

POLLUTION AND ITS IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT

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Introduction-

Environment and pollution- these two words are on the lips of each and every person. It has become a great subject for discussion and has become the worst possible problem. It has affected the health of the people. So this has attracted the attention of W.H.O. (World health organization).

Environment refers to our surroundings. It includes plants life, animal life, air and water. Development of big industries, increase in the number of vehicles, destroying nature by cutting down trees, the greedy nature of man has caused air, water and noise pollution. Life and environment go together. Health and happiness of men depend to a great extent upon environment. If it is clean, man will be hale and healthy. What exactly the situation now?

Environmental Dimensions-

Environmental quality has many dimensions. Our lives are affected by the air we breathe, the water we drink, the beauty we observe in nature, and the diversity of species with which we come into contact. The productivity of our resources in producing goods and services is influenced by climate, rainfall, and the nutrients in the soil. We experience discomfort from excessive noise and crowding, and from the risk of nuclear catastrophe. Each of these dimensions of environmental quality may respond to economic growth in a different way.

Types, Extent and Harms of Pollution-

The situation is grim and serious, that too in big cities it is horrible. It is a universal fact that the whole of our surroundings are polluted. Man- so called the superior being is also polluted i.e. he is lacking in the characteristics of human beings. The customs and rituals, blind beliefs also play a great role. This is the main cause for water, air and noise pollution.

Water is considered polluted if some substances or conditions are present to such a degree that the water cannot be used for a specific purpose. Olaniran (1995) defined water pollution to be the presence of excessive amounts of a hazard (pollutants) in water in such a way that it is no longer suitable for drinking, bathing, cooking or other uses. Pollution is the introduction of a contamination into the environment. It is created by industrial and commercial waste, agricultural practices, and human activities.

Water pollution is generally induced by humans. It results from actions of humans carried on to better self. These could be treated under the various activities that man engages in, that lead to pollution. The growth of human population, industrial and agricultural practices is the major causes of pollution. Water pollution becomes worse as a result of overcrowding in urban areas. Agricultural, domestic and industrial wastes are the major pollutants of aquatic habitats. Sewage is the biggest pollutant of fresh water when discharged into them. The effects of pollution are greater in shallow, enclosed or slow flowing streams. Excess fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides when washed by rain into rivers causes serious danger to life. Apart from fertilizers, detergents are also very toxic to marine life when washed into water. This is dangerous to plants and animals including humans.

Pollution poses a serious risk to life especially when the water is a source of drinking and for domestic purposes for humans polluted waters are potent agents of diseases such as cholera, typhoid and tuberculosis.

Today the water of all rivers, tanks and lakes in India is unfit for drinking. They have become breeding centers of dreadful diseases. It is because all along the courses of the river people make it dirty by using it for all purposes. People wash vehicles, animals and dirty clothes. They throw the half burnt bodies and ashes. The countless factories dump poisonous wastes in to the rivers. For example the Ganga, the holy river becomes so polluted, that it is not safe for drinking.

Air pollution is more dangerous than water pollution. Due to industrial revolution and invention of so many machines thousands of industrial units were started. No doubt these industrial units produced more goods which resulted in to faster economic growth.

This economic growth throughout the world brings ever greater harm to the earth's environment. The poisonous smoke of the factories and thousands of vehicles pollute our atmosphere.

The vehicles are also responsible for noise pollution. A high level of continuous noise is harmful to the nervous system. People who work in factories with machines become partially deaf by the time they retire. Another great problem of pollution is Ozone destruction. The Ozone layer above the atmosphere is found to be getting destroyed. The Ozone layer stops the ultra violet rays from entering the atmosphere. So we have to protect it. Thus increase in income and wealth sow the seeds for the amelioration of ecological problems. So what remedies should be taken to solve this problem?

Remedies-

The answer to this question is critical for the design of appropriate development strategies for lesser developed countries. The forces leading to change in the composition and techniques of production may be sufficiently strong so as to more than offset the adverse effects of increased economic activity on the environment.

Since water pollution has direct consequences on human well beings, an effective teaching strategy in the formal education sector is essential for a better understanding so as to develop the right attitude towards water. Water pollution has dual effect on nature. It has negative effects on the living and also on the environment. There is a reduction in productivity and damage to human health.

There are many approaches that could be adopted in water pollution control and management. It could be through prevention, practice efforts or join a project/program; Regulation and monitoring or engaging in control measures by reducing or minimizing waste.

Prevention of water pollution includes the following ways:

- (i) Wash your car far away from any storm water drains.
- (ii) Don't throw trash, chemicals or solvents into sewer drains
- (iii) Inspects your septic system every 3 – 5 years
- (iv) Avoid using pesticides and fertilizers that can run off into water systems
- (v) Sweep your driveway instead of hosing it down
- (vi) Always pump your waste-holding tanks on your boat
- (vii) Use non-toxic cleaning materials
- (viii) Clean up oil and other liquid spills with kitty litter and sweep them up
- (ix) Don't wash paints brushes in the sink.

Another way is to join or get involved with pollution prevention is to practice efforts on your own or join projects or programme. Regulation and monitoring is an effective way of pollution management. Many nations worldwide have enacted legislation to regulate various types of pollution as well as to mitigate the adverse effects of pollution.

Pollution control means to control the emissions and effluents into the air, water and land or soil. Without pollution control, the waster products from consumptions, heating, agriculture, mining, manufacturing, transportation and other human activities, whether they accumulate or disperse, will degrade the environment. Pollution prevention and waste minimization are more desirable than pollution control. However, pollution could be minimize by adopting these practices (i) by recycling (ii) by reusing (iii) waste minimization (iv) by mitigating (v) by preventing (vi) by compost.

Apart from all these mentioned above, we can also use pollution control devices which include Dust collection system e.g. bag houses, cyclones, electrostatic precipitators, scrubbers e.g. baffle spray scrubber, mechanically aided scrubbers, spray tower, wet scrubber, sewage treatment etc.

It is not so easy to solve the problem of pollution. It requires the sordid efforts of both the Government and the people. In the first place, people must realize the danger and then they must do something solid work to solve this problem. They must and should

co-operate with the Government in implementing various measures to eradicate this problem. Destruction of forests should be stopped. More and more trees and plants should be planted. The industrial units must start waste-treatment plants. To control emission of smoke from the transport vehicles, the old vehicles should be banned and adulteration of oil should be stopped.

CONCLUSION-

The problem of pollution is a challenge to the youths. They have to use their energy to safeguard the good earth from ruin. Pollution is an environmental problem that is of major concern to us in the world at large. Environmental education is of immense importance to use particularly in schools and should have a place in the school curriculum.

RECOMMENDATION-

It is pertinent that environmental education is introduced in schools and be made compulsory. Federal, State and Local Government should establish agencies to monitor our environment and equally to be sure that our environment is kept clean and free from refuse dumps. Industrial homes or family should equally inculcate a hygienic environment. Our industries should go advance in trying to recycle these wastes instead of dumping them for rain water to sweep these refuse into our rivers and streams making them undrinkable.

