



ENVIRONMENTAL BIOPHYSICS

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Introduction to environmental Sciences

Lecture 1

Environmental problems and their Causes

- ① exponential growth
- ② Inequitable Distribution of
economic wealth and population
- ③ Sustainability and Resources
- ④ Pollution.

Exponential Growth: the root cause

↳ Value of something increases by **fixed** percentage of the whole each time. - %

J shaped value vs time Curve.

linear growth: increase is a **fixed Amount** for each time increment.

initial increase - total increase.

Human Population.

2×10^6 years	⇒	1 billion
123 years	⇒	2 billions
33 years	⇒	3 billions
14 years	⇒	4 billions
13 years	⇒	5 billions
12 years	⇒	6 billion
(prediction)	at 2013	⇒ 7 billions
	2028	⇒ 8 billions
	2050	⇒ 9 billions

2050 ⇒ 9 billion
population growth ⇒
resources demands growth
loss natural habitats
rate of extinction - poverty
leads of population.

Doubling time | $DT = \frac{70}{\% \text{ growth rate}}$

if increase is 10% \Rightarrow DT = 7 years.
Per year

5% \Rightarrow DT = 14 years.

ex. world population rate of growth is 1.2%
per year. \Rightarrow DT = 60 years

present population \approx 6 billions. \Rightarrow \approx 9 billions

in 2050. \Rightarrow Average hourly population increase
is about 9000.

Inevitable Distribution of Economic wealth and population.

	developed Countries	Developing Countries
name	First world	second and third world.
industry	highly industrialised	low to moderate industrialisation
Capita	Capita GMP above 4000\$	350 \$
ex.	U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan, and Australia	Africa, Asia, South America
world population	20%	80%
world wealth	85%	15%
using world resources	88%	12%
worlds water and pollution growing rate	75%	25%
	0.1% per year	1.7% per year
	Coal, oil, metals, ... etc	

DT

700 years

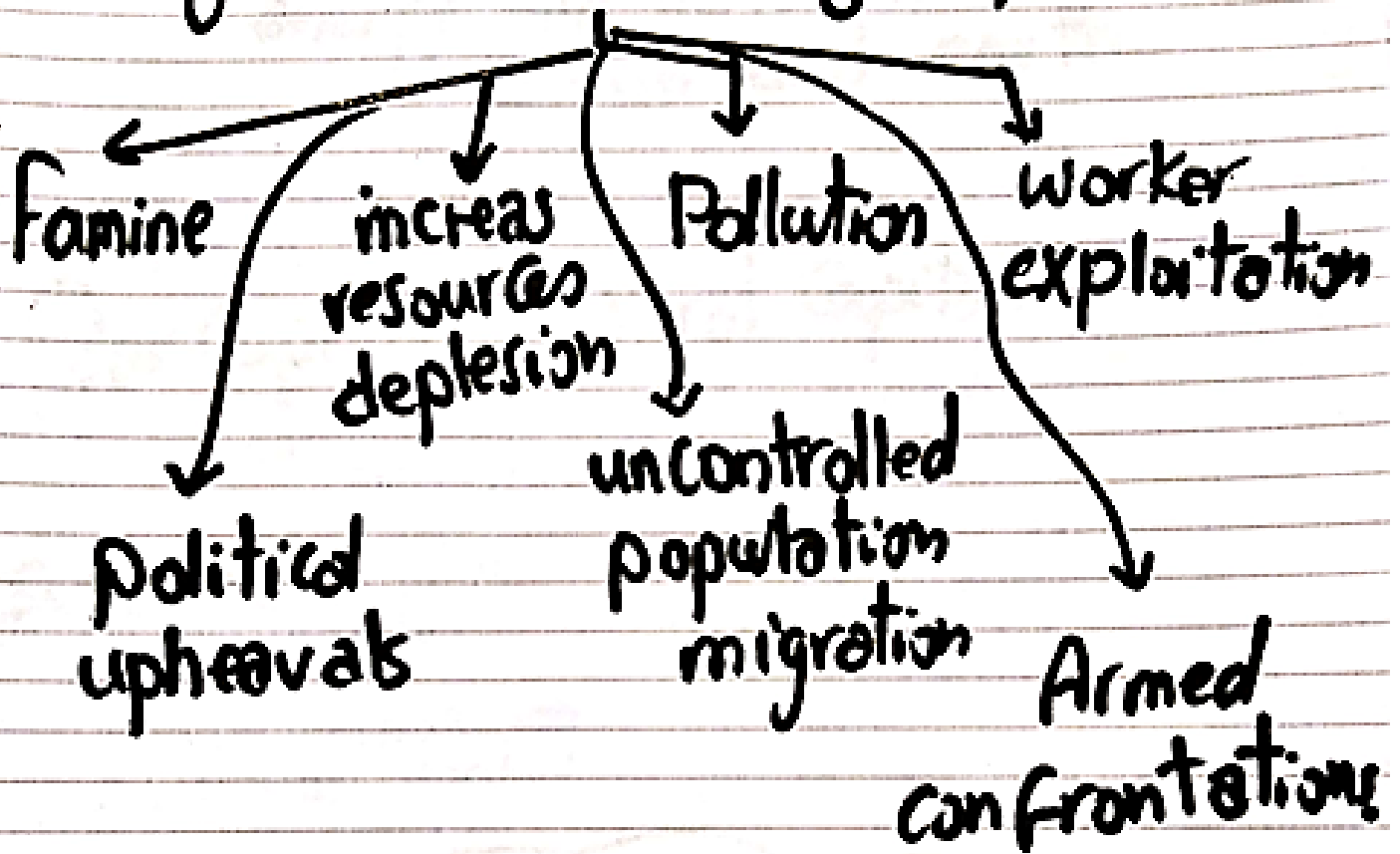
41 years

☒ Countries least able to afford increasing populations are those growing the fastest.

95% of the world population increase.

Results:-

Rich get Richer, Poor get poorer



Sustainability and Resources: energy and materials from Sun and earth.

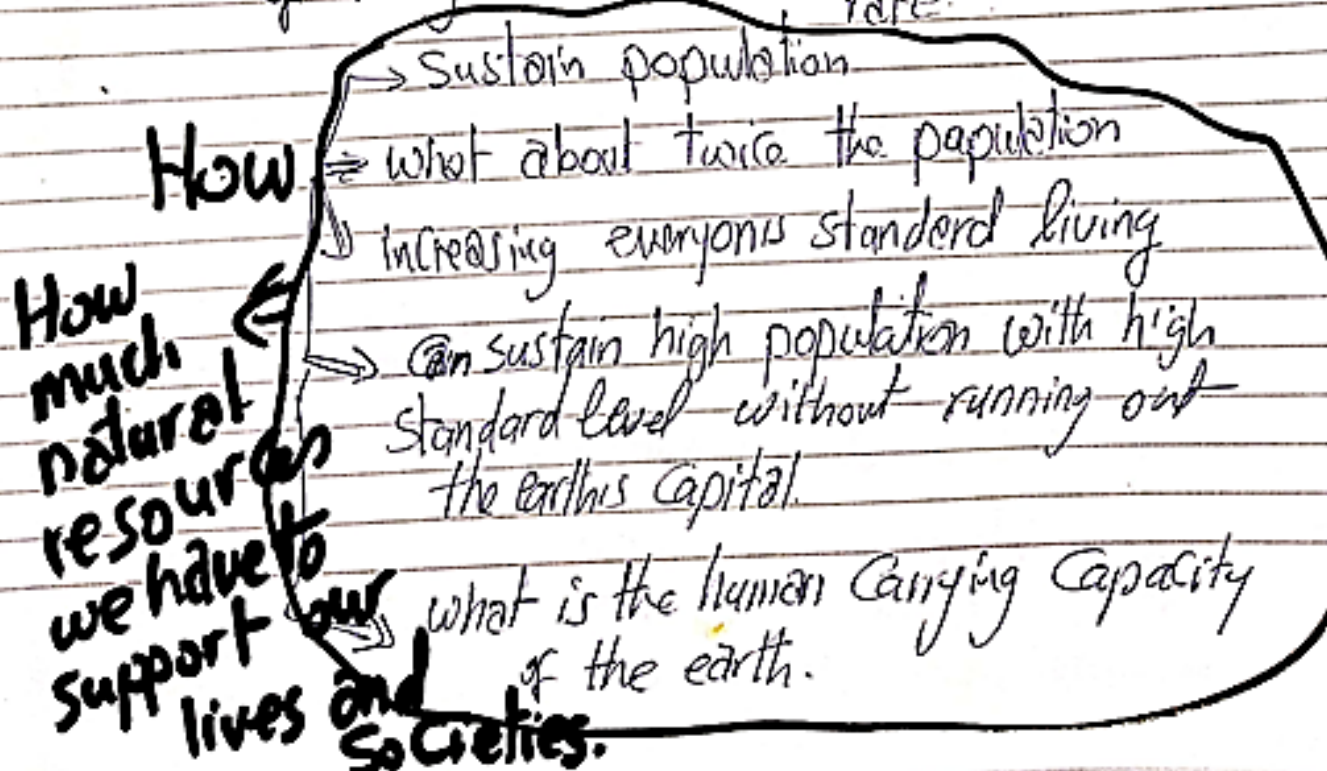
energy from the Sun = Solar Capital.
materials " " earth = earth or natural Capital

Solar Capital - natural Capital.

→ air - water - Soil - wild life - minerals - habitats
(surface processes)

Sustainable: live without depleting Resources.
using Capitals ⇒ imperilled existence.

Population increase ⇒ using up Capitals
+ increases Standard of living at an ever accelerating rate.



This may change over time.
(whole oil vs Crud oil)

Resources:

Any thing from natural environment that we use to meet our needs & wants.

Renewable

Constantly being replenished
inexhaustable supply
Solar and wind energy

Potentially Renewable

replenished on human time scale (less than several decades)

trees - crops - surface waters and

biodiversity (genetic, species - ecological)

- Know its sustainable yield. (replenished like)
- used at slower rate that it will be replaced (don't want to deplet)

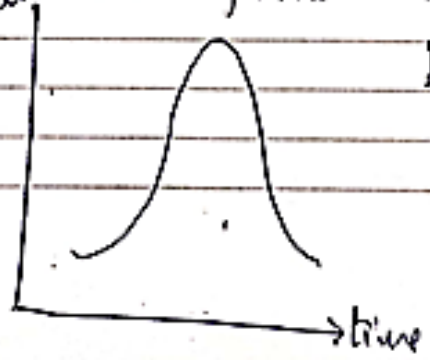
Non renewable

replenished at the geological time scale (100-1000 millions of years)

once it used it is gone

we can't wait for it to be replenished cause we run out

production → fossils fuels, minerals resources, soil, and ground water.



bell shaped production history

when 80% is depleted, it is economically depleted and the rest 20% become very expensive to exploit


extend production Curve of Nonrenewable resources by

1) Refuse
Don't use

(2) Reduce
use less

(3) Reuse
use the same
thing over and
over again.

(4) Recycle
make new product of the material.

 Reserves Reserve
exploited portion go
up and down according to
market conditions.

Reuse and Recycle
can't be used for
energy resources

(once burnt can't burn
again)

As reserves dwindle price will go up
making the remaining Resource
be reserved.

Pollution.

anything that is negatively impacts the air, water, soil or food. Harms Health, survival or activities of humans or other living organisms

One person's pollution may be another's resources

Pollution.

may be liquid, solid, gas, or energy (heat and radiation)

Pollution

usually produced as a result of activities utilizing resources.

Pollution

may be naturally occurring or anthropogenic (human produced)

Pollution

may be from an identified point source (a smokestack) or from dispersed non point source (fertilizer runoff)

Point source, dispersed non point source.

it is easier and cheaper to be controlled.

effect of pollution depends on 3 factors.

1) Toxicity: or chemical reactivity. How harmful is the material.

2) Concentration: (PPm, PPb, --etc)

highly toxic substance may be greater concentration than a lot of something relatively benign

3) Persistence: "degradable or non-degradable"

Does the material breakdown to harmless substances or does remain unchanged.

How deal with pollutant

depends on the combination of these factors

1) Pollution Prevention: (input Control)

Keep it from ever reaching the environment (protective)

Done by refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle) treat problem

2) Pollution Clean up: (output Control)

get rid of pollution after it has entered the environment

(reactive) . treat symptom (harder and more expensive)

in US 99% of environmental spending is for clean up.

than prevention

Evaluation of environmental impact: (PAT) model

1) **P**: Population (P):- number of people.

2) **A**: Affluence (A): standard of living or per capita use of resources.

3) **T**: technology: Amount of pollution produced per unit of resource used.

$PAT = \text{total environmental impact}$

Developed Countries: low P, High A and T
Consumption-driven pollution

Developing " " : High P, low A and T
Population-driven pollution.

(Changing Human environmental impact. for search)

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS

1. **THE POLLUTION MAY BEOROROR SUCH AS AND**
2. **.....RESOURCES IS CONSTANTLY BEING REPLENISHED AND CAN CONSIDERED AS SUPPLY SUCH AS AND**
3. **IF THE POPULATION NOW ARE 6 BILLIONS WITH INCREASE 1.7 %, THIS NUMBER WILL BE DOUBLED APPROXIMATELY AFTER YEARS (MAKE YOUR PREDICTION ACCORDING TO THE 70/% RULE)**
4. **COMPLETE THE SPACES IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE**

	DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
NAME		
INDUSTRIALIZATION		
CAPITA		
EXAMPLES(4 EXAMPLES)		
POPULATION		
WEALTH		
USING RESOURCES		
WASTE AND POLLUTION		
POPULATION GROWING RATE		
DT		

5. **THE THREE FACTORS THAT AFFECT THE POLLUTION ARE, AND**