Literature Review Essay

Climate Change Health Challenges

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We have wandered across the world, cutting down trees and over fishing to find medicine that can make us live longer. We have been so selfish lately, only thinking of what is good for us, but not looking at the damage we have left behind. The trees that was cut down will not be able to convert carbon dioxide into oxygen, and the debris that left behind will release chemicals that will damage the environment. Now years have passed, and the number of extreme weather events have increased causing a lot of damage and a lot of health implications. Is climate change related to the health problems we face every day? Has the increase in extreme weather events changed how we live our life? Lastly, how important is our health during this time of crisis?

Luber and Prudent (2009) studied the health problems of humans and how it can be affected by climate change. The research data that they formed showed signs that there was an increase in health issues that was related to the extreme temperatures caused by climate change. According to a report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), earth has gone through major changes from climate change. The reason for the rise of climate change is the increase in greenhouse gas emissions. The IPCC reported that the probability of drought, tropical cyclones, heavy rainfall, and increasing sea levels to occur in the future is higher than 50%. These extreme weather events will be stronger and unpredictable in the years to come. This will affect the health of the people because of the extreme temperatures. People that live in urban areas around the globe have a higher chance of suffering from heat strokes or respiratory diseases. Heat strokes will be affected by the increase in temperatures, while respiratory diseases will be caused by air pollution due to the surplus of carbon dioxide. According to Luber and Prudent (2009), it is important that Health should be used as a strategy to challenge climate change. Climate change should be a priority for us, because it is dangerous against our health.

According to Hathaway and Maibach (2009) “climate change has both direct and indirect effect on human health”. Research data that was collected had climate change affecting the human health in seven different categories of the human body. Research data showed that increasing temperatures affected the number of deaths and the health of people who were in a poor state. People who are sick, will have a hard time healing due to the temperatures. There are some diseases that get stronger in lower temperatures, and there are some diseases that thrive in higher temperatures. With the increase in temperature, most of the diseases that excel in hotter temperatures will be harder to cure, and the disease will be more contagious. The elderly, young children, pregnant women, and people with illnesses have a higher risk of suffering from health implications from climate change. Research shows that climate change will affect the air quality, food safety, and mental health. Hathaway and Maibach (2009) carried out a research that made them interview different health professionals with research questions. They conducted a research based on if climate change affected the health of humans. They divided the research into different nations and they made to types of nations which consisted of English-Speaking nations and Non-English-Speaking nations. The end of the research showed that more than half of the nations in the world have basic knowledge about Climate Change awareness. Although awareness of climate change is low, it is important to educate the public about the health risks and how to prevent illnesses that are related to climate change.

According to Padhy, Sarkar, Panigrahi, and Paul (2015), “diseases, injuries, and deaths mostly occur during extreme weather conditions such as floods and cyclones.” They plan to form a research on whether climate change has an effect on mental health. There have been studies already about the harm climate change has on the physical body such as respiratory diseases. The human lungs can get damaged from harmful fumes from vehicles. Since climate change affects the temperature, more often people will have a respiratory related illness. More diseases can occur from the rising temperature. Increase in temperature can make an illness such as heat-stroke to occur more often. Climate change can affect the mental state of people. Research shows that people who experience extreme weather events that can be life threatening, get a mental disorder such as posttraumatic stress disorder. According to Padhy et al., climate change events such as rising temperatures, drought, and flood can cause respiratory problems, and cardiovascular disorders. Drought can cause harm to humans, because when there is a drought, people can experience malnutrition. Drought makes it harder for plants to grow, and it can cause a shortage of food. Floods can cause harm to humans as well because when there is a flood, the water can have different kinds of bacteria floating around. When the bacteria come in contact with a living person, it can infect them causing them to be sick.

Health is very important in our everyday lives. Climate change is now an issue that everyone in the world is facing. Since climate change is an issue, there is a guarantee that it will affect the health of everybody in the world. Luber and Prudent (2009) stated that the health of humans should be used as a stratagem against climate change in the future. Climate change is causing the weather event patterns to become even more unpredictable. Hathaway and Maibach (2018) proved that climate change conditions is causing more health implications. Most of the professionals that were interviewed had basic knowledge about climate change. Padhy et al. (2015), stated that climate change not only affects the physical health of humans, but also the mental state because of the increase in extreme weather occurring all over the world. People needs to be more aware of climate change. If we really value the health of the people, we need to find ways that can improve our health while slowing the pace of climate change.

References

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