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Convergence of Health



Exploring Legal and Medical Perspectives



Editor
Prof Naseem Ahmed



CONVERGENCE OF HEALTH

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Prof. Naseem Ahmed

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AIR POLLUTION AND ITS IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Ms. Huma Ausaf¹

Ms. Huma Khan²

Abstract

The research paper outlines the ample of health issues faced by humans due to the poor air quality index (AQI). Outdoor air pollution is a major environmental problem faced by each and every human being in low, middle or high income strata.

According to the official website of AQI, the current air pollutants in Lucknow are PM2.5, PM10, SO2, CONO2, Ozone. Not to mention, the current PM2.5 concentration in Lucknow (on dated 03 April, 2024) is 3.3 times above the recommended limit given by WHO 24hr air quality guideline value which makes the air unfit for inhabitants to breath in. 99% of the world population are living in places where the WHO air quality guideline levels are not met. The combined effects of ambient air pollution and indoor air pollution are associated with 6.7 million premature deaths annually.

The research paper context various ways to curtail the human induced air pollution to make their inhabitation fit for livings to some extents. It also includes the policies and investments made by the government to support cleaner transport, energy efficient homes and power generation, industrial and municipal waste management which would result in reduction of key resources of ambient air pollution in some areas prone to air pollutants.

Every human is affected by the poor air quality but may be under an impression that this shared burden does not affect their lives. Given below in brief are the reasons why air pollution is everyone's problem-

1. Controlling air pollution may help in limiting global warming in a long run as green house gases shares same pollutants which contributes in global warming.

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2. Air pollutants affects our lungs and other organs and ambient air pollution, singlehandedly, is the cause of 42 million premature deaths, every year.
3. Our future generation has the right to grow up in clean and healthy environment and us, as present generation are depriving them of this right by cause unforeseeable troubles to the environment.
4. The slum dwellers or inhabitants livings near the industrialized area where industry exposes its residues in open directly affects them the most. This impact on their health prevents them from going to work and attending schools which further exacerbates poverty and illiteracy.
5. In order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and create a more equitable and environmentally friendly future, clean air is an essential but little-known secret weapon.

In conclusion, the research paper winds up with followings-

1. Steps to be taken to curtail the key resources of air pollutants in prone areas
2. Initiative taken by the government to address the issue.
3. Other milestones to be reach in order to make this place fit for living.

Key words: AQI, sustainable development, ambient pollution, indoor pollution, pollutants, health issues, slum dwellers, industrial residue

Introduction

The history of air pollution is as ancient as civilization itself. The industrial revolution and human productivity, essential living comforts, and their effects on natural resources, including land, water, atmosphere, habitat health, and wildlife. The significant population surge caused by deforestation and industrialization has led to extensive exploitation of natural resources. The advancement of industrialization and urbanization introduces many pollutants into the natural climate, mainly affecting air, water, and soil, resulting in significant environmental degradation.

Background

The history of air pollution can be traced back to the Industrial Revolution in Europe. The World Health Organization defines air pollution as the contamination of the interior or outdoor environment by any chemical, physical, or biological agent that alters the inherent features of the atmosphere."¹ The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that annually, indoor and outdoor air pollution accounts for approximately seven million fatalities worldwide."²

About the Editors



Dr. Naseem Ahmed is a distinguished Professor and currently serves as the Head/Dean of the Faculty of Law at Integral University, Lucknow, India. With over 20 years of experience in teaching and academic leadership, he has made significant contributions to the fields of Health Law, Criminal Law, and Administrative Law, and has played an instrumental role in advancing legal education and research in India. Dr. Ahmed holds a Ph.D. in Law from Kumaun University, Nainital (2016), an LL.M. from Rohilkhand University, Bareilly (2006), and an LL.B. from Shia PG College, Lucknow University (2003). He also earned a B.A. in Psychology and Economics from Bareilly College, Rohilkhand University (2000). His interdisciplinary academic background provides a unique socio-legal perspective, particularly in the context of Law, health policy and justice. He qualified UGC-NET and SET Uttarakhand in 2012. Dr. Ahmed began his academic career as an Assistant Professor at Rama University, Kanpur, and Unity Law College, Lucknow, before joining Integral University in January 2016. At Integral, he has guided several Ph.D. scholars and supervised numerous LL.M. dissertations. His scholarly work includes approximately 25 published research papers in reputed journals. A notable aspect of Dr. Ahmed's contribution is his pioneering work in legal education for madrasa students, especially Muftis, reflecting his commitment to inclusive and community-oriented legal education. His research contributions can be accessed through his ResearchGate profile: amdnaseem@iul.ac.in. For academic collaborations or further information, he can be contacted at: 2naseemjafri@gmail.com.

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