

COVID 19 Corona – Pathway to Environmental Rejuvenation

Saurabh Hanjagi

Environmental Science, St. Joseph's College, Bengaluru

Corresponding author

Saurabh Hanjagi, Environmental Science, St. Joseph College, Bengaluru.
Email: saurabhhanjagi@gmail.com

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Coronavirus also known as COVID 19 or SARS N-CoV2 is a recent virus outbreak and pandemic in nature infecting and spreading among humans all around the earth. Since it's a communicable disease it's considered to be most dangerous in terms of spread regardless of its mortality rate. However, World Health Organization (WHO) has given guidelines to overcome the spread of the pandemic and at the same time, all the nations have followed serious actions and procedures by way of social distancing, lockdown, home quarantine etc. to curb the spread and to curtail the virus. The lockdown has stopped human activities and paralysed economic conditions but environmental rejuvenation is taking place at a great speed.

Environmental Observation made during the World Lockdown:

During lockdown, worldwide factories have withdrawn from work, industries stopped emitting effluents to the air and water, vehicles discontinued moving, and most of the world's population quarantined themselves at home which resulted in an unbelievable transformation in the environment around us. Some of the examples are:

1. Metropolitan cities all over the world like Delhi, New York, Beijing, Paris, London, Mumbai, Tokyo, Berlin, Milan, London, Sydney etc, have witnessed drastic reduction in the air pollution levels.
2. Greenhouse and noxious gases have been reduced significantly by shutting of the factories and non-movement of vehicles around the world that resulting in less dense air and particulate matter.
3. In contrast to this there have been observances of wild animals wandering the empty streets.
4. Rejuvenation of polluted rivers is gradually taking place due to absence of human interventions.
5. Even streams running through the cities are slowly coming back to their original state.
6. Recent report indicates that ozone levels are increasing over the Antarctic Region which is a major development to be seen.
7. Witnesses of few bird populations increasing are evident.
8. The reduction of smog and haze in the atmosphere due to lockdown has increased the visibility allowing seeing far off

spectacular sceneries in mountainous regions.

As we can witness the nature taking its action, it reminds us that we don't rule the nature or have the power to do so. Nature can be a destroyer as well as a caregiver. It is high time we realise the atrocities in the name of war, killings, pollution, hunting, deforestation that has been affecting the earth's natural functions over the years. The recent pandemic can be seen as a wrath or a call of action taken by the nature to bring its natural resources back.

We must learn from the world's lockdown that we can allow the earth to rejuvenate its ecological systems. The earth that we thrive and live upon is the only planet existence in the solar system. It is a common natural process of the earth to go through varied changes to bring back its natural state and replenish it by eliminating the species to pave way for a new era. We can consider this to be the earth's natural cycle to clean up itself generation upon generation for its betterment and this is a buster call to each and every human to take care of their surroundings for the greater good. We might not know the rage of nature that might lay havoc on us. Hence, by understanding the earth's mechanism and natural systems the one week "**Lockdown for Environmental Rejuvenation**" has to be made mandatory once in a year and following few important steps are to be taken care during the lockdown:

- To continue to support environmental balance and to regulate the natural functions.
- To retain Earth's biodiversity and natural resources. Water, soil, air and much more will be cleaned up during the lockdown eventually.
- Allowing natural forests and grassland areas of the earth to enlarge and attain its originality.
- To address the serious problems of global warming and climate change.
- Creating extensive greeneries in and around cities so as to beat the heat resulting in more rains.
- To attend the problem of desertification and retain soil and its fertility to increase agricultural yields.
- To collect samples of air, water, soil and other data / information before and after the lockdown.

Benefits to the Society and Community: If the earth's essential functions and systems are revitalized by lockdown every year, the citizens of any nation will be the direct beneficiaries due to "Lockdown for Environmental Rejuvenation". The environmental lockdown will create a lot of awareness among the public regarding the essence of environment, ecology and natural habitats which are essential components of the earth's system. Environmental lockdown educates people about the environment and ecology so as to connect them with nature, which will help them to understand the natural process of the earth.

Exemptions of "Lockdown for Environmental Rejuvenation: Only few public transport systems have to be made available to support vital services. People should involve in cleaning and greening their surroundings to make the earth a better and safer place to live. Excluding a few essential services like emergency services, food services and rapid action services etc., almost all services have to be closed down during the lockdown.

Citizens Role during the Lockdown for Environmental Rejuvenation: Central and state governments should have guidelines for people to take up certain environmental greening and cleaning ac-

tivities. People are to be encouraged to practice roof-top farming, urban agriculture and urban gardening to enhance urban environment. People are to be made active agents of fair and sustainable development during the lockdown.

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