Reflection of the Research Conducted for the Climate Change Podcast

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**Introduction:**

Over the course of this podcast, climate changed was discussed in order to understand what causes climate change and why it is not being combated as much as it should be. Climate change is occurring due to greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, that are stopping heat from escaping earth’s atmosphere and are gradually making the earth warmer to a drastic extent. The other topics that were discussed were people’s opinions and attitudes on climate change, the health problems arising, the carbon tax, renewable energy, and the cost of implementing changes in order to make the earth safer. The research that was conducted for this discussion includes insight as to why people do not take much action for climate change and why it happens. By implementing all of these topics of climate change into one discussion, it was easy to see how everything ties into this huge issue going on in the world today.

**Reflection:**

The first topic discussed in the podcast was the attitude of citizens towards climate change and how it is changing. The Pew Research Center discovered that about 48% of Americans that climate change is more convincing now due to the recent natural disasters that have been occurring more frequently (Pew Research Center, 2019). In the past, American’s had been ignoring climate change because they did not want to put forth the effort of having to make changes to their daily lifestyles in order to fix something that was not affecting them personally. As seen through the research, this mentality has changed in the recent years because the effects of climate change such as forest fires and flooding have been impacting everyone’s lives in a harmful way. The effects of these natural disasters and the increase of climate change are also seen to be harming citizens health. Health was another part of the discussion in the podcast and it covered how the increase of heat due to the greenhouse gases has been leading to more heat-related deaths. This is also a factor as to how people are seeing climate change affect them more and more. One of the ways that climate change could be looked at and to help minimize it is the implementation of the carbon tax. The carbon tax is a tax where those who release greenhouse gases must pay a price for every ton of gas they pollute into the environment, forcing them to reduce their emissions in order to not have to pay the tax (Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, 2019). A way to reduce their emissions is by moving to renewable energy. As discussed in the podcast, other countries are using renewable energy such as wind turbines and electric cars which produces a significant reduction in cost of energy. The last topic of discussion was the cost that accompanies climate change. The major way cost takes a part in climate change is the amount of money needed to pay for the destruction caused by natural disasters. The cost of natural disasters last year was around $91 billion (Chappell, 2018.)

**Extension:**

This podcast was a very effective way in order to uncover the issues from climate change, but there were some implications that effected the conversation. One of the major implications was that the conversation felt more like a presentation as there was an audience, and it felt as though it was just presenting facts to them instead of allowing a flow of ideas. The podcast would have flowed better if there was not the pressure of having it flow so smoothly, and if there was a way to make different takes and edit while making it. Another implication to the podcast was that sometimes the audio did not pick up everything as it should have, and it got very quiet. One of the hardest things about doing a podcast live and not allowing edits is that when there are audio malfunctions such as this one it is difficult to fix it until after the podcast is already completed.

Some information that was briefly touched in the podcast but could have been further explained was what actions could be taken in order to help combat climate change. One of the major ways to help is reducing the use of air conditioning. Air conditioners release HFC gases into the environment, and with the increase of heat due to climate change, more people are using air conditioning. By reducing the use of HFC air conditioners, there could be a way to prevent a 0.5-degree Celsius warming by 2020 (Zaelke, 2019). Little things such as reducing air conditioning and not littering would make a huge impact on the environment, but people don’t see it as something that needs to be addressed immediately. By adding this information into the podcast, it would incite a more in-depth discussion over how citizens are killing the environment without knowing it and it would spark something in people as to they are the main reason the earth is dying. The main discussion in the podcast over how people are inciting climate change is how big companies are emitting all of the pollutants into the air, making it seem as though it is more their problem and not a personal problem. Another point that could have been touched more in the podcast would be what other countries are doing in order to combat climate change and how America can learn from them and use it to better the environment. One good point was brought up in the discussion how Canada has the use of wind power which is healthier for the environment and better for the economy. If America looked at these facts and made the necessary changes in order to emulate their ways, climate change would not be as big as an issue as it is today. Overall, I believe that a major part of the discussion should have been about specific ways in order to slow down climate change instead of talking about why people don’t feel it necessary to change for something they don’t see as harmful. Simple things such as reducing the use of plastic, air conditioners, and having the government take more action instead of just talking about the issue and not doing anything about it. Besides the fact that those ideas should have been implemented more, the podcast was very beneficial in discussing what climate change is and how it is more serious than it seems.

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