



Air Pollution

As quoted by Mahatma Gandhi, "The world has enough for everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed." It is but human nature, to take things for granted, to hope and put our fate into hands of another entity. Logic goes out of the window and we cut off all scientific ties as our greed devours all sanity. One loss to mourn, is the creation of the new earth, having ravaged the old. Levitating automobiles, faster than light speed to travel, unimaginable technologies, you name it and we will acquire it in near future. But all of this is coming at the cost of extravagant use of our natural resources, the contamination of air being the most fatal of all. Pollutants that are released into the air, as opposed to land and water pollutants, are the most harmful. Air pollution in simple terms is the introduction of unhealthy particles in the earth's atmosphere, having a detrimental impact on all living beings.

Air pollution doesn't have a recent occurrence. One of the perilous forms of air contamination, smog, had claimed 8000 lives in the year 1952 at London. Rising levels of air pollution in Beijing has brought a new disease known as 'Beijing cough'. As per World Health Organisation, one-fifth of the deaths in India has been due to the pollution menace.

It's conventional wisdom that people would take to fulfilling selfish greed's than changing their attitude to conserve the environment and thus, it hasn't come as a surprise that the rate of pollution has just increased indiscriminately. The choking blanket of smog, the staggering rates of temperature increase, the inconsolable damage being done to our respiratory systems, all this and much more are hazardous possessions of air pollution. Causes of these atrocities include mainly the human activities to achieve future advancements. Then what can be done to motivate people to stop the vandalism of the atmosphere right away?

A journey of miles begins with a small step. Simple steps such as minimising the use of vehicles, using eco-friendly resource alternatives, avoiding unnecessary burning of garbage, potential use of all resources availed to us and energy conservation in general. Air pollution is turning out to be a perpetual problem because of a major setback that is, people aren't taking conscious efforts to fight back air pollution as they don't realize the full environmental and economic benefits of undisturbed air quality. By raising awareness and motivation, there is a possibility of purifying air quality upto 15%. Awareness about what is air pollution?



What does air pollution cost? What is the potential for saving? How can pollution be controlled? This can help change the widespread perception of air pollution. Motivation about why restrict pollution? What is in it for me? Why should I bother when others don't? What difference does it make? All this shall play a catalyst in the process of air purification. Many people are aware but don't have the desire to pursue control of pollution. Thus, motivation and awareness go hand in hand for educating people about keeping check on pollution levels.

Emergence of role models shall occur through awareness and these environmentalists shall induce motivation in others and ring a constant reminder for those who blatantly ignore any step taken to avoid potential problems to control air pollution. Recognition of service, efforts or achievements in fields of pollution control can have positive outcomes. It not only appreciates the participation of individuals, but also employs additional environment enthusiasts who successfully contribute to the environment.

The weaker section of the society, the poor and uneducated, might not be mindful about how vital knowledge about air pollution is in today's world. Campaigns, workshops, movements, and all other promotions can be taken make illiterate comprehend, who might be unaware of the dire consequences of air pollution and would have to lament on their decisions in future.

Unthinking and unintentional at times, our actions may affect the environment in ways we cannot fathom. We have in us the power, the potential, all we need is perseverance to resolve environmental issues. The earth is not a gift to us from our forefathers but a loan from our children. Hence, we need to make disciplined approaches to tackle issues of air pollution a habit.

By Ishitwa Chandra

Delhi Public School R.K. Puram, New Delhi