

Environmental Degradation and Human Security in Kazakhstan

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Environmental degradation is decline in the the environmental standard through depletion of natural resources such as air, water and soil, with destruction of ecosystems and the extinction of the wildlife, with many species becoming endangered. It is defined as any change or interference with the environment perceived to be deleterious to the environment (Johnson, 1997). Environmental degradation is a continuing process compromises the natural environment some way or the other, adversely affecting the biodiversity and the general health of the environment. The process of environmental degradation can be entirely natural, or it can be further accelerated or caused by human activities. It has been recognized, by many international organizations, as one of the major threats which the planet Earth is facing. As the conditions conducive for human existence are only available on planet Earth, therefore, if the environment here becomes irreparably compromised, it could lead to the end of human existence (Mahon, 2014).

Human security means security of an individual from any type of fear or threat. In the domain of international relations, human security is not a new concept. Its existence is as old as human birth. But formally it came up in the 1994 UNDP report. The UNDP 1994 report originally argued that human security as a concept requires paying attention to both, freedom from fear as well as freedom from want (UNDP, 1994). The other forms of security like national security, Regional security, and global security are all based on the human security. From a long time, the notion of human security has gained and is gaining worldwide acceptance.

Links between :

The connection between human security and environmental security takes both conceptual as well as pragmatic approach to various environmental issues such as soil erosion, desertification, water degradation, demographic shifts, food security and agricultural prospects, urbanization trends, hazard-induced migrations which adversely affect human security. Environmental security forms one of the most important part of human security and it aims to protect people from the short and long term effect of deterioration of the environment due to human activities. In developing countries, one of the greatest environmental threats is lack of access to clean water resources. In industrial countries, air pollution is one of the major threats. Global warming, which is caused by the emission of greenhouse gases, is another complex environmental security issue. Kazakhstan is also facing the above mentioned problems. The whole question of 'Freedom from Want' and 'Freedom to Fear' is necessary to give a