° 44' and 35° 30'

north latitude and 68° 7' and 97° 25' east longitude. Total geographical area of the country is 3.287 million km<sup>2</sup> with total population 136.64 crores according to the provisional data 2019.

Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Begaluru, Pune, Kochin, Indore, Raipur, Ahmadabad, Jaipur Varanasi, Patana, etc are the main cities in the country and faces environmental issues due to the over rate of urbanization and increasing transport vehicles.

### Main Issues of Environment

India's environmental problems include various natural hazards, especially cyclones and annual monsoon floods, population growth, increased individual consumption, industrialization, infrastructural development, poor agricultural practices and unequal distribution of resources, and have led to excessive human exposure to India's natural environment. Change is happening. It is estimated that 60% of the cultivable land suffers from erosion, water logging and salinity.

Nearly half of the country's forests are found in Madhya Pradesh (20.7%) and seven northeastern states (25.7%); Of these, the forests of the northeastern states are being destroyed rapidly. Deforestation is taking place for wood for fuel and expansion of agricultural land. This practice, combined with industrial and motor vehicle pollution, raises the temperature of the atmosphere,

which changes the pattern of precipitation and increases the frequency of famines.

The main issues of environmental in India as follows

### **Air Pollution**

There is no area in India where air pollution does not occur. Even in natural and hilly areas, air pollution is caused by tourists and locals.

Indian cities are polluted by emissions from vehicles and industries. The dust caused by vehicles on the road also contributes up to 33% of the air pollution. Transportation is the biggest cause of air pollution in India. Millions of old diesel engines are burning diesel that contains 150 to 190 times more sulfur than European diesel. Of course the biggest problem is in big cities where the density of these vehicles is very high. On the positive side, the government is taking steps slowly but surely, reacting to this huge problem and the health risks associated with the people.

More attention needs to be paid to air pollution in rural India. Air pollution is one of the leading causes of premature death in the world, and in India it is considered a serious health problem in urban areas. Every year, Delhi and Lucknow are the most polluted cities and these areas are at the center of government initiatives like the National Clean Air Program. But a new study found that 70% of India's non-urban population suffers from the same level of urban pollution.

### **Sound Pollution**

According to the World Health Council, excessive noise, which affects human health and interferes with daily life, is called 'noise pollution'.

Research by various organizations has shown that more than half of the population is a victim of noise pollution. If you hear 80 decibels for eight hours straight, you are more likely to become deaf. When the hoarse horn is measured in decibels, the level is 100-120 dB (decibels).

In India Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Pune, Bengluru, Ahmadabad are the most sound pollutes cities in India due to the high rate of vehicles running on roads. According to the survey of West Bengal Pollution Control Board that averagely one horn rings in every five seconds in traffic region.

### **Water Pollution**

Water pollution is the biggest issue in India because many rivers, lakes, canals are polluted day by day by misbehavior of human beings.

Water pollution mixes substances with certain properties into the water to such an extent that it changes the natural quality of the water and makes it unusable. Water pollution affects the health of living things or spoils the taste of water; it looks dirty or smells bad. Human actions and other factors directly and indirectly change the natural quality of water and make water unusable for any purpose. This water is called polluted water. Water pollution is a process that adversely affects human and aquatic life due to changes in the natural, chemical and biological properties of water.

More than 40 crore people live on the banks of river Ganges. Considered sacred by Hindus, about 2,000,000 people regularly take a holy dip in this river because of their religious beliefs. In Hinduism, it is said that this river flows from the lotus feet of Lord Vishnu (Vaishnavism belief) or Shiva's hair (Shaiva belief). It is filled with chemical waste, sewage and human and animal carcasses, and it is dangerous to directly bathe in it (eg bilharziasis infection) or drink its water (through the fecal-oral route).

The near about same situation are found in main rivers of an India, like Yamuna, Godavari, Tapi etc.

### **Land/Soil Pollution**

Soil pollution is the biggest threat to our environment. According to a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), contamination of soil, which is the main source of food, has adversely affected human and animal health.

**a) Land Pollution from Household and Industrial Waste** - Household wastes, industrial waste, etc. contain residues of harmful toxic inert and organic chemicals. These residues contain radiation elements like strontium, cadmium, uranium, lead which affect the vitality and fertility of the soil. Fly ash is a major source of pollution around industrial areas. Industries produce chemicals and other types of waste that are dumped anywhere. This makes the soil so polluted and plants and plants cannot grow in such areas.

**b) Soil Pollution by Chemicals** - Toxic soils do not use increased use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers to grow more crops that have been polluted. Excessive use of chemical pesticides in many places has made the soil unusable. Manufacturers of fertilizers, pesticides, drugs produce large amounts of solid and liquid waste. Dirt from pipes and sewers also spreads contaminants into the soil and spreads pollution.

When chemicals are released into the soil from the factories, the chemicals in the soil mix with the soil, and as the chemicals enter the soil, they make the soil completely barren. Once the land becomes barren, no crop can be grown on that land. When the chemicals in the pesticides sprayed in the field go into the soil, the same chemical goes into the crop and that crop becomes completely chemical rich. And they go from your meal to your stomach and invite different ailments.

**Conclusion and Suggestions**

India has all kinds of pollution problems and its severity varies from region to region. Noise pollution is higher in large cities and lower in rural areas. Water pollution and soil pollution, however, are found to be higher in both urban and rural areas. Controlling this pollution is essential for the environment today. Every citizen should cooperate for this. It is also necessary to take strict action against the violators and make more strict rules for it.

Pollution in India cannot be stopped but it can be greatly reduced. This requires some further measures.

1. **For Control Air Pollution** - Homes, factories, vehicles etc. Keep emissions to a minimum, Avoid the use of firecrackers, Just throw the trash in the trash. Do not burn or dispose of it, Use a pot or gutter to spit.
2. **For Control Sound Pollution** - Keep the volume of our TV, music system, etc. low, Do not blow the car horn when not needed, Discourage others from using loudspeakers, Avoid using bands, firecrackers in wedding ceremonies, Learn all the laws related to noise pollution.

3. **For Control Water Pollution** - Water purification, special treatment before discharge of wastewater and sewage, regular testing of drinking water, to ensure that the temperature of reservoir or sea water does not rise more than 20<sup>0</sup>C due to thermal water pollution, Do not dump waste near wells, lakes and public plumbing schemes, Do not fry pots near water pipes.
4. **For Control Land/Soil Pollution** – Planting trees to control soil erosion, limited use of pesticides, proper disposal of wastewater, proper planning of factory waste and household waste, taking different types of crops from different strips without taking a single crop everywhere. Measures like flood control and flood control, Canal merger, Canal dam closure, check dams etc.
  - a. It will helps to reduce environmental issues in India and to growth balance development.

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