**GLOBAL WARMING**

From the beginning of time, man has worked hard and tried to make his home, the Earth, into a more comfortable place for himself and others. His efforts, to make the Earth a better place took and is still taking various forms. From the making of clothes, the conversion of energy from fuel (the creation of fire), to the finding of electricity, the creation of different means of transportation and communication, the formation of different means of transactions and even to the invention of spacecraft which can carry humans and other equipment to Space. These contributions by man to make the world a better place has improved the standard of living of those living in the now.

Unfortunately, these contributions, although very good and profitable must also have a disadvantage and a negative effect on us humans and those around us. From pollution to man-made disasters, the invention of the nuclear weapons which can leave an entire country desolate and empty for many years, to the fighting over resources by man himself. Amongst all these disadvantages, one of them is destroying our environment in the background, and if not taken care of soon, it will lead to a drastic change to the worst in our environment and our very way of life as we know it.

The online Google dictionary defines global warming as a gradual increase in the overall temperature of the Earth’s atmosphere generally attributed to the greenhouse effect caused by increased levels of Carbon dioxide, Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCS), and other pollutants. According to Wikipedia, Global warming is the ongoing rise of the Earth’s climate system and has been demonstrated by direct temperature measurements and by measurements of various effects of the warming.

The climatic changes that occur as a result of global warming are mostly caused by human influence on the environment. The largest human influence has been the emission of greenhouse gases, with over 90% of the impact from carbon dioxide and methane. Fossil fuel burning is the principal source of these gases, with agriculture and deforestation also playing significant roles. Environmental impacts of these gases may not seem like much in the short run but in the long run, they have inconceivable and destructive after effects. The effects of these gases are many and each one of them have destructive effects on our surroundings and our way of life as a whole.

Some of the effects caused by the release of these greenhouse gases include flooding, desertification, untimely migration of some wildlife, loss of habitat, desertification, desert encroachment, forest fires, starvation, loss of exotic plant life and many more. The aspect of flooding is a situation that is already ongoing. Land surfaces are heating faster than the ocean surface. Surface temperature increases are greatest in the Artic and have contributed to the retreat of glaciers, permafrost and sea ice. This causes rising sea levels from melting ice sheets, rising ocean temperatures, and ocean acidification from elevated levels of carbon dioxide. The melting of the polar ice caps, the Artic and the Antarctic, can lead to major cases of flooding in the surrounding regions. This flooding, can lead to loss of life and valuable plant and soil materials. The overall melting of the ice caps will have a drastic effect on the world’s climate as a whole.

Einstein once said that, “If the bee disappeared off the face of the Earth, man would only have four years left too live”. Global warming attributes to the relocation and extinction of wild life. The intense overheating of the Earth’s surface can cause animals to move to cooler regions leading to over population of animal species in a particular place or region. The high temperatures lead to forest fires which also cause loss of habitat and death. If any one of those animals or plants become extinct, it will negatively change affect our surroundings and the animals around us.

Due to intense high temperatures that arise as a result of global warming, there is an overall increase in the rate of evaporation of water and increased perspiration in plants. This leads to loss of water in the soil and also in the various plant life affected. As the area becomes dry, water will become harder to find and locate making the area become more like a desert in the long run. This aspect of desertification is a major effect of global warming. Desertification leads to the loos of viable land that could have served as good soil for planting and as good settlement areas. As a result of this, more people tend to migrate to more places which have more water and viable soil, leading to over-population.

As the plant life continues to dwindle due to lack of suitable conditions for growth, the aspect of starvation then arises, affecting both animals and humans. The loss of plant life leads to hunger which later results to starvation and then to the inevitable end death. This situation keeps getting worse in both the short and long runs. Increased death rate means decreased labor and decreased labor means low production rates and a dying economy. Eventually, countries will begin to fight each other for the few resources that are left. Starvation can also turn the very nature of man, turning them towards the path of cannibalism.

Although the issue of Global warming is still going on, there has been various means man has invented to help aid the planet. Amongst the many means include; the production of environmental friendly fuels, use of Eco-friendly products, proper disposal of harmful substances and the use of renewable energy sources.

As humans and occupants of our planet, we must also put in ourselves the responsibility of taking good care of our immediate environment so as to avoid the destruction of our home, the Earth. We most aspire to know more and be aware of our environment so as to help welcome the future generations to come into a clean and healthy planet.

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