Impacts of Deforestation

Institution Affiliation

Date

Deforestation has been on the increase over the years across the globe. Deforestation negatively impacts nature and animals. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) shows an annual estimate of trees cutting to be over one million km2 per decade.

**Causes of Deforestation**

Human activities contribute to over 75 percent of deforestation globally. Subsistence agriculture takes around 33 percent, according to FAO in developing countries. Commercial agriculture contributes about forty percent to the cutting of trees for food growing or biofuels. Livestock contributes to world deforestation of around fourteen percent.

  Globally, fifteen percent of the loss of forests is as a result of new constructions. The improvement and construction of new infrastructures result in the cutting of trees for creating space. Urbanization is also causing deforestation. According to FAO, five percent of the cutting of trees results from the movement of people to urban areas necessitating the expansion of buildings for adequate housing. By 2050, it is estimated that over 65 percent of people in the world will be living in urban areas, leading to more loss of forests.

The natural causes also contribute to world deforestation. Incidences of fires, parasite attacks, hurricanes, floods, and parasites are natural causes of the loss of forests in the world. Both natural and human actions impact the environment.

**Impacts of Deforestation on the Environment**

Deforestation threatens biodiversity. Forests protect the variety of plant and animal habitats. The cutting of trees destroys eighty percent of animals which provides shelter and food for their survival. The loss of forests results in their extinction from the planet due to natural imbalances in the ecosystem.

 Deforestation impact local people and their livelihoods. Globally, over one billion livelihoods are supported by forests, with one billion people from developing countries in the world. People use woods for hunting and gathering natural products for their small-scale subsistence farming. In developing countries where the tenure systems are weak, large-scale farmers access the lands disrupting the local people's lives.

Cutting of trees results in soil erosion leading to food insecurity. Forest have soils rich in organic matter and can resist soil erosion and extreme weather events. Roots fix trees firmly in the ground and block the direct sun helping the earth dry out slowly. Tree cutting weakens the soil resulting in natural disasters such as floods and landslides.

Climate change is another effect of deforestation. Trees absorb and store carbon dioxide. The cutting down of trees results in the mass release of carbon dioxide. Deforestation reduces the ability of the earth to capture and store CO2. The failure to absorb and store carbon dioxide contributes to the greenhouse effect and change of climate. Deforestation contributes between ten and fifteen percent of all gas emissions.

In conclusion, the effect of deforestation has a significant impact on the environment. Human activities and natural disasters contribute to the loss of forests. The increased cases of deforestation leading to climate change, extinction of species due to natural imbalance, food insecurity, among other effects, will continue to be witnessed across the globe.