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Perceptions of School Students Regarding Air Pollution: A Study of Aurangabad City in Maharashtra, India

Geetanjali Kaushik, Monowar Alam Khalid, Neha Mumtaz & Tabish Izhar

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Abstract

Over the last decade, air pollution has become a global issue on account of anthropogenic activities and has resulted in severe health issues and has reduced public's subjective well-being. Awareness and behavioral change can go a long way in mitigating the adverse impacts of air pollution. This chapter focuses on assessing the perceptions of students in the city of Aurangabad in the state of Maharashtra in India toward air pollution and provides insights into students' perceptions about air pollution in the city, factors responsible for it, and the role they can play in controlling it.

Awareness of air pollution at an age as young as 11–12 provides a promising step toward minimizing hazardous effects on the community. All the students believed the air quality in their neighborhood to be good. Majority of the respondents in our study confirmed vehicular exhaust as the main cause of pollution in their communities followed by smoke from dumpsites. Further all the students agreed that they would take measures to curb air pollution which is a positive step toward reducing it and minimizing health impacts.

Keywords

Air pollution | Perceptions | Students | Aurangabad | Awareness

European Best Practices to Mitigate Air Pollution: A Review

Geetanjali Kaushik, M. A. Khalid, Nusrat Ali, and Syed Aqeel Ahmad

Contents

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Abstract

Air pollution has become a global issue. It is of significance to identify the best practices that have helped countries in Europe to combat the issues of air pollution. Eight cities from Europe are discussed in this chapter to understand best practices for air pollution mitigation at city level. These include Berlin, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin city, London, Paris, Prague, and Rotterdam. Each city highlights the importance of mitigating road-related air pollution as it is the major contributor of air pollution in urban areas. Various interventions such as traffic and mobility management, parking management, low emissions zone, congestion charge, cycling, and walking infrastructure are discussed in this chapter. A comparative table gives a brief outlook on these best practices that Indian cities can draw insights from. However, no one solution works for all cities, and hence each city needs a tailored solution based on the analysis of air pollution and major contributors of air pollution in the city.

Keywords

Best practices · Europe · Air pollution · Mitigation · Interventions

Introduction

Air quality in urban spaces is of vital importance. It is the key characteristic feature that determines whether cities are livable, healthy, and fit for human survival. However, recently the burgeoning problem of air pollution has led to an increase in diseases in India and has attributed to mortality. With almost all megacities exceeding the national air quality standard in India, it is a dangerous portent which needs timely interventions led by actions, change in public attitudes, and policies that can help achieve the transitions needed for desirable urban spaces.

Table 1 Mortality rates due to air pollution in world's major megacities

Year	2010	2025	2050
London	2800	3400	4200
Paris	3100	3800	4600
Moscow	8600	10,800	11,700
Beijing	13,700	17,300	17,700
Los Angeles	4100	5200	7000
New York	3200	4200	5200
Hong Kong	2600	3700	4400
Delhi	19,700	31,100	54,800
Mumbai	13,500	26,600	52,000
Kolkata	10,200	17,400	33,100

Air pollution has been recognized as a significant burden on environmental and public health. The damages created by the occurrence of air pollution episodes are irreversible and calamitic. The world Health Organization report on analysis on air pollution suggests that 92% of the world's population are living in areas with unhealthy air (WHO 2016). The Global Burden of Diseases (GBD) and WHO report that the growing concern of air pollution in India will have an effect equivalent to 1.1 million deaths each year and is expected to reduce the life expectancy by 3.2 years (Ghertner 2019), On average at a cost of around $55.33 billion (World Bank 2016). Further investigations by a team of scientists at Max Planck Institute for Chemistry suggest that the premature mortality will double by 2050 if the emissions continue to rise, and the situation in the major megacities of the world will become worse with mortality rates aggravating as shown in the table below (Table 1).