

Effect of lockdown on environment at the time of Covid 19

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Abstract

While COVID-19 has thrown up many formidable challenges across the world, on the other hand there are wonderful and vivid glimpses of natural beauty. History is witness that whenever such terrible epidemics occurred in the past, the environment took a positive turn. Of course, this form of nature can be a temporary respite for human life during the Corona transition period, but when the threat of infection is completely gone, will the same condition of the environment remain? When it is not only necessary for all countries to accelerate the pace of development, but it is a compulsion, then such steps will be taken, so that sustainable development can be done without harming the nature. This short-term fix to the ecological problem is neither a permanent solution, nor a solution, nor a desirable outcome. However, the present situation should be understood as a warning from nature, giving an opportunity to people to change their lifestyle and modus operandi of the development process. History is replete with examples that demonstrate that pandemics have had profound effects on the environment, but have also led to large-scale exploitation of natural resources to spur economic growth in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic. In such a situation, there is no need to be too satisfied with the immediate improvement in the environment due to the Corona epidemic, but there is a need to redefine the relationship between man, nature and economic development.

Keywords:- *Effect of corona pandemic on the environment, reduction in air pollution level, benefits reaching the environment, after lockdown and conclusion.*

I. Introduction :-

The COVID-19 pandemic took the world by storm in 2020, and it not only showed the importance of human life, but also showed its positive impact on the environment, even if it was only for a short period of time. Due to the lockdown implemented to prevent the spread of the corona virus epidemic, schools, workplaces, transport and industries remained closed for several months last year and people remained inside their homes. The hazy skies started turning blue as the air quality improved, though it remained only temporarily. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the air quality improved significantly during the lockdown (March 22 to May 18) as the PM 2.5 (fine particles in the air with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less) in Delhi decreased by about 50 per cent as compared to 2019. Decreased. Non-governmental organization Greenpeace India reported that the pollution levels in the country's five most polluted cities--Delhi, Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh) and Gurgaon (Haryana)--- were at the beginning of the lockdown. Decreased by more than 50 percent during 10 days. These five cities are also among the 10 most polluted cities in the world. According to the CPCB, apart from the air quality, the water quality of seven rivers also improved. These rivers include Yamuna, Brahmani, Godavari, Kaveri, Krishna and Tapi and Brahmaputra. According to the CPCB, the closure of almost all industries in the initial phase of the lockdown resulted in very small amounts of polluted water going into rivers, non-flowing of puja material and non-disposal of garbage, non-washing of clothes, vehicles and animals outside, and activities such as pilgrimage. Due to lack of activities, the water quality of these rivers has improved. The panic caused by the pandemic became a boon for the animals

Man is the only living being on this earth who exploits all the resources of the earth in a haphazard way. There was a time when there were humans on this earth but they used to live in a very limited number and place, due to which the coordination of the earth remained, but with time agriculture was discovered and humans started living in one place and started industries. etc. established. With the discovery of various metals, man's ambition increased and humans started exploiting the earth. Due to this exploitation, there were many changes in the weather, which gave rise to thousands of diseases, these diseases took the form of epidemics. Industrialization and globalization made everything from food to water impure, which served as an invitation to diseases.

side effects of lockdown

Our world has changed completely in the last four months. Thousands of people lost their lives. Lakhs of people are lying sick. A new corona virus has wreaked havoc on all of them. And, those who have survived the outbreak of this virus, their living conditions have also changed completely. This virus first appeared in December 2019 in Wuhan city of China. Since then everything in the world turned upside down.

At present, Corona has taken the form of a very deadly epidemic all over the world. Due to Corona virus, there was a long lockdown in the whole world. Due to this, human interference in nature has stopped completely. As a result, nature opened up and came back to its natural form. Humanity has definitely suffered a lot due to corona virus but it has had a positive effect on the environment.

All the factories are closed due to the lockdown. All means of transport are closed. Internationally, the economy is taking a huge hit. Lakhs of people have become unemployed. But the good thing is that carbon emissions have stopped. If we talk about America's New York City, compared to last year, this year the pollution there has decreased by 40 to 50 percent. Similarly, there has been a reduction of 25 percent in carbon emissions in China as well. Since the last months of 2019, the use of coal has decreased by 40 percent in China's 6 big power houses. Compared to the same days last year, the air quality of 337 cities in China improved by 11.4 percent. These figures have been released by the Ministry of Environment of China itself. Satellite images of Europe show that nitrogen dioxide emissions are decreasing from northern Italy. Britain and Spain also have a similar story.

This is helping the detectors detect smaller earthquakes and boost efforts to monitor other seismic events, including volcanic activity. Data collected from seismometers has shown that with the decrease in human activities, the noise level on the earth has decreased.

This is not the first time that due to an epidemic, the level of carbon dioxide has decreased. There are many examples of this in history. Even before the Industrial Revolution, this change was seen. Julia Pongrats, a German expert, says that it may be the Black Death in Europe in the fourteenth century, or the smallpox spread in South America.

After all the epidemics, the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was recorded low. In those days the means of transport were also very limited. And when many people died due to epidemics, agricultural land also became vacant and such wild plants and grasses grew there that released quality carbon.

Due to the nationwide lockdown implemented in India from March 24, the pace of human activities has come to a standstill in many parts of the country and during this time nature seems to be repairing itself. Residents of Jalandhar in Punjab have recently shared such pictures in which people from there can see the peaks of the Dhauladhar mountain range located in Himachal Pradesh.

Benefits to the environment: -

There are reports of sudden clearing of rivers from many states in India whose unsuccessful efforts to remove pollution have been going on for decades. Similar news is also coming about the lifeline of Delhi, the Yamuna river. In the past, many pictures came on the social media, whose users claimed that the water of the Yamuna, which used to be black and frothy in Delhi, is now flowing with clear water in the same Yamuna. The water of the lakes in Bhimtal, Naukuchiatal, Sattal including Lake City Nainital is not only visible transparent and clean, but the beauty of these lakes has also increased. The decline in the water level of the lake which was visible for the last several years, is also not visible this time. Environmentally, due to this the air is also so pure that the peaks of the mountains are clearly visible from the cities. According to the director of the Uttarakhand Space Application Center, the white peaks of the Himalayas are clearly visible. Due to the lockdown, there has been a massive change in the atmosphere. Never before has such a low level of air pollution been seen in the upper regions of North India. After the lockdown, it has been raining intermittently since March 27 in some areas. Due to this, the aerosols present in the air came down. These are such microscopic particles made of liquid and solid, due to which the lungs and heart are damaged. Visibility decreases only because of aerosols.

According to the pictures taken by the American space agency NASA's satellite Terra recently, India's aero-sol optical depth has decreased. Due to which the sky has become clear, and the impurities dissolved in the air like Particulate Matter 2.5 and 10 are at their lowest level in twenty years. According to the European Space Agency's Copernicus satellite, a significant decrease in the level of nitrous oxide in India was observed in the last week of March. Explain that high concentration of nitrous oxide in the atmosphere causes asthma in children and adults, due to which more than sixteen thousand deaths occur every year in the country.

According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research, there has been a 30 per cent drop in PM 2.5 in Delhi due to the coronavirus lockdown. It has decreased by 15 percent in Ahmedabad and Pune. Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) pollution levels, too, have come down. NOx pollution is mainly caused by the running of more vehicles. NOx pollution has decreased by 43 percent in Pune, 38 percent in Mumbai and 50 percent in Ahmedabad.

Cities whose air quality index ie AQI used to be above the danger mark. The sky is starting to look dark blue there. Neither the vehicles are plying on the roads nor the airplanes in the sky. There has also been a major decline in other sectors like power generation and industrial units. Due to this, the dust particles in the atmosphere are negligible and the emission of carbon monoxide has also come down much below normal. This type of air is very beneficial for humans. If seen, the effect of this lockdown is showing in the cities of Jharkhand as well. There is also information about sighting of peacocks in some places of Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand. It is also raining intermittently. People are also using air conditioners and coolers sparingly, which is a surprise in this hot summer season. Noise pollution has also reduced in an unprecedented manner. Despite the high temperature, it is not feeling as hot as it was last year. Let us tell you that for several months, an investigation campaign against vehicle pollution was being conducted in Jharkhand. The pollution level of various commercial vehicles, including two-wheelers and four-wheelers, minibuses and tempos, was being checked at various places and action was being taken on vehicles polluting more than the prescribed quantity. Even after this, neither the amount of polluting gases released by the vehicles was decreasing nor the air pollution was decreasing. But, due to the huge decline in the number of vehicles plying on the road due to the fear of Corona, it has seen a lot of improvement since the last two months. Due to non-movement of vehicles, clouds of dust are no longer rising from the roads. The air quality index of Jharkhand has come down to 50-40 due to reduction in air pollution, which used to be 150 to 250 last year. This air is beneficial for human health. Due to the reduction of air and dust pollution, all the stars are showing in the sky at night, which were not visible earlier. The noise pollution is so less that your voice is heard far away. The chirping of birds is starting from morning itself. Some people have even said that even at two o'clock in the night, the sound of birds is heard especially of cuckoo and nightingale. Some such birds are also visible which were less visible earlier. Two types of most interesting incidents happened in this lock down, that is, on the midnight of 20th May it felt as if it was 4 o'clock in the morning, there was so much light in the sky. The reason for this was the reduction of dust particles in the atmosphere due to which the reflection of the city light from the clouds was happening very well. Such an incident also happened in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, where night felt like day. The second incident happened on May 28 when fog was visible in Ranchi since afternoon. The temperature is also around 24 degrees. Was feeling cold. When the humidity reaches 100% in summer, it forms fog. Such an incident might have happened 50-40 years ago. Another big benefit from this lockdown will be to the rivers. The rivers which used to be polluted every year would now be able to breathe freely. Trees and flowering plants would also be breathing freely because now no dust particles would be sitting on their leaves. It will also affect the coming season. The temperature may be below average. Due to the closure of vehicles and factories, the emission of green house gas which is the main cause of global warming will also be negligible.

After lockdown :-

Some people say that this epidemic should not be seen as a change in the environment. Everything is closed now, so carbon emissions have stopped. But when the world starts running again as before, will these carbon emissions not increase again? Will the changes we are seeing in the environment be permanent forever? The vehicles and factories which are closed today are now slowly opening. In cities like Delhi and Mumbai, jams have started like before, which means again the emission of green house gases. Just as saving lives has become the priority of the people at present, it is necessary to make people concerned about the environment. People have to change their habits to save the environment. If they do not change themselves, then they will have to be forced to change, such as keeping themselves in lockdown for one day of the week, or instead of using the car for one day in the week, they will have to walk or walk or use public transport. After the lockdown is over, there will be an increase in pollution. But common people and the government can take a lesson from this period that air pollution can be partially reduced only by taking some steps. The government can strengthen the public transport system to reduce the smoke coming out of the vehicles. Another solution can be done that work from home should be done for two days in a week. If the government wants, it can keep a lockdown for two days in a month, in which vehicles and factories emitting green house gas remain closed. The time has come for the Central and State Governments to think seriously about what measures should be taken so that people have to come on the road at least to run their daily routine or livelihood. According to an estimate, about 25 to 30 percent of the country's population has to run from here to there on the road just because they have little or no technical knowledge to do their work. This is the reason where in many developed and developing countries, the common Indian has to visit government offices, banks, medical stores, fruit-vegetable and ration shops, etc. to do the same work which people do online while sitting at home. have to apply. Due to this the common Indian has to waste all the three time, labor and money.

II. Conclusion :-

It is clear from the above study that after millions of deaths in this global epidemic of Corona, people are coming to know the importance of life air oxygen. Trees are the biggest source of life air, which is essential for survival, which not only gives us food And gives shade but also gives oxygen, so it is important that we plant more and more trees to meet the lack of oxygen and pay maximum attention to the conservation of the greenery that is left. Along with this, do not make nature a dustbin and pay attention to the recycling of things. The Kovid-19 epidemic troubled the world in 2020 and it not only explained the importance of human life, but also showed its positive effect on the environment, even if it You've only been there for a while. Due to the lockdown implemented to prevent the spread of the corona virus epidemic, schools, workplaces, transport and industries remained closed for several months last year and people remained inside their homes. The hazy skies started turning blue as the air quality improved, though it remained only temporarily. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the air quality improved significantly during the lockdown (March 22 to May 18).

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