

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES



NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENT DEGRADATION

Environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water and soil; the destruction of ecosystems and natural habitats. It is defined as any change or disturbance to the environment perceived to be harmful or undesirable

Water degradation

One major component of environmental degradation is the depletion of the resource of fresh water. As a result, many households are unable to access clean water for their domestic use and the only available water is dirty and untreated which poses a danger to people who become susceptible to falling ill due to waterborne diseases like cholera.

Climate change and rise in global temperatures

This has a lot of change in the weather patterns and seasons. For instance it can result in unusual rains which can cause floods which in turn cause mudslides. This is evident from the recent El Nino rains experienced in the country which has resulted in a number of people including children being killed and many families being displaced.

Population growth

The earth's population is expanding rapidly which has a general impact of putting a strain on the limited resources that are in the world today. This has in turn created a situation where communities and individuals compete for the scarce resources sometimes resulting in wars where lives are lost and livelihoods disturbed through displacements. In such instances it is the women and children who suffer the most as they are exposed to various difficult circumstances. It is therefore in order to say that peaceful existence on earth will largely depend on how well people conserve the environment.

In the recent past, there have been calls for firm and concerted efforts to be taken by all countries around the world to at least reverse the negative impact of environment degradation which is being witnessed. This is especially so to the developed countries who contribute much of the carbon emissions in the atmosphere which are causing a lot of damage to the environment.

This is the right time for countries irrespective of their economic status to come together and unconditionally come up with concrete measures to conserve the environment, live peacefully through prudent use of resources and redeem the environment for future generations.

If at all planet earth is to be saved and life as we know it maintained, everybody will have to act even in the smallest way. Efforts must be started by individuals in their own backyards.

- Let us not throw garbage out of the windows of our houses and vehicles and then immediately start complaining about the inefficiency of the authorities;

- Let us not leave taps running even when we are not at home and then start cursing as soon as they run dry;
- Let us not block all drainages and then break our legs in sewer holes as we manoeuvre through the floods;
- Let us not cut all trees and in a few years start experiencing soil erosion and desertification;
- Let us not leave lights on in offices and at home when not in use and waste such a wonderful source of energy;
- Let us not deplete all resources and slowly drive ourselves into extinction!

Let us all be responsible citizens who care about the environment, the other people who are alive and those who are coming after us.