

EDITORIAL

WORLD HEALTH DAY 2008 : PROTECTING HEALTH FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

World Health Day on 7th April, marks the founding of the World Health Organization and is an opportunity to draw world wide attention to a subject of major importance to global health each year. In 2008, World Health Day focuses on the need to protect health from the adverse effects of climate change.

The theme "Protecting health from climate change" puts health at the centre of the global dialogue about climate change. WHO selected the theme in recognition that climate change is posing ever growing threats to global public health security.

- Strengthening surveillance and control of infections.
- Ensuring safer use of diminishing water supplies and coordinating health action in emergencies.

Aims and Objective of World Health Day 2008 :

This is an opportunity for the International agencies, NGOs and Government as well as WHO to :-

- Establish links between climate change and health and other development areas such as environment, food, energy and transport.
- Hold events/activities in countries to publicize issues related to the impact of climate change on health.
- Involve as wide a spectrum of the world population as possible in efforts to stabilize climate change.

Great advocacy campaigns for

generating momentum that compels government, the international community, civil society and individuals to take action.

Protect poor and vulnerable population from the effect of climate change, especially in Africa.

Goals for World Health Day 2008 :

- Raise awareness and public under-standing of the global and locally relevant health consequences of climate change.
- Advocate for inter disciplinary and intersectoral partnerships from the local to international level through development of proactive adaptation programmes to minimize health impacts.
- Generate effective actions by local communities, organization, health system and governments to reduce the impact of climate change on health through urgent application of mitigation and adaptation techniques.
- Demonstrate the health community's role in phasing the challenges globally and in regions, countries and communities.
- Spark commitment and action among government, international organization donors, civil society, business and communities especially among young people to anchor health at the heart of climate change agenda.

Climate Change : an issue for the health sector

Health hazards from climate change are

diverse and global in nature. The hazards range from higher risks of extreme weather events to change in the dynamics of infectious diseases, many of the leading killer diseases are sensitive to climate conditions, their incidence and spread are likely to be affected by changing weather patterns.

The health impacts of climate change are already evident in different ways.

More people are dying from excessive heat than before, changes are occurring in the incidence of vector-borne diseases and the pattern of natural disasters is altering. These impacts will be disproportionately greater in vulnerable populations, which include the very young, elderly, medically infirm, poor and isolated population.

Vulnerability is also High in :

- Area with a high endemicity of climate sensitive diseases, severe water scarcity and low food production.
- Small island developing states and mountainous regions.
- Mega cities and coastal areas in developing countries.

Actions needed to be taken now :

The health impacts of climate changes will be difficult to reverse in a few years or decades. Yet many of these possible impacts can be avoided or controlled. There are established steps in health and related sectors to reduce the exposure to and the effect of changing climate. For example, controlling disease vectors, reducing pollution from transport and efficient land use and water management are well known and tested measures that can help. Moreover, many of the steps needed to prevent climate change have positive health benefits for example increased use of bicycles and public transport instead of personal cars in

industrialized countries will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It will also improve air quality and lead to better respiratory health and fewer premature deaths. The increase in physical activity from cycling and walking will lead to less obesity and fewer obesity-related illnesses. The sooner these steps are taken, the greater their impact will be on public health.

Global Warming :

Most of the warming in last 50 Years → human activity → altered chemical composition of atmosphere → greenhouse gases → heat trapping → global warming.

Our Changing Atmosphere :

Energy from sun → heats the earth surface → radiates back into the space → Trapping of energy → by greenhouse gases → retention of heat temp 60°F.

Problems arise when atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases increases.

Green House Gases :

CO₂- Burning of solid waste
Fossil fuel (oil, natural gas, Coal).

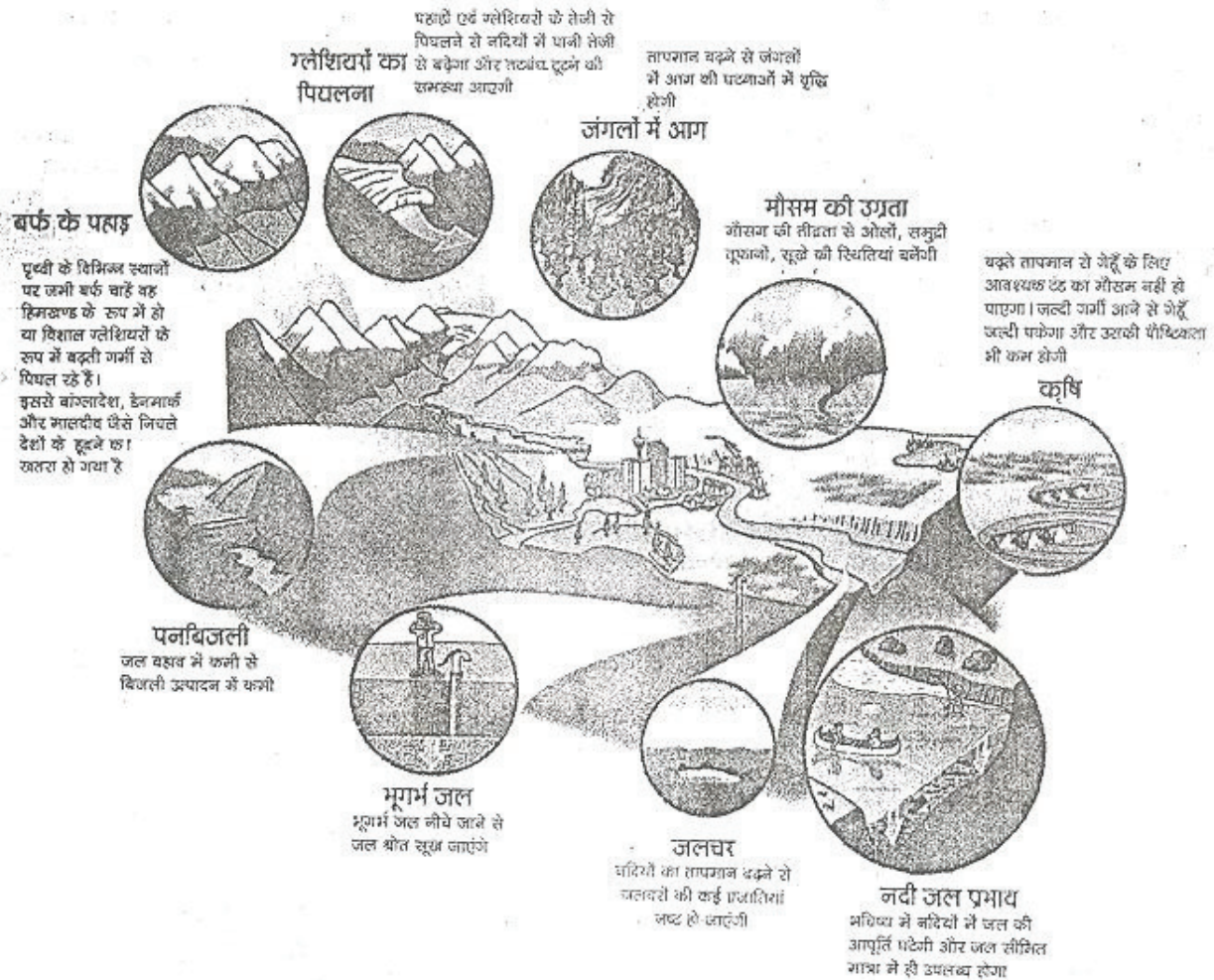
CH₄- Production and transport of coal, natural gas and oil, decomposition of organic waste in municipal solid waste landfills.

NO₂- During agricultural activities and combustion of solid waste and fossil fuel.

Why Green House Gases Concentration Increasing ?

- Human activities - Fossil fuels burned to run cars, trucks, heat homes and market and power factories.
- Increased agriculture.
- Deforestation.
- Landfills.
- Industrial Production.
- Mining.

ग्लोबल वार्मिंग के दुष्परिणाम



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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are thankful to all of you to entrust us in General body meeting of IAPSM (UP Chapter) on 30th Nov. 2007 at R.I.M.S.R. Safai (Etawah) to continue the publication of Indian Journal of Community Health from Deptt. of Community Medicine, G.S.V.M. Medical College, Kanpur, in the presence of Dr. Deoki Nandan (NIHFW, New Delhi), Dr. V. K. Srivastava (President), Dr. Udai Mohan (Secretary), Dr. C.M. Singh (Organising Secretary), Dr. M. Dabral (Jhansi), Dr. S.K. Garg (Meerut), Dr. C.P. Misra (BHU, Varanasi), Dr. N. Khalique (AMU, Aligarh) and other faculty members of Community Medicine of different Institutions.

The faculty members of Department of Community Medicine, G.S.V.M. Medical College, Kanpur present in the Meeting - Dr. S.C. Saxena, Dr. R.P. Sharma, Dr. Suresh Chandra, Dr. D.S. Martolia and Dr. Vijai Kumar Chaudhary collectively have assured the House to fulfil their commitment for regular publication & distribution of Indian Journal of Community Health.

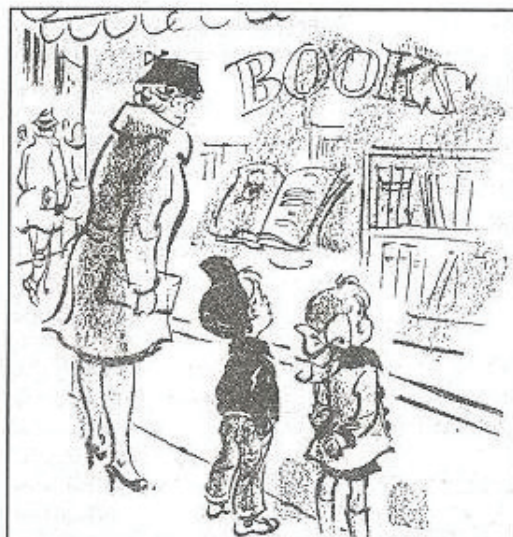
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CHILDHOOD QUERIES



"Dad, you're always correcting my grammar. But when we met them, you said 'Hi, folks-long time no see!'"

George Clark. "The Neighbors." Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate, May 6, 1967. Used by permission.



"They're for people who don't have TV."

George Clark. "The Neighbors." Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate, Nov. 6, 1971. Used by permission.

