



GLOBAL WARMING: THE ONGOING THREAT

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As a 21st-century kid, I would like to throw light on Global Warming, something that has been taken for granted for a while now. Younger youth are often taught in their textbooks about Sustainable Development and Global Warming. But are we taking action upon them? The answer, sadly, is no. Unfortunately, no one cares to talk about it anymore. We often get the thought "if no one else is taking any action, why should I?"

And that's exactly where the problem begins. Here in, I would discuss global warming, its ongoing impact, and what we can do at our personal level to make a real difference.

As we have approached summer, the scorching heat is breaking records year after year. Every other day, we see Red Alerts flashing on news channels and social media notifications about how dangerously high the temperatures have become. The heat is unbearable, and naturally, to overcome the drenching sweat and suffocating air, most of us turn to air conditioning. Air Conditioners are running almost 90% of the day in many households, malls, offices, and public spaces.

But if we pause for a moment and reflect on why the temperatures have risen so dramatically in recent years, we would be sensible enough to recognize the cause and work towards reducing it. Instead, ironically, we end up contributing further to the problem. The basics, which we all are taught in school, clearly state that one of the primary reasons for this unbearable heat is the depleting ozone layer, allowing harmful UV rays to pierce through and heat the Earth's surface.

This depletion isn't accidental. It is driven by human activities like burning fossil fuels for electricity and transportation, cutting down forests, manufacturing without sustainable checks, and releasing greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide into the atmosphere. These gases trap heat, causing what we know as the greenhouse effect, leading to global warming.

To put things in perspective, carbon dioxide levels are now 50% higher than pre-industrial levels and the highest they've been in at least 800,000 years. That's not a small statistic it's a glaring warning. 1.2 trillion tons of ice are lost each year, with a staggering 28 trillion tons

gone since the mid-1990s.

If we continue on this path, according to climate experts, global warming could reach between 1.0–1.8°C under a very low emissions scenario to a terrifying 3.3–5.7°C under a very high emissions scenario by 2100.

Now, the question is — what can we do?

The answer lies in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a sustainable, low-carbon economy. This sounds big and complicated, but change can start small — from each one of us. At a global level, this involves shifting towards renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower, improving energy efficiency in buildings and industries, adopting eco-friendly transportation options like cycling, electric vehicles, and public transport, and promoting responsible consumption and production habits.

Additionally, protecting and restoring natural ecosystems like forests and wetlands is crucial because they act as natural carbon sinks, absorbing vast amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Implementing carbon taxes or cap-and-trade systems can also motivate industries and governments to take emission reduction seriously.

But beyond policy and international agreements, there's immense power in individual action.

Simple habits like switching off appliances when not in use, reducing plastic consumption, planting trees, supporting local and sustainable products, conserving water, and spreading awareness can collectively make a massive impact. Encouraging schools, colleges, and communities to engage in climate action programs can further amplify these efforts.

Because as the famous quote says — "The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

If we continue to think that the environment is someone else's responsibility, we'll soon be left counting money in a world where we can't breathe, where seasons blur into extremes, and where natural disasters become a daily affair.

In case you think the environment is less important than the economy, try holding your breath while you count your money. It won't take long to realize what truly matters.

It's time we stop seeing climate change as someone else's problem and start acting — not tomorrow, not next year, but right now.

