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THE ISSUE OF INSECURITY AND POLLUTION IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental insecurity can be considered to be the absence, deficit, or lack of environmental security. There are many ways to managing risk and the negative effects of change that is associated with environmental insecurity. That is why, the need to maintain a clean and healthy environment has the centre stage in both intellectual discourses and policy framework of many states in the past few decades. The definition of environmental insecurity varies, though all may include the common ideology of whether or not people have food, water or natural resources to live. In terms of environmental change, security is often considered the option when and where individuals and communities have the options necessary to end, mitigate or adapt to risks to their human environmental and social rights to have the capacity and freedom to exercise these options; and also to actively participate in attaining these options. Therefore, environmental securitization involves sustainable use of natural resources and increased capacity to avoid or mitigate risk of experiencing negative consequences of environmental change.

Sustaining the environment is better appreciated when it is against the calamity of environmental hazards such as climate change, flooding, global warming, ozone layer depletion, air/water pollution and deforestation have caused and are still causing in the different regions of the world. In Nigeria, the challenge of the environmental security only gained prominence in 1987, following the dumping of toxic waste in Koko village of Delta. This environmental challenge constituted security threats in Nigeria-frightening guilty sites, desertification, seasonal flooding, oil spillage and water pollution, illicit and unarticulated refuse dumps and industrial waste in most areas or environments.

Pollution, also called environmental pollution is the addition of any substance (solid, liquid or gas) or any form of energy (heat, sound or radioactivity) to the environment at a rate faster than it can be dispersed, diluted, decomposed, recycled or stored in some harmless form. It is defined as the contamination of the physical and biological components of the earth/atmosphere system to such an extent that normal environmental processes are adversely affected. The major kinds of pollution, usually classified by the environment are: Air pollution (majorly), Water pollution and Land pollution. Modern society is also concerned about specific type of pollutants, such as Noise pollution, Light pollution and Plastic pollution. Pollution of all kinds can have negative effects in the environment and wildlife and often impacts health and well-being. The major forms of pollution includes**: Air pollution, Light pollution, Littering, Noise pollution, Plastic pollution, Soil contamination, Radio-active contamination, Thermal pollution, Visual pollution and Water pollution.**

Although, environmental pollution can be caused by natural events such as forest fires and active volcanoes, the use of the word **“pollution”** generally implies that the contaminants have an anthropogenic source, that is, a source created by human activities. Pollution has accompanied human kind ever since the first groups of people congregated and remained for a long time. Human settlements are frequently recognized by their waste such as shell mounds and rubble heaps. Pollution was not a serious problem as long as there was enough space available for each individual or group. However, with the establishments of permanent settlements by a great number of people, pollution became a problem and it has remained that way ever since.

Environmental insecurity is a source and outcome of bio-diversity declines and social conflicts, and this has become a challenge to scaling insecurity reduction policies which is that empirical evidence about local attitude is overwhelmingly missing. The most serious problem facing the world today include water and food supply crises, extreme volatility in energy and food prices, rising greenhouse gas emission, severe income disparity, chronic fiscal imbalances and terrorism. These developing challenges either stem from environmental mismanagement or inequality or both. Aside from chronic fiscal imbalances that mostly concern the developed economies, developing countries are the most vulnerable to these risks.

**The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) 1994** which specifically focused on human security argued that environmental security aims are to protect people from the short and long term ravages of nature, man-made threats in nature, and deterioration of the natural environment. On a Marco scale lack of access to clean water resources, air pollution, environmental degradation and climate change are some of the major threats affecting both developing and developed countries. Nigeria’s high vulnerability index as a developing nation, the adverse impacts of climate change will surely affect the core areas of our national circumstances which present our country as one with: low-lying coastal area, arid and semi-arid areas liable to accelerated forest degradation, areas prone to natural disasters, areas liable to drought and desertification etc.

Environmental pollution is reaching worrying proportions world-wide. Urbanization and industrialization along with economic development have led to increase in energy consumption and waste discharges. The global environmental pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions and acid deposition, as well as water pollution and waste management is considered as International Public Health problems, which should be investigated from multiple perspective including social, economic systems etc as well as lifestyle habits helping health promotion and strengthening environmental systems to resist contaminations. Environmental pollutants have various adverse health effects are Perinatal disorders, infant mortality, respiratory disorders, allergy malignances, cardiovascular disorders, increase in stress oxidate, endothelial dysfunction, mental disorder and various harmful effects. Though, short-term effects of environmental pollutants are usually highlighted, wide range of hazards of air pollution from early life and their possible implication on chronic non-communicable diseases of adulthood should be underscored. Therefore, it is time to take action and control the pollution otherwise, the waste products from consumption, heating, agriculture, mining, manufacturing, transportation and other human activities will degrade the environment.

Based on the strength of the scientific knowledge regarding the adverse health effects of environmental insecurity and pollution and the magnitude of public health impacts, different kinds of interventions should be taken into account. Environmental security is viable for life support with the various sub-elements which include:

* Preventing or repairing military damage to the environment
* Preventing or responding to environmentally caused conflicts and
* Protecting the environment due to its inherent moral values.

However, in addition to industrial aspects, the public awareness should be increased in this regard. Likewise, health professionals have an exclusive competency to help for prevention and reduction of the harmful effects of environmental factors, this capacity should be in usual practice. Some practical solutions to preventing pollution in the environment include the following:

* Take due environmental consideration in planning stage and carefully select business, select business area with proper location and adequate space for planning exhaust outlets
* Avoid the exhaust outlets in close proximity to the air which is a sensitive receptor for restaurants and food business
* Choosing equipments of low noise brands or models
* Maintain the volume of your sound systems at low levels to avoid causing nuisance to neighbor

The control of contaminants into the environment which brings down the level of pollution is done through various update methods. The various techniques which control the pollution are Bioremediation laser methods, chemical methods, nanotechnology, etc. Phytoremediation is a way to mitigate environmental pollutions, such as in air, water and soil pollution in relevance to plants, combined with their associated micro-organisms. This concept has been widely applied t treat pollutants in water and soil. Vapor recovery is the process of recovering the vapor of gasoline or other fuels, so that they do not escape into the atmosphere. This way, pollutions and environmental insecurity can be prevented or limited thereby ensuring a safe place for human health

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