

# More Disastrous: Flood or Human Greed?

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**A Flood model**

Floods have become the most common natural disaster in India for the past few years. The states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Kerala, Maharashtra and Karnataka stream in the top list of flood-affected states in the surveys. It is indeed a heart-rending episode that the picture we used to see on the internet or science textbook

just as an example of natural calamity is occurring in our surroundings and our neighborhood. A flood is an act or an overflow of an extension of water that covers or inundates the land. The flood can be classified based on their source and include:

- I The riverine flood which occurs when the river overflows its bank
- ii. Coastal flooding where sea overflows
- iii. Flash flooding where water rises and falls rapidly with little or no warning
- iv. Urban flooding because of land development

Although others are more likely to fall under quite a natural disaster that might have occurred because of a lack of prevention, urban flooding is categorized as a

man-made one. There are many other causes for the man-made flood which includes:

- i. Deforestation: There will be no trees to penetrate the flowing water and to help soak up precipitation to reduce water flow.
- ii. Impermeable surfaces like concrete road, interlock yard in every house and public places.
- iii. Climate change: Due to the emission of greenhouse gases, vehicular exhausts, oxides of carbon from air conditioners, and refrigerators contribute much to global warming, which eventually leads to the melting of glaciers.
- iv. Poor land-use practices like overgrazing, over-cultivation not practicing agroforestry and so on...
- v. Urbanization where most of the open land is converted to industries and buildings.
- vi. Lack of maintenance of the dams (e.g. desilting) and the list goes on...

Overexploitation of existing land and accelerated population growth are some of the factors that leads to disasters. As the proverb says “one man's meat is another man's poison”, some people over-utilize the natural resources resulting in calamities like floods by which the entire mankind and wildlife have to suffer. There are physical, social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities because of the flood, which affects the development of the country.

Despite all these floods, another catastrophe that encounters are the scarcity of water during summer. This shows how negligent and incautious the man is. The element (water) which had once become 'the antagonist' suddenly remodels to a 'protagonist' in the very next season is hysterical, but the truth...

Is it not because humans are on the wicked path in this era? If not, this wouldn't have discussed. It is time to change our attitudes. As quoted by

Mahatma Gandhi “Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed”. Stop taking earth resources for granted. Sustainable management is what we needed. We can prevent a flood from its recurrence Each head can change this calamity from happening again. All one can do is:

- i. Restore the natural ecosystem and the coastal ecosystem.
- ii. Restore the environment in such a way that it can combat the flood.
- iii. Promote reforestation and demote deforestation.
- iv. Restrict the development of infrastructure within flood-prone areas.
- v. Contempt and raise against the ideas and orders which cause environmental hazards and deforestation like the modified EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) draft 2020, which has been widely criticized for its uncertain change in rules.
- vi. Drop the practices which emit greenhouse gases that ultimately will turn the tide of a warming place.
- vii. Establish parks and reserve for the natural ecosystem. This will help in taking up of rainwater and other precipitation.
- viii. Switch on to a permeable surface/yard when comes to construction so that water may recharge groundwater.
- ix. Spread greenery as much as possible.
- x. Implementation of water absorbing roads especially in flood-prone areas. This new material called top mix permeable (also called as thirsty concrete) permits the water drain through it quickly by acting as a giant sponge.

The next problem is starting trouble. 'Who will start first?', 'why should I care?' and 'why should I bother about future generation?'. These set of

phrase sound simple although it causes huge hindrance. It demotivates everything.

This problem would have solved if earth has added a price tag to every luxurious services (called ecosystem services) we enjoy for free. Whole human wealth wouldn't have sufficed enough to settle her debt. Making understand this is difficult, but not impossible. Implementation of the new strategy into everyone's life and execution of it is easy if one understands that the root cause for flood is not weather, climate, or celestial being but the man himself. The degree of complexity lies in how people comprehend. Hence in the elementary class itself, the importance of the ecosystem and its networking and interrelationships should be taught.

Now, amidst a crowd of followers, be an initiator. Be a firebrand for a better tomorrow. Humanity and concern for the future still prevail in the core of some of mankind. To dig that there should be a special organization and peer fellows of

environmentalists in every ward of every state. Policies and ideas for the ecosystems should be promoted and appreciated more. The recognized hero should be those who work for the prevention of natural disasters like floods not who stars on big screens...

It is time to educate your co-being and put your shoulder to the wheel. With the timer tickling and no tangible actions being taken, mankind will face a difficult test of combating a crisis once again that has erupted as a result of one's own doing it is the flood. Try not to tempt another writer to pen down like John Muir who said "God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools".

