

People Awareness, Basic Strategy to Preserve the Environment

Siroos Ahmadi
Assistant Professor
Department of sociology
State University of Yasouj
Yasouj, Iran
Sahmadi@mail.yu.ac.ir

Abstract— Water pollution, air pollution, ozone hole, earth warming, acid rain, deforestation, soil erosion, extinction of plant and animal species, and so on, are some of the environmental problems that threaten living on the earth. Since 1970s some strategies have been used to preserve the environment, but the state of the environment, has not really changed. Politicians have a fundamental role in solving the environmental problems but there is no any serious willpower among them for surviving of the environmental challenges. It seems that people participation is an effective way for forcing politicians to support the environment by voting environmentalist candidates in national elections. But according to conducted surveys, people are not properly aware of the environment problems and don't attach great importance to the environment. Until when people don't involved in the environment matters, preserving of the environment will not be hopeful.

Keywords—Environment, People, Earth, Awareness

I. INTRODUCTION

Since industrial revolution in western Europe in nineteenth century, environmental resources, have been enormously used. It was supposed at the beginning of the twentieth century, the earth's resources are unlimited but now, at the beginning of twenty first century, we know earth resources are unbelievable limited and it is greatly disappeared. The environment disaster, besides nuclear weapons and population growth, is one of the three biggest crisis to man at present[1]. The following, are some environmental problems.

Although only 1% of waters on earth are usable[2] but this little rate, is increasingly polluted. Projections show, annual 5 million persons die all over the world, 1.5 billion are deprived from safe drinking water, and in the near future, 25 countries will be confronted with water scarcity[3] as a result of water pollution. Caused by toxic emissions into the atmosphere, air is widely polluted. So 1 billion people are exposure to air pollution[4] and yearly about 3 million persons die. *Ozone layer*, as a shield that protect the earth from harmful radiation from the sun, is thinning. In the near future, ozone layer will be thinned 3%. Every one percent decrease, is equal with 2% increase in radiation[5]. Because of diffusion of some gases such as carbon dioxide, which

trap the heat of the sun, warming of the earth's atmosphere, has gradually risen. On the basis of some estimations, with increasing of *global warming*, poles ices, are widely beginning to melt that would dramatically raise sea level and many of the world's coastal cities would be under water and over 600 million coastal dwellers would be forced to move[6]. *Acid rains* has been increased, with growing of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide in atmosphere. Acid rains that contain harmful gases, damage to trees, crops, animal life, buildings, and leads to the acidification of lakes. In Sweden, for example, 20000 lakes, have been acidified[7]. *Deforestation* is rapidly increased. Some estimations show, since 1990, the earth's forest cover, has shrunk by more than 7 million hectares each year [6]. According to Giddens[7] more than a third of the earth's original forests have now disappeared. *Land pollution* is increasing especially as a result of irrational using of land. Millions of hectare, annual lapse biodiversity and some estimations show, two fifth of arable land in Africa, a third in Asia, and a fifth in Latin America, are exposure of becoming desert[8]. Many *plant and animal species*, are vastly disappearing, as a result of forest reduction, and irrational using of lands. Some estimations present, 12% of birds, 22% of mammals, 39% of fish and 70% of plants are threatened species[9].

II. CAUSES OF THE ENVIRONMENT CRISIS

For explanation of the environmental problems there are three main perspectives. Neo malthusians believe that population growth is main cause of these difficulties. According to them, world population from 2.5 billion in 1950 has reached to 6 billion in 2000 and will reach 9 billion to 2050. Providing needs of this population will put the environment under pressure[10]. They believe that the main solution for solving of the environment problems is to control of population growth.

Some thinkers believe that principal cause of the environment crisis is increasingly use of technological innovations. They argue, although using plastics, detergents, herbicides, fertilizers, and so on, has numerous advantages but they are destructive for the environment[11]. They suppose that the main answer for solving of the environmental problems is to control of technological innovations. And finally some researchers believe that the main responsible for the environment difficulties are

capitalists that control means of production in advanced industrial capitalist countries. They continuously compete for obtaining more profits and interests, because of this they look for new technologies that might be harmful for the environment[12].

III. STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

From the early 1970s that Stockholm international conference was held, initial actions were started for alleviating environmental problems. (1)Legislation of the environment rights,(2) legislation of exploitation laws, (3)punishment harmful actions against the environment, (4) encouragement pro environmental activities,(5) conducting scientific research,(6) emphasis on international actions and transnational cooperations,(7) stress on non governmental organizations, and finally (8)the environment education, have been most important strategies for improvement of the environment situation, but the state of the environment has not changed. Why?

There are several explanations, but it seems that the most important factor is economic and political policies of governments.It is clear that in all over the world, governments have been main responsible for to implement all of these programs and strategies and because of their numerous interests, they are not serious in confrontation with the environmental problems. It seems that the most effective strategy is participation of people in the environment problems. People by voting environmentalist candidates in national elections,and surveillance on governments and politicians actions, can easily force them to have more support to the environment. first condition of people participation is awareness from the environment problems.

IV. PEOPLE AWARENESS

Evidences show people aren't appropriately aware of the environment problems and also are not widely prone to the environment matters. Following are research findings of some surveys that have mainly conducted in advanced countries and have investigated people attitudes and awareness on the environmental problems.

- Only 21% of people believe that the most important problem in next future is water pollution,21% depletion of natural sources,7% Acid rain, and 6% sea level rise [13].
- Almost 66% of people have not heard about sustainable development[13] and 66% don't understand that sea level rise or coastal flooding are consequences of climate change [13].
- Only 15% of people are inclined to cut down electricity consumption for helping to the environment and reduce pollution[13].
- Only 6% of European citizens are very well informed on environmental issues[14].
- Only one-third of people consider global warming as a very serious issue requiring major changes in lifestyles[15].

- Only 16% think that combating global warming and the other environmental threats must be extremely important for U.S foreign policy [15].
- More than 56% of people have not heard about greenhouse effect[16].
- Less than 48% of people believe that air pollution from cars are dangerous[17]

V. CONCLUSION

The environment is at risk because of extraordinary pressure and using. Water pollution, air pollution, ozone hole, earth warming, acid rain, deforestation,soil erosion, extinction of plant and animal species, are only some threats and challenges of the environment. Although since 1970s some actions have been done for decreasing of the environment problems but not only the environment crisis did not mitigate, but also it was heightened. The main cause of this situation is lack of serious willpower among governments and politicians for supporting the environment. People participation is an effective way to control governments and politicians for preserving the environment. People can easily help to rescue the environment by voting environmentalist candidates in elections, pressure on politicians for supporting the environment, and protest to government actions.But research findings even in advanced countries show; majority of people don't have much information about the environment problems, and are not involved in the environmental matters. We don't know any country that political responsables came to power by means of the environmental slogan or propaganda. Until when people don't feel necessity of the environment, surviving of the environment will not be satisfactory.

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