

WORLD POPULATION & ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS



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It is well known facts that the world population (i.e. the total number of humans currently living) has gone tremendously high within one century. The world population was estimated to be 7.7 billion people as of April 2019. It took over 2, 00,000 years of human history for the world's population to reach 1 billion; and within last 200 years it added more to reach 7 billion.

World population has experienced continuous growth since the end of the Great Famine of 1315–1317 and the Black Death in 1350, when it was near 370 million. The highest population growth rates – global population increases above 1.8% per year – occurred between 1955 and 1975, peaking to 2.1% between 1965 and 1970. The growth rate has declined to 1.2% between 2010 and 2015 and is projected to decline further in the course of the 21st century. However, the global population is still growing and is projected to reach about 10 billion in 2050 and more than 11 billion in 2100.

Total annual births were highest in the late 1980s at about 139 million and as of 2011 were expected to remain essentially constant at a level of 135 million, while deaths numbered 56 million per year and were expected to increase to 80 million per year by 2040. The median age of the world's population was estimated to be 30.4 years in 2018. This shows a very alarming situation when average death rate would be 42.8% within next 30 years and might further enhance due to environmental hazard.



World Population Day

The world population day focuses attention on the urgency and importance of population issues. It was established by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, an outgrowth of the interest generated by the Day of Five Billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987.

It was decided to uphold the human right to family planning by introducing nine (9) standards:

Non-discrimination

Family planning information and services cannot be restricted on the basis of race, sex, language, religion, political affiliation, national origin, age, economic status, place of residence, disability status, marital status, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Available

Countries must ensure that family planning

commodities and services are accessible to everyone.

Accessible

Countries must ensure that family planning commodities and services are accessible to everyone.

Acceptable

Contraceptive services and information must be provided in a dignified manner, respecting both modern medical ethics and the cultures of those being accommodated.

Good quality

Family planning information must be clearly communicated and scientifically accurate.

Informed decision-making

Every person must be empowered to make reproductive choices with

full autonomy, free of pressure, coercion or misrepresentation.

Privacy and confidentiality

All individuals must enjoy the right to privacy when seeking family planning information and services.

Participation

Countries have an obligation to ensure the active and informed participation of individuals in decisions that affect them, including health issues.

Accountability

Health systems, education systems, leaders and policymakers must be accountable to the people they serve in all efforts to realize the human right to family planning.

Even by introducing above standards of family planning, we could not control the world population to our expectations. While other hand, the requirement of essentials and its production, comfort level and administrative issues has lead to exploit earth's resources mainly: hydrocarbon, deforestation, enhancement of forming land, living houses and its essentials, transport, development of industrial sectors destroyed the environment. Now it is cause of concern to reduce global warming and climate change to protect our nature, otherwise entire global population, species and other livelihood, may face dire consequences of their end up.

Global Warming and its causes

Life sustains on Earth by depending on the energy coming from the sun. About 60 percent of the energy and light reaching the



Earth surface passes through the air and vapors where the harmful gases get segregated and absorbed. These gases are radiated upwards in the form of infrared radiation. About 90-92 percent of this infrared radiation is then received by the greenhouse gases and reflected back to the earth's surface. Due to the ozone layer depletion and global warming, the greenhouse effect has become the primary reason for which the Earth surface now radiates more heat than it usually should.

From the various studies and reports, it is learnt that the with the current rate of carbon dioxide release in the atmosphere there would not only be the increase in the global temperature, but it will also cause rise in sea, level and increase the frequency of disasters.

The following major challenges yet to be may be expected:

- Emissions from human activities are increasing the frequency of extreme weather events. In particular, there are likely to be many more heat waves, droughts and changes in rainfall patterns.

- The temperature is estimated to increase by 2 to 6 o Celsius within year 2100, which is a tremendous increase from our current average temperature of 1.7 degree Celsius (IPCC).

- By the mid-2020s, sea level rise around Manhattan and Long Island could be up to 10 inches, assuming the rapid melting of polar sea ice continues. By 2050, sea-rise could reach 2.5ft and more than 4.5ft by 2080 under the same conditions.

- Global warming threatens the planet in a new and unexpected way – by triggering earthquakes, tsunamis, avalanches and volcanic eruptions.

- Cyclonic storms of the future would put a one-third of New York City streets under water and flood many of the tunnels leading into Manhattan in under an hour because of climate change.

- India is surrounded by three sides with coastal area, hence it may also face hurricane, heavy downpour / floods, earth quake and hilly area with heavy landslides, heavy snowfalls / avalanches etc and affects losses.

These are few glimpses of future suspects; there may be much more bad implications of evils of climate change globally and humanity will be at high risk, developments will get shattered and rescue efforts will gain higher priorities. Let us work fast on protecting global warming to Save Earth and Save Life.