

# Chapter 1

## Environmental Issues and Globalizing World: An Overview

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The world is getting smaller and turning into a global village. For this reason, we are faced with a phenomenon called globalization. This phenomenon emerges as a result of the electronic communication revolution. In this new era, societies, cultures, social structures, economic structures—in short, all social systems are undergoing transformation. Fundamental changes are occurring in the fabric of societies. There are also different ways of expressing the phenomenon of globalization. This process, which is also called postmodernism, post-structuralism, new capitalism, clash of civilizations, information society, is actually nothing new for humanity. We can talk about an extension of the history of globalization dating back thousands of years. However, its effect in recent periods, called the period of speed and pleasure, is much more evident. In this study, the relationship between globalization and global environmental issues was examined. In this regard, firstly globalization was emphasized in the conceptual framework, and then global environmental issues were discussed.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Environment has a great meaning for every living thing because every living thing needs its environment to survive. This need is the main determinant and driving force of the sustainability of life. This need has led every living thing to live in harmony with its environment throughout the historical process. However, humans have disrupted this order. “*Human civilisation and globalisation are the dominant culprits of constant change in the global environment in present scenario*” (Singh & Singh, 2017, 13). Only humans have changed the adaptation process and paved the way for the formation of unavoidable environmental issues.

“*The environment has provided habitation for humans and numerous organism but the insatiable needs of humans have driven them to devise strategies for survival and adaptation.*” (Akintunde, 2017, 121). Science and technology have guided man in these strategies. Although living creatures other than humans survive by adapting to the environment they live in, humans have made tremendous changes in the environment with the help of technology and science. By relying on science and technology, humans have caused a lot of damage on the environment and still continue to do so. Today, human-origin environmental issues that cannot be prevented have reached global dimensions. By overconsuming and polluting nature, humans actually destroy their own future. However, human well-being requires the following three important criteria to work together in harmony (Holdren, 2008, 424):

**“Economic conditions and processes**, such as production, employment, income, wealth, markets, trade, and the technologies that facilitate all of these;

**Sociopolitical conditions and processes**, such as national and personal security, liberty, justice, the rule of law, education, health care, the pursuit of science and the arts, and other aspects of civil society and culture; and

**Environmental conditions and processes**, including our planet’s air, water, soils, mineral resources, biota, and climate, and all of the natural and anthropogenic processes that affect them.”

As can be seen from the above criteria, human welfare does not seem possible without the environment, so humans cannot ignore the environment and nature for the sake of more profit and savings. It would not be realistic to say that people's commercial activities are not the main cause of environmental issues that cannot be prevented today. While increasing industrial facilities pollute the air, soil and water, deforestation for the sake of urbanization makes living creatures deprived of their homes. Mass extinction of species, depletion of the ozone layer, increasing air, water and soil pollution around the world is directly related to human activities. Along with other global environmental issues, climate change continues to exist as a serious problem that endangers future generations. All these bad and big effects

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