

An Effort Towards Saving The Environment By Thunberg: From 'School Strike for Climate' to 'Climate Strike Online'

Dr. Megha Singh

Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Doctor Hari singh Gour Central University,
Sagar, M.P., India

ABSTRACT - "The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it." – Robert Swan.

Moreover there are increasing needs for such public participation due to the recent change in sources of environmental problems. Today, the sources of pollution have shifted from production to consumption processes. According to Greta Thunberg's book which was published in english, Spanish, French, German and Catalan she held her first public speech on 08 September, 2018 in Stockholm within the framework of the peoples Climate March. In this first public speech she pointed out that her motivation to start the 'Skolstrejk for Klimate' was a scientific paper that was published in June, 2017 and which stated that there was only three years time to reach the goal of the Paris Agreement of 2015 to hold global warming below two centigrades above the pre – industrial levels of AD 1850.

Keywords – Greta Thunberg, Environmental Problems, Climate March, School Strike for Climate, Paris Agreement.

I. Introduction

Earth day in 1970 was celebrated by twenty million Americans and focused on quality of life issues and concerns for the environment. There were several toxic chemical accidents in the 1970s that brought more publicity, energy and momentum to the movement.

During Reagan's presidency, political protection of the environment eroded. Reagan undertook deregulation that frosted environment activists. The environmental movement has changed in its motives and tactics since its beginnings two centuries ago. It can even be hard to generalize one environmental movement, as there are a variety of different groups with different goals and different means of achieving those goals.^[1]

Environmental movement organizations, like all other social movement organizations, need public support to be successful and achieve their goals. There is mixed evidence on the impact public opinion has on public policy. Some scholars believe that public opinion has a large impact on public policy, while others think that public opinion does not affect public policy.^[2]

The human development report of 1998 (UNDP) affirms this trends and states that growth in consumption and unbalanced consumption patterns are placing unprecedented pressure on the environment.^[3] Climate change and technology rather than wealth and income are the modern day wedges that are increasingly dividing the haves from have-nots, said the UNDP in its 2019 Human Development Report. "The climate crisis is already hitting the poorest hardest, while technological advances such as machine learning and artificial intelligence can leave behind entire groups of people, even countries." "Under the shadow of the climate crisis and sweeping technological change, inequalities in human development are taking new forms," the report said.^[4]

II. A Short note of 'School Strike for Climate' and Background of 'Fridays for Future'

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg started her 'Skolstrejk for Klimate' (School Strike for Climate) on 20 August 2018 at the Mynttorget in her hometown Stockholm. Her 'School Strike for Climate' inspired the weekly