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How does economic development affect environmental health?

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Abstract: The change of the environment to the negative side is closely related to economic development from the following three changes the higher level of pollution, global warming and the potential loss of environmental habitats, and the emergence of diseases.

Key words: global pollution, economic growth, natural resources, change of ecosystem, food security, environmental threats, the emergence of diseases.

Introduction

In the 21st century, people are living while economic development is growing steadily. As a result of this, the way of life of mankind, technology, and in general every sphere is developing. However, as if the second side of the coin, there are negative consequences of this, especially to environmental health. According to NASA (n.d), "Scientists use observations from the ground, air and space, along with theoretical models, to monitor and study past, present and future climate change. Climate data records provide evidence of climate change key indicators, such as global land and ocean temperature increases; rising sea levels; ice loss at Earth's poles and in mountain glaciers; frequency and severity changes in extreme weather such as hurricanes, heatwaves, wildfires, droughts, floods and precipitation; and cloud and vegetation cover changes, to name but a few". It is fact that ensuring totally the demand of humankind, the wealth of our planet is being lost or completely changing to the negative side, which is a great danger to humanity. The change of the environment to the negative side is closely related to economic development from the following three change higher level of pollution, global warming and the potential loss of environmental habitats, and the emergence of diseases. As it is global and first issue that the effects of economic fast activities have negative side to environmental health is higher level of pollution. Precisely, economic growths continue to go up, it is also showing sufficiently impact to the global pollution, which is giving a huge negative effect to the environment. Yet, this does not mean all forms of economic development can damage to the nature. Even, the reason of economic development cause to improve technology which can enable to do less pollution. However, it is not important key to decrease global pollution. Tejvan Pettinger (2019) writes in his article "Environmental effect of economic growth", he writes "The pace of global economic growth in the past century has led to a decline in the availability of natural resources such as forests (cut down for agriculture/demand for wood), a decline in sources of oil/coal/gas, loss of fishing stocks – due to overfishing, loss of species diversity – damage to natural resources has led to species extinction". The interaction with economic growth, the mutual need of

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people for a lot of things also continues to increase. This will continue to reduce their amount as a result of the use of not only renewable but also non-renewable resources. And this shows its negative consequences on nature. Additionally, the pollution of water, land and air can cause to health problems of human and improper crop rotation damage the productivity of land. Overview, that to some extent, economic growth poses a great danger to the future.

Global warming is the second issue to environmental quality which related to economic development. The consequences of this global warming in developed and developing countries are leading to an increase in natural disasters and the destruction of many living things by burning large forests or losing their habitat in general. According to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (2020) the global warming that the long-term heating the Earth's climate system has been observing since 1850 the cause of human activities related to economic evolvement by burning fossil fuel. The fact that Industrial Revolution had been beginning for that time and it also brought to be economic growth of countries. For 200 years the population of the world has been increasing day by day. Therefore, the demand of fresh water is one of the most essential social issues in some areas of the world. This causes to be global degradation because of overpopulation and the evolvement of economic, the fact that in order to supply the demand of human, some natural forests are being chopped down for making human habitation or other aims. Additionally, excessively amount of water are using to grow up foods or other things which causes to change environmental health. Kimberly Amadeo (2021) states in his article "Climate change is the disruption in the long-term seasonal weather patterns caused by global warming. Data released in 2020 shows that the average global surface temperature has risen over 1 degree Celsius—about 2 degrees Fahrenheit—since the pre-industrial 19th century. That's faster than at any other time in the Earth's history—roughly eight times faster than the global warming that occurred after the ice ages". Therefore, the rising level of global temperature cause to the extreme droughts, wildfires, floods, tropical storms and other such as disasters which can damage human life.

The consequence of the fact that economic growth has a negative impact on many things is the emergence of new diseases not only for humanity, but also for all living things. It is the third effect of economic growth to the environmental health. In the economic development century the world is facing several infection diseases such as the Ebola virus and The Covid-19 virus which spread globally. This is completely connected to food security of economic perspective. It means that most of economic development countries grow up Genetically Modified Food in order to supply the demand of populations. Moreover, pre-packed food is also dominant in some places while it causes to be various illness such as obesity, asthma, and so respiratory diseases. One of the most important aspects of food security is food access that having sufficient resources. However, due to poverty of country or population in some countries, the access of food is more difficult cause of other economically development countries, meaning that there is no equal distribution. According to resent statistics (2021) nearly 2 billion people worldwide are, on a regular basis, unable to grow or get enough food to eat- and a staggering 75% of that most lacking food security live in the most rural areas in the least developed countries of the world. Whether due to conflict, drought, flooding or disease, food security and sustainable agriculture are unstable realities for most of the world's poor. It means that the problem with access food production in various areas.

Conclusion

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In today's, economic development can be observed in any sphere and state. The fact that people can do together with the survival of people is improved, as well as the whole world is modernized and able to use the resources that a person has. However, we must also pay attention to the negative effects of this on the global nature, in general, on the whole living thing and creature. Here is interesting fact that environmental degradation has a huge threat to human health worldwide. The harmful consequences of this degradation on human health have already begun to be felt and can significantly worsen in the next 50-100 years, even to the extent that we cannot imagine. Because of economic development, environmental health and human health are linked totally each other.

I want to mention a thing that to solve this problem, measures should be taken to improve the quality of the environment in developing and developed countries.

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