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Lockdown Impact on Biodiversity and Environmental Pollution

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Abstract:

A Corona virus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious caused by a newly discovered corona virus. Most people infected with COVID 19 virus will experience with mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring proper treatment. This disease spreads primarily through droplets of saliva from infected person. The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is due to maintaining social distancing, wear masks on face and cleaning hands by sanitizers. It has shown positive impacts on the biodiversity and environmental pollution. There are some reports like examples of reduced human pressures on natural ecosystems cleaner air and water and wildlife reclaiming contested habitats. The purpose of this study to provide clear and actionable strategies to community, health workers and researchers in future.

Key words: COVID-19, Biodiversity, Environment, Pollution.

Introduction:

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a noticeable loss of human life worldwide and presents challenge to public health food systems. We must think about future environment and environmental degradation with ambition and urgency. Only then can we protect the health, food security and nutrition of all people and ensure that our 'new normal' is better one. Covid-19 which increased rapidly not only in the surrounding areas but also spread in the country and the outbreak turned into pandemic. (Dutheil et al 2020). Government placed the whole India on lockdown to slow down the spread of infection. Shutdown of public transport, educational institutes, business centers, parks and other social interactions points are responsible for curtailing the transmission of Covid-19. The ramping down of human activity appears to have a positive impact on the environment. Biodiversity, Industrial and transport emissions and effluents have reduced, and measurable data supports the clearing of pollutants in the atmosphere, soil and water. The positive impact on the environment may be temporary but we should learn from this lockdown on how to maintain and improve this situation for a longer duration.

Methodology: The methodology was based on reports of survey published by the Government of India.

Digital media includes reviews published in the newspapers, World Health Organization, articles, Encyclopedia.

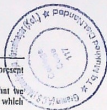
Observations:

Lockdown Impact on Biodiversity

1. The increase in the number of insects that means more food for birds.
2. The COVID 19 pandemic affected virtually all sectors and biodiversity conservation sector at local, regional and global levels.
3. Due to non-pollution of water hyacinth in Godavari River, full leaves have been removed and large number of aquatic life move freely in the water.
4. On the Antarctic Peninsula, so - called snow algae are turning the snow green due to
5. The presence of green algae.
6. Due to lock down logging, mining, road building in remote places, dam building,
7. irrigation, coastal development, rapid urbanization, population growth all are
8. stopped so it leads to loss less biodiversity.
9. Since the enforcement of a nationwide lockdown, water bodies have also been
10. clearing. According to the real-time water monitoring data of the Central Pollution
11. Control Board (CPCB), the average water quality is seen to be suitable for bathing,
12. propagation of wildlife and fisheries.
13. The rivers Godavari, Yamuna and Ganga have seen significant improvement, so transparent that one can see its aquatic life in deep water.
14. In some households, there are unwanted guests. Like Deer, peacocks was seen to enter a house, leopard moving around in Nasik. It's safe to say, while we are trapped in our houses, wildlife is enjoying their freedom.

The following strategies are needed to conserve biodiversity by monitoring the collected data more effective in our human dominated world.

1. Conservation research needs to integrate with social scholarship in a more sophisticated manner.
2. Designing better policies and enforcing laws in favor of nature and biodiversity



3. Educate and make students, social workers aware so that we could create a link between present conditions and uncertain conditions of the future for conservation of nature.
4. Permanent restriction on travelling and crowding of people at place should be created so that we should control outbreak of epidemic or pandemic as well as maintain the environmental status which we achieve.

Lockdown Impact on Environmental pollution

1. The environmental pollution was very negligible during first strictly lockdown in 25th March to end of April- 2020.
2. In India, March 22 was the 'Janata Curfew', following which; a significant decreased in air pollution levels was seen.
3. Since the March 25 lockdown that forced 1.3 billion Indians to stay home due to which air quality has dropped to "satisfactory" levels.
4. The lockdown ordered shut down of "non-essential" service providers and also all modes of public transport leading to dramatic effect on the environment.
5. While the complete shutdown of India's economy was designed to stop the spread of COVID-19, it is having an ancillary health benefit of clearing the air that millions of people were choking on. As vehicles stay off the road, construction is put on hold, and factories stop production, the levels of microscopic particulate matter start to drop.
6. NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide) –Highly polluting and emitted from combustion of fossil fuel, traffic pollution etc. China and Northern Italy recorded significant reductions in nitrogen dioxide levels.
7. Due to lockdown, energy and oil demand is reduced as there is lack of transport activities. Air travel dropped by 96%. Global oil demand declined. So it shows a positive impact on environmental quality.
8. Due to lockdown we get opportunity to challenging circumstances and learn to deal with the ordeals effectively.

Pollution level decrease during lockdown:

1. Air pollution by 75%
2. Water pollution by 60%
3. Sound pollution by 40%
4. Light pollution by 30%
5. Coal based power generation by 35%
6. Petroleum products consumption by 25%

Conclusion: It was observed that the environment has started to renew itself due to all kinds of industry vehicle movement and social activities of people continue at a low level for long time. The links between lockdown and nature are becoming better understood and appreciable. So that we are seeing the growth in an emerging disciplines, planetary health, focusing on the connections among the well-being of humans, other living things and nature's ecosystems. This positive impact on the environment maybe temporary but Governments and individuals should learn from this lockdown how to reduce pollution on a long term basis. For this study, we emphasized that the effect of lock down on Covid 19 was statistically significant.

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