GST 122 Assignment

The Dangers of Air Pollution in the Environment

In the words of Robert Orben, “There is so much pollution in the air now that if it weren’t for our lungs there’d be no place to put it all”. It seems funny right, but I love the feeling of fresh air on my face and wind blowing through my hair. It is well known that the health effects of air pollution imperil human lives. We have got to pause and ask ourselves: How much clean air do we need?

The World Health Organization defines air pollution as “the presence of materials in the air in such concentration which is harmful to man and his environment”. Pollution is nothing but the resources we are not harvesting. We allow them to disperse because we’ve been ignorant of their value. It is a term which even kids are aware of these days. It has become so common that almost everyone acknowledges the fact that pollution is rising continuously. All this is caused by human activities which harm the environment in more ways than one.

Did you know that air pollution is the deadliest form of pollution, killing millions of people each year? I bet you didn’t. Oh, don’t be shocked yet there are more facts. Air pollution is also the fourth-largest threat to human health, behind high blood pressure, dietary risks and smoking. The study by the World Bank and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) calculated the economic cost of air pollution. It found that air pollution led to one in 10 deaths in 2013, which cost the global economy about $225 billion in lost labour income. That’s just outrageous! God knows if every individual on earth was given $2 billion dollars that would be the end of poverty.

Moreover, what are the causes of this pollution? It includes burning of fossil fuel and firewood, smoke released from factories, volcanic eruptions, forest fires, bombardment of asteroids (who begged the Americans and other countries?), CFCs (Chlorofluorocarbons), carbon oxides and more. Besides, there are some other air pollutants like industrial waste, agricultural waste, power plants, thermal nuclear plants, etc. You must have come across the problem of air pollution in Nigeria, Beijing, Delhi and Mumbai, and all the havoc it is causing. There are daily articles in the newspapers about deteriorating Air Quality Index and its disastrous health effects. But how does this air get this much polluted? Why are some areas are affected more and others less.

Consequently, air pollution has many bad effects on the health of people. It is the cause of many skin and respiratory disorder in human beings. This is so dangerous, especially in this period where we are being faced by a global pandemic (The Corona Virus). Also, it causes heart disease too. Air pollution causes asthma, bronchitis and many other diseases. It also leads too damage of cells in the respiratory system, increase in the rate of aging of lungs and decreases lungs function.

Finally, I would not gone through the rigorous process of writing about the dangers of air pollution to the environment, if I didn’t have possible solutions to get rid of it so that we all could have fresh air to breath. Although air pollution has reached a critical point it can be reduced. I would suggest reforestation, which improves the quality of air by planting more and more trees as they clean and filter the air. Let’s not forget policy for industries. Strict policies for industries related to the filter of gases should be introduced to the countries. So, we can minimize the toxins released from factories. And the most important of them all, the use of eco-friendly fuel such as LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas), bio-gas and other eco-friendly fuels. So we can reduce the amount of harmful gases. With all of this in place, I believe we can have a pollution free environment. I can already smell the fresh air, Can you?