

Impact of COVID-19 on Environmental Prospectives

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Abstract— Corona virus or covid-19 is a family of viruses that cause many diseases in humans. The patients show flu like symptoms with a dry cough, sore throat high fever and breathing problems. Covid-19 has been declared as a global health emergency due to spread of corona virus. To prevent the transmission mask, surgical gloves and sanitizer were use. It has led to generation of massive amount of medical wastes in the environment. Impact on the Environment especially on reduction of NO₂ and CO₂ emission. Slow infection rate under strict social distancing will offer time to researchers to come up with exact vaccines against covid-19. Therefore, it is concluded that stringent social distancing via lockdown is highly important to control covid-19. Millions of people have been placed under lockdown to reduce the transmission. Reduction in Economic activities and improved air and water quality across the globe. Increased waste and the reduction of recycling are negative side effects of covid-19. Decreasing GHGs during a short period is not a sustainable way to clean up our environment.

Index Terms: COVID-19, GHGs, Social-distancing, sore-throat, sustainable.

INTRODUCTION

A pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan, China was first reported to the WHO country office in China on 31 December 2019. The outbreak was declared a public health emergency of international concern on 30 January 2020. On 11 February 2020, WHO announced a name for the new corona virus disease: COVID-19. It has crossed all borders in a very short period of time. COVID-19 is family of virus that cause many diseases in humans, which usually has show flu-like symptoms with a dry cough, sore-throat, high fever and breathing problems. The increase in covid-19 cases and death worldwide. The new corona virus (SARS-COV2) has generated an unprecedented impact in most countries of the world. The virus has affected almost every country on the planet, spread to more than 2 million people and caused around 130,000 deaths. Currently,

most countries have tried to fight the spread of the virus with massive covid-19 screening tests and establishing public policies of social distancing. It is clear that the priority revolves around people's health. Corona viruses are single- stranded RNA viruses that can infect not only humans, but also a huge variety of animals as well. These viruses were first studies by Tyrell and by Bynoe in 1966, who cultures them from patients with common cold. Due to their spherical visons morphology along with a shell and surface projections like a solar corona, these viruses were named corona viruses. In Latin corona means crown and there are four different sub-family including alpha, beta, gamma and delta corona viruses identifies so far. Alpha and beta- corona viruses have been originated form mammalians, particularly from beta, gamma, and delta- corona viruses originated from pigs and birds. As we are writing these lines, the pandemic affects 200 countries and territories. With around 3055,243 infected subjects more than 374,419 deaths and 2,864,659 recovered patients. India is also one of the affected country. There are approx 2 lakh confirmed cases of corona viruses and 8848 deaths on dated June 13, 2020 according to world meter. The India govt. has deleared a kind of measures to hold the situation. The whole country was announced to be under 68 day lockdown in phases.

SYMPTOMS OF THE COVID-19

Corona viruses affect the different people in different way. Its symptoms range from common cold to difficult in dispiration and deaths can occurrence. Symbols or symptoms, may come out 2-14 days after exposure. This time period is called the incubation period. Corona viruses spreads person to person after intimate sociality, when a covid-19 positive patients breath out, sneeze or talk, small droplets of sliva released from his/her mouth and float in nearby air and when a person come into the contact of the

infections air by the virus. It is important note that covid-19 is new, and research is still ongoing. There may also be other ways that the new corona virus can spread.

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The corona virus pandemic has caused a global reduction in economic activity and although this is major cause for concern, the ramping down of human activity appears to have had a positive impact on the environment. Industrial and transport emissions and effluents have reduced and measurable data supports the clearing of pollutants in the atmosphere soil and water. This effect is also in contrast to carbon emissions, which shot up by 5 percent after the global financial crash over a decade ago, as a result of stimulus spending on fossil fuel use to kick start the global economy. The month of May which usually records peak carbon emissions due to the decomposition of leaver, has recored what might be the lowest levels of pollutants in the air, Since the 2008 financial crisis. China and Northern Italy have also recorded significant reduction on their nitrogen dioxide levels. Further, sources suggest that there has been a 25 percent drop in energy use and emissions in China over two weeks which is likely to decrease the overall annual carbon emissions of country by 1 percent. In India the results were similar too, march 22 was the “JANTA CURFEW ‘ following which, a significant dip in air pollution levels was measured across the country. Cities like Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Lucknow saw their average air quality index staying within two digits. Another example of cleaner air was seen when, on April 3rd, residents of Jalandhar, a city in Punjab state, woke up to a view of the Dhauladhar mountain range, a rare feat in normal times, considering the two places lying nearly 213 km. apart from lying nearly and have not been visible from the city in recent memory. Water bodies have also been clearing and the river Yamuna and Ganga have seen significant improvement since the enforcement of a nationwide lockdown.

The covid-19 pandemic: learning from a climate action perspective:- In the wake of covid-19 as the world comes to a halt, we see pictures of the environment cleaning itself up – from clear blue skies in Delhi, dolphins in the waters of the Ganges turning

potable at Haridwar. These positive gains to the environment are short- term, most of which have been due to the environment. Nevertheless, we got to know that the environment can be healed and revived; it is yet to reach the point of no return which many of us assumed It already had. The apprehension now is that as the pandemic recedes and lockdown around the world come to an end, most countries which suffered will try back to their economics will try to upsurge their economies will try to upsurge their production several folds and this will have a heavy impact on the current reviving environment. The questions now arises that the way in which we are putting a global coordinated effort towards flattening the covid-19 curve can we do the same for climate change as well .

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE INDIRECT EFFECT OF COVID-19 ON THE ENVIRONMENT

1. *Decreased concentrations of NO₂*:- Air quality is essential for people’s health; however, 91% of the world’s population lives in places where poor air quality exceeds the permissible limit (WHO). Air quality deterioration results in a significant percentage of global mortality each year. In this regard, the 2016 world health organization report states that air pollution accounts for about 8% of the total deaths in the world; the country most affected are those found in Africa, Asia and part or Europe(WHO,2016). China implemented strict traffic restrictions and self- quarantine measures to control the expansion of SARS-COV2. These actions generated change in air pollution. On other hand, the Copernicus sentinel-5P satellite readings show a significant decrease in NO₂ concentrations over Rome, Madrid and Paris, the first cities in Europe to implement stricker quarantine measures.
2. *Clean beaches*:- Beaches are one of the most important natural capital assets found In coastal areas . they provide services (land, sand, recreation, and tourism) that are critical to the survival of costal communities and possess intrinsic values that must be protected from overexploitation. However, non-responsible use by people has caused many beaches in the world to present pollution problems. The lack of tourists, as a result of the social distancing

measures due to the new corona virus pandemic, has caused a notable change in the appearance of many beaches in the world. For example, beaches like those of Acapulco (Mexico), Barcelona (Spain), or Salinas (Ecuador) now look cleaner and with crystal waters.

3. *Reduction of environment noise level:-* Environment noise is defined as an unwanted sound that can be generated by anthropogenic activities (eg, Industrial or commercial activities), transit of engine vehicles, and high volume melodies. Environment noise is a main source of discomfort for population and the environment, causing health problems and altering the natural conditions of ecosystems. People are forced to stay at home by most governments implementing quarantine measures. This has significantly reduced the use of private and public transport. Also business activities have almost stopped. Due to all these changes, the noise level in most of the cities of the world has reduced considerably.
4. *Increased waste:-* The generation of organic and inorganic wastes occurs indirectly with a wide range of environmental issues, such as soil erosion, deforestation, air and water pollution. Quarantine policies established in most countries have prompted consumers to increase demand for online shopping for home delivery. As a result, there is an increase in organic waste generated in homes. In addition, food purchased online is packaged, so inorganic waste is also increased. Medical waste is also increasing. Hospitals in Wuhan produced an average of 240 metric tons of medical waste per day during the outbreak, down from their previous average of 50 tons. In other countries, such as the United States, there has been an increase in waste from personal protective equipment such as masks and gloves.
5. *Reduction in waste recycling:-* Has recycling has always been a major environmental problem of interest to all countries. Recycling is a common and effective way to prevent pollution, save energy, and conserve natural resources. As a result of the pandemic, countries such as the USA have stopped recycling programs in some of their cities, as authorities have been concerned about the risk of covid-19 spreading in recycling

centers. In particularly affected European countries, waste management has been restricted. For example, Italy has prohibited infected residents from sorting their waste. Also the industry has seized the opportunity to repeal disposable bag bans, even though single-use plastic can still harbor viruses and bacteria.

6. *Ozone layer:-* ozone layer is important for human survival on this planet, which is present above the earth. The surface protects 98% of harmful radiation from the sun to the earth, 90% is present in the ozone layer. The stratosphere ranges from 10 to 18 km, while the remaining 10% is present in the troposphere. The ozone layer allows harmful UV light to pass through them, affecting skin cancer, eye effects and human immune system effects. Chlorofluorocarbons, global warming and nitrogenous compounds are the main causes of deficiency of the ozone layer. Overdose is the main cause of global warming. CO₂ in the atmosphere when we burn our various purposes like oil, natural gas and coal, electricity generation, industry and automobile cause ongoing global warming.
7. *Water pollution:-* Water is a very essential element of life for every living thing, two-thirds of the surface of our earth. It is covered with water but only 3% water is potable, out of that 3% only 1% is surface water. Water is freezing or underground. According to a WHO report in 2017, 2 billion people in the world drinking contaminated water every year, contaminated water spreads various kinds of diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, polio, typhoid and dysentery. Just from diarrhea, every year estimated death according to WHO is about 485000, this is a very dangerous situation for us. Here covid-19 is also helpful for water pollution direct and indirect pollution source factories, waste-treatment plants and refining etc.

SOCIO ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT ASPECTS OF COVID-19

The covid-19 pandemic is considered the most important global health disaster of the century and the greatest challenge mankind since world war 2nd. The covid-19 pandemic is for more than a health

crisis; it is affecting societies and economics at their core. While the impact of the pandemic will vary from country to country, it will most likely increase poverty and inequalities at a global scale, making achievement of SDGs even more urgent. Over the next 12 to 18 months the socio-economic response, alongside the health response, led by WHO and the global humanitarian response plain. Covid-19 does not affect everyone in the same way. There are several reasons that is why different socio-economic groups are affected by this pandemic in different ways. These socio-economic factors include population density, urban and rural setting, education level, life style, the size of household. Majority of the countries are now trying different tactics to stoop the spreading of the diseases. There are some factors, which increase the risk of catching the virus:-

- Close contact among people is very high in urban areas rather than rural areas.
- A larger house will have a higher chance of bringing the virus into the home, while in a home where a person lives alone; he must catch the virus outside the house. In Sweden, social-distancing rules are not taken very strictly due to the high proportion of single-person households. While multiplication of corona viruses was clearly contributed to in Italy based on multi-generational homes.
- Social distancing is very effective for preventing the spread of the disease, but there are several reasons that different groups may show the level of prevalence of social distress:
- Working from home may reduce social interaction, but may be available only to a few people concentrated in jobs associated with high socioeconomic status.
- Staying at home rules will be more of a challenge for those who lives in small and crowded houses or outside.
- Everyone infected with covid-19 will react severely. There are some factors that contribute to the risk of covid-19, but they are probably felt different by different socioeconomic groups.
- WHO warns smokers that they may be highly at risk because of the obvious effects of smoking on the lungs and smoking in low socioeconomic group.

Therefore, some socioeconomic groups are more likely to risk than others. Therefore, some parts of society can logically expect higher numbers of deaths. This may be highly related to pension plans, using this experience analysis of the population to predict future mortality. The post epidemic population may appear to be more dissimilar than the starting point of this outbreak.

THE UNEXPECTED ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCE OF COVID-19

Orders to fight the covid-19 epidemic in a global asylum have resulted in widely reported climate benefit: cleaner air in China and Europe. But the outcome of the global health crisis has not been equally positive for the environment. In US, some cities have halted recycling programs as authorities worry about the risk of the virus spreading to recycling centers waste disposal options have rolled back, particularity in hard- hit European countries. Italy has banned all of the infected residents from sorting their garbage. The industry has seized the opportunity to ban disposable experts say that single use plastic can still irritate viruses and bacteria. Businesses that once encourage dconsumers to bring their own bags or containers have rapidly changed to single-use packing. In early march, star bucks announced a temporary ban on the use of reusable caps. As China's consumers stay home, the amount of household waste has increased as people shop online and distribute food, which comes with a lot of packaging. Medical waste is also increasing. Hospitals in Wuhan produced an average of more than 200 tons of such waste per day during the outbreaks, less than the previous average of 50 tons. China has asked sewage treatment plants to strengthen their disinfection routines to prevent corona viruses from circulating sewage, mostly through the use chemical has found its way into the country's drinking water, although the current allowable limit of 0.3 mg per liter. 'Those who are celebrating environmental improvements during the covid-19 crisis few'' said Li Shuo, senior global policy adviser at Greenpeace in Beijing. "pollution may be temporarily reduced, but it is hardly a sustainable way of cleaning our environment. Meanwhile the virus crisis brings other environment

problems that can last longer and are harder to deal with.

CONCLUSION

The covid-19 epidemic is spreading very rapidly every day, and the number of people put on lockdown is increasing, to date over 120, deaths 438 people worldwide and causing direct damage to the world economy. However, many think that there is a good side; the spread of the virus is reducing air and water pollution and may have saved lives in the process. Nevertheless, this epidemic that is taking people's lives certainly should not be seen as a way to bring about positive environmental change. First, it is not certain how long this dip in emissions will occur. When the epidemic finally subsides, carbon and other pollutant emissions return, it will be as if this clear sky view has never occurred and the change we see today will not have lasting effects. Normal actions to reduce the person of covid-19 are required to control the current outbreaks. Special attention and labels should be implemented to protect highly sensitive populations, including children, health care workers, and old people. There are already available guidelines for mediocre employees, health care provide and public health individuals and researchers who are interested in working in corona viruses. Most death cases of corona virus outbreaks are occurring in older people, possibly due to a weakened immune system that allows for the rapid development of viral infections. Public services should provide decongesting reagents to sanitize hands several times on a regular basis.

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