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Aspects of Global Warming

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Aspects of Global Warming

According to Sir Isaac Newton, for every action, there is a reaction. The world today is faced with a lot of impacts that have emanated from perpetual inconsiderate human actions. Human beings have relentlessly continued to disregard our planet's well-being by our efforts, and now they are reaping what they sew. This is about global warming and how individuals are to blame for the harsh climatic conditions the world is experiencing. As we have heard, many politicians and policymakers say before global warming has led to climate change, which is the most severe problem the world is currently facing. Global warming has had an impact on social, cultural, economic, and even ethical norms. This paper aims to highlight the social and ethical aspects of the menace that is global warming.

One of the social aspects experienced from global warming is the impact on food systems (McLaughlin, 2019). High temperatures that are always on the rise are extreme weather conditions that put severe pressure on the availability, stability, and accessibility to food because agricultural products are affected directly by climatic changes that impact crop yields, soil fertility, and soil water-retention properties.

Water is another feature impacted by global warming. Global warming is already causing severe water shortages globally, such as the recent droughts in Brazil and Kenya. When water resources are affected, the strain cuts across other social issues affiliated with water, such as food supply, health, and industrial sectors, are also affected. Normally, glaciers are the most affected water resources. Snow accumulates and collects itself over the years to form glaciers. Due to climatic changes, glacial melting has become a frequent occurrence, while, on the other hand, the source is not being replenished (Yildiz et al., 2018). It has been projected that by 2050 more than one billion people will be affected by freshwater shortages in the Asian region.

The last social aspect of global warming has an impact on is health. By causing changes in the air, water, food, ecosystems, livelihoods, and infrastructure, global warming indirectly affects human health. Changing weather patterns have a direct impact on a person's health. Notably, the World Health Organization has attributed to more than 140000 deaths from the 1970s to the rising temperatures and unpredictable precipitation and other 60000 deaths weather-related disasters (Yildiz et al., 2018).

Greenhouse gas emissions are the primary cause of global warming, and over the years, countries from all over the world have contributed a certain percentage to the emissions that have led us to where we are today. The ethical thing to do to avoid the catastrophic impact being approached would be to limit the levels of global emissions (Alvim et al., 2020). Specifically, the most apparent ethical proposal would be to determine acceptable amounts of emissions and then divide it equally among the world's population, but this would appear to be unfair to countries which have emitted the least in the past and whose emissions levels continue to be relatively low which can thwart the efforts of global cooperation. Another ethical approach of allocating emissions rights is by allowing minimum emissions that are only necessary for the survival of the people in a particular region, "subsistence emissions (McLaughlin, 2019)." But the dilemma of this notion is determining what counts as subsistence emission? What does a specific society find indispensable to survive?

In conclusion, when it comes to ethical actions whenever global warming is concerned, our theoretical tools appear to be underdeveloped, like international justice and scientific uncertainties. This is one area where more work remains to be done.

References

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