

Environmental Awareness Journal

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The question of whether individual actions can affect climate change is a significant one, and I firmly believe that they can. Individual actions, such as reducing energy consumption, using public transportation, recycling, and supporting sustainable businesses, can collectively lead to substantial environmental impacts. When individuals adopt more environmentally friendly lifestyles, it not only reduces their carbon footprint but also sets a cultural norm that can influence broader societal changes. Moreover, consumer demand for green products can drive companies to adopt more sustainable practices.

The government plays a crucial role in addressing climate change. It should enact and enforce regulations that reduce carbon emissions, such as imposing stricter fuel efficiency standards for vehicles and limiting emissions from industrial plants. Governments can also incentivize renewable energy production through subsidies and tax breaks, making it a more viable option compared to fossil fuels (Mahdavi et al., 2022). Furthermore, by investing in public transportation and infrastructure that supports a low-carbon economy, governments can make it easier for individuals to make environmentally friendly choices.

Regarding the creation of more national parks and protected wilderness areas, I believe this is essential. Expanding protected areas not only conserves biodiversity but also protects the ecological services that these areas provide, such as carbon sequestration and water filtration. Protected natural areas are also crucial for scientific research and recreational activities that can enhance public appreciation for the natural world and motivate environmental stewardship. In addition, protected areas can help mitigate the impacts of climate change by preserving large areas of vegetation that absorb carbon dioxide.

On the matter of opening existing conserved lands to economic development, I stand against it. Economic development, such as mining, logging, and industrial activity, often leads to environmental degradation, including habitat destruction, pollution, and biodiversity

loss. Conserved lands have been protected for important reasons, and compromising these areas for short-term economic gains would undermine efforts to maintain ecological balance and biodiversity (Bousfield et al., 2020). It is crucial to find a balance between development and conservation, focusing development efforts in less sensitive areas while preserving critical habitats.

Summarizing my perspective on global social justice, I believe it is deeply connected to environmental justice. The effects of environmental degradation and climate change disproportionately impact the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations, who are often the least responsible for the emissions that drive these issues. Global social justice involves ensuring that these communities have a voice in environmental decision-making processes and are not unfairly burdened by the negative impacts of global development. It also involves equitable access to natural resources and ensuring that all communities benefit from sustainable development practices. Promoting environmental sustainability is, therefore, not only an ecological necessity but also a fundamental aspect of achieving fairness and equity on a global scale.

References

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