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### Rapid Progress Causing Environmental Issues

Humanity has long been transforming the environment in order to make it safer and more comfortable. At the same time, people have harmed nature substantially and hindered numerous opportunities they were originally granted. For instance, most modern humans suffer from various forms of air and water pollution. The process actually started thousands of years ago, before any sophisticated tool was invented. Back in prehistoric times, people used to hunt big game and cut down forests with almost no self-restriction. The same can be said about fishing, as the methods humanity used led to serious ecological problems in various rivers, seas, and oceans. Nevertheless, there are two major issues that should be addressed by modern humans immediately. One of them is global warming that threatens millions of people due to a number of factors, including rising sea levels. Another one is humanity's lack of experience in recycling and storing waste. Even though rapid development contributed significantly to the improvement of people's lives, humanity has to change its approach to nature because overproduction and consumerism caused numerous environmental problems, and people become prone to conscious and healthy lifestyle.

Humans cannot live sustainable lives without having access to some resources in their original form. The history of the twentieth century has proven that once society no longer has to struggle to fulfill most basic needs, it begins to strive for contact with nature (Hofmann et al. 33). Humans have proven to be attached to the beauty of nature by default. Moreover, the growing demand for a variety of healthy nutritious foods proves that this tendency has become important for humanity as a whole. Therefore, an increasing number of affluent

societies inevitably begins to find the means to return to the healthy natural options when it comes to food and other basic spheres of their lives.

Although humans were destined to prosper on this planet, the original barbaric methods they used when providing food and security cannot be compared with the impact that modern factories have on the environment. The harmful processes that ruin the planet accelerated immediately after the Industrial Revolution that led to the widespread utilization of various machines. The equipment that people have been using since then is damaging the environment in numerous ways, including pollution, disruption of multiple species' habitats, and global warming (Balakrishnan et al. 27). Moreover, governments do not always provide proper regulations that ensure the protection of the environment. Therefore, people have to find the means to curtail the power of modern enterprises when it comes to carbon footprint and pollution.

Most modern people live in big cities, which means that they are immediately harmed by all the air and water pollution that takes place there. Many cities have become so congested that people have to wear masks and use other means of protection in order to have lower chances of getting various diseases (Balakrishnan et al. 35). Moreover, water from rivers and seas is still heavily utilized by megacities located nearby. Therefore, transforming the way people manage waste in the cities should become one of the primary objectives.

Development means the enhancement of human activities and their understanding of how the world functions. Nevertheless, the number of goods a person consumes have become one of the main indicators of development. Consumerism leads to enormous volumes of waste due to the overproduction and marketing efforts that include a massive amount of packaging (Wohner et al. 268). Moreover, such problems as overeating have already been acknowledged by humanity. Therefore, a purely consumerist approach to the economy, which is one of the major contributors to the multiple environmental issues humanity faces today,

should be abandoned.

Nevertheless, some people claim the technological progress and development in general, in most cases, justify any environmental issues they cause. They argue that humans have always worked hard to create the opportunity to feed themselves, and the unrestrained technological progress finally allowed most people to forget about famine. Such people also believe that in future, the rapid technological progress will allow humans to address environmental issues by utilizing completely new technologies. Nevertheless, these people do not mention that there are quite efficient eco-friendly farms and even corporations capable of providing healthy organic food to the entire population without harming the environment. In most modern societies, people already begin to reprioritize their consumption and are ready to pay a premium to be sure that they do not poison soil with chemicals and do not contribute to global warming (Wohner et al. 267). Moreover, scientists nowadays know for sure that people will not be able to recycle many types of waste in the near future. Thus, humanity cannot rely on future technologies to solve certain current problems.

The rapid technological progress provided people with the opportunities to have more experiences and lead healthy, sustainable lives. Nevertheless, consumerism, a recent phenomenon, has led to numerous environmental issues. People across the globe already suffer from various forms of pollution and rising sea levels, alongside many other human-made problems. Therefore, humanity should find the ways to transform agriculture, influence factories' functioning, fight air pollution in cities, and promote eco-friendly goods. All the above-mentioned has to be performed in a timely manner, as people can no longer waste time waiting for the efficient technologies which might help them save the environment.

Works Cited

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