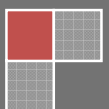




# “GLOBAL WARMING” A YOUTH RESPONSIBILITY

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## Global Warming – Youth responsibility

### **“You must be the change you wish to see in the world”**

This is a very famous quote by **Mahatma Gandhi**, the man who is so famously known as The Father of India, the man who gave us freedom from the British rule. But why are we talking about Mahatma Gandhi here? This is because the world needs a change from us, the children of mother earth to fight against global warming and to achieve the sustainability of Mother Earth. The world is getting warmer and human activity is a major cause of this. The problem is now urgent but the situation is not entirely hopeless, at least, not yet. Many people care about Global Warming, but young people, who are the next generation and they have the most at stake. Whilst many individuals and some governments are beginning to take action, experts agree that current efforts are way too feeble to solve the problem.

*There has been a 40% drop in the amount of arctic ice since the 1970s. Were this effect to spread, and the northern ice fields melt, a rise in sea levels of up to seven meters would occur. This would not simply overwhelm low-lying countries like Bangladesh, but also major western cities such as London, Rome and New York.*

*So we can very well assume that what kind of catastrophic effects Global Warming can cause. Cities, countries or even continents can be lost if we don't take our foot forward to stop this madness. But before we delve into the importance and role of young people in the fight of Global Warming let's first look at what exactly is global warming, how is it caused and its effects.*

### **GLOBAL WARMING**

The average facade temperature of the globe has augmented more than 1 degree Fahrenheit since 1900 and the speed of warming has been almost three folds the century long average since 1970. This increase in earth's average temperature is called Global warming. Based on the study on past climate shifts, notes of current situations, and computer simulations, many climate scientists say that lacking of big curbs in greenhouse gas discharges, the 21st century might see temperatures rise of about 3 to 8 degrees, climate patterns piercingly shift, ice

sheets contract and seas rise several feet. With the probable exemption of one more world war, a huge asteroid, or a fatal plague, global warming may be the only most danger to our planet earth.

## **GLOBAL WARMING CAUSES**

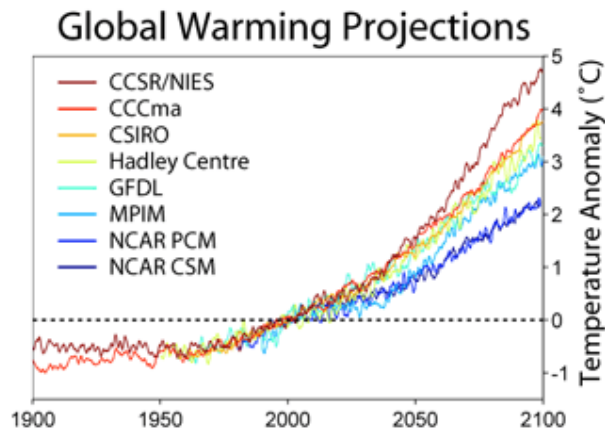
As said, the major cause of global warming is the emission of green house gases like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide etc. into the atmosphere. The major source of carbon dioxide is the power plants. About twenty percent of carbon dioxide emitted in the atmosphere comes from burning of gasoline in the engines of the vehicles. This is true for most of the developed countries.

Methane is more than 20 times as effectual as CO<sub>2</sub> at entrapping heat in the atmosphere. Methane is obtained from resources such as rice paddies, bovine flatulence, bacteria in bogs and fossil fuel manufacture. When fields are flooded, anaerobic situation build up and the organic matter in the soil decays, releasing methane to the atmosphere. The main sources of nitrous oxide include nylon and nitric acid production, cars with catalytic converters, the use of fertilizers in agriculture and the burning of organic matter. Another cause of global warming is deforestation that is caused by cutting and burning of forests for the purpose of residence and industrialization.

## **GLOBAL WARMING EFFECTS**

The effect of global warming is increasing the average temperature of the earth. A rise in earth's temperatures can in turn root to other alterations in the ecology, including an increasing sea level and modifying the quantity and pattern of rainfall. These modifications may boost the occurrence and concentration of severe climate events, such as floods, famines, heat waves, tornados, and twisters. Other consequences may comprise of higher or lower agricultural outputs, glacier melting, lesser summer stream flows, genus extinctions and rise in the ranges of disease vectors. As an effect of global warming various new diseases have emerged lately. These diseases are occurring frequently due to the increase in earth's average temperature since the bacteria can survive better in elevated temperatures and even multiply faster when the conditions are favourable. Various diseases due to Ebola, Hanta and

Machupo virus are expected due to warmer climates. The marine life is also very sensitive to the increase in temperatures. The effect of global warming will definitely be seen on some species in the water.



These are the projections done by various scientific research organizations throughout the world. By the facts we have already stated we can very well see what are the consequences we are facing and we will face due to Global Warming, this is a threat towards the existence of the human race and the youth of the world has a very huge role to play if we have to stand a chance against this nemesis.

## ROLE OF YOUTH

Young people are the future of mankind. Without a positive approach from them mankind might not survive the turbulent times. 1<sup>st</sup> of all the awareness of Global Warming needs to come at a very early age, only with this awareness they will know how dangerous Global Warming is to our planet, and that awareness will only lead them to take a strong stand against Global Warming.

Throughout the world the youth has already started taking a positive stance against Global Warming. There is an organization in the UK known as the Youth Against Climate Change, which is run by a group of young people. They have already started a campaign to close down power stations in the UK, and this can be achieved if we decrease our power consumption by following some very simple guidelines.

High school students around the world are voicing their perspectives on climate change to an international audience. The People Speak Global Debates, a contest held by the United Nations Foundation and the International Education Association, challenges young people to speak up and change the world. Each fall and spring, youth participants from more than 90 countries hone their leadership skills by participating in The Global Debates. This fall the topic was, "When it cannot do both, the United Nations should prioritize poverty reduction over combating climate change."

**"The young do not know enough to be prudent and therefore they attempt the impossible, generation after generation"**. Evidently fathomed to be adolescent but astute, reckless and yet responsible, the Youth community has hitherto been the least empathized and most disregarded of all, with every authority resting in frail, outworn hands. Not anymore. The World has now woken up to the fact that its lone savior, if there was one, is this buoyant and bounding pulse of flush, vernal energy, and not the pendulous eyelids of forlorn old-age pining in mocking echoes of long-departed youth. Today's youth is conscious of its rights, power and privileges and have a stand on everything be it the crippling inflation, political volatility, N-deal, heightened terrorism(read: Mumbai terror attacks) or even LHC's breakdown, for that matter. Issues in impact areas such as gender equality, access to education, employment prospects, health issues, civil society involvement, input into decision-making, religious tolerance and conflict resolution, all of which affect lives of the young population directly are being addressed. No wonder when the Queen calls upon the Commonwealth Nations to deliberate on boosting youth potential or when Janneh ennobles them as **'The best bequeath for the future!'**

So from the facts we have stated we can clearly see that young people are the future of India as well as the World, without them we don't stand a chance, they are the saviors of the human race. But saying that, we shouldn't pass over all the responsibilities to them and sit quietly at home. Though they are not ignorant of the mishaps throughout the world but they are ignorant of the subtleties of how our corrupted world works. They need the guiding hand and inspiration of their elders too. Devoid of their time-worn experience, rich skills and supreme vision of veterans like Dr.Kalam, they can't hope to achieve much.

So from the little examples we have stated we can easily say that youth has a huge potential to stand against Global Warming and already lots of initiatives has been taken by youths as

well by involving youths. But after doing a lot of groundwork we come to see that all the youth clubs and organizations who work for this noble cause are mostly from US and EUROPE. But in India there are hardly any such significant groups or events organized by youths. This is a major backdrop for a developing country like India which will supposedly become a superpower by 2020. India has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest population in the world and is the 5<sup>th</sup> highest carbon emitter in the world, and with the rate of growth of industries in India, we can soon become the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest carbon emitter just behind China. Looking at all these issues climate crisis is a serious event in India, but as usual we are unaware of the consequences. Nobody is willing to come forward to fight against Global Warming, hence very few definite stances has been taken. On the other hand there was a campaign against cutting of trees in Kolkata quite a few years back by school children. This shows that young people are ready to take the initiatives but at many points they also need the backing of elders in such campaigns. So our primary focus should be to initiate the awareness in youth and give them the support and their zeal and eagerness will take it from there.

## **CONCLUSION**

Coming to the end of this article, we find that there is a ray of hope for mankind in this fight against Global Warming and that hope rests on the strong shoulders of the youth of this world. And nurturing our hope and supporting them in the face of bleakness should be our main goal and motto, because in order to tackle this threat, we need active participation, zeal, enthusiasm, focused attitude, and who is better equipped with all these qualities other than the youth of this world.