

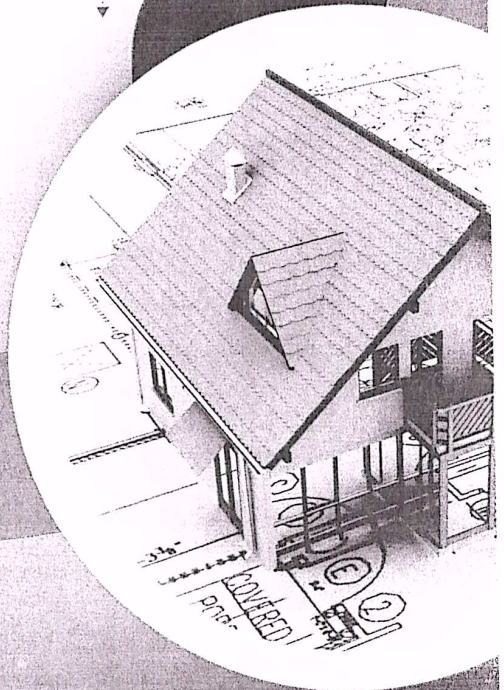
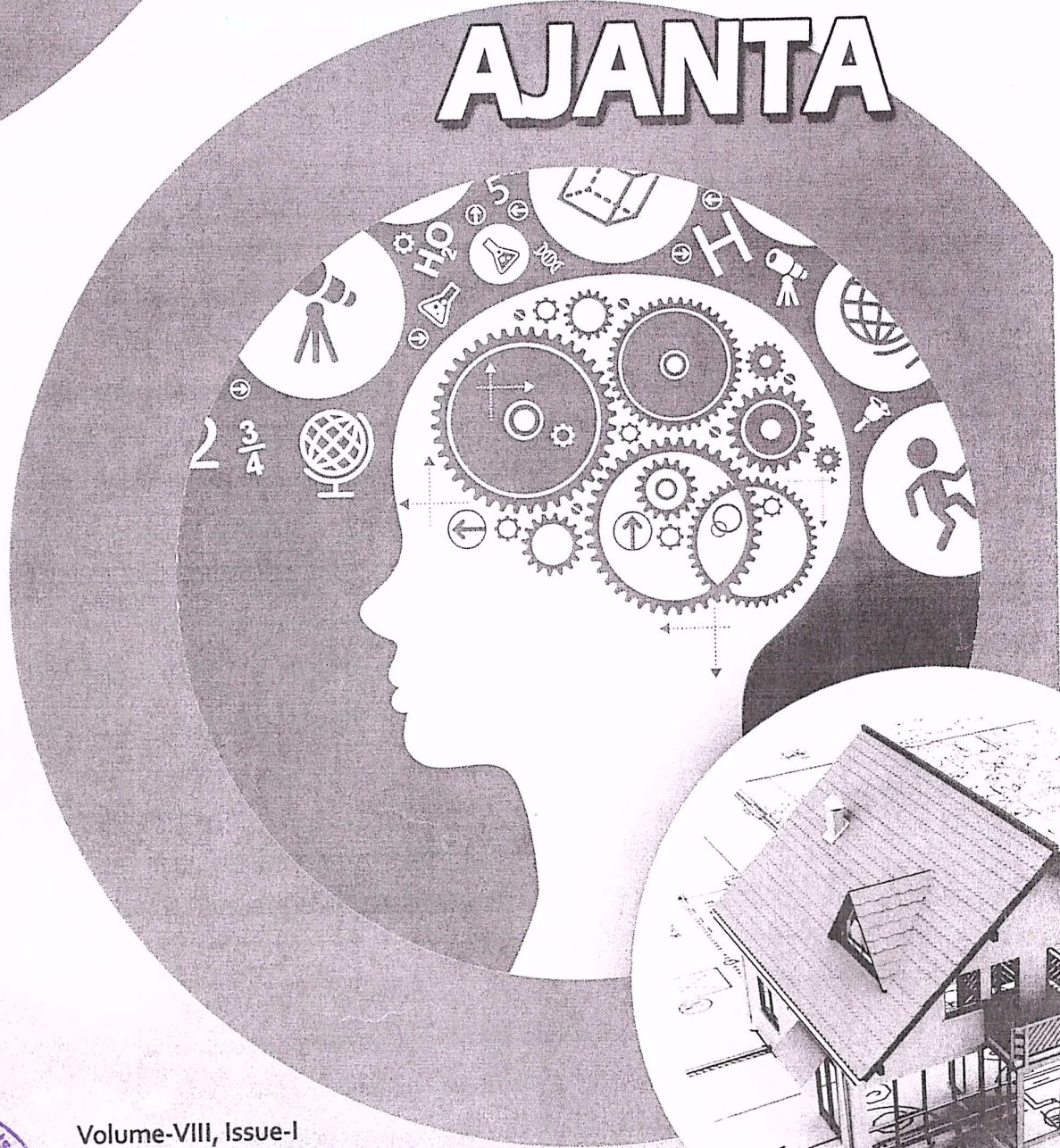


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5. Issues of Environmental Degradation

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Introduction

“Homo sapiens” is the biological name of human beings and the human beings is a synonym of Pollution where ever the human race has reached we have ensured that the place is full of traces of the visit to the place leaving our indelible foot prints for the future generation to bear the brunt of mother nature right from the depth of the deep seas to the heights of the awe inspiring Himalayas and from the coldest place of the Antarctic region to the hottest place in the Sahara Desert and the Dense Jungles of the African continent. and maybe in future it is going to be the moon and other planets where it is possible for the mankind to reach.

These pollutants are in the form of non bio degradable waste in the form of Plastic wrappers, Aluminium foils and cans leather articles, oxygen cylinders etc have been littered all over the place initially by explorers followed by tourists around the world

Nature does not accept these pollutants especially the sea which throws back the garbage dumped there by the humans back to the sea shore without being partial in any way it does not accept any non bio degradable waste at all.

Objectives

- To study the various types of Environmental Degradation
- To study the adverse effects of environmental Degradation
- Suggestions and recommendations

Importance of the Study

The environmental degradation today is a global phenomenon destroying the nature in each and every corner of the world where the mankind has managed to reach and triggered an irreversible process of destruction in the name of advancement / development. We have not learnt to live with the nature rather we have gone against the nature thereby creating a massive ecological imbalance, affecting not only the flora and fauna but also the wild life and the aquatic / marine life forms found deep down under the sea. If immediate corrective measures are



not taken and implemented on a war footing it is very disheartening to even imagine the world a few decades from now , hence the importance of this study is quite significant

Pollution :- The main cause of environmental degradation is Pollution which is of two types Point source pollution and Non point Source pollution

The point source of pollution is the pollution that takes place at the origin of the polluting material or the polluting source for eg the decaying of a dead animal in the open the pollution is restricted to the place itself and a radius of few hundred meters, the honking of horns by vehicles is more or less restricted to the local areas only..

Whereas in a non point source the pollution is more widespread and more harmful to the environment as compared to the point source of pollution for eg if the untreated chemicals are release by factories in the adjoining drains which are attached to the connected to the bigger Nullahs and rivers, this toxic and harmful chemicals not only flows wit te water for many kilometres at a stretch but also damages flora and Fauna of that region to a great extent which eventually disturbs the food chain . The aquatic species are killed due to the harmful chemicals present in the water due to the effluents discharged by these factories and the percolation of these chemicals into the underground water table causes the damage to the nearby fields and causes certain irreparable damages to the general population residing in the vicinity these factories

In India to cite a recent disaster is the case of Bhopal Gas Tragedy the leakage of Poisonous gas from the Union Carbide plant at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh the gas was so dangerous that people started getting sick by inhaling it and even the birds and animals in the surrounding areas were dying the polluted water drained into the near by ponds was killing the fish as well.

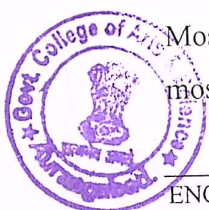
Types of Pollution

The pollution is of different types of which Air, Water and Noise are the ones commonly known to one and all however the light pollution, Visual pollution, Nuclear Pollution and Thermal pollution are the lesser known pollutants in the world today.

Air Pollution

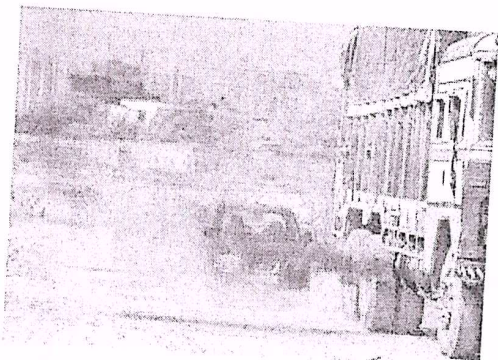
Air Pollution is the most discussed form of pollution in today's modern political climate.

Most of this is due to theories about greenhouse gases leading to global warming. As a result, most of us think of air pollution as something that is caused primarily by big industrial factories



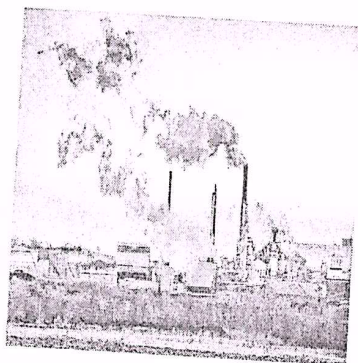
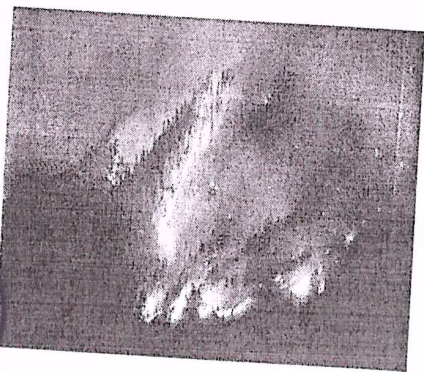
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and car exhaust, and while both of those sources do contribute to the problem, they are not the only factors at play.



Air pollution occurs when any sort of contaminant is introduced into the atmosphere, thereby disrupting the chemical composition of said atmosphere. The most obvious of these contaminants is carbon dioxide, which is frequently cited as the most pervasive "greenhouse gas" in the Earth's atmosphere. Theory states that these gases are trapping heat within the Earth's atmosphere, in turn boosting the temperature of the planet overall. These temperature shifts can then have dire effects on Earth ecosystems, whether due to melting in the polar ice caps or simple seasonal shifts on land. The climate change portion of air pollution is sometimes split off into its own category, dubbed "thermal pollution." Still, climate change is not the only consequence of air pollution, nor are manmade sources aren't the only contributing factors to air pollution. Air pollution can also bring about visible smog clouds, acid rain, cancer, asthma, and even the death or diminishing returns of crops due to lessened oxygen levels. Causes for air pollution include exhaust from automobiles or factory machinery, and also certain natural factors such as volcanic activity and forest fires.

Thermal Pollution



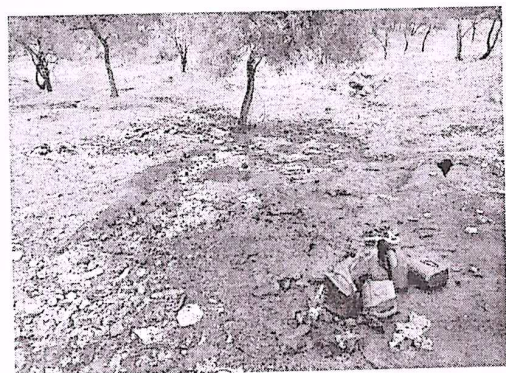
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Thermal pollution is the increase of temperature caused by human activity. like Warmer lake water from nearby manufacturing (using cool water to cool the plant and then pump it back into the lake)

Included in thermal pollution should also be the increase in temperatures in areas with lots of concrete or vehicles, generally in cities. These kinds of environmental pollution can cause aquatic life to suffer or die due to the increased temperature, can cause discomfort to communities dealing with higher temperatures, and will affect plant-life in and around the area.

Soil & Water Pollution



Water pollution can be defined as any contamination of water resources around the planet. From Streams to ponds, lakes, rivers and sea. Water pollution can strike anywhere and in almost any form, be it chemicals making their way into a lake, bacterial contamination from sewage leaks, or trash that ends up at the bottom of an ocean or floating down a river.

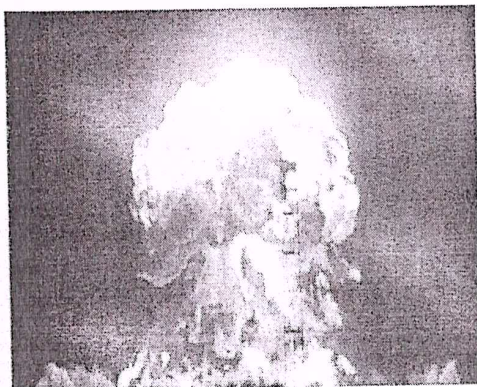
Water pollution can also be caused by natural factors, such as dead animals decomposing in water or growing levels of sediment leading to shallower and less substantial bodies of water. The consequences of water pollution, meanwhile, are fairly straightforward: pollutants in water has a direct effect on available quantities of drinking water, which can have a dire impact not just on human populations, but on virtually every type of animal life. Contaminated water can, of course, be devastating to various types of marine biology, killing fish and other underwater organisms that cannot hope to escape toxic pollutants in their habitat. Finally, a loss of water purity also creates problems for crop growth and food production, as it leaves farmers without water to irrigate their crops.

Nuclear Pollution

Also known as radioactive pollution, nuclear pollution is probably the rarest form of environmental pollution, and the most dangerous. Nuclear pollution is characterized by high



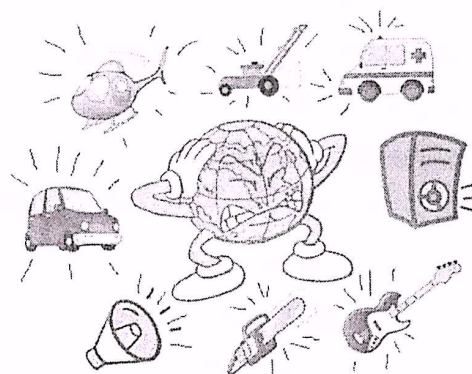
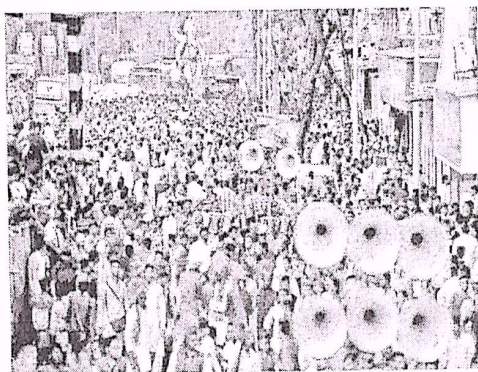
Levels of radiation concentrated in any one area, whether it is caused by nuclear explosion (bomb blasts), nuclear power plant accidents or leakages, improper disposal of radioactive waste, or anything else. As was proved in Japan following the World War II nuclear bombings, radiation pollution is incredibly detrimental to both human and animal populations, leading to cancers, birth defects, issues with human development and many other horrific health problems.



Light Pollution

Light pollution is most common in big cities, though it can also have an impact in suburban areas, around airports or big sporting event facilities, and along highways where illuminated billboards and streetlamps are common. For humans, light pollution is more of a nuisance than an environmental concern, perhaps making it difficult to see the stars or interfering with sleep. For animals, however, light pollution can be more obtrusive, disrupting biological rhythms, influencing natural predation patterns, and overall threatening animal habitats located nearby to heavily illuminated signs of human civilization.

Noise Pollution



Noise pollution can also create sizeable disturbances to animal habitats. It is often linked to light pollution for how it arises from similar sources, including highways, airports, and loud sporting events or concerts, as well as from construction projects, railroads, and more. For



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humans, noise pollution is probably slightly more of a concern than light pollution, leading to a *decreased standard of life thanks to the ability of noise to prevent sleep, distract from work, and bring about hearing loss.* For animals, noise and light pollution combine as factors that have limited possible habitat options.

Effects of Environment Degradation

Adverse air quality can kill many organisms including humans. Ozone pollution can cause respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, throat inflammation, chest pain, and congestion. Water pollution causes approximately 14,000 deaths per day, mostly due to contamination of drinking water by untreated sewage in developing countries. An estimated 500 million Indians have no access to a proper toilet, Over ten million people in India fell ill with waterborne illnesses in 2013, and 1,535 people died, most of them children. Nearly 500 million Chinese lack access to safe drinking water. A 2010 analysis estimated that 1.2 million people died prematurely each year in China because of air pollution. The WHO estimated in that air pollution causes half a million deaths per year in India. Studies have estimated that the number of people killed annually in the United States could be over 50,000.

Oil spills can cause skin irritations and rashes. Noise pollution induces hearing loss, high blood pressure, stress, and sleep disturbance. Mercury has been linked to developmental deficits in children and neurologic symptoms. Older people are majorly exposed to diseases induced by air pollution. Those with heart or lung disorders are at additional risk. Children and infants are also at serious risk. Lead and other heavy metals have been shown to cause neurological problems. Chemical and radioactive substances can cause cancer and as well as birth defects.

Measures to Combat Environmental Degradation

Pollution control is a term used in environmental management. It means the control of emissions and effluents into air, water or soil. Without pollution control, the waste products from consumption, heating, agriculture, mining, manufacturing, transportation and other human activities, whether they accumulate or disperse, will degrade the environment. In the hierarchy of controls, pollution prevention and waste minimization are more desirable than pollution control. In the field of land development, low impact development is a similar technique for the prevention of urban runoff.



To prevent air pollution, you can look into finding cars with better fuel economy, or think about buying a hybrid or electric vehicle for your next car so as to cut back on your personal emissions.

To stave off both soil and water pollution, avoid polluting and make sure to properly recycle (especially your electronic devices and appliances) to make sure none of the chemicals in these products can leech into the ground or water. Reducing your own levels of waste and litter can also help with problems of visual pollution.

Solar energy, which may be one of the next big steps toward cutting down on and eventually erasing environmental pollution.

Suggestion

The following suggestions, if implemented in all sincerity at the grass root level it shall no doubt make a vast difference towards the improvement of our environment.

- Reduce – Reduce the amount of waste that is being generated
- Reuse – Reuse the items that have been discarded
- Recycle – Recycle the items that can not be further brought into use
- Use of bio degradable packing material instead of harmful plastics
- Composting of bio waste to generate biogas and organic fertilizers instead of Chemical Fertilisers
- Use of alternate sources of energy like Solar Energy and Wind Energy for power generation,
- Hydel power projects should be preferred to the coal based thermal power plants

Conclusion

Understanding the various types of environmental degradation problems that our world is currently facing is of incredible importance. Recently, there has been a big movement toward establishing a more environmentally conscious society. Car companies have manufactured hybrid or electric cars to cut down on our reliance on fossil fuels, while the development of alternative energy is one of the most pervasive questions of our time, both from a political standpoint and a scientific one. There is only one Earth, so taking care of it is the most important thing we will ever do. Whether you adopt a greener lifestyle for yourself or to preserve the planet for future generations, there could be no more noble pursuit. Following the principles of 3 R Reduce, Reuse and Recycle is the need of the hour



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