

NOWADAYS, PROBLEM AND SOLUTIONS OF THE AIR POLLUTION

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Abstract: Environmental pollution is not a new phenomenon, yet it remains the world's greatest problem facing humanity, and the leading environmental causes of morbidity and mortality. Man's activities through urbanization, industrialization, mining, and exploration are at the forefront of global environmental pollution. Both developed and developing nations share this burden together, though awareness and stricter laws in developed countries have contributed to a larger extent in protecting their environment. Despite the global attention towards pollution, the impact is still being felt due to its severe long-term consequences. This chapter examines the types of pollution—air, water, and soil; the causes and effects of pollution; and proffers solutions in combating pollution for sustainable environment and health.

Key words: urbanization, supply chains, outcomes, chemicals, destroy ecosystem, negative impact.

Industrialization, use of pesticides and nitrogen-based fertilizers, crop residues in agriculture, urbanization, forest fires, desert dust, and inadequate waste management have intensified environmental health risks and pollution, especially in low- and middle-income countries. At the same time, the global economy relies on deeply intertwined supply chains, sustained by more than 100 billion tons of raw materials entering the system each year. Intensive material consumption depletes natural resources and causes negative environmental impacts at every stage of the product lifecycle including production, use phase, and end-of-life. Global waste is expected to increase to 3.4 billion tons by 2050.

Pollution of all types hinder development outcomes. Air pollution, exposure to lead and other chemicals, and hazardous waste including exposure to improper e-waste disposal, cause debilitating and fatal illnesses, create harmful living conditions, and destroy ecosystems. Pollution stunts economic growth, exacerbates poverty and inequality in both urban and rural areas, and significantly contributes to climate change. Poor people, who cannot afford to protect themselves from the negative impacts of pollution, end up suffering the most.

Pollution is the largest environmental cause of disease and premature death. Pollution causes more than 9 million premature deaths, the majority of them due to air pollution. That's several times more deaths than from AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined. Global health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, are

reminders of the strong linkages between environment and health and of the need to address such linkages systematically.

Air pollution is the leading environmental risk to health, causing 7 million premature deaths each year. This is equivalent to the number of people that have died from COVID-19 since March 2020. A recent World Bank publication found that air pollution cost the globe an estimated \$8.1 trillion in 2019, equivalent to 6.1 percent of global GDP. More than 95 percent of deaths caused by air pollution occur in low- and middle- income countries. In individual countries, the economic burden of pollution associated with premature mortality and morbidity is also significant, equivalent to 5 to 14 percent of countries' GDPs.

Indeed, individual studies for Argentina, Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Lao PDR, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Slovakia, Ghana and Vietnam, at national and subnational levels, suggest that the costs of pollution-related diseases are mainly due to outdoor and household air pollution, and exposure to lead and other chemicals.

It is critical to address pollution because of its unacceptable toll on health and human capital, as well as associated GDP losses. Pollution management offers no-regrets options that can alleviate poverty, boost shared prosperity, and address the vital demands of millions of people for healthier and more productive lives. Pollution management can also make substantial contributions to climate change mitigation through actions such as reduction of black carbon and methane emissions, which contribute to both air pollution and climate change. In addition, pollution management can enhance competitiveness, for example, through job creation, better energy efficiency, improved transport, and sustainable urban and rural development.

The first way to reduce pollution is to practice the 3Rs concept namely reduce, reuse and recycle. Citizens should reduce the usage of air-conditioners as it will release harmful gases, for instance ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons which will result in reducing air pollution. One may make no difference, but when carried out together, massive changes can be made. Moving on, reuse reusable items like plastic bags, bottles, boxes and more is also one of the ways to reduce pollution. For example, instead of throwing away a worn-out tire, it can be used as a plantation plot. The next way to reduce pollution is to recycle recyclable items such as glass, cans, and newspapers. The recycled newspapers can be reproduced as toilet papers which will reduce extra waste on earth indirectly contributing to reducing land pollution. Therefore, practicing the 3Rs is one of the most effective ways to reduce pollution on earth.

Reducing the usage of vehicles on road will also help in reducing air pollution on earth. The more the usage of vehicles, the more the harmful gases released into the air such as hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxides, and sulfur dioxides

which will cause serious air pollutions. The usage of cars, lorries and motorbikes should be drastically reduced as the gases released by these vehicles can also contribute in green house effect. However, these pollutions can be reduced when citizens practice the habit of car-pooling and the usage of public transport like bus, trains, monorails and many more. In addition, citizens can walk or cycle to near destinations instead of driving which will lead to lesser air pollution. Therefore, reducing the usage of vehicles by no doubt can reduce air and sound pollutions.

Another way to reduce pollution on earth is to create awareness among the citizens. Awareness about the importance on reducing pollution on earth can be created through campaigns for example, the “Go Green” campaign which encourages the citizens to plant more trees and to use recyclable items in their daily lives. The “Earth Hour” is also one of the activity conducted world widely which requires everyone to turn off every lights for one hour so as to create awareness on the importance of reducing pollution on earth by reducing the usage of electronic items. Awareness can be implanted through education for example, advertisements on televisions and articles in newspapers which are related to topics like “How to reduce pollutions”, “The consequences of pollutions” and so on. Therefore, pollution can be reduced by creating awareness among the citizens.

RECOURCES

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