

# Problem associated with urbanization and some solutions



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It is believed that more than half of the world's population will reside in urban places in a span of about fifteen to seventeen years (International Energy Agency 2008).

Along with the positives of urbanization, there are a lot of negatives too, of those, one of them is air pollution, which is also one of the biggest problems in the world itself. Since the air quality is minimized, the air we breathe in causes problems to us, it triggers asthma and also weakens our brain, and moreover, in a long run, it also causes mortality problems.

The environment is also targeted; the air pollution damages crops, forests, animals and bodies of water. It also carries one of the major responsibilities in thinning the ozone layer and it also affects the quality of rain as water droplets mix with the pollutants in air before hitting the ground. This essay aims to create public awareness on how living beings are being affected because of this urban movement and also suggests some possible solutions along with the advantages and disadvantages they carry.

The problem with urbanization is not with people moving to cities but the large quantity of people living in one particular place, for instance Hong Kong, it has more people living per square kilometer than it can bear, which increases the demand for more infrastructure like rainwater with better road networks, more industries to fulfill the demands of high number of people and building more houses and schools.

To build all this, more fuels and natural resources are being required and as more fuel and natural resources are being used, the more waste is produced, and when you produce such high amounts of waste, the air is polluted

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(Kathy, 2011). Now, since more construction is required now, there is demand for more land and wood, which is obtained by cutting trees or forests. This is a serious threat, as trees obtain carbon dioxide and give out oxygen, they act as an air purifier, and when you cut them off and don't plant more, we lose a very easy and cheap method of improving air quality, thus making it just worse.

So deforestation doesn't just act as an indirect pollutant, but also as an indirect agent which minimizes the ways by which we could save air from getting polluted (Schaffer and Swilling, 2013).

In China the long term effects of deforestation are now being seen. It had a rapid urban growth since 1990, and in Beijing the whole month had terrible air quality except for four days. It also led to a lot of problems for people, such as many of them felt physical discomfort, while many found it difficult to breathe in.

It went to such a huge extent that from January 14th to 20th, more than 770 thousand patients were reported to be affected by some kind of disease out of which half of them had respiratory problems. According to Beijing bureau of statistics, the total population is increasing by 600,000 every year and a large number of the population consumes a large number of resources and one of them is coal, which has to be burned and that pollutes air to a very high extent (Too, Lie and Wang, 2013).

Around 1 billion people every year are being affected by urban air pollution, and it is linked to about 1 million pre-mature deaths and 1 million pre-natal deaths each year.

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It also costs around 2% of the GAP for developed economies and 5% for the developing and one of the biggest participants of air pollution are vehicles, which burn fuels to run (United Nations Environment Programmer, 2013). Steps are needed to reduce the usage of the polluting fossil fuels to counter both the long and short term effects of air pollution caused by Arbitration like in Beijing, China.

Moving to a clean source of energy is one way to minimize air pollution, an example of such energy is solar energy. It is a ready and clean choice for producing electricity, like in America, there are millions of acres of land which are being installed with solar plants which produces high amounts of electricity (Hands, M.

, 2010). Another alternative to improve environmental conditions is to use thermal energy. About 50% of the household energy usage comes from heating, cooling and ventilation, and for commercial businesses, the ratio goes for about 25%.

In this regard thermal energy is very useful.

Also, 70% of the world is covered with water, so thermal energy is a very DOD and reliable source, and technology is even increasing to make this source of energy more and more efficient. Moreover, thermal energy can be used with solar too, which is called Solar thermal energy which uses natural materials like concrete, stones and water to produce energy which is very good for environment, especially in the case of pollution (Environment, 2009). On the other hand, Solar and thermal energies carries their disadvantages too.

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Solar energy uses a lot of land space to be able to produce energy comparatively to other energy producers. Also it uses water to manufacture solar up components, and also the production of up components require high environmental damaging chemicals too. It is also very expensive to install solar panels which limits the usage of it as everyone cannot afford it.

(Kim, 2013). Moreover, thermal energy also impacts environment, it affects water and land or flora and fauna biological affect, that is how the land acquisition and flue gas emission effects habitats and the heating of water affects the local aquatic biota (Shirtwaist, 2012).

A government always takes a major part in controlling the local businesses, specially the bigger large scale businesses. For instance, in I-J, the government takes measures to protect air pollution and makes sure it is to the minimal, it has air pollution laws, air quality policy, pollution and nuisance laws and laws for using wood and coal for home heating, which helps to maintain and protect the air environment there. The government can imposes high taxes on industries who produces large amount of waste which would discourage them from doing so, or moreover can threaten them to not to do so or find a subsidy for it.

They can also an CEO-friendly environment which could attract more industries to be CEO-friendly Hart, 2008).

But, then again, it is always argued that government don't use the taxes charged for polluting the environment on developing it, they are taxes and goes for the welfare of people and not protecting the environment (Don, Knee and Gilbert, 2001). A government can also build good quality and <https://assignbuster.com/problem-associated-with-urbanization-and-some-sollutions/>

affordable metro-train system, which can be used for traveling as vehicles are one of the major air pollutants and can limited the number of vehicles which can be owned by one family.

They can also encourage the use of natural gas in industries and households rather than other eels as they are more CEO-friendly, it doesn't leave behind any smoke ash or smell when it is burned, and is more efficient at house hold, as they burn instantly and no preheating is required and lastly, non-profit organizations may be given authority to monitor environmental standards and the maintenance of heavy oil burners which produces large amount of pollution (Blackouts et al 2011).

The problems that are faced while using natural gas is that there is no doubt it is much more CEO-friendly than others, but extraction of natural gas is leaving large craters within the earth and hen the gas is extracted, the pressure of the soil can cause the ground to sink or collapse, also gas is combustibile and can be explosive, so it needs to be taken with a lot of care, and if even by mistake, you inhale it, it can cause serious health conditions, even death (Seller, 2011).

While the government has to decide the yearly budget so they can develop its economy, they have limited budget to focus on green environment and have to look after all other welfare too.

Logically, it is we, human beings who for their luxury pollute the environment, move to urban places for better lifestyle and don't think about our future. Lessons should be learned from China, how the people in Beijing

are being affected now because of the urban air issues and move towards a CEO-friendly approach.

A government is also a very influential organization, which can control industries and can emphasize on planting trees more and not cutting them, or at least to plant more if they want to cut them, the green in the rural side can help to cut pollution as plants act as filters for air and absorbs carbon dioxide (Schaffer and Swilling, 2013).