SOCIAL IMPACT OF POPULATION EXPLOSION ON FLORA AND FAUNA RESOURCES: A CASE STUDY OF KASHMIR

DR MANZOOR HUSSAIN

SENIOR ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR,
SRINAGAR.

ABSTRACT
Flora and fauna resources are important ecological, economic and social assets and the very existence of human population is dependent on it. They provide a wide variety of highly valuable services, including: the conservation of biological diversity; carbon storage; soil and water conservation; provision of employment and enhanced livelihoods; enhancement of agricultural production systems; and improvement of living conditions, etc. In Kashmir there has been a massive encroachment on wetlands and green belts for establishment of settlements, factories, dams and roads. Since population explosion, urbanization and deforestation have been notable in the last few decades, there has been over – exploitation of forest and animal resources so as to meet the growing demand for food, timber, fuel wood, fodder, and tourist trade, etc.; thereby increasing the pressure on the forest and animal resources. This explosive growth in human population has not only effected flora and fauna resources resulting in loss of many species or reduction in their numbers but also causes a number of serious problems like food-scarcity, overcrowding, poverty, increasing consumption, encroachment on monuments, stress on common social facilities, stress on civic services etc. It is in this context that the paper analyses the social implications of population explosion on flora and fauna resources in Kashmir.

KEY WORDS: Population explosion, flora and fauna resources, social impact, Kashmir.

References


