

1: Environmental Pollution and Degradation – General Studies Material for UPSC ESE Paper1 by

Effects of Environmental Degradation on Human Life. Environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environment as a result of consumption of important natural resources including water, soil, and air, destruction of natural environment and elimination of wildlife.

Ecological effect or degradation is created by the consolidation of an effectively substantial and expanding human populace, constantly expanding monetary development or per capita fortune and the application of asset exhausting and polluting technology. Environmental degradation is one of the largest threats that are being looked at in the world today. The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction characterizes environmental degradation as the lessening of the limit of the earth to meet social and environmental destinations, and needs. Environmental degradation can happen in a number of ways. At the point when environments are wrecked or common assets are exhausted, the environment is considered to be corrupted and harmed. There are a number of different techniques that are being used to prevent this, including environmental resource protection and general protection efforts. Environmental issues can be seen by long term ecological effects, some of which can demolish whole environments. An environment is a unique unit and incorporates all the living and non-living components that live inside it. Plants and creatures are evident parts of the environment, but it also includes the things on which they depend on, for example, streams, lakes, and soils. Environmental surroundings get to be divided when technological advancement splits up areas of land. Some examples of this can include streets which may slice through woods or even trails which wind through prairies. While it may not sound all terrible on the surface, there are bad results. The biggest of these results are felt by particular animal and plant groups, the vast majority of which are specific for their bio-region or need a large area in order to make sure that their genetic lines are kept intact. Causes of Environmental Degradation Some environmental life species require substantial areas to help provide food, living space, and other different assets. These creatures are called area specific. It gets to be more troublesome for the wildlife to get the assets they need in order to survive. The environment goes on, even though the animals and plant life are not there to help sustain it properly. A more basic cause of environmental degradation is land damage. Numerous weedy plant species, for example, garlic mustard, are both foreign and obtrusive. A rupture in the environmental surroundings provides for them a chance to start growing and spreading. These plants can assume control over nature, eliminating the local greenery. Whole environments can be destroyed because of these invasive species. Pollution, in whatever form, whether it is air, water, land or noise is harmful for the environment. Air pollution pollutes the air that we breathe which causes health issues. Water pollution degrades the quality of water that we use for drinking purposes. Noise pollution can cause irreparable damage to our ears when exposed to continuous large sounds like honking of vehicles on a busy road or machines producing large noise in a factory or a mill. Rapid population growth puts strain on natural resources which results in degradation of our environment. Mortality rate has gone down due to better medical facilities which has resulted in increased lifespan. More population simply means more demand for food, clothes and shelter. You need more space to grow food and provide homes to millions of people. This results in deforestation which is another factor of environmental degradation. Landfills pollute the environment and destroy the beauty of the city. Landfills come within the city due the large amount of waste that gets generated by households, industries, factories and hospitals. Landfills pose a great risk to the health of the environment and the people who live there. Landfills produce foul smell when burned and cause huge environmental degradation. Deforestation is the cutting down of trees to make way for more homes and industries. Rapid growth in population and urban sprawl are two of the major causes of deforestation. Apart from that, use of forest land for agriculture, animal grazing, harvest for fuel wood and logging are some of the other causes of deforestation. Deforestation contributes to global warming as decreased forest size puts carbon back into the environment. Things like avalanches, quakes, tidal waves, storms, and wildfires can totally crush nearby animal and plant groups to the point where they can no longer survive in those areas. This can either come to fruition through physical demolition as the result of a specific disaster, or by the long term

degradation of assets by the presentation of an obtrusive foreign species to the environment. The latter frequently happens after tidal waves, when reptiles and bugs are washed ashore. Earth itself causes ecological issues, as well. While environmental degradation is most normally connected with the things that people do, the truth of the matter is that the environment is always changing. Effects of Environmental Degradation 1. Impact on Human Health: Human health might be at the receiving end as a result of the environmental degradation. Areas exposed to toxic air pollutants can cause respiratory problems like pneumonia and asthma. Millions of people are known to have died of due to indirect effects of air pollution. Biodiversity is important for maintaining balance of the ecosystem in the form of combating pollution, restoring nutrients, protecting water sources and stabilizing climate. Deforestation, global warming, overpopulation and pollution are few of the major causes for loss of biodiversity. Ozone layer is responsible for protecting earth from harmful ultraviolet rays. The presence of chlorofluorocarbons, hydro chlorofluorocarbons in the atmosphere is causing the ozone layer to deplete. As it will deplete, it will emit harmful radiations back to the earth. Loss for Tourism Industry: The deterioration of environment can be a huge setback for tourism industry that rely on tourists for their daily livelihood. Environmental damage in the form of loss of green cover, loss of biodiversity, huge landfills, increased air and water pollution can be a big turn off for most of the tourists. The huge cost that a country may have to borne due to environmental degradation can have big economic impact in terms of restoration of green cover, cleaning up of landfills and protection of endangered species. As you can see, there are a lot of things that can have an effect on the environment. If we are not careful, we can contribute to the environmental degradation that is occurring all around the world. We can, however, take action to stop it and take care of the world that we live in by providing environmental education to the people which will help them pick familiarity with their surroundings that will enable to take care of environmental concerns thus making it more useful and protected for our children and other future generations.

2: Impacts of Environmental Degradation | LoveToKnow

Environmental degradation is the disintegration of the earth or deterioration of the environment through consumption of assets, for example, air, water and soil; the destruction of environments and the eradication of wildlife.

Introduction – The problems resulting from environmental change and its degradation, pose new challenges for traditional public health science. It is an accepted fact that, environmental degradation is contributing to human health threats worldwide. We may have several questions in our mind. How much does the environment affect human health? Are air pollution and tainted water shortening our lives and those of our children? These questions have aroused increasing interest in recent years. In the poorest regions of the world an estimated one in five children will not live to see their fifth birthday, primarily because of environment-related diseases. This tragedy translates into more than 11 million childhood deaths a year worldwide, mostly due to malaria, acute respiratory infections or diarrhea, all illnesses that are largely preventable. Environmental degradation is an important factor contributing to the burden of disease. The annual cost of damage to health and quality of life due to environmental degradation; is estimated to be 1. Exposure to air, water and soil pollution, to chemicals in the environment, or to noise, can cause cancer, respiratory, cardiovascular and communicable diseases, as well as poisoning and neuro-psychiatric disorders. Of particular concern is the fact that children are more vulnerable to air pollution than adults, and increased rates of infant mortality have been recorded in highly polluted areas. Concerns about the impact of air pollution on health and the economy have resulted in measures to mitigate emissions of the most harmful pollutants, such as particle pollution acids, organic chemicals, metals, and soil or dust particles and ozone, which affects the respiratory system. Despite national and international interventions and decreases in major pollutant emissions, the health impacts of air pollution are not likely to decrease in the years ahead, unless appropriate action is taken. Burning fossil fuels contributes to other air pollution problems like acid rain and smog that also damage forests, lakes and agricultural crops. The biggest impact from these pollutants, however, may be on human health. Emissions from burning energy include tiny particles that we breathe deep into our lungs. Once there, these pollutants cause respiratory problems like asthma and bronchitis, and cardiac problems. If these particles carry toxics like benzene, furans or dioxins, they can eventually cause cancer. Other health issues associated with emerging environmental hazards, such as chemical products, will also need to be addressed. Chemical products are used in virtually every man-made product and play an important role in the everyday life of people around the world. However, harmful exposure to chemical products can lead to health problems such as skin diseases, chronic bronchitis, nervous system dysfunctions and cancers as well as damaging the environment. Deforestation forces changes in watershed and local climate. Genes evolved and became more susceptible to disease to the environmental impacts. The World Health Organization believes that almost one third of global disease can be directly related to environmental risk factors. Antibodies and immune systems have developed in part as a result of environmental change. In fact, environmental change plays a large role in the emergence of infectious disease. In particular, as the human population continues to grow, the population density increases; this leads to an abundance of parasites and infection-forming conditions. Extreme temperatures, climate-related disturbances, and air and water pollution have a direct influence on the spread of infection and disease. Environmental exposures to chemicals and toxins are a major contributor to disease. Therefore, prevention of health problems through environmental management, rather than simply treating diseases and ailments after they have occurred, is the salient message of environment and health section of various UN charter and various NGOs. These messages offer governments, development agencies, policy-making groups, private businesses, communities and individuals worldwide strategies to slow or even halt further environmental deterioration, averting significant ecological disruption and its possible accompanying economic impacts. Education is a key process in bettering the conditions. Monitoring of climatic changes help to anticipate outbreaks, as well as changing habits, such as drainage of swamps, screening of houses, and improvements in sanitation and nutrition. Improvement of air quality, water supplies and sanitation, education of the medical community and general public, support of vaccination research, and

coordinated restrictions of the use of antibiotics and pesticides would lead to mitigate the problems. Strengthening dialogue between the environment and health sectors at national and local levels required to enhance the quality of health system. Conclusion “ We all are affected by environmental degradation, but it is the poor “ especially women and children “ who bear the main burden. The health effects of global change are often indirect and difficult to assess, and quality of evidence for the health-related outcomes varies widely. Furthermore, the health science necessary to understand global environmental change is increasingly interdisciplinary and requires collaboration among meteorologists, chemists, biologists, agronomists and health scientists. Environmental degradation exaggerates the imbalance between population and resources, and worsens the severity of poverty. In other words, interaction between poverty, population growth and environmental degradation impede sustainable economic development and worsen population health. It is important for health scientists to anticipate the potential consequence of environmental change and act accordingly. It is irony that, serious environmental problem are often unknown or unrecognized. For example, at the time of first major international conference on environment in Stockholm global warming, acid rain and tropical deforestation were not recognized as major potential problems and no work for prevention of environmental degradation carried out early.

3: Environmental degradation: Causes and Consequences | Swati Tyagi - www.enganchecubano.com

Human health is heavily impacted by environmental degradation. Reduction in water quality is responsible for more than two million deaths and billions of illness annually across the globe. Due to environmental degradation, the results include water scarcity and decline in quality foods.

If ignored today, these ill effects are sure to curb human existence in the near future. It also includes natural resources such as water, electric charge, fire, magnetism, air and climate. Engineering developments are resulting in resource depletion and environmental destruction. Due to the rapid changes in the engineering and manufacturing industry have been drastic changes in the environment. Learn how going green can help your business, hire the number 1 environmental speaker, Jim Harris. Engineering and manufacturing industry have increased the use of materials like metals, plastic, oil and rubber. Crucial environmental issues are no more a blame game. Here are 10 significant current environmental issues, where human beings play an important role in its cause. More than half of the human population knows what is pollution, but we are still not ready to face its damaging consequences. Pollution is not only limited to water, soil and noise but has extended to light, visual, point and non-point sources. Human beings and their actions are majorly responsible for causing all types of pollution. Water pollution is essentially cause by oil spills, urban runoff and ocean dumping. Air pollution rises from burning of fossil fuels, hydraulic fracturing and gases emitted by vehicles. Water and soil pollution are majorly cause from industrial waste. Climate change today is less of a natural process. It is rapidly occurring due to the ill effects of human actions responsible for disturbing and harmful out comings such as global warming, greenhouse effect , urban heat, coal industry etc. Climate change is not only changing the overall weather scenario, but has larger and harmful effects. These gases possess heat trapping capacity that are needed to create greenhouse effect so that this planet remains warm for people to survive. Without these gases, this planet would turn be cold for life to exist. During past several decades, the accumulation of greenhouse gases have grown rapidly, which means more heat gets trapped in the atmosphere and few of these gases escapes back into the space. Global warming is a serious public health and environmental concern. Global warming can have long lasting effects which can result in melting of glaciers, climate change, droughts, diseases and increase in hurricanes frequency. With population growing at a rapid pace, the demand for food, shelter and cloth has almost tripled in last few decades. Deforestation means, clearing of forests or green cover for means of agriculture, industrial or urban use. It involves permanent end of forest cover to make that land available for residential, commercial or industrial purpose. Water pollution, resources crisis, gender imbalance, pollution, land pollution, urban sprawling, deforestation, over production are some common examples of dangerous effects cause by overpopulation. Despite efforts taken by the government in terms of family planning in many countries, over population is difficult to control at international level. Industrial and Household Waste: At present, tons of garbage is produced by each household each year. Items that can be recycled are sent to local recycling unit while other items become a part of the landfills or sent to third world countries. Due to increase in demand for food, shelter and house, more goods are produced. This resulted in creation of more waste that needs to be disposed of. Most waste is buried underground in landfill sites. The presence of huge landfills sites across the city pose serious environmental concerns. It affects human health, degrades soil quality, effects wildlife, cause air pollution and results in climate change. Acid rain simply means rain that is acidic in nature due to the presence of certain pollutants in the atmosphere. These pollutants come in the atmosphere due to car or industrial processes. Acid rain can occur in form of rain, snow, fog or dry material that settle to earth. Acid rain can have devastating effects on aquatic life, forests, public health and architecture and buildings. This layer is present in the stratosphere and prevents too many harmful UV ultra violet radiations from entering the earth. Genetic modification of food, human and animal organs seems like the gem of science and technology but this has major harmful effects. Biotechnology is an impressive technology but limiting is use is the need of the hour. Genetic engineering is a controversial subject and has seen more ill impacts than the benefits it brings to mankind. Not only India and China are classic examples of over population and urban sprawl leading to land degradation. Today almost all countries are

using the land irresponsibly to meet the ever-growing demand of the greedy human wishes. The expansion of industrial areas has not only led to land degradation and soil pollution, but the habitat destruction is a terrible misery. Natural environment consisting of flora and fauna is indiscriminately destroyed and lost completely instead of being replaced. This in the long run has harmful impact for human survival and cause serious environmental issue.

4: Environmental impact of war - Wikipedia

Unwise human activities have created environmental degradation. Increase population needs the resources in same ratio. As a result, the activities like over use of forest, land and hunting wild animals have highly been increased.

Environmental protection agencies indicate that the effects can even be more devastating if wastes in landfills are not separated into reusable, recyclable, or organic waste. Since the advent of industrialization, human activities have gradually destroyed and degraded land, causing diseases to humans and animals and reducing the capacity to support ecosystem and various life forms. Land pollution has many long lasting effects. Below are the main consequences of land pollution:

Effect on Human Health Many regions across the world harbor loads of waste and have incredibly pitiable waste collection services especially in developing countries and slum areas. Others have appropriate waste collection systems, but they eventually end up in the landfills without proper regulation. Such wastes contain dangerous chemicals, pesticides, and metals that have adverse effects on humans. Plastic waste, for instance, might contain acrylic, polyvinyl chloride, polycarbonate, and phthalates that are associated with cancers, skin diseases, respiratory disorders, and birth defects for pregnant women. Chemical components such as cadmium, asbestos, mercury, cyanide, arsenic, and chromium commonly found in pharmaceutical, pesticides, and fertilizer industrial wastes also have devastating effects on human health. They have cancer causing elements and can also lead to lung and kidney disease as well as liver damage.

Increase in Landfill Sites When land is contaminated with solid agricultural and industrial waste, it leads to increase in landfill sites across the city. Landfills also become breeding grounds for mice, rodents, flies, and birds that can transmit diseases. These landfills are contaminated with such kind of toxic chemicals that they can reach the human body via vegetables and foods that are grown in polluted lands. They can also seep into water bodies used for consumer purposes or could be inhaled by humans from polluted dust. Apart from that, these huge pile of wastes across the city results in tourist distraction and can be loss of revenue for tourism industry.

Soil Pollution Soil pollution is categorized under land pollution. Hence, when there is overuse of fertilizer chemicals or lands are degraded through chemical and solid waste dumping, the upper layer of the soil is damaged, causing soil pollution. The effects of agricultural, healthcare, and chemical wastes are the principal land pollution aspects causing soil pollution. Healthcare waste such as broken instruments and metals or industrial consumer product waste like broken electronics are all contaminated waste that may end up in landfills thereby destroying the soils and land on which they eventually wind up, upsetting the land ecosystems. Ultimately, the land loses its fertility and vegetation cover.

Air Pollution Landfills and dump sites generate appalling smells and odour in the areas which they are located. In cities and towns located near huge dump sites and landfill areas, residents have experienced high scores of pungent smell. Apart from the bad smell, landfills are always burning which contributes to air pollution.

Water Pollution Land pollution can spread in all directions so that it results in an adverse impact on the immediate environments. On this basis, it can contaminate water and significantly reduce its quality. It happens when the chemicals and other toxic substances from the landfills and solid wastes are mostly carried into waterways by surface rainwater runoff. At the same time, leaching takes place which makes the toxic elements and chemicals to infiltrate into aquifers and water tables. Also, the contaminated water evaporates and falls back as precipitation with the impurities, advancing the cycle of pollution and contamination.

Environmental Degradation Deforestation is the top concern for matters pertaining environmental degradation. It causes the destruction of the ecosystems and the habitat. Deforestation compromises the cutting down of vegetation and tree cover which creates harsh environmental conditions such as intense heat from the sun and also disrupts the rain cycle. It results in soil erosion and desertification. As an outcome, animals are driven further away and become vulnerable to harmful conditions and predators. Continued deforestation finally results in biodiversity implications because the reduction of green cover interferes with the atmospheric balance. When the atmospheric balance is compromised, various atmospheric imbalances such as the greenhouse effect, climate change, and global warming are experienced. Deforestation is as well a recipe for increased stormwater runoff and leaching. The economic effect of deforestation is depriving communities of revenue from tourism.

Effect on Wildlife In the

recent decades, the wildlife animals have tremendously suffered as they have persistently faced a serious threat regarding the loss of their natural habitat and environment. The continued human economic activities on land have progressively left the lands degraded and polluted forcing wildlife to move further away and adapt to new areas. Consequently, some species have died while trying to adapt, some have gone extinct, and several are currently on the verge of extinction. Discharge of various kinds of chemicals on land makes the ecosystem unappealing to the survival of plants and animals within their interactive food chain. The chemicals contaminate plants and waters which are then consumed by lower animals, and the food chain continues up the ladder in the ecosystem. The process is known as biomagnification and is reported to be a serious threat to ecological sustainability. Effect on Tourism Industry Landfills and scattered dump sites within cities typically give a very bad picture of the residents and the governance of the respective cities. It may only depict the level of environmental insensitivity. Landfills and dump sites also reduce air quality and can potentially threaten human health. As such, it can make a city loss its attraction to tourists, in turn, making the government to loss tourism revenue.

5: Causes and Effects of Environmental Degradation - Conserve Energy Future

Environmental degradation has serious effects on human life some of which often go unnoticed for years. There are several factors which contribute to environmental degradation which in turn affects human life such as a noisy environment, temperature, atmosphere and air.

Humanity can be rather harsh on its own home. More often than not, we eat hurriaway at our own life support systems at an unprecedented rate, causing enormous levels of environmental degradation. The direct consequences of this process are the significant reduction of biological diversity, as well as the destruction of the general health of the environment. Even though environmental degradation can also have natural origins, human intervention often makes the situation much worse. Environmental degradation is recognized by many international organizations as a leading threat to our planet. Earth is the only planet we have, and compromising its natural environment could eventually mean the end of human existence. Habitat inconveniences which force animals to live in small areas also fall in the category of resource depletion. Cornered wildlife usually consumes a high amount of natural material in a small area. In the end, degradation is the main cause of the destruction of ecosystems and it can lead to the extinction of certain animal and plant species. We are going to talk about a few forms of environmental degradation, as well as the solutions that might help put an end to it.

Potable water depletion Problem: The depletion of potable fresh water is one of the most urgent examples of environmental degradation. Of the remaining 2. The topic of groundwater depletion is best approached with a two-fold solution. While governmental involvement is crucial, each individual also has a responsibility. On one hand, people should learn to be more aware of their water usage. On the other, laws for the pumping of groundwater should be stricter and be backed up by specific regulations. Researchers are also looking for alternative water sources that could ease the strain on aquifers. This could help accelerate the replenishing of aquifers as we learn to better pace our usage and set firm limits. At the same time, it is necessary for the public to have a better understanding of the problems our groundwater supply is facing. We need more funding for initiatives that not only research the state of our groundwater supply, but also look for sustainable ways to use less of it.

Ozone layer depletion Problem: The depletion of our ozone layer is linked to the discharge of certain carbons that are commonly used as refrigerants, solvents, and insulating foams. When these chemicals enter the stratosphere, their exposure to ultraviolet radiation causes them to begin destructing the ozone layer. As with potable water depletion, the responsibility for stopping the ozone layer depletion lies on the shoulders of individuals and governments alike. People can contribute by not using products that contain human-made substances that destroy ozone molecules. Governments, on their side of the fight, can ban the use of said substances, as well as enforce regulations that make sure the equipment that contains them is safely disposed of. However, air pollution is a great part of environmental degradation. It occurs when dust, smoke, or harmful gases enter the atmosphere, causing plants, animals, and humans to breathe dirty air. In our day and age, a large part of air pollution comes from vehicles trucks, cars, trains, airplanes and factories around the world. Use public transportation instead of your own when going to work. Air pollution is also drastically reduced by conserving energy. Electricity causes the burning of large amounts of fossil fuels, which in turn pollute the air. Environmental degradation also has to do with the high rate of deforestation. Two of the major causes of deforestation are urban sprawl and rapid growth in population. Deforestation is also a leading contributor to global warming. Fewer forests means more carbon sent back into the environment. While individuals can rarely have a personal impact on the deforestation rate, there are other things you can do. Discourage deforestation “ and thus environmental degradation “ by reusing plastic and paper bags and packaging. Support eco-friendly businesses and buy products that are either recyclable or have a longer durability. Landfills are a negative factor in the fight to keep our environment intact. Thanks to the large amount of waste that we generate, landfills have come to pose a great risk to the environment and people alike. Besides the huge environmental degradation caused by the burning of the trash, landfills are also a source of foul smell that causes air pollution. Food is the number one item that ends up in landfills, as people carelessly toss it away without thinking twice about it. Instead of throwing away food, donate it to organizations that

would help feed millions of needy people. Whether you believe it or not, old clothes are also a big contributor to landfills. Instead of throwing them in the garbage, make time to donate clothes to people in need or to Goodwill stores.

Effects of Environmental Degradation Environmental degradation is one of the greatest challenges that faces humanity today. This is a major issue of concern as it can lead to ecological degradation as well as increasing societal vulnerability. All in all, it can affect us, humans, in many ways.

Death and Illnesses Environmental degradation has led to the deaths of many over the years. There has also been an increase in illnesses as well. While the health risks caused by hazardous and solid waste is usually low and contained to a specific area, garbage left unattended to and the blockage of sewer drains can spread more disease. The accumulation of waste also leads to increased pollution, of all types. Waste, while decomposing, can leak harmful gases into the air. Mix that with the constant carbon emissions in big cities and it can pose serious health risks to humans. In some instances, death has occurred because of it. Many people from urban environments suffer from respiratory conditions because of a wide range of pollutants. These pollutants can come from any number of sources, including industrial activities. While it may not be the direct cause of death for many of those people, one of the effects of malnutrition is the increased vulnerability to deadly diseases. These diseases can include acute respiratory disease, malaria, cancer, among many others. The availability of clean water also factors into malnutrition. As freshwater becomes less and less, some areas are forced to use dirty water. The increase of water pollution creates the perfect environment for malaria-carrying mosquitos, which kill about 2. In addition, pollutants from the air kill more than 5 million people every year, unfortunately, more than half of them are children. Also, as soils become infertile, due to desertification, farmers are unable to adequately grow food. In Africa, many villages rely on local farmers. However, many are forced to slash and burn the Earth in search of new, fertile soil. This leads to an increase in deforestation as well as malnutrition, as the populous is unable to get the right amount of food needed to survive.

Medicinal Development Environmental degradation also leads to a very terrible loss, a loss in biodiversity. Animal and plant extinction can reduce or, at least, affect the development of new drugs. Many plants that are only found in the rainforest, have been proven useful in many cancer treatments. In addition, many fruits and vegetation found in the rainforest, you might find in your kitchen right now. Bananas, avocados, cacao, coffee, papaya, among many others. With the continuation of deforestation, we could see the endangerment of many of those plants.

Natural Disasters People can try to discredit global warming all they want, but the fact remains. Natural disasters, being hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, among others, are becoming more frequent and more powerful. Weather, in general, is changing drastically. Just last winter in Pennsylvania, there were extremely unseasonably warm temperatures in February. In fact, on more than one occasion, the temperatures in southern Pennsylvania were the same as Puebla, Mexico roughly in the middle of Mexico. The number of recorded natural disasters and extreme weather conditions have risen much over the years. This is also due to the water level of the seas rising. There is also growing evidence that the power of hurricanes is increasing, in part, due to the warmer temperatures. There is an economic issue to this as well that should not be overlooked. Five of the worst storms in U. Katrina in , Sandy in , Andrew in , Ike in and Ivan in

Rising Sea Level NASA has even chimed in saying that even if there is not a significant change in a number of tropical storms in the coming future, many of the effects of climate change could make them more deadly. Melting glaciers and ice caps will most likely cause the sea levels to rise. This would result in coastal flooding becoming more severe. Back in , a report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stated that global warming should cause sea levels to rise 0. We have already seen some of this. In , the global sea level was 2. It is a universal understanding that higher sea levels mean more deadly and destructive storms will push further inland, which will also cause an increase in flooding. Sea level rising is also a serious issue on its own. Why you should care about environmental degradation As we said in the introduction, we only have one planet. While the government can be more mindful of this great threat, you can do something about it, too.

6: Causes and Effects of Desertification We Should Be Concerned About

Effects focus on atmosphere, human health and environmental degradation means reduction in the quality of the environment due to man made and natural factors. The resources get depleted and the quality of air, water and soil diminishes.

Open in a separate window Source: World Health Organization [10]. This paper provides a review of the literature on valuation studies eliciting monetary values associated with reduced environmental risk and in particular focusing on reduced indoor and outdoor air pollution, enhanced water quality and climate change mitigation. The findings of the valuation studies have important policy implications, since the environmental risk factors that are studied can largely be avoided by efficient and sustainable policy interventions. Minimizing exposure to environmental risk factors by enhancing air quality and access to improved sources of drinking and bathing water, sanitation and clean energy is found to be associated with significant health benefits and can contribute significantly to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of environmental sustainability, health and development. Economic Valuation Techniques Quantifying the impacts of environmental degradation on human health is essential for the development of well-informed policies by the health sector and consequently many valuation studies have been conducted worldwide the past decades addressing environmental risks to public health. The main approaches for health impact valuations can be broadly classified into revealed and stated preference techniques. Revealed preferences include cost of illness, human capital surveys, hedonic pricing and the Quality Adjusted Life Year studies. Cost of illness studies measure the direct medical costs, nursing care, drugs and indirect opportunity economic costs associated with a disease and estimate the potential savings from the eradication of the disease. Human capital surveys estimate the productivity loss measured in workdays due to illness. This approach also values loss of life based on the foregone earnings associated with premature mortality. The notion is that people should be willing to pay at least as much as the value of the income they would lose by dying prematurely. Damage costs estimates from environmental hazards for the economy as a whole are also obtained through general equilibrium macroeconomic modeling. These studies assess welfare impacts in a national or international level by examining all the sectors of the economy and estimating environmental health impacts on parameters of the economy like income and consumption. The values for a Life Year range from 0, implying death, to 1, implying a year of perfect health. Therefore, QALYs provide an indication of the benefits from a healthcare intervention in terms of health-related quality. Combined with the costs of providing different interventions, a cost-effectiveness analysis cost per QALY can follow to allow for comparisons of different interventions. A monetary value can also be placed on a QALY to estimate the dollar benefits of a health intervention or policy and allow for a subsequent cost-benefit analysis. Stated Willingness to Pay, elicited through a contingent valuation study or a discrete choice study, is often used, to monetize QALYs. Other methods to value a QALY include time-trade-offs, standard gamble and the visual analogue scale. Hedonic pricing methods assess differences in the price of housing in polluted or unpolluted areas, or the difference in wages between hazardous and non-hazardous jobs. The respective differences between the two methodologies relate to the way in which the economic values are elicited. In a contingent valuation questionnaire respondents are presented with a valuation scenario that describes the changes in the provision of the public good resulting from the policy under evaluation and, in the simplest open-ended format, are asked about their maximum Willingness to Pay for the policy to be implemented. One of the attributes is usually price, so that the marginal value of the other attributes can be evaluated in monetary terms. Accordingly, respondents are presented with a set of alternatives constructed from different combinations of the levels of attributes, and are asked to choose their most preferred. Similarly a choice experiment can be used to examine policy implications of a policy or management strategy with policy impacts being the attributes to be valued. Before valuing the health damage the establishment of a dose-response function relating pollutant concentrations to health impacts is required [12]. The impacts of environmental degradation on mortality, expressed as the increase in the probability of premature death, and quality of life, expressed as reduction of the morbidity risk, are thus initially considered.

Accordingly respondents are asked to either state their willingness to pay for a prevention scenario stated preference approach or the benefits are elicited through the costs that would be saved if the risk was eradicated cost of illness studies. Benefits are mainly reported by calculating the Value of a Statistical Life For a review of the literature calculating the value of a statistical life based on labor and housing market data see Viscusi and Aldy [13]. The Value of Statistical Life VSL is calculated by dividing the value of a small risk change by the actual change in risk and thus captures the effect of small changes in the risk of premature death for a large population of potentially exposed people [14]. Since primary data collection to establish the dose response functions or proceed with the valuations can be expensive and time-demanding, there is substantial policy interest in using benefit transfer techniques. In this context, original values from existing studies are transferred to policy sites after correcting for certain parameters. Given the number of valuation studies, several meta-analyses studies have been recently conducted. Following this approach valuation estimates from existing studies are collected and the determinants of these estimates are examined. In a meta-analysis regression, therefore, the dependent variable is a common summary statistic, such as a predicted variable for the Willingness to Pay, whereas the independent variables include characteristics of the primary data, study design, valuation method, sample size, model specification, econometric methods, date of publication [15]. Meta-analyses can feedback the establishment of value transfer functions to estimate values for policy sites of interest based on properly adjusted information from existing studies on similar sites, study sites [16]. Each of the methods described has its own strengths and limitations. The choice between these methods should be case-study driven, that is, it should be a function of case-study-specific data availability and socio-economic-political framework. In human capital surveys it is often difficult to assign wages for housework or non-cash labour. Hedonic methods require a well functioning market for housing or labour, which internalizes the health risks associated with a location or a job. The cost of illness approach fails to capture the full damage of illness, such as psychological suffering and physical pain and should be thus treated as a lower bound of the total value of health risks aversion [17]. Using QALY to estimate the damage costs may also lead to underestimations [18]. Opponents of QALYs use argue that these measures cannot in general appropriately represent individual preferences for health, while they are consistent with the utility theory under very restrictive conditions [19]. Macroeconomic modelling is often based on simplistic assumption regarding the economy while many impacts are unquantifiable and are thus not modelled [5]. The contingent valuation method CVM , although widely used, has been criticised for its lack of reliability since it is associated with biases, such as hypothetical bias, strategic bias, yes-saying bias and embedding effect [20 , 21]. Hypothetical bias contends that respondents may be prepared to reveal their true values but are not capable of knowing these values without participating in a market in the first place. Strategic bias occurs when respondents deliberately under- or overstate their WTP. Respondents may understate their WTP if they believe that the actual fees they will pay for provision of the environmental resources will be influenced by their response to the CV question. Conversely, realising that payments expressed in a CV exercise are purely hypothetical, respondents may overstate their true WTP in the hope that this may increase the likelihood of a policy being accepted. Yea-saying bias indicates that respondents may express a positive WTP because they feel good about the act of giving for a social good although they believe that the good itself is unimportant while embedding bias implies that WTP is not affected by the scale of the good being offered. To address these, the Blue Ribbon Panel under the auspices of NOAA [22] has made recommendations regarding best practice guidelines for the design and implementation of contingent valuation studies. Comparing the stated preference methods for environmental valuation Boxall et al. The latter has a clear benefit compared to other valuation methods as it leads respondents to explicitly make trade-offs between the various attributes of the situation and thus provides policy-makers with valuable information about public preferences for many states of the environment. Environmental health effects of a policy or project can therefore be explicitly addressed and valued. Therefore it is our opinion that the application of CEs should be further enhanced in health economics to evaluate health impacts of environmental policies. Economic Assessment of Environmental Health Impacts: Empirical Evidence There is increasing recognition that linked environment and health impacts require economic assessment in order to receive adequate consideration in policy [1]. Consequently,

a huge increase in the number of valuation studies trying to quantify the environmental impacts on human health in monetary terms and elicit public preferences for health and environmental policies that reduce the risk of illness or mortality has been experienced in recent years. In the subsequent sections important applications of the valuation techniques that have been conducted to estimate social benefits associated with increased air and water quality as well as climate change aversion are reviewed. Limitations of the existing research are addressed in the concluding section and directions for future work are suggested. Air Quality Air pollution is a major environmental risk to health and is estimated to cause approximately two million premature deaths worldwide per year [24]. A reduction of air pollution is expected to reduce the global burden of disease from respiratory infections, heart disease, and lung cancer. As air quality is a major concern for both developed and developing countries, a large number of empirical studies attempting to monetize the benefits to health generated by improved air quality have appeared in the literature worldwide. Pearce [12] provides a summary of the main studies conducted to that day valuing health damages from air pollution in the developing world. In particular, valuation estimates for health symptoms and risks of mortality attributable to particulate matter, lead, nitrogen and sulphur oxides and low level ozone are reported. The main conclusion from the literature review is that some forms of air pollution, notably inhalable particulate matter and ambient lead, are serious matters for concern in the developing world since they are associated with severe health damages in monetary terms. Since then a number of valuation studies have been conducted in developing countries estimating social benefits from air pollution reduction in terms of either averted mortality or averted morbidity due to air pollution mitigation strategies. To provide economic estimations of health risk reductions authors rely on existing epidemiological studies that establish the relationship between pollution concentrations and health hazards. Valuation studies are then conducted to monetize health outcomes given the number of exposures and the associated risk predicted from the dose-response functions. In the literature addressing air pollution in both developed and developing world, contingent valuation studies are mainly implemented. The health consequences from alternative pollution abatement policies are explicitly stated in the valuation scenario and respondents are asked their maximum willingness to pay to contribute in the implementation costs of the policy under evaluation. Mortality and mobility effects of air pollution have been studied through contingent valuation in the developing world [25 – 28]. To provide economic grounds for supporting investment in air pollution abatement a cost benefit-analysis is often applied [29 – 31]. Results from valuation studies adopting a benefit transfer framework to circumvent the time and money demands of conducting an original study are also reported in the literature [32 , 33]. A cost of illness approach is employed by Gupta [34] to estimate the monetary benefits to individuals from health damages avoidance due to air pollution reduction in India. Health costs are considered to be incurred due to adverse effects of air pollution on health i. While the majority of studies addressed outdoor air pollution, Chau et al. Authors conduct a meta-analysis to estimate the concentration-response coefficients for different health outcomes to which they then assigned economic value based on existing values from the literature. Findings indicate that there would be some benefit gains for the owners-employers and the society if certain regular filter sets were adopted. The amount of benefit gains by the owners-employers increases with the average salary level of employees and duration that they stay in offices. Hedonic studies have been also applied to estimate a relationship between housing prices and housing attributes, including health risks associated with air pollution. The value people place on reduced health risks through improved air quality are inferred by their willingness to pay more for houses with better air quality, all else being equal. Comparing results with studies applying the damage function approach, authors find evidence that hedonic price analysis does not capture all of the health costs of air pollution because individuals are not fully informed about all of the health effects to incorporate them into property values. To assess morbidity risk reduction benefits, Navrud [37] conduct a contingent valuation study to estimate the willingness-to-pay WTP to avoid additional days of seven light health symptoms coughing, sinus congestion, throat congestion, eye irritation, and headache, shortness of breath and acute bronchitis and asthma. Mean WTP for an environmental program that would result to reduced health risks avoiding one additional day of the health symptoms ranges from Mortality risks reduction, expressed as extension in life expectancy, is addressed by Alberini et al. Finally, Aunan et al. The analysis indicates that the

main benefit from reduction of the concentrations of pollutants relates to improved human health. The estimated annual benefit of improved health conditions alone is likely to exceed the investments needed to implement the program even under the lowest estimates. A cost-benefit analysis is also applied by Larson et al. The Value of a Statistical Life was transferred to Russia after adjustment to estimate benefits of reduced mortality. Water Quality Contact with unsafe drinking or bathing water can impose serious risks both acute and delayed to human health [42 , 43]. Microbe contamination of groundwater due to sewage outfalls and high concentration of nutrients in marine and coastal waters due to agricultural runoff are among the most serious threats [44]. In the infrastructurally disadvantaged developing world the water contamination problem is even more prominent [46]. Although epidemiological studies have provided evidence of severe morbidity attributed to polluted water the issue has received limited attention in terms of valuation studies. Only few studies explicitly address health effects of drinking and bathing water quality to inform efficient water resources management policies mainly in high income countries. The health risks involved in bathing in polluted sea water are explicitly accounted in the study of Machato and Murato [47], who employed stated preference techniques to evaluate the multiple benefits of improving the quality of marine recreational waters on the Estoril coast in Portugal. Based on evidence from existing epidemiological dose-response functions a contingent valuation survey was employed to allow for a direct estimate of the health benefits of reduced water pollution.

7: Human impact on the environment - Wikipedia

Environmental degradation is a result of socio-economical, technological and institutional activities. Degradation occurs when Earth's natural resources are depleted. These resources which are affected include: In many countries in Africa, crop harvests are falling as consumption increases. People.

It also refers to eco system destruction as well as distinction of wildlife. Environmental degradation has serious effects on human life some of which often go unnoticed for years. There are several factors which contribute to environmental degradation which in turn affects human life such as a noisy environment, temperature, atmosphere and air. Breathing air that is polluted for instance poses numerous health complications that affect the quality of life and leave individuals at a high risk of suffering from other kinds of illness. The huge burden of disease that is been seen today is largely as a result of environmental degradation. Precisely for this reason, degradation exerts immense pressure on human health when people get exposed to water, soil and air pollution as well as chemicals which are released into the environment and noise. Respiratory, cancer, communicable and cardiovascular diseases are some of the illnesses that are often caused by environmental degradation. Other diseases include neuro-psychiatric disorders and poisoning. The most obvious environmental pollution risk to the health of millions of people across the globe is air pollution. It contributes to different types of illnesses like asthma and more often than cause, it causes premature deaths. Of great concern is the fact that children are placed at a great risk than adults leading to high infant mortality rate. Concerns about the effects of environmental degradation on human life has also led to numerous measures been taken to mitigate emission of pollutant gases and other factors that contribute to environmental degradation. The greenhouse effect is one that is still been investigated and studied. It is often as a result of fossil fuels which are burnt then they release greenhouse gases into the environment. Also, environmental degradation leads to soil erosion and this poses a serious threat to food production. As such, people are unable to access the resources needed in order to ensure they live comfortable lives and enjoy health food. This paper was written by a writer at Essays Experts and should not be copied whether in part or in whole. If you are interested in buying a similar paper, contact our support team and place your order. We guarantee to pick the most competent and talented writer to work on it. We pride ourselves in hiring the best and most competent writers after they have gone through a series of tests to prove they have great writing skills. Place your order with us today and enjoy timely delivery of all papers! Are you struggling to write your Assignment? Our writing professionals are qualified to handle any type of assignment, from essays, term papers, research papers, projects, course works and case studies among others. Do you need to buy Custom Written Sample Papers? Look no further; our company offers high quality custom-made papers, written by professionals in different fields at affordable prices. What you can read next.

8: Sample Essay on Effects of Environmental Degradation on Human Life – Homework Help And Essay

While the definition of environmental degradation refers to the deterioration of the environment, there is a lot to understand about this issue which is threatening the basic existence of life on our planet.

Increase in transportation Cutting down massive forests impacts our biosphere. Our land, water and soil are compromised when people exhaust resources or release harmful chemicals into the air. Deforestation, wasting resources, and pollution all add to the demise of an environmentally-sound and safe planet. For example, when trees in forests are cut down in large quantities, so that more homes can be built on the land, the birds and wildlife who lived in the forest must find a new place to live. The vegetation that once grew on the land is destroyed. Trees that absorbed carbon dioxide to help the biosphere are now unable to do so. If the wood from the trees is used to make products and those products such as paper are later recycled, that is one hopeful aspect for the planet. However, sometimes trees are just cut down and burned. This is what is known as slash and burn, a practice that only destroys forests and all that live in them. Unfortunate Impacts of Environmental Degradation When factories produce harmful chemicals and toxic waste into bodies of water, humans suffer. Drinking water is contaminated. Some residing in third-world countries are highly effected by the degradation of our planet and these unhealthy practices cause the following: Illnesses Death in adults Poverty In many countries in Africa, crop harvests are falling as consumption increases. People are finding less nutritious food to eat. One argument held is that while fields in wealthier nations are used to grow crops for biofuel , poorer countries, especially those around the Equator, are vulnerable to weather changes, water shortages, and urbanization. All of these factors are increasing the health and lives of thousands. Some scientists and environmentalists are asking that non-food items and agriculture waste be used as alternative fuel for vehicles instead. At times the destruction is so great that is cannot be reversed. We are killing our planet and the consequences are tremendous. One example of this lies within the coast lands of Thailand. Here marine and coastal resources at risk. Vast areas of mangrove wetlands have been lost. Coral reefs continue to suffer degradation, and the total fish available for catching is declining. Not only is the degradation causing marine and coastal resources to be lost, but this issue holds large economic problems. When there are not enough fish to catch, fishermen are without income to support themselves and their families. In some coastal towns, the shores are eroding at a rate of one to five meters per year. How to Stop Degradation There are ways which you can help to decrease degradation in our environment. Some of these include: Purchase recycled products Do not litter or toss waste into inappropriate places Conserve energy Talk with others about the impacts of environmental degradation Be an advocate to save our planet! Was this page useful?

9: Environmental degradation - Wikipedia

Effects of environmental destruction include global warming, climate change, ozone layer depletion, land degradation and human disease. Environmental destruction occurs when events deplete the earth's natural resources.

Check new design of our homepage! The Real Causes and Consequences of Environmental Degradation

While the definition of environmental degradation refers to the deterioration of the environment, there is a lot to understand about this issue which is threatening the basic existence of life on our planet. Feb 24, One of the major threats the planet is facing today, environmental degradation is bound to make life difficult for all lifeforms, including us humans, sooner or later. Studies reveal that the deterioration of environment is occurring at an alarming rate. This issue shares space with problems like poverty, terrorism, and civil war, which, in itself, highlights the fact that we are heading for a certain disaster. What is Environmental Degradation? It is a process wherein the natural environment of the planet is degenerated to an extent that the biodiversity and general health of the planet is subjected to drastic reduction. The life on the planet is interwoven to such an extent that a decrease in a particular attribute triggers a domino effect on all the other attributes dependent on it. How is it Caused? Environmental degradation can be attributed to various human activities and some natural processes, with the latter having an insignificant share in the same. Most of the resources on the planet are vulnerable to depletion, and the rate at which we are exploiting them, has already brought some of them to the brink of exhaustion. Exploitation of fossil fuels is the best example of this phenomenon. Large-scale exploitation has depleted the fossil fuel reserves across the world, thus leaving us with no option, but to find an alternate source of energy. Other human activities which have been contributing to this environmental issue include urbanization, overpopulation, deforestation, pollution, hunting, etc. What Does it Affect Us? Its effects are becoming more and more obvious in the form of various environmental issues affecting the planet. The hazardous waste produced by industries contaminates the water bodies in the vicinity, thus leaving the water unfit for drinking. Similarly, greenhouse gases that are released in the atmosphere, such as CFCs and carbon dioxide, have a devastating effect on the environment, thus making the planet vulnerable to a range of problems, including global warming and climate change. While incessant agricultural activities have resulted in degradation of soil, excessive deforestation to accumulate growing population has resulted in degradation of air and water. Humans have seldom sacrificed their necessities, but of late, the exploitation of resources to fulfill these necessities itself is taking a toll on the environment. How Can we Deal With it? In such a situation, we humans need to step in and ensure that the damage is curbed and balance is attained. Simple measures, such as conservation of electricity, use of alternative energy sources, avoiding the use of things that pollute the environment, soil conservation, etc. Environmentalists, the world over, are trying their best to save the environment. On our part, we need to do our bit to make sure that they succeed. The need of the hour is to identify the causes of environmental degradation and eliminate them one by one. We need to understand the fact that we are a part of the interwoven life system on the planet, such that problems like environmental degradation and environmental pollution, are bound to affect us directly or indirectly.

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