

Increasing air pollution and its impact on human health

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DEAR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,

In 2019, World Health Organization (WHO) considered air pollution as the greatest risk to human health. Since, the beginning of 20th century, urbanization has increased greatly and its role in economic sector and social development is very clear but as a consequence altering our planet in ways that pose current threats to environmental and human health. Every day, out of ten nine people breath polluted air. Every year, an estimated 7 million people prematurely died from stroke and cancer, heart and lung diseases¹. In 2015, 4.2 million deaths were attributed to ambient air pollution (Particulate Matter PM₂₋₅) and 103.1 million disability-adjusted life-years. In addition, exposure to ozone caused an approximately 254 000 deaths. Over the past 25 years, deaths attributed to PM₂₋₅ has increased significantly with an alarming rate. In 1990, an estimated 3.5 million deaths were reported where in 2015 the total number of deaths reached to 4.2 million². In 2016, from indoor air pollution (household exposure to smoke from dirty cookstoves and fuels) an estimated 3.8 million deaths were reported¹. Majority of the deaths were reported from low and middle-income countries. In these countries, the air pollution is attributed to high volume of industry emissions, power generation, fuels for transportation, and human activities like cooking and heating used coal, wood, straw and dung produce high level of indoor smoke. The polluted air consists tiny and microscopic pollutant can penetrate through circulation and respiratory system.

Globally, air pollution has been significantly associated with various health problems like lung and heart diseases, heart attacks, stroke (ischemic stroke and haemorrhagic stroke), lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and premature mor-

tality²⁻⁴. In recent years, due to massive industrialization an increased has been seen in air pollution resulted significant adverse effect on all kind of life includes plant, animal and aquatic life, human and environmental health. Of global greenhouse gas emissions, transportation is responsible for (23%). Since, 2000, transportation emissions has significantly reduced in Europe but still need to go a long way⁵. There is an urgent need of new policies and management to reinforce and emphasis on control use of coal, vehicle and industrial emissions standard, fuel consumption limits, energy saving policies, environmental protection laws, massive tree plantation and other associated factors with air pollution should be considered on priority basis to control the burden of disease in near future.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

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