



EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENT ON THE WELLNESS OF SOCIETY: THE (TRADE, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT) IMPACT STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Air, water, soil, plants, animals, birds, insects and humans – all these together make environment. The study of relation between every creature of this planet with environment and its constituents is called as ecology. The development of any nation and community depends upon this interaction. Man has an important place in environment. He occupies central position in environment as he can misuse or properly use it. The main concern of today is that the interaction between the human beings and surroundings is going as the way as it supposed to be. It's not the other creature which is contributing in creating concern but it's the community of human beings creating threats for the environment and for itself. Wellness of society depends on the wellness on environment. The present paper focuses how the environment affects the wellness of society. It also covers the case study of THE impact study which states how the whole community came together to save the environment.

Keywords: Environment, Community, Society, Wellness, THE impact study, People.

INTRODUCTION

“Nature has capacity to fulfill needs of all but does not have capacity to fulfill greed of anyone” - Mahatma Gandhi

Before writing about this paper, there are certain questions which I require to ask me and to the community.

- Do I reuse and recycle?
- Am I concerned about environment after knowing

about the cases of severe air pollution in Beizing and New Delhi?

- Do I volunteer time to think about saving environment?
- Am I aware about my surroundings all time?

For being a social worker too, I can answer to yes about the above questions. But, most of the people cannot bother to think about these questions. The



wellness of surroundings and environment involves the process of understanding the dynamic relationship between the society and the environment. We are surrounded by environment, components and people. Every person has ability to make a positive or negative environment on society. That positive or negative impact affects the quality of our environment, be it our homes, communities, country or planet. The wellness of community largely depends on the behaviour of the people who live in it. There are many factors which affect the health and wellness in which they live, learn, work and play. The support of each and every sector is required to make the choices for healthy environment. The support of community and healthy choices gives clean air, clean water, secure housing, safe surrounding, sustainable neighbourhoods, and supportive community.

ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENT

The impact of environment cannot be avoided and undermined. There are various

factors which affect the environment and ultimately after affecting it reached to us. Environment that impact our health and wellness includes -

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT: Social environment refers to that environment where people interact with others, institutions, organisations and with its surroundings also. It includes interaction with social media, social norms, customs, traditions and personal interaction.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: Natural environment refers to that environment where the human being interacts with air, water and soil. It is that environment where we are surrounded by nature. Our interaction with this environment depends on the approach of human being with nature.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT: Built environment refers to that part of environment which is made and created by human beings. It is a material surroundings built by human beings. Human labour, creativity and energy are being



utilized to create this kind of environment.

THE (Trade, Health, Environment) IMPACT STUDY

THE impact study is a perfect example of how community participation is important for the wellness of society. In Southern California, the community groups reached to and had a partnership with University of Southern California (USC) programs to decrease the level of air pollution in their area. This partnership was done to find healthy solutions for the communities who are impacted with the high levels of air pollution.

The people who are living in the region of Southern California ports was affected by asthma, heart disease, pregnant women, and children's lung development because more than 40 percent of the nation's imports come through the southern California Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and are transported by trains and trucks throughout the country. This concentrated area of goods movements creates high level of air pollution. In that regard, academic

and community groups came together to address this problem.

The partnership includes the USC Community Outreach and Engagement Programs for the Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center and the Children's Environmental Health Center, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, Coalition for a Safe Environment, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, and the Urban and Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College.

The project played an important role in creating a positive impact for the environment, community and people by combining science, community research and the inputs were taken from the people directly.

It included following efforts and steps like –

1. Measurement of level of air pollution.



2. Measurement of distance between the source of pollution and locality, schools, public places etc.
3. Evaluation and counting traffic volumes
4. Reporting data to community and officials
5. Participation in public hearings

OUTCOME OF THE IMPACT STUDY

1. **Successful in creating community involvement:** THE impact study has achieved success and milestone in creating community involvement. The people understand the utility of their participation in saving environment.
2. **Changing the regulatory framework and policy:** THE impact study through their policy and plans changed the regulatory framework and policy of their area. They achieved this milestone because the thing which they were doing was generating results to save the environment.

3. **Leadership engagement:** In this effort, in fact the whole community was leader. They were the one who were taking initiative to create a framework for the proper implementation of their programme.

4. **National Movement:** THE Impact project is considered as a national movement in Southern California. The community of other parts of their country has started following the policies framed by this group to curb the pollution.

5. **A Great Revolution:** It is in fact considered a green revolution where the people from different culture along with the group come together to save the environment to bring down the level of air pollution.

THE Impact Project successfully increased community and policymaker awareness of the negative impacts of diesel truck and locomotive air pollution by



conducting and disseminating research.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following suggestions can be recommended for the wellness of community –

1. Community should work together to improve the quality of air, land and water. The example of Delhi's pollution is of recent one where Government took the decision to close schools for several days to save the children from the pollution.
2. The community should promote and design an affordable, accessible, safe and healthy housing as a part of sustainable development.
3. A good workforce constitutes the asset of any country. A strong workforce is an outcome of community wellness. There must be a maintenance, training and development of workforce as far as the consideration of environment is also concerned.
4. By strengthening Public Health Departments at Local, State or National level will give access to essential services to the public at the right time and at the right place. It is a most important part of community wellness.
5. There must be cross- sector and cross-country collaboration in community wellness programme to promote health, safety and welfare of the society.
6. Integrated data systems and use of information technology can promote the sharing and exchanging data. It can help in building a strong database to conduct research for future on that area which are still untouched and require lots of work.
7. Community participation is an essence of the programme of community wellness. A well informed and active citizen helps country to achieve its environmental goals.



CONCLUSION

The development of any nation and community depends upon this interaction. Man has an important place in environment. The environment affects the wellness of society. Every person has ability to make a positive or negative environment on society. The support of each and every sector is required to make the choices for healthy environment.

THE impact study is a perfect example of how community participation is important for the wellness of society in Southern California. Participation of each and every person is required to achieve the wellness of whole community.

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