



## Environment And “P” Factors: Some Observations With Reference To Indian Society

Dr. Anant Sharma<sup>1</sup> , Dr. Virendra Singh Chundawat<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dr. Anant Sharma, Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, The M.S.University of Baroda.

<sup>2</sup>Dr. Virendra Singh Chundawat, Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, The M.S.University of Baroda.

**Corresponding Author:** Dr. Virendra Singh Chundawat

216-B Sardarpura , Udaipur, Rajasthan 313001 India

Email:virendra.sociology@gmail.com

### **Abstract:**

*The present research explored that "P" Factors are responsible for environmental disturbances. These "P" factors are interrelated with each other and are directly or indirectly creating disturbances in the environment. To highlight these "P" Factors is one of the major aim of this research paper. The present paper will also examine the consequences that are created by these "P" factors. To underline how other "P" Factors can be used as a technique for protecting the environment is another objective of this research. The research methodology of present paper is based on secondary sources and general observations.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The process of globalization is influencing the environment and its nature all over the globe. It has influenced all the dimensions of our life namely political, social, cultural and other dimensions of human life. Globalization has two-fold consequences on human life. The positive side of globalization is very less in comparison to that of its negative side. One of such severe negative side of the process of globalization is that it is sinking the globe into a bog of ecological decay or environmental disturbances because environmental resources provide the fuel and other support for the process of economic globalization. As a result globalization is exploiting the nature (Environment) for its own benefits.

The present research explored that “P” Factors are responsible for such disturbances. These “P” factors are interrelated with each other and are directly or indirectly creating disturbances in the environment. To highlight these “P” Factors is one of the major aim of this paper. The present paper will also examine the consequences that are created by these “P” factors. To underline how other “P” Factors can be used as a technique for protecting the environment is another objective of this paper. The present paper is based on secondary sources and general observations.

### **“P” Factors: Causes for Environmental Degradation**

There is a direct relationship between the environment and society. Mutually they both

influence each other and in the process get influenced by each other. There are various forces and factors which are responsible for environmental degradation and disturbances

### **A) Population Explosion and Environmental Degradation**

In general, population explosion refers to a fast increase in the number of people (individuals). India is the second highly populated country of the world. The present approximate population of India is around in between 1.20-1.25 billion. There are many factors which could be underlined for such explosion of the population. Some of them are as follows:-

- A) Widening gap between birth rate and death rates.
- B) High illiteracy
- C) Religious attitudes towards family planning
- D) Attitude of Unconcern
- E) Vested Interest
- F) Absence of Expert knowledge

Due to all these factors population is growing at faster rate. This increase in population is resulting in environmental degradation. For instance increase in population is creating pressure on the urban areas in terms of food, shelter, and land. Increase in population is also resulting in increase in air, water and land pollution.

### **B) Poverty and Environmental Degradation**

Poverty is another important “P” factor which is responsible for environmental degradation. Poverty can be simply defined as the state of one who lacks a certain amount of material possessions or money and other resources. It is a universal phenomenon that rich people wants to maintain their “status quo”. In this process they

exploit environment indirectly. On the other hand poor people are also exploiting the environment for their own survival such as deforestation, pollution, unhygienic living creating health peril and contamination.

### **C) Pollution and Environmental Degradation**

Pollution as “P” factor is also responsible for environmental degradation. Here we have to understand about all such factors which are responsible for land pollution, air pollution, water pollution and other pollutions. Some of these factors and forces are as following:

- **Urbanization:** - Process of urbanization can be considered as one of the important factor for environmental degradation. Urban areas can be define as the number of working population engaged in activities such as industry, construction , trade, education, health etc. Due to globalization we are experiencing the expansion in the global market which is responsible for the development of many industries in urban areas. Urbanization has both the positive and negative consequences. If we see the positive side we will find that establishment of new industries are providing wide job opportunities to many people but at the same time there are also negative consequences of urbanization like it is creating problems for the environment and merciless exploitation of natural resources. As more and more people are migrating to the urban areas in search of jobs it is creating pressure on the urban centers and as result of this population pressure there is exploitation of forest products which leads to deforestation and secondly, these

industries are polluting the environment by emanating toxic gases.

- **Industrialization:** - Process of industrialization is another important factor which is responsible for the environmental degradation. There is no doubt that industrialization has accelerated the rate of production with the help of new technology and machinery introduced in the modern industries. But on the other hand expansion of the modern industries are affecting the environment by emitting poisonous gases in the environment and disposal of industrial waste and chemicals into water sources which are responsible for environmental decay.
- **Technological Advancement:** - Technological advancement and innovations are important “via” (medium) through which the process of globalization works. In the age globalization no society can afford to ignore the modern technology and science. As a result all the societies of the world in the name of development are aggressively using modern technologies and science in almost all the facets of their life. Introduction of modern science and technology in any society without wisdom or taking into account the pros and cons will certainly affect the environment adversely and as a result there will be environmental degradation. Technological advancement and innovations are drastically influencing our life and introducing variety of comforts and luxuries. Like for example innovations in the means of transportation such as bikes, buses, trains, aero planes etc. have made the life of people comfortable in terms of spatial mobility

and time. Similarly communication technology like telephones, mobiles, computers, radio, internet etc. has benefited and changed the lifestyle of people across the societies. The other side of such advancement in transportation and communication reveals the exploitation of the nature and environment. These technological innovations are severely exploiting the natural resources and also creating air pollution, noise pollution etc.

- **Migration:** - The process of industrialization and urbanization are responsible for the increased rate of population transfer (migration). Establishment of modern industries, new markets, latest communication and transportation facilities, advance education, job opportunities, health facilities etc. in urban areas which are attracting people to move from villages to the big cities. As a result of this migration urban areas are experiencing heavy population pressure which is resulting into environmental problems such as scarcity of land, deforestation, air pollution, scarcity of water, global warming etc.
- **Consumerism and Materialism:** - Another important factor for environmental degradation can be considered as consumerism and materialism. With the expansion of the global markets consumerism and materialism is also increased. Consumerism is a social and economic order that is based on the systematic creation and fostering of a desire to purchase goods and services in ever greater amounts. Materialism is a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than

spiritual values. In present global world these two concepts are considered as values in the Indian society and to fulfill these two values human beings are exploiting the environment.

### **Consequences of Environmental Degradation**

The route of globalization is affecting the global environment in a big way. To a large extent the process of the globalization is affecting and disturbing the environment. To counter the adverse consequences of environmental degradation we do not have adequate and proper policies. Also we are lacking sensitivity towards the issues and problems of environment. We are also not exhibiting preparedness to resolve and address the major issues and problems of environmental degradation. The Process of globalization although inevitable and no society can afford to be away from it but at the same time globalization is also responsible for environmental degradation. Some of the adverse effects of globalization are as following:

1) GLOBAL WARMING: - One of the indirect consequences of globalization upon environment is the global warming and green house effect. With the introduction of modern industries in last 200 years we are experiencing climate change in a big way. This climate change is becoming inevitable due to merciless exploitation of the natural resources of mother earth. As a result of the exploitation of nature's resources we are experiencing the rise in the normal temperature due to green house effect. Moreover the activities of men such as burning of fossil fuels, land clearing, age old agriculture practices, deforestation and rapid population growth are some of the important factors which are

responsible for global warming and green house effect.

2) Uneven Occurrence of Natural Disasters: - The merciless exploitation of nature (Environment) by men for their own benefits and needs is resulting in uneven occurrences of natural disasters such droughts, floods, earthquakes, volcanoes, desertification etc. Like for example if we see increased frequency of earthquakes is also the result of mining, hydrostatic pressure of manmade water bodies like reservoirs etc. These manmade activities are causing disequilibrium in the crust of the earth which is one of the important causes of earthquakes on the globe. In the same way we are experiencing much other type of natural disasters on the globe.

3) Social Consequences: - Environmental degradation is also disturbing the patterns of social integration and social structures in terms of unequal distribution of natural resources. Those who have command and control over the natural resources receives greater share of this inequitable distribution. This amounts to gross exploitation of one section of society by another section of society. This exploitation results into discontentment and tensions among those who are sufferers and at times this scenario results into other anti social problems in our society. At times globalization increases the gap among and between people and creates sharp social inequalities. These social gaps and inequalities are manifested in social problems like poverty, unemployment etc. As a result of these problems the poor, marginalized and exploited people further exploit environmental resources for their sustenance and survival. This exploitation of natural resources further damages environment. The process of globalization is also resulting in

the alteration of the forests and hills which is directly affecting the tribal population.

### **“P” Factors: Solutions to the Problem of Environmental Degradation**

There are four major “P” factors which we feel, to some extent, help in solving the problem of environmental factors. These four “P” factors are **People’s participation, Political will, proper Planning and population Control.**

### **Conclusion**

It has been concluded that “P” factors are severely disturbing our nature and environment. At last personally we believe that individual commitment and individual initiation are important basic keys through which we can able to solve this severe problem of environmental degradation. If individual commitment will be their then only other protecting environmental actions are possible.

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