

## Extremely polluting are the developed economies of the world

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### Abstract

The world is feeling threatened with the imminent danger of annihilation of the human race. With increased use of bio-energy sources and fossil oils and its variants as coal, mineral and metals, the stock is fast depleting. The paper is basically to know about the effects of developed economy in polluting the environment of world.

**Keywords:** developed economies, polluting, natural resources

### Introduction

On the one hand the development of the agro forestry based agriculture is considered the fundamental requirement for the overall development of the economy of the country, while on the other hand the developed economies of the world are busy in the criminal waste of natural resources and are busy in recklessly consuming the environmental goods and services.

How ironic it seems but is true that greater the economy the greater is its consumption of goods, especially those that are manufactured for one time use. On the occasions of the world conferences on combating the ever increasing pollution the developed countries like America try to impose restrictions and sanctions on developing nations and advise them not to go for heavy industry and nuclear power and also ask to conserve their reserves of natural resources. On their own behalf they plead that their level of development and life style must be taken for granted and so they refuse to put any limit on their consumption patterns which are constantly depleting non-renewable resources, poisoning and degrading ecosystems, and altering the natural processes on which life depends.

According to a survey, people in the developed economies constitute 20 % of the world population but consumes 80% of the world resources and produce 80% of wastes. The tragic reality of these societies is that the people go on consuming even more than they actually needed. The rich nations are following the unsustainable pattern of economic growth and development. They get richer at the costs of the poor whose lives are not improved by the process of development. Developed countries have now achieved economic growth and focus on environmental goals but the impact of pollution is more severe on developing countries, which causes health problems, death and disabilities to millions of people annually. Consumerism is wrongly considered the index of economic development of a particular society, because money is not the only way to measure the cost of an item that is consumed. If we add all the raw material and energy that is used for manufacturing of goods, it will be seen that the goods are produced at a heavy cost of environment per day. When this cost is computed for a lifespan, the amount will be tremendous. If the wasteful overutilization of the consumable

goods is calculated per family, city or a country, the loss of natural resources is incredibly high. As per the estimate two hundred billion cans, bottles, plastic cartons and paper cups are thrown away each year in the developed world. Disposable culture has added insult to injury. Because, instead of competing on quality and reliability, most of the consumers products are made for one time use.

Buy one get one free is another bait of the industrial houses to trap the consumers. Most often quality is compromised with quantity. Instead of buying quality products that last long the consumer get tempted to buy double or even more quantity of the items than are actually required by them. The net result is the increased level of waste because of needless consumption. Another thing closely related to pollution and waste at the hands of economically developed nations is the designing and fashioning of the ever new and latest models of appliances, electronic goods, cars etc. the exchange offers of the companies and the discarding of the old models for the sake of the latest ones amounts to a total waste of materials and energy. The market strategy of multinational companies to match the rate of sale to the rate of production is to influence the psyche of the consumers through advertising network. The common sense desire to purchase the life's necessities is replaced with an insatiable desire for the latest things that are purchased by spending large chunk of income. True utility of what is brought is not all taken into consideration. the developed countries are busy in devising ways to accelerate the discarding of the old in order to promote and ensure the sale of their latest products. The landfills in the developed countries are being filled with the discarded products. Most of these discarded products are made psychologically obsolete by the unethical practices of these companies. In this way consumerism interferes with the sustainable use of resources in the economically developed societies.

The mountainous amount of waste generated by consumer oriented societies is posing a serious threat to environment. The rural waste is recyclable: it is not an enemy of the environment. But the non- biodegradable urban waste has degraded the environment leading to unseen and unheard of health problems. The high quantities of waste being generated,

particularly in the rich countries, will drown mankind under heaps of garbage and streams of sewage. Nearly a sizeable island can be added to the earth every year if the waste is dumped in the sea of one place. According to WHO, an estimated 12.6 million people die from environment health risk annually. According to World Bank, the economic burden of pollution associated with premature mortality and morbidity is equivalent to 5 to 14% of countries GDP.

To conclude, it was not unreasonable to expect that the present day economically developed nations would be wise enough to preserve the natural resources by making a judicious use of them. But, contrarily, the economic development proved directly proportional to the depletion of our natural wealth and its sustainability. therefore, the damage can be undone to some extent if 3Rs principle - reduce, reuse and recycle is adopted dutifully by every nation, the rich nations in particular, no doubt, some waste is inevitable in any society, but the generation of waste must be minimized. The goal of the economically developed nations must be to become a low waste or no waste society.

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