

Introduction

Pollution is a necessary evil of all development. Due to lack of development of a culture of pollution control, there has resulted a heavy backlog of gaseous, liquid and solid pollution in environment. It has to be cleaned. Pollution control is a recent environmental concern. Pollution is a man-made problem, mainly of affluent countries.

The developed countries have been exploiting every bit of natural resource to convert them into goods for their comfort, and to export them to needy developing world. In doing so, the industrialized countries dump lot of materials in their environment which becomes polluted. In one way pollution has been “exported” to developing countries and around the world.

Definition of Pollution

- ☐ When Harmful Substances Contaminate the Environment it is Called Pollution.
- ☐ Pollution refers to the very bad condition of environment in terms of quantity and quality

What is Pollution?

Pollution, we hear it every other day at school, college and read about it in newspapers. So what is it? Pollution occurs when pollutants contaminate the natural surroundings; which brings about changes that affect our normal lifestyles adversely. Pollutants are the key elements or components of pollution which are generally waste materials of different forms. Pollution disturbs our ecosystem and the balance in the environment. With modernization and development in our lives pollution has reached its peak; giving rise to global warming and human illness.

Pollution occurs in different forms; air, water, soil, radioactive, noise, heat/ thermal and light. Every form of pollution has two sources of occurrence; the point and the non-point sources. The point sources are easy to identify, monitor and control, whereas the non-point sources are hard to control. Let us discuss the different types of pollutions, their causes and effects on mankind and the environment as a whole.

TYPES OF POLLUTION

Air pollution: This is a contamination of natural air with dangerous gases. This is a major contributor to environmental pollution. Presence of lot of green trees and plants is one of the option to minimize this pollution.

Water pollution: After air, water is resource which is highly contaminated.



Both drinking water from rivers, ponds and also sea water are contaminated by discharge of large amounts of human, industrial wastes leading to water pollution.

This makes the water harmful to drink and also endanger lives of sea and marine animals.

Sound pollution: Also called as noise pollution is a disturbance of silent environment with harsh loud noises. This is mostly due to automobile sounds, the audio systems used for fun or public speeches, temples, mosques, churches etc. This pollution has severe impact especially on the old people, small children. Even sound from industrial sirens, vehicle movements also contribute to this noise pollution.

Dust pollution: This is a pollution where in the contamination is due to dust particles in air. This can be from soil, roads, farming, and even due to mining etc. From farms this dust pollution occurs due to pollen grains as a part of pollination. While on the roads it is due to unclean road over run by vehicles. This air contamination by dust creates trouble for proper breathing leading to infections, congestion of breath etc.

Radiation pollution: This is the pollution due to abnormal radiation in the environment. This occurs due to use of radioactive elements from atomic energy stations. From cell and mobile towers, by use of wireless Internet access modems etc. This is one of the serious types of pollution and also neglected one with the interest of business. Even it is said that birds like sparrows and insects like honey bees seem to be getting extinct from human areas due to these radiations.

Thermal pollution: This pollution arises due to release of excess heat from thermal power plants, industries involved in metals molding etc. The heat is released into the surrounding air rising the temperature of the locality drastically. This can be especially troublesome during summers for the people staying in the same city or locality.

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Effects of Pollution

1. Environment Degradation : Environment is the first casualty for increase in pollution weather in air or water. The increase in the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere leads to smog which can restrict sunlight from reaching the earth. Thus, preventing plants in the process of photosynthesis. Gases like Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide can cause acid rain. Water pollution in terms of Oil spill may lead to death of several wildlife species.

2. Human Health : The decrease in quality of air leads to several respiratory problems including asthma or lung cancer. Chest pain, congestion, throat inflammation, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease are some of diseases that can be caused by air pollution. Water pollution occurs due to contamination of water and may pose skin related problems including skin irritations and rashes. Similarly, Noise pollution leads to hearing loss, stress and sleep disturbance.

3. Global Warming : The emission of greenhouse gases particularly CO₂ is leading to global warming. Every other day new industries are being set up, new vehicles come on roads and trees are cut to make way for new homes. All of them, in direct or indirect way lead to increase in CO₂ in the environment. The increase in CO₂ leads to melting of polar ice caps which increases the sea level and pose danger for the people living near coastal areas.

4. Ozone Layer Depletion: Ozone layer is the thin shield high up in the sky that stops ultra violet rays from reaching the earth. As a result of human activities, chemicals, such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), were released into the atmosphere which contributed to the depletion of ozone layer.

5. Infertile Land : Due to constant use of insecticides and pesticides, the soil may become infertile. Plants may not be able to grow properly. Various forms of chemicals produced from industrial waste is released into the flowing water which also affects the quality of soil.

Advantages:

- Depending on your area and the nearest on-ramp, you'll have a shorter trip to get onto the highway. If you are renting out or selling your home, you can advertise it as "convenient to major thoroughfares" or similar.
- If you like white noise, you have a steady supply of it.
- Home sound-proofing measures may also improve energy efficiency.

Disadvantages:

- Noise pollution. Constantly, even at late hours, major highways have heavy truck traffic. Controls such as trees and sound walls can only partially mitigate the noise, or perhaps redirect it. It is also possible to build in sound-proofing with good insulation and double-paned windows, but opening the windows for ventilation instantly negates any such improvements. Most of it is white noise, meaning some may be able to "get used to it", but some freeway noise can be very loud. I used to live by a freeway off-ramp, and trucks would come slamming down it using their jake brakes (engine braking), which makes a loud bang-bang-bang sound. Noise pollution, in turn, may result in less restful sleep or interrupt concentration or studying.
- Air pollution. I'm sure the traffic on all highways and freeways contributes to air pollution in general, but living in proximity to the source might mean being exposed to a continual and higher concentration of it, especially depending on wind and weather conditions.
- Soil pollution. In *Farm City*, author Novella Carpenter describes her squat garden in downtown Oakland. Because it is near a freeway, she has her soil tested early on for pollutants that might have resulted, including heavy metals and lead. Her soil comes up clean, but I wonder how many would-be gardeners would have the means or foresight to test before planting.