

## Urban Environmental Pollution & Pollution Reduction Measures for a Healthy Society - Need For Raising Universal Awareness

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**Abstract:** This paper examines the issues relating to urban environmental pollution & its impact on healthy living. The catastrophic effect of unplanned urbanization has become a key factor in urban health related issues over congestion, locked up residences, walled cities, overcrowding of transport & commutation, over loading of garbage waste, endlessly jamming transport, have made urban living most dangerous. Urban centers are viewed as vulnerable places of cheating, looting, women harassment, robbery & all types of unethical behavior. Urban centers have shown an escalating number of brothels, old age homes, orphanages, drug rackets, bars, casinos, & such other anti-social activity centers. An unreliable urban living is directly influencing the health, living styles & livelihood options of millions of people. As urban centered migration is increasing villages are becoming isolated & secluded. An aware community can afford strategies towards consciousness creation about environment pollution & keep the society healthy.

**Keywords:** urban environment pollution, community role, challenges, universal awareness

### I. Introduction

Urban and rural residents face dissimilar environmental health risks, however, evidence demonstrates that both environments are systematically linked. The impacts of global warming are already apparent today in melting glaciers, increased frequency of extreme weather events such as droughts, cyclones or heavy rain falls, sea level rise, and changes in plant growth affecting agriculture and food production. These and other observed changes are expected to intensify and inflict a significant impact on human societies and the environment around the world especially if no drastic efforts are undertaken to reduce the emissions of GHGs into the atmosphere. Urbanites face pollution varying to

1.	Air pollution
2.	Light pollution
3.	Noise pollution
4.	Plastic pollution
5.	Sanitary waste pollution
6.	Soil pollution
7.	Thermal pollution
8.	Visual pollution
9.	Water pollution

urban environment is being polluted with all the above reasons as it is a mixture of Arsenic, Black carbon, Formaldehyde, Nickel, Nitrogen oxide and Sulphur dioxide. As pollen counts are growing asthma attacks are increasing, heat waves are adding to the increase in respiratory ailments. Nearly 25-50 thousand people are suffering from air pollution related problems. The number of early deaths caused by toxic air exceeding & in 2013-2014 it had reached 60 lakh.

Deaths caused due to toxic air	2013-2014	2014-2015
	60 lakh	82 lakh

India has recorded a nearly 50% increase in premature deaths linked to airborne particles known as PM2.5 between 1990-2015. India now surpasses Beijing with highest number of PM2.5 particle concentration. Delhi has 20 million people while there are 10 million vehicles running.

Pollution is created by

1. Industries
2. Agricultural waste burning
3. Kitchen fuel
4. Motor cars & other vehicles
5. Domestic waste burning

6. Garbage burning
7. The burning of combustible materials

Several researches have showed that there is a need to leverage health care sector to raise universal awareness on urban pollution reduction measures. At the same time, there is a need to enhance the capacity and efficiency of the health care sector towards addressing adverse health impact through holding awareness sessions, trainings, orientations, feedback sessions etc at regular intervals. All urbanites need to know the importance of national & global guidelines on urban pollution reduction measures.

**Monitoring by government mechanism-**

All levels of administration including local , regional , national & global level need to prioritize stringent measures to implement policies towards reducing pollution. Local media can support the cause of raising awareness on pollution reduction through ads& programmes.

**Urbanites are demanding severe measures towards**

1.	Developing park & ride facilities as found in Singapore
2.	Extending metro rail services in sub urban centers & making people use public transport instead of private cars
3.	Extension of separate parking zones for residents & checking at regular intervals
4.	Improving bus transportation pollution test levels & fining the faults
5.	Improving cycle zones / infrastructure for separate cyclists path way as in Japan & Australia
6.	Increasing the frequency of public transport bus & reduction the ticket prices for public buses
7.	Insertion of CCTVs to monitor road conditions & regular monitoring of the CCTV functioning
8.	New measures for residents to extended parking areas & building surrounded by small park path
9.	Optimizing traffic light management or digitalizing the entire process
10.	Stricter enforcement of traffic laws & punishing them with fines or green taxes

Besides towards healthy environment creation , the community plays an important role.

1. The community needs to create awareness among people to protect forest cover Adequate forest cover is essential for maintaining the quality of air As trees absorbs carbon dioxide & release oxygen.
2. The community needs to create awareness among people to protect green belts . Community can develop green belts around densely populated cities.
3. There should be strict restriction about raising sky scrapper buildings Urban community should strictly avoid establishment of new industries.
4. The community needs to create awareness among people to know automobile engines & redesigning them
5. Community needs to encourage people who share cars , who share transport facilities, or who wished to join hands towards lessening use of automobiles.
6. The community needs to create awareness among people to get their vehicles tested for emission .
7. Use of railway steam engine should be stopped completely . The burning of combustible materials such as coal produces poisonous gases that are released into the air. Electric engines should be used instead of steam or diesel engines.
8. Pollution management and environmental health are important issues for both urban and rural development. Building inclusive and resilient cities requires the provision of pollution management infrastructure and services, like solid waste collection and air quality management, for rapidly growing urban populations. Sustainable rural development requires strong regulatory frameworks to reduce exposure to hazardous waste materials, like mining and e-wastes, and effective systems to minimize health hazards of pesticide and fertilizer, especially as agricultural production increases and intensifies.
9. The community can create awareness on population control , migration to urban suburbs, commutation pooling , planting trees , reducing construction activity , containing industrial establishments' etc. This can be done through all stake holders of the community. NGOs & non-profit organization will join hands with the community .
10. As the World Bank's simultaneous approach to urban and rural environmental health provides a powerful platform to develop effective solutions to pollution management local governments need to come up with strategies towards strengthening legislative interventions.

**II. Conclusion**

Thus there is a need to expand knowledge base in impact of air pollution on health especially for children & elderly people. There is a dire need to regular monitoring of deviating health trends on various urban localities such as industries, educational Institutions, offices, etc. There is a need to leverage health care

sector to raise universal awareness on urban pollution reduction measures. At the same time, there is a need to enhance the capacity and efficiency of the health care sector towards addressing adverse health impact through holding awareness sessions, trainings, orientations, feedback sessions etc at regular intervals . All urbanites need to know the importance of national & global guidelines on urban pollution reduction measures. All levels of administration including local , regional , national & global level need to prioritize stringent measures to implement policies towards reducing pollution. Local media can support the cause of raising awareness on pollution reduction through ads& programmes. There are talks of introducing green taxes as in western countries also known as eco / environment / pollution taxes as excise taxes to goods creating pollution or pollutants . This strategy would help to reduce & create awareness of pollution & help them to create a sustainable environment .

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