

Effective Strategies For Pollution Free Environment: Changing Landscape

Dr .N. Vijay

Associate Prof MBA, Department of Management Studies
Bharath Institute of law,
Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research
Selaipur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 073

ABSTRACT

The environmental crisis in India is many-sided and multi-faceted. It has to be addressed on different fronts and by a variety of different actors. We need to harness scientific and social-scientific expertise to develop and promote eco-friendly technologies in energy, water management, housing, and transportation. Scientific innovation needs to be complemented by legislative change as well as by changes in social behaviour. The 2016 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) ranked India 141 out of 180 countries surveyed. EPI is unique in its approach because it incorporates many high-priority environmental issues, including resource consumption, depletion of environmental assets, pollution, and species loss among other important topics. It has been known for some time that the air that people breathe in Indian cities is among the worst in the world. Air pollutants and smog may be invisible, but the impact on our daily lives and health is very real. We believe we should do more, not less, and make modern cities livable again. Experts say the huge population of countries like India and China and the fact that these are developing economies should also be kept in mind while analyzing these statistics. It time to take up this challenge and find amicable solutions so that future generation will not face any serious threat. This paper attempts to outline the broader problem and possible alternate solution to containing damage what we create with without knowing the problem in global perspective in general and India particular. The effort will help the policy makers and serve as a timely call to action. The pollution is a winnable battle.

Key words: Air pollution, Tech management, Impact, Smog free environment.

INTRODUCTION

The Environment Performance Index 2016', 'The Global Green Economy Index (GGEI) 2016', 'Ambient Air Pollution Database', 'WHO, May 2016', 'Clear the air for children: The impact of air pollution on children UNICEF 2016' and others suggest that India is one of the most polluted countries in the world. The SGA 2017 report had put this figure (deaths due to air pollution) for India at 10,90,400 deaths as compared to 11,08,100 in China. Lancet study noted that foul air was linked to 6.5 million deaths worldwide whereas the SGA report put this figure at 4.2 million. "Household air pollution was responsible for 5 percent of the total disease burden in India in 2016, and outdoor air pollution for 6 percent,"

CAUSE AND CONCERN

- Environmental economists from Chicago, Harvard and Yale that finds that well over half of the Indian population may be set to lose three years of their lives due to the adverse effects of breathing air with highly excessive levels of pollutants.

- “Two-thirds of all the deaths from air pollution are now occurring in Asia, most of them in China. And air pollution has become the fourth leading cause of death in China.”
- “China, had the highest number of deaths per capita, at 172 per 100,000 people, from indoor and outdoor air pollution combined.” – Bloomberg
- SGA 2017 report had put this figure (deaths due to air pollution) for India at 10,90,400 as compared to 11,08,100 in China. While, the number of deaths due to air pollution, as per the Lancet study, is over 7L more.

TABLE NO 1
MAGNITUDE OF AIR POLLUTION-STUDY REPORTS

Air unsafe when average exposure to any of these matters exceeds the limit. According to the 2016 EPI, more than 3.5 billion people – half of the world’s population – are exposed to unsafe air quality which also includes 75% of India’s population	The World Health Organization
According to the, released on Thursday, India accounted for about 28% of an estimated nine million pollution-linked deaths worldwide in 2015, highlighting the alarming increase in the burden of diseases as well as mortality from different types of pollution.	Lancet study
‘Diagnostic Assessment of Select Environmental Challenges in India’ highlighted that the annual cost of air pollution, specifically pollution from particulate matter (burning of fossil fuels) amounts to 3% of the GDP of the country; outdoor air pollution accounting for 1.7% and indoor air pollution for 1.3%. The report also observed that a 30% reduction in particulate emissions by 2030 would save India \$105 billion in health-related costs; a 10% reduction would save \$24 billion. In light of the adverse impacts, coupled with the fact that the concentration of particulate matter in 180 Indian cities is almost six times higher than the standards set by the WHO, the issue of quality of air has become a major concern for the government of India.	A World Bank report
The study, titled 'India State-level Disease Burden', was published in The Lancet journal today. After child and maternal malnutrition, which was India's leading risk factor for health loss in 2016 causing 14.6 percent of the country's total disability-adjusted life years (DALYs), air pollution was the second leading risk factor in India as a whole.	The Lancet journal
At 2.5 million, India tops the list of pollution-linked deaths: Study. The Lancet study concluded that pollution is now the largest environmental cause of disease and death in the world today — three times more those from HIV-AIDS, TB and malaria put together.	The Lancet study
Most of the pollution-related deaths — 92 percent — were reported in low and middle-income countries, and in rapidly industrializing nations such as India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Madagascar, and Kenya, the study said. China, with 1.8 million pollution-linked deaths in 2015, followed India on The Lancet list. Most of these deaths were due to non-communicable diseases caused by pollution, such as heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)	The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health’s study

Source: Author compilation

SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH:

The atmospheric pollution has sky rocketed post 1900. The reason is industrial growth and exponential growth in the automobiles. The carbon emitted by the machines is a challenging us back. An effective procedure to solve eradicate it is the world's cry. The smog tower concept prototype could be the one saviour for a major environmental need.

The prototype is an enhanced air purifier which works with the electricity and kinetics (certain places) thereby the smog is collected. The smog collected is processed and treated to make it into a piece of jewellery. The methods could be of two one the artistic work of making it with the aid of epoxy resins, second would be an artificial treatment for three months to make it into an artificial diamond.

RAISE YOUR HAND AND FINGERS TO CONTROL POLLUTION

The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it. The first step towards improving air quality is collecting reliable data and making it open and available, however, high-quality PM_{2.5} data are still not available for many locations across India, including entire states and major cities. Monitoring must eventually extend beyond the urban centres to understand the country-wide impact of air pollution.

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