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E-Journal of Research

ISSN NO: 2395-339X

**“A STUDY ABOUT EFFECTS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN
REGARD TO ENVIRONMENT HEALTH”**

S.G.Memoria*

INTRODUCTION

The sustainability challenges of our age will be experienced most directly through effects on human health. Sustainability challenges such as climate change, poverty, and water shortages are likely to grow in complexity and extent the complexity of these challenges will require scientists, civil society and policy makers alike to use a systems approach in order to better understand how different parameters influence each other. There is evidence that environmental conditions lead to ill-health and health can in turn have impacts on environmental conditions. A 2006 report by the World Health Organization estimates that almost a quarter of the global burden of disease is due to environmental risk factors. Environmental factors were judged to play a role in 85 of the 102 diseases considered. Further, highlight that in children, 34% of the disease burden was attributable to the environment, and much of this burden is in developing countries.

Climate change, for example, will lead to an increased risk of thermal stress, extreme weather, infectious disease spread and greater prevalence of hunger. Ill-health can in turn cause environmental degradation through different pathways, such as increased medical waste, pollution of water resources and poor land management. Using the WHO definition, health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. This definition can be extended further to acknowledge that social well-being includes sociopolitical status and safeguarding of human rights. In addressing human health we therefore need to move beyond just the treatment of cases, curative science and directly reducing human exposure. There is currently a heavy focus on technical solutions and economic instruments, often using the metaphor of “war on disease”.

PRESENT SCENERIO

The scale of environmental impacts on health may vary from local pollution exposures at point sources, to global scale climate changes. Simplifies the grouping of environmental impacts on human health to those in the home environment, the work environment and the broader environment. Within the home environment, access to water, sanitation and hygiene is one of the biggest global challenges. SIDA (Swedish international development agency) estimated that in 2011, 800 million people in the world lacked access to good quality water and that one-in-three people in the world lacked access to a toilet or a latrine, which, together with poor hygiene, leads to diseases that kill 1,800 children every day. Housing conditions and indoor air pollution are two other areas where the home environment affects human health. The work environment refers to occupational health and safety exposures experienced by people in their places of work.

***S.G.Memoria** Smt S.C.P.F Commerce College Dabhoi Dist: Vadodara

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Meanwhile, impacts in the broader environment can be due to exposure to stressors such as solid waste, climate change, extreme weather events and outdoor pollution.

Health and the environment: An interconnected system Health and environment are intrinsically linked as humans exist in the environment and are therefore exposed to changes in the environment which have consequences for human health. Changes in human health provide feedbacks into the socio-ecological system and can in turn lead to changes in the environment.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change setting a new health agenda Climate change can be considered one of the changes in the broader environment that affect health. There are systemic, long term risks associated with climate change, which until recently, were not adequately assessed by conventional burden of disease studies. Often global burden of disease studies have focused on proximal risk factors and historical patterns, with relatively little attention paid to upstream causes. Burden of disease studies also tend to focus on current exposures rather than future exposure. This has been problematic given the long timescales required by climate change assessments. Climate change therefore poses qualitatively different risks to human health, mainly via upstream and indirect pathways. Due to the slow response of policy makers to halt greenhouse gas emissions, we can also expect climate change to become a more cross-cutting concern in studies of health and the environment. As WHO director-general, Margaret Chan puts it, "Sadly, policy makers Global Health, Climate Change and the Environment have been slow to recognize that the real bottom-line of climate change is its risk to human health and quality of life". For this reason, a closer examination of global health and climate change by policy makers is critical.

Vulnerability and adaptive capacity to heat stress is noted to be inequitable, and vary from one vulnerable group to another due to such attributes as geography, current health status, age and gender, and socioeconomic status, as well as due to the capacity of public health and other infrastructures to deal with heat stress. How these factors intersect in different circumstances may vary. This is consistent with the cross-cutting issues for climate change and health identified by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). These cross-cutting issues include susceptible, vulnerable, and displaced populations, public health and health care infrastructure, capacities and skills needed and communication and education. As such, in addressing climate change and health, consideration must be given to the specific needs of each specific vulnerable group.

OBJECTIVES OF GLOBE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

- A clean and safe environment
- Participation in decision-making
- Protect and defend the protection of the environment and human rights.

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The Draft Principles on Human Rights and the Environment proposed in the report of the UN Special Reporters on Human Rights and the Environment

- Freedom from pollution, environmental degradation and activities that adversely affect the environment;
- Protection and preservation of the air, soil, water, sea, ice, flora and fauna, and the essential processes and areas necessary to maintain biological diversity and ecosystems;
- Timely assistance in the event of natural or technological or other human caused catastrophe.

ROLE OF SCIENCE

Waste-to-Value through sanitation and agriculture the first case serves to illustrate the role of science in contributing innovative solutions that support a sustainable environment and reduce the burden of disease in order to improve human health. Science has a critical role to play in finding sustainability solutions. However, there is still a need to close the gap between science and society so that solutions are suited to the needs and particular context in which they will be applied. Daily challenge the academic community to “be more effective in stimulating innovation, and in testing promising new approaches in major demonstrations that integrate the biophysical, economic and social pillars of sustainability effectively.” One attempt to bridge this sustainability gap can be seen in a recently published study that reveals how urine can be used to enrich soils for sustainable food production

INDIVIDUAL EFFORT AND COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Livelihoods and health through positive living The third example of everyday interventions to address environment and health focuses on the role of individual leadership and collective social action in addressing local social and environmental problems. In rural western Kenya, widows and divorced women affected by HIV and AIDS have become agents of positive change while also working to improve their households' food and water security. HIV and AIDS has been generalized in the populations of southern and eastern Africa and have often led to serious developmental challenges, including loss of income for households, stigmatization of individuals, loss of labour in subsistence agriculture and in some cases, indirect impacts on environmental resources. In the Onion location, women are rising above these obstacles through individual leadership and collective social action. Working together, the women in Onion are gaining increased decision making and bargaining power. As a result, they have invested in sustainable innovations such as rainwater harvesting systems and implemented agro forestry practices. The collective action of the women in the region also involves working together in formalized groups that capitalize on the pooling of natural and human resources, which also enables them to use collective financial management systems that help them to survive during hardship periods. For example, one Kenyan woman named Jemima, who is living

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with HIV and AIDS, has opened her household to others living positively so that there are now twelve members to her household. Through her leadership, she has offered support to others who are now working collectively on agricultural production to improve food security and health of their newly shared household. In the process, women such as Jemima are ensuring that their food security, land management and livelihoods are improving. The agency of individuals and collective groups suggest that working together can result in many co-benefits and this has been scaled up and out as the lessons from these successful efforts are shared with the community.

CONCLUSION

Climate change will be experienced most directly by people through impacts on human health and these impacts will be unevenly distributed in societies around the world. It is critical that policy makers at every level in all countries recognize the inequalities inherent in the world today that are exposing our most vulnerable populations to the highest risks and most devastating potential health outcomes. Ensuring we address the rights of these individual to life, health and security will create a minimum baseline of acceptable conditions for all human beings. Establishing a rights-based approach to health will require that policy makers also focus on a rights based approach to the environment given that an unhealthy environment often compromises the right to human health.

The opportunity thus exists to use a rights-based approach to promote interventions on health and the environment while realizing a wide range of economic and societal co-benefits. Bringing science to action, bottom-up entrepreneurship and collective action are examples of ways that communities and individuals alike can realize health and environment co-benefits as illustrated in the cases presented. These cases will hopefully serve to inspire future research and action on a rights-based approach to global health, climate change and the environment.

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ISSN NO: 2395-339X

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