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DEPARTMENT: NURSING

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1) Discuss the impacts of human activities on the ecosystem

Human impact on the environment or anthropogenic impact to the environment includes the biophysical environments an ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources caused directly or indirectly by humans, including global warming, environmental degradation(such as ocean acidification), mass extinction and biodiversity loss, ecological crisis, and ecological collapse.

- **Environmental degradation**

Human activity is causing environmental degradation, which is the deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water and soil; the extinction of wildlife; and pollution. It is defined as any change or disturbance to the environment perceived to be deleterious or undesirable or undesirable.

- **Habitat fragmentation**
  Habitat fragmentation is the reduction of large tracts of habitats leading to habitat loss. Habitat fragmentation and loss are considered as being the main cause of the loss of biodiversity and degradation of the ecosystem all over the world. Human actions are greatly responsible for habitat fragmentation, and loss as these actions after the connectivity and quality of habitats. Both agricultural plants and animals depend on pollination for reproduction. Vegetables and fruits are important diet for human beings and depend on pollination. Whenever, there is habitat destruction, pollination is reduced and crop yield as well. Many plants also depend on animals and most especially those that eat fruit for seed dispersal. Therefore, the destruction of habitat for animal severely affects all the plant species that depend on them.
- **Mass extinction**
  Human species have been killing off entire species either directly(such as through hunting) or indirectly(such as destroying habitats), causing the extinction of species at an alarming rate. Humans are the cause of the current Holocene extinction. The Holocene extinction continues, with meat consumption, overfishing, ocean acidification and the amphibian crisis.
- **Decline in biodiversity.**
  Defaunation is the loss of animals from ecological communities. Currently, livestock make up 60% of the biomass of mammals on earth, followed by humans and wild animals. Human civilisation has pushed one million species of plants and animals to the brink of extinction. Whenever there is a decline In plant biodiversity, the remaining plants start to experience diminishing productivity. As a resuly, the loss of biodiversity continues being a threat to the productivity of the ecosystem all over the world.
- **Death of coral reefs**
  Because of human overpopulation, coral reefs are dying all over the world. In particular, coral mining, pollution, overfishing, blast fishing, and the digging of canals and access into islands and bays are serious threats to these ecosystems. Coral reefs also face high dangers

from pollution, diseases, destructive fishing practices and warming oceans. The factors that impact reefs include; carbon dioxide sink, atmospheric changes, ultraviolet light, ocean acidification, biological virus, impacts of dust storms carrying agents to far flung reefs, pollutants, algal blooms and others.

- **Pollution by wastewater**

  Domestic, industrial and agricultural wastewater makes its way to waste water plants for treatment before being released into aquatic ecosystems. Waste water at these treatment plants contains a cocktail of different chemical and biological contaminants which may influence surrounding ecosystems.