Title: Impact on Environment with high usage of personal vehicles

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**Topic**: What role do personal vehicles play in global climate change? How can the impact of vehicles on the environment be reduced? Should stricter regulations on personal vehicles be implemented to reduce global climate change? What other factors would need to be considered in implementing such a policy?

**Impact on Environment with high usage of personal vehicles**

# Introduction

Today’s generation is marked by fancy cars which are technologically sound. Virtually every other household which falls under the category of a middle income groups can afford a four wheeler and they boast of this by using their vehicles for every other need. This paper identified the potential hazards of over using a four wheeler and how the same impacts the environment in which we are breathing on a daily basis (Forster et al, 2007).

After briefly defining the significance of this study, this paper identifies the potential risks involved in over using the personal vehicles for the global society as a whole and also a set of recommendations have been included which can be used to by the common man to address this shortcoming in an efficient manner. The paper ends with a brief conclusion which ties the contents of the paper together (Forster et al, 2007).

# Significance of the current topic

This paper fulfils two primary objectives. Firstly it adds to the knowledge of the writer of this document as critical points related to the environmental degradation are highlighted. Secondly, it provides rich information to the reader of the paper about how over using their personally vehicles is significantly impacting their environmental in which they are living. The primary focus of this paper is on the overall global climate change with the over usage of the vehicles. Also, a set of recommendations have been provided which common masses can utilise to reduce unnecessary usage of their personal vehicles and how they can possible benefit from the same (V¨ah¨atalo et al, 2008).

In order to build a sustainable future, it is imperative for the current vehicle users to make judicious use of the resources and their vehicles which significantly emit out harmful radiations in the form of pollution which depletes the ozone layer which is a humongous threat to the global society as whole(AuCamp, 2007).

# Over using the personal vehicles

*Direct impact on the Environment*

It is imperative to understand what exactly the harm is when the personal vehicles are over used and how it impacts the environment specifically. The first and foremost thing is that the unnecessary and over usage of personal vehicles involves depletion of natural and non-renewable resources like fuel, petrol, and diesel etc. There are other marked are also significant, the same includes combustion of fossil fuels wherein gases (hazardous in nature) are emitted through the exhaust pipe of the vehicle. Examples of such harmful gases include, sulphur oxides, other minute particles of solid waste material, carcinogens, other miscellaneous organic compounds and also other soot and metals (D.-P. H¨ader et al, 2007).

*Indirect Impact*

It is also important to notice the other detrimental effects which the over usage of cars have on the health of the common man (Vigano et al, 2008). Over usage of domestic vehicles restricts the physical activities of the human as they hardly walk even if they are to visit the next door shopping mall or a retail outlet. The unnecessary usage of the domestic vehicles also creates unnecessary traffic jams and a huge number of vehicles with their engines on is the most harmful scenario for the environment relative to all other issues that contingent with the over usage of domestic vehicles (AuCamp, 2007).

# Environmental Degradation

Harmful emissions of the gases affect the environment in several ways. The most fundamental way in which the environment is affected is contributed by the fact that vehicles emit gases like carbon dioxide and other green house gases which consistently pollute the environment Along with this, solid particles (which are hardly visible from the naked eye of the human) gets mixed into the top layer of the soil. This ultimately gets mixed into the food chain as soil is used in the preparation of raw food materials (Forster et al, 2007).

Also, animals feed on the soil more often than not and these harmful radiations and solid waste materials from the car which in turn affects their respiratory systems, neurological systems etc which ultimately affects the overall ecological balance of the environment. Further, there are other harmful emissions as well in the form of sulphur oxides and nitrogen oxide that result in the formation of acid rain which is gain very harmful to the environment as whole. Thus, a high degree of environmental degradation takes place as the soil and the water is affected and all the living organisms (which are a part of the ecological system of the environment) face the consequences of polluted elements in the two most critical elements of the environment which are namely water and soil (P. Lu et al, 2007).

# Recommendations

**Reducing the Impact on the Environment**

The environmental degradation can only be stopped by reducing the number of traditional vehicles which run on heavy fuels that emit harmful gases (Vigano et al, 2008). Examples include vehicles running on non renewable sources and fuels such as petrol or diesel (C. Ferrier et al, 2007). The governmental and the concerned authorities and other related stakeholders of different nations and countries must get together to formulate a research and development program that entails using technologies for vehicles that are environmental friendly. Also, the current social trend has been that the end consumers are increasingly becoming more focused environmentally and as a result there has been a significant trend in the increase for environmental friendly cars (P. Lu et al, 2007).

Other examples of the same include Compressed Natural gas using cars, liquefied petroleum gas and other environmental friendly ways and techniques which can benefit the environment directly or indirectly (AuCamp, 2007). The government and the regulating authorities can also come up with incentives and benefits to vehicle users who use the vehicles with such technologies to possibly motivate the vehicle users to use environmental friendly cars and vehicles.

It is also necessary to spread awareness about the environmental degradation factor to the common masses. The concerned officials can also make use of the state of the art social media techniques which h is highly popular among all age groups to achieve the objective of reducing the impact of high vehicle usage on the environment (AuCamp, 2007).

**Stricter Policies**

A stricter policy is certainly not a solution to the problem at hand. One cannot expect the vehicle users to curb their respective vehicle usage. Rather, what should be encouraged is that fact that the vehicle users should be motivated and given incentives for reducing their respective usage of cars (V¨ah¨atalo et al, 2008). Usage of cars and vehicles has been prevalent from a long period of time and certainly asking the users to stop and that too via the means of a strict policy is certainly not going to promise any fruitful result (Vigano et al, 2008).

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