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MATRIC NUMBER: 19/LAW01/059

DEPARTMENT: LAW

COURSE: COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH II

QUESTION: YOU WERE TAUGHT THAT IN WRITING AN ACADEMIC ESSAY, YOU SHOULD START WITH THE PERCEPTION OF A PROBLEM. PERCEIVE A PROBLEM IN YOUR PRESENT ENVIRONMENT, FORMULATE A RESEARCHABLE TOPIC FOR IT AND AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS IN OUR CLASS ON THURSDAY BY 10am.

OUTLINE:

1. i.) Introduction

Water pollution is the contamination of water bodies usually caused due to human activities.

ii.) The main cause of pollution is the lack of effective sewage system in the city.

1. Body – (numbered in form of paragraphs),
2. Causes of Water pollution
3. Effect of water pollution on human health and on the environment
4. How does pollution affect Lagos’ water supply
5. What can we do to prevent water pollution in Lagos and Nigeria as a whole
6. Conclusion

Like I stated earlier, the main cause of Water pollution is the lack of effective sewage system in the city. Proper disposal of chemical cleaners, oils, and non-biodegradable items would be a good way of preventing water pollution.

Water Pollution occurs when harmful substances, often chemical or microorganism, contaminates a stream, river, lake, ocean, aquifer, or other body of water, degrading water quality and rendering it toxic to humans or the environment. Water pollution is the contamination of water bodies usually caused due to human activities. It is also any change in the physical, chemical or biological properties of water that will have a detrimental consequence on any living organism.

Some of the most commonly occurring water pollutant are; domestic waste, industrial effluents, insecticides and pesticides, detergents and fertilizers. Water pollution can be caused by direct or indirect sources. Direct sources such as factories, waste management facilities, refineries, etc, that directly release waste and harmful by-products into the nearest water source without treating them. Indirect sources include pollutants that enter the water bodies via groundwater or soil or via the atmosphere as acid rain.

There are widen effect of water pollution to our health and environment. Every year, unsafe water sickens about one thousand people in Lagos. And those who live in rural and low income communities are disproportionately at risk because most of their homes are often close to most polluting industries and canals. Waterborne pathogens, in the form of disease- causing bacteria and viruses from human and animal waste, are a major cause of illness from contaminated drinking water. Diseases spread by unsafe water include cholera, giardia, hepatitis, typhoid and various other diseases.

In other to thrive, healthy Ecosystem rely on a complex wed of animals, plant, bacteria, and fungi- all of which interact, directly or indirectly, with each other. Harm to any of these organisms can create a chain effect, imperiling entire aquatic environments. Ecosystems are extremely dynamic and respond to even small changes in the environment. Water pollution can cause an entire Ecosystem to collapse if left unchecked. When water pollution causes an algal bloom in a lake or marine environment, the proliferation of newly introduced nutrients stimulates plant and algae growth, which in turn reduces oxygen level in the water. The death of oxygen, known as eutrophication, suffocates plants and animal and can create “dead zones”, where waters are essentially devoid of life. In certain cases, these harmful algal blooms can also produce neurotoxins that affect wildlife, from whales to sea turtles.

Water pollution has also affected Lagos’ water supply. The number of diagnosed cases of diseases such as dysentery and cholera has increased in Lagos. This is due to drinking water containing chemical and bacterial pollution. The main cause of pollution is the lack of effective sewerage systems in the city. Sewage is washed away by rainwater into open drains. This water then carries the pollutants to rivers and lagoon. Sewage also reaches groundwater sources through leaking septic tanks and pit latrines (pits used to deposit human waste). Pollutants can then contaminate water in wells and boreholes. The water sold by street vendors can also be affected as the water comes from the same source.

The best way to prevent large-scale water pollution is to try and reduce its harmful effects. One of is the treatment of sewage. Treating waste products before disposing of it in a water body helps reduce water pollution. Agriculture or other industries can reuse this wastewater by reducing its toxic contents. Nigeria also needs a water quality monitoring network and water quality database. The database would store physical, chemical, biological and ecological information. Federal, state and local governments should work together to update and tighten regulations controlling water quality.

In conclusion, pollution has led to high levels of toxic chemicals such as metals and pesticides being reported in Nigeria’s water resources. It is common to see waste dumped in rivers and streams. In cities, storm water (rain) carries pollutants which contaminate water resources. It is important to raise public awareness about the values of water and to increase public participation in water supply scheme. Getting people involved will help reduce waste being dumped in rivers and streams and will also help to sustain water infrastructure.