

Humankind's Impact on Nature



Nature is a miracle that we depend on. Nature is what enables us to lead the happy and peaceful lives that we are living in right now. However, a majority of our population fails to accept this fact. They believe that they lead their lives due to their own merits. But little do they know that Mother Earth also has a heart and feelings just like any one of us. With our unprecedented and rising population growth, Mother Earth is reaching its saturation point where it will no longer be able to provide for such a population. She makes efforts to scale down our population by releasing new diseases with hopes that we, as intelligent and superior beings will learn how our endeavours to make our life better is indirectly making it worse by harming the environment around us.

The Black Plague hit Europe in mid-1300s wiping out a third of its population. Immediately after that, Europe was ushered into the renaissance which broadened the minds of humans and they were able to spread ideas amongst themselves. These ideas also helped spread knowledge about the growing

crisis of environmental depletion. Similarly, the COVID-19 pandemic may be another one of Mother Nature's attempts to make us learn. The population growth has slowed down due to this current pandemic, thereby flattening its steep curve. It's not Mother Nature's intention to wipe out our entire race, it's just to make us learn how much we affect the one who sustains our growth. It will be some time before we manage to eradicate this virus, but instead of cursing our bad luck, we must use this as an opportunity to make ourselves better humans.

Our minds are constantly growing and delving into the depths of various fields like technology, genetics, science, mathematics, astronomy, quantum physics, and many more. However, I fail to see much improvement in the environment. Rather than using our enhanced knowledge for the benefit of all, we are using it only to benefit our own lives at the cost of the environment. Many young people like Greta Thunberg try to amplify the cry of the Earth but most of it falls on deaf ears. The world leaders make groups like the International Panel on Climate Change and show that they are making efforts to save the environment, very few of their policies actually have a lasting effect.

The task of saving the environment should not be burdened only on the shoulders of our leaders, but all of us should make a combined effort to save the environment. As environmentalists make their voices heard in all sorts of media we say at the time, "Wow, we really should help make our Earth a better place to be in." A second later, we just move on to the next big thing on the news. These people try to go by Gandhi's words, "Be the change that you want to see in the world.", but one can't expect them to accomplish this huge mission, that has been there for many years, all on their own. It's like asking an ant to bring food for its entire colony. Just like how ants work together for the benefit of their entire colony, we must all strive to help everyone in the world because after all we are our own colony.

It is our own selfish passions that blind us from seeing the bigger picture. We close our ears to the feeble voices of the few selfless people in the world who endeavour to make our Earth a better place to live in rather than help broadcast their efforts to everyone. We all want what is better for our future

generations don't we? But our greedy pursuits over this once bountiful land only guarantees that there will be nothing left for our children to live on. We all fend for ourselves, but we never even pause to think how much more we can accomplish by doing things together. Schools teach children about the value of teamwork, but we fail to realise that we must lead by example and only then will others follow. By working side by side we can move mountains.

Space exploration tries to go further by thinking of ways to colonise Mars. But why go to another planet when we have everything we want right here. We try to enhance our foresight by looking ahead of us, but by doing so we miss what is right in front of our eyes. Rather than investing in a new planet, we can use that money to save our own planet. If we can dream of such big things, there is nothing that can stop us from accomplishing what really matters in the present. So, I sincerely request you all to pause just for a minute, and think of ways by which you can save our planet. All you need is a small contribution from your side to save the Earth because everything big has small beginnings.

