

Pollution and Contamination

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Introduction

The word contamination has many meanings. Specifically in environmental sciences, it is somehow equivalent to the pollution. Contaminants are the substances that are introduced in the natural environment and become the cause of many changes in the ecology and cause of many diseases as well.

Discussion

There many forms of the pollution that contaminate natural environment and can pollute air, land and water. Different contaminants and contaminating agents are becoming the cause of the pollution. Major contaminants that pollute air are sulfur dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxides. These are the materials that are the waste or the by-products in the industries. Similarly, water pollution is known as the waste that is being generated by the industries and can contaminate water as it is being disposed off in water like rivers, oceans etc. It sometimes contains pollutants and the contaminants that are dangerous for the health of human being.

The word contamination and the pollution became one of the burning issues after the Second World War, when there was radioactive fallout from atomic warfare and testing. Then, there was another event that has almost killed four thousand people in London and is known as The Great Smog of 1952. This became one of the major reasons for the legislation to significantly address the modern environmental legislations. This is today, called the Clean Air Act of 1956 (Haley, 2003).

Many contaminants are causing the environmental pollution, cause threats to the life of human beings. One of the adverse effects by the contamination of the air is the destruction of the Ozone layer (Spengler & Sexton, 1983). This consequently affects many other parts of human being causing disease like respiratory disorders, heart diseases, chest and the lungs infection and many more disease due to being in contact with the external environment.

It has been estimated that water pollution is responsible for death of fourteen thousand people per day. This is due to the diseases that are spread by the contamination of drinking water and untreated water from the sewerage lines. Many other skin diseases are spread due to the oil spills causing irritation and rashes on the skin. The regions those are near to the area where the chemical industries for radioactive materials or the industries utilizing these chemicals, the water is more vulnerable to the contamination of these chemical and become the reason for the many severe disease like cancers and serious birth defects (Brodine, 1975). This environmental pollution has also become the cause of global warming therefore the emission of greenhouse gases that contaminate the natural environment, become the grounds of the global warming. This has disturbed the natural ecosystem. Apart from the human being, this environmental pollution is also the cause of creating adverse effects on many other living things like the inhabitants of water, birds, and especially migratory birds and animals.

Conclusion

In order to control this contamination of water and air that causes pollution; many reforms had been introduced by different organizations, like environmental protecting agencies that are working on the regional, as well as global level (Hofer, 2008). Many practices have been adopted in order to stop this contamination, for example, recycling, reducing, reusing,

preventing, compost, and mitigating. There are water filtering plants and recycling plants for the solid waste. These are working to remove the contaminants of the water but the contamination of the air is still not under controlled and can result into more adverse effects in the future.

References

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