

2018/18 9-6/18 CAUSES, EFFECTS AND CONTROLS OF DESERTIFICATION

Desertification : It is a type of land degradation in dry-lands in which biological productivity is lost due to natural processes or induced by human activities where by fertile areas become increasingly more arid.

CAUSES OF DESERTIFICATION :-

① Overgrazing - Animal grazing is a huge problem in many areas that are starting to become desert biomes. If there are too many animals that are overgrazing in certain spots, it makes it difficult for the plants to grow back, which hurts the biome and makes it lose its former green glory.

② Deforestation :- When people are looking to move into an area, or they need trees in order to make houses and do other tasks, then they are contributing to the problems related to desertification. Without the plants around, the rest of the biome cannot thrive.

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③ Foreaming Practices :- Some foreammers do not know how to use the land effectively. They may essentially strip the land of everything that it has before moving on to another plot of land. By stripping the soil of its nutrients, desertification becomes more and more of a reality for the area that is being used for foreaming.

④ Climate Change :- climate change plays a huge role in desertification. As the days get warmer and periods of drought become more frequent, desertification becomes more and more eminent. Unless climate change is slowed down, huge areas of land will become desert; some of those areas may even become uninhabitable as time goes on.

⑤ Natural Disasters :- There are some cases where the land gets damaged because of natural disasters, including drought. In those cases, there is not a lot that people can do except work to try and help rehabilitate the land after it has already been damaged by nature.

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Moreover, another important causes such as - unsustainable agriculture techniques, unsustainable water management, overpopulation and overexploitation of natural resources, urbanisation and development of tourism are also responsible for desertification.

EFFECTS OF DESERTIFICATION :-

Desertification reduces the ability of land to support life, affecting wild species, domestic animals, agricultural crops and people. The reduction in plant cover that accompanies desertification leads to accelerated soil erosion by wind and water. As vegetation cover and soil layers are reduced, rain drop impact and run-off increases.

A reduction in plant cover also results in a reduction in the quantity of humus and plant nutrients in the soil, and plant production drops further. As protective plant cover disappears, floods become more frequent and more severe.

CONTROLS OF DESERTIFICATION :-

① Afforestation and planting of soil

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binding grasses can check soil erosion, floods and water logging.

(2) Crop rotation and mixed cropping improve the fertility of the soil.

(3) Desertification can be checked by artificial bunds or covering the area with proper type of vegetation.

(4) Shifting of sand can be controlled by mulching. (use of artificial protective covering)

(5) Salinity of the soil can be checked by improved drainage. Saline soil can be recovered by leaching with more water, particularly where water table of the ground is not very high.

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