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GLOBAL PROBLEMS AT PRESENT TIMES

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ГЛОБАЛЬНІ ПРОБЛЕМИ СУЧАСНОСТІ

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Global challenges are a matter of concern. Present in all aspects of life, they are adversely impacting the future of mankind. They fall under four inter-related categories which encompass environmental, social, political and economic challenges. Each challenge has implications that require a global control approach to impose solutions. Currently there is no global governance to address these challenges. However global policies, international laws, campaigns, associations and global partnerships can be implemented in efforts to eradicate the challenges. The future of mankind is surrounded by global issues that are beyond the capacity of one nation to overcome. Hence this is of great significance to address these issues, so that nations cooperate and come up with better solutions, promoting growth and acceleration of economic, social, environmental and political activities. Furthermore, the emergence of cooperation among nations will make this world a better place.

The current environmental challenges pose a lot of risks to plants and animals. Water, soil and air pollution is the largest health risk which threatens the quality of life globally. Inappropriate disposal of industrial, domestic, sewage, oil spills and mining wastes can be deleterious to our health. Motor vehicle exhausts release greenhouse gases such as CO₂ and CO, which accumulate in the atmosphere and prevent the escape of ultra-violet rays. Excessive earth radiation occurs upon UV induced depletion of the ozone layer. Temperatures rapidly rises and results in global warming. Water pollution leads to disease outbreaks such as cholera and typhoid. These diseases have higher incidences in many parts of the world, and this is shown by the high mortality rate recorded each year. Water bodies contamination also leads to eutrophication. This is when the nitrogen rich wastes from industrial and mining wastes cause excessive growth of aquatic plants. These plants consume a greater part of the oxygen content. A decrease in water oxygen concentration causes the death of most aquatic organisms such as fish. This disrupts the food chain, putting a strain on food security and fish markets in countries where fish is a staple diet for many.

To overcome the above, educational campaigns can be carried out by different organisations to educate people on good practises to prevent the various forms of pollution. This includes encouraging them to use clean sources of fuel e.g gas as a substitute for firewood, the use of lead free fuel, hybrid electric cars with zero gas emission. Afforestation gets rid of greenhouse gases and avoiding wild fires since they are a threat to endangered species such as the white rhino that financially benefits the country through tourism. Instead of dumping oil spills into water bodies which leads to eutrophication, these can be treated with bacteria such as *Alcanivorax*.

Environmental challenges have social, political and economic implications e.g. eutrophication disrupts fish markets affecting trade and food security. Same applies with oil spillages that cause land degradation and loss of biodiversity which interferes with beautiful scenery meant for tourism.

This gives rise to a number of social, economic and political challenges. The interconnectedness of financial markets can be advantageous since integration of nations offers job opportunities. However it poses risks such as financial crisis which easily spreads to adjacent countries if the world's economy grows unbalanced. These risks encompass social challenges such as food security, trade, migration, high debts, inequality between social classes and poverty. Poverty stricken communities are also at a higher risks of contracting diseases which are associated with poor living conditions. Consequently international migration rates increase as a consequence of poverty and the interconnected world. Still on the social challenges, communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Influenza and EBOLA continue to plague humankind with high cases reported in Africa and spreading all over the world mostly with refugees being the main carriers in their camps. However, organizations like Red Cross and the United Nations are providing them with food, education and housing in certain camps to avoid crime and in tackling the health problems. Governments are working hand in hand with Red Cross to offer free immunization, vaccination programmes and financial aid which has helped in increasing the life expectancy in third world countries.

Many organizations which were formed after the Second World War, for example United Nations, have as their main goal - to address the current global issues which have been mentioned above. However the system is experiencing so many obstacles such as lack of participation from some countries which in turn leads to a deficiency of resources for the global governance, when there are some countries that compete in-terms of demonstrating their powers and looting minerals in poor countries which then can lead to wars and global terrorism because they have been stripped off their rights.

The primary benefit being interdependence of nations for example the European Union which helps member states to solve their problems such as unemployment and labour migration. Though global issues impose deleterious risks and unbearable challenges to a greater extent as compared to a few benefits mentioned above. However, they can be solved if the world decides to cooperate.