Impact of Covid-19 pandemic lockdown on environmental scenario

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Abstract

The rapid global spread of the Covid-19 epidemic may have killed millions of people. In this period of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, the planet earth is undoubtedly a calmer place. Although greenhouse gas emissions were declined, but the excessive amount of CO_2 that we had pumped into the atmosphere for decades will not go away in months of lockdown. This little break merely served to provide a glimpse of how poor we have lived our lives so far and how it can be better without disturbing the nature. Several studies explored Covid-19 has both beneficial and bad indirect impacts on the environment. The shutdown of India's industrial sector during the pandemic period also prevented or minimized the discharge of industrial trash, which resulted in a notable improvement in the purity of rivers (e.g. Ganga and Yamuna River). It has been observed that the closure of transportation and industries during a lockdown phase in India results in a 50% reduction of dangerous gases like N_2O and CO. 96% of air traffic decreased as a result of the nationwide lockdown, which significantly reduced the usage of fossil fuels and helped the country combat against climate change.

Keywords: Global, Pandemic, Emissions, Discharge, Climate change

Over the past several decades, nature is being at the top of the global agenda. People are exploiting natural resources with hazardous substances released from urban, agricultural and domestic waste. The harmful use of pesticides called DDT, which poisoned rivers and damaged the eggs of birds (bald eagles), was explicitly mentioned in Rachel Carson's book Silent Spring (Carson, 1963). There was no Environmental Laws and Acts till the first celebration of Earth Day on April 22, 1970. India was the focus of environmental assessment studies conducted by World Bank professionals, and between 1995 and 2010, it made the most rapid progress in addressing environmental challenges. In India, several environmental laws have been introduced, including the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974, the Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act in 1986. India still needs to improve its environmental quality significantly.

The rapid global spread of the Covid-19 epidemic may have killed millions of people. In this period of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, the planet earth is undoubtedly a calmer place. Little things, hadn't seen in years are back like going to bed with the sound of crickets vibrate through your window and waking up listening to orchestra of squirrels, crows, and bulbuls, sunbirds hovering around the pomegranate flowers, checking out the dried leaves in the backyard.

Although greenhouse gas emissions were declined, but the excessive amount of CO_2 that we had pumped into the atmosphere for decades will not go away in months of

lockdown (Kerimray *et al*., 2020; Li *et al*., 2020; Lokhandwala and Gautam, 2020). This little break merely served to provide a glimpse of how poor we have lived our lives so far and how it can be better without disturbing the nature. Several studies explored Covid-19 has both beneficial and bad indirect impacts on the environment.

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On the other hand, there were also negative consequences shown in the environment. During the COVID-19 epidemic, there is a notion that nature is "taking a break" from humans. Rather, people who lost their jobs in cities are moving back to their rural homes, which add to the strain on natural resources, territorial expansion, deforestation are putting more stress on many rural areas in the tropics. Since ecotourism is regarded as the main source of the economy, its abrupt closure has pushed up unemployment rates. Global production of medical waste surged during the Covid-19 pandemic. Lack of understanding causes most people to discard safety masks, hand gloves, and other items in public, which directly contributes to pollution of the air, water, and land. Additionally diverse protected areas, such as natural parks, , wildlife sanctuaries, etc., were also left under observation because the people who worked there were confined to their houses which leads to illicit logging, fishing, and hunting of wildlife.

It's important to realize that Covid-19 serves as a reminder of the interactions between people and the environment. Since risks to mother earth and its ecosystem, include pollution, climate change, habitat loss and illegal trafficking so, we must address these issues in order to stop future outbreaks.

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