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## 9. Issues Related to Environment

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### **Abstract:**

The environment plays a significant role to support life on earth but our environment is going under constant changes. The economy of the world is increasing and so are the environmental issues which are the byproduct of the world's ever growing rise in economy. Humans are consciously creating problems for themselves by altering the environment for the own benefit. This creates an irregular patterns in the climate which tends to create changes in the environment.

However, as our environment changes, so does the need to become increasingly aware of the problems that surround it. With a massive influx of natural disasters, warming and cooling periods, different types of weather patterns and much more, people need to be aware of what types of environmental problems our planet is facing.

### **Keywords:**

Environmental changes. Environmental issues, global warming, climate change.

### **9.1 Introduction:**

Environmental issues are harmful effects of human activity on the biophysical environment. Every human has directly or indirectly cause harm to the environment. Issues in the environment make the daily as well as long term living of living organisms miserable. Our planet is poised on the brink of a severe environmental crisis. Current environmental problems make us vulnerable to disasters and tragedies, now and in the future.

All across the world, people are facing a wealth of new and challenging environmental problems every day. Some of them are small and only affect a few ecosystems, but others are drastically changing the landscape of what we already know. The following are some of the major issues related to the environment:

#### **A. Climate Change:**

Climate Change is one of the major concern related to the environment in this age. It is also one of the most visible issues related to the environment. Climate change has caused irregular raining patterns which directly affect the life of humans and other living beings.

The rising temperature, irregular raining, etc. are some of the major outcomes of Climate Change. It is also the reasons for floods and droughts.

### **B. Global Warming:**

Global warming has become an undisputed fact about our current livelihoods. It is the parent of all the major environmental issues that we are facing. It has encouraged climate change which in turn has encouraged the rise in the earth's temperature which has resulted in melting of glaciers. These melting of glaciers has been the reason for increase in sea level which has become a problem for many countries. Countries like Maldives are drowning because of the increase in sea level as the sea water has started covering the land area of Maldives. Our planet is warming up and we are definitely part of the problem. However, this isn't the only environmental problem that we should be concerned about.

### **C. Water Pollution:**

The earth's surface consists of 29% land. Rest of the part i.e. 71% is water (mostly seas and oceans but also of rivers and lakes). Out of this 71 % only 3 % is drinkable water. This very well defines about the scarcity of drinkable water. But still out of these sources of drinkable water most of the drinkable is polluted. Factories and other big industries release their waste products (which consists harmful chemicals) in the rivers and oceans which pollutes the water. Even the human wastes are also released in the water sources. The wastage of water also counts in the water pollution.

### **D. Air Pollution:**

Air pollution is the result of emissions from the industries, automobiles, and increasing use of fossil fuels. The gaseous emissions have added to an increase in the temperature of the earth. Not only this, but it had also increased the risk of diseases among individuals. The air quality index in most of the countries is degrading day by day.

### **E. Deforestation:**

Deforestation is the depletion of trees and forests at an alarming rate. The trees provide us with oxygen, several raw materials and also maintain the temperature of the earth. Due to the depletion of trees for commercial purposes, there has been a drastic change in the earth's climate. Forests are an abode to a large number of wild animals and plants. Destruction of forests has led to the elimination of a large number of plants and animal species affecting the biodiversity.

### **F. Ozone layer Depletion:**

The ozone layer is a layer of concentrated ozone gas. It protects us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. This very important layer is being destroyed by CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons), which are used in industries and everyday life (e.g. aerosol cans). The chlorine in these compounds destroys the ozone layer. The hole in the ozone layer leaves humans and wildlife exposed to the harmful UV rays resulting in several skin diseases including cancer.

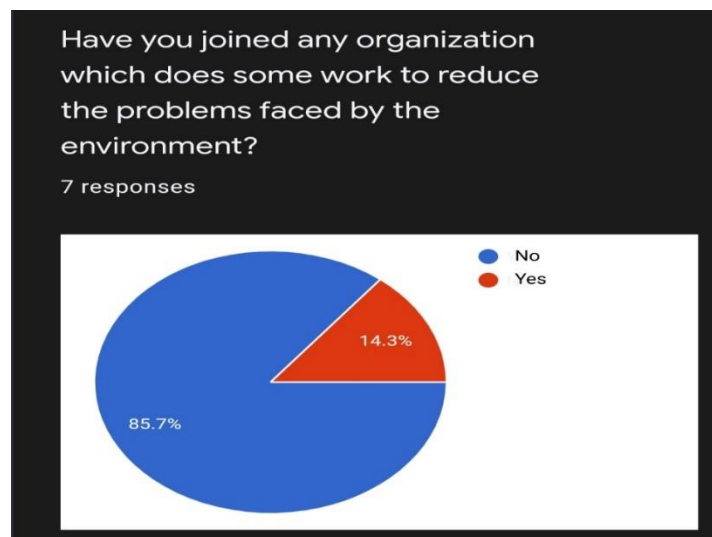
### **Objectives:**

- a. To study the issues on environment

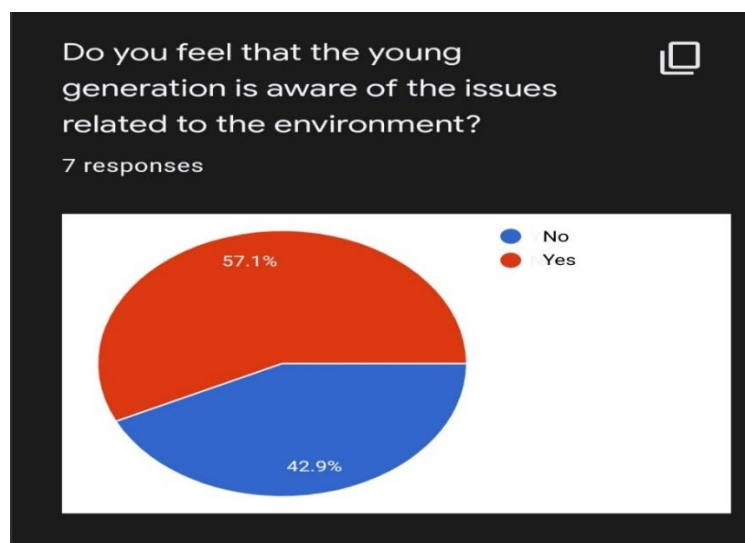
- b. To the study the effect of the issues on living beings.
- c. To put light on major concerns related to the environmental issues.

### 9.2 Data Analysis:

I conducted a survey in which I asked several questions regarding the issues related to environment. The following is the statistical analysis of the response that I got:

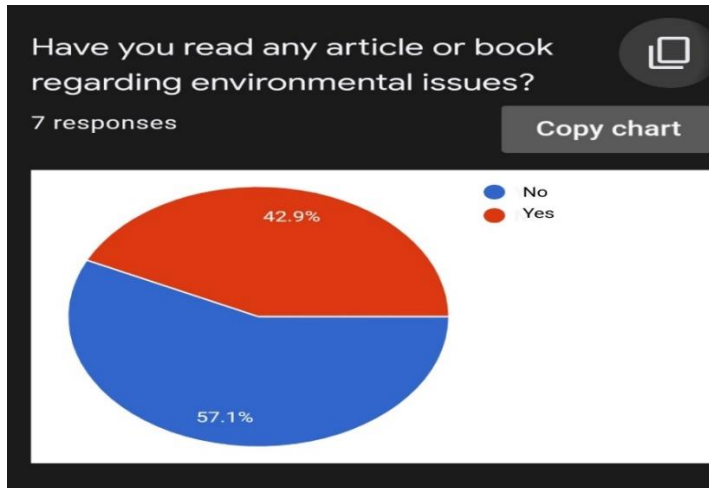


The above gives us a idea that most people haven't joined any organization which works towards the betterment of the environment. This may have many reasons like they might be busy with their work or they might not be aware of any such organization.



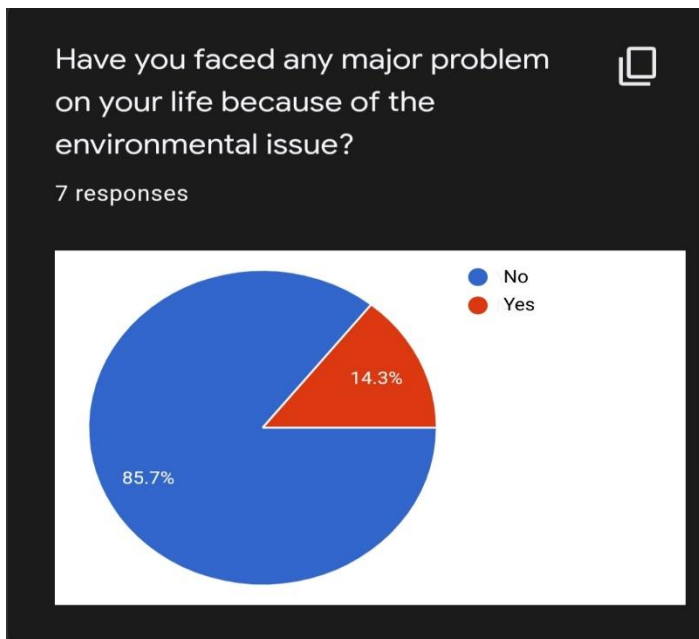
This image clearly displays that more than half of the people don't feel that the young generation is aware of the environmental issues that we are facing.

This might be because they might not have seen much of the young generation talking or taking steps towards betterment of the environment.



The above image shows us that most people haven't read any books or articles related to environmental issues.

This response is quiet obvious because many people aren't aware of the issues that we are facing because of the trouble caused in the environment. So this might be the reason that they haven't yet read about this part of the spectrum.



This picture shows us that environmental issues haven't caused any major setback on people's life.

### **9.3 Literature Review:**

Environmental issues began to be discussed and debated only towards the end of the 20th century. Since then significant amount of literature has been penned down raising awareness about issues of pollution, deforestation, animal rights and several others however it has failed to result in major changes, ideas or even actions to save the environment.

Several species of animals have become extinct; pollution level is at an all-time high, global warming is leading to severe climate changes all across the globe but these problems do not seem to alarm the decision makers. There are several books written on this topic and many well-known reviews are been penned down on these books. Following are few of the reviews on these books:

#### **Rising by Elizabeth Rush:**

In “Rising,” Elizabeth Rush takes readers to the physical and cultural edges of the country, from the marginalized and forgotten citizens of places like Isle de Jean Charles, Louisiana, to the glass castles of Facebook and Google in Silicon Valley.

As high tide and massive storms become the new normal, those at the coasts, especially those with lower incomes, will be most at risk of flooding and all that comes with it. At stake are not just coastlines; entire communities stand to lose their homes and lifestyles to climate change, becoming the first of many climate refugees. The question is not a matter of if but when we lose these lands.

*Brandon Pytel*

#### *How to give up plastic by Will McCallum:*

Plastics are everyone’s problem, and unless we as individuals, governments and companies all share responsibility, we won’t solve ever solve it. In this book, Will McCallum, head of oceans at Greenpeace UK, frames the current state of global plastic pollution and the environmental consequences of our throwaway, single-use culture. Part history, part guide, “How to Give up Plastic” helps us understand our plastics addiction while giving us practical, ambitious steps to correct it.

*Brandon Pytel*

#### *The Ends of the World by Peter Brannen:*

As we stare down the barrel of our own (man-made) catastrophe, science journalist Pete Brannen takes us on a walk down memory lane over millions of years to examine the planet’s five mass extinctions. With paleontologists as our protagonists, “The Ends of the World” uses fossil records across the globe to autopsy our five mass extinctions and portend our future. While the topic might sound as dry as a fossilized trilobite, Brannen’s wit may leave you chuckling aloud, from Ordovician to Cretaceous — call it rock and droll.

*Justine Sullivan*

#### **9.4 Conclusion:**

Keeping the environment safe is the duty of all living beings but we humans tend to forget our responsibility. We must all act on these issues consciously and take the required steps in order to protect our environment from further damages. People must be made aware of the issues that we are facing because of the environmental issues. Kids must be taught from a very young age about how not to damage or cause harm to our environment. We must make conscious choices and select environmental friendly alternatives for our day to day life like carrying a cloth bag instead of plastic, using food waste as bio fertilizers etc. More people must be encouraged to plant trees. The issues related to the environment should be mainstreamed so that it catches many eyeballs and thus making majority of the people aware about the issues related to the environment.

#### **9.5 References:**

1. [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)
2. [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)