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**ENVIROMENTAL POLLUTION**

Environmental pollution is a problem that Nigeria as a whole has battled with for a very long time. To start with, environmental pollution is the contamination of the natural environment that can lead to adverse changes which is harmful to both plants and animals. The pollution is caused due to the carelessness of man and while some people are trying to curb the situation, others are nonchalant about it.

 One of the most disturbing, yet frequent pollutant is refuse dump. People tend to throw their trash anywhere available. The trash due to careless disposal goes into different areas than the incinerator. Some fall into the gutters and drainages and this leads to blockages in the drainages and can eventually lead to flood while some others fall into rivers and affect the aquatic life.

 Another pollutant is spillage of oil. This occurs when people are careless when dealing with oily products thereby causing oil to leak into the ocean. The ocean then becomes harmful to the aquatic life. The oil floats on the surface of the water preventing sunlight from penetrating. It strips the insulating capabilities of fur bearing mammals exposing them to harsh weather conditions.

 Also, it affects the agricultural sector of the country. Farmers are not able to irrigate their lands due to contaminated water. Oil spillage on farm lands prevent the plants from absorbing water which later chokes the plant and leads to their death. This affects the economy of the country and can lead to famine in the country if not properly handled.

 Deforestation is another cause of environmental pollution. This is because people cut down millions of trees every year but people tend to forget the advantages of those trees. The trees help to absorb carbon dioxide and keeps nutrients from washing away from the soil. Without these trees, the soil will lose its nutrients and it will very hard to use. It can eventually lead to desertification.

 All these disasters associated with environmental pollution can easily be avoided if people play their roles. Instead of people dumping their refuse on the roads and in water bodies, the can reuse and recycle or trash in a proper waste basket. Items like nylons, clothes, bags, shoes can be reused while plastic and glass can be recycled.

 In the case of oil spillage, the freshly spilled oil can be ignited on top of water in a process called Situ burning. Booms and skimmers can also be used. Booms are floating barriers put around the oil and skimmers can be boats or vacuums machines that skim the spilled oil from water surfaces enclosed by the booms.

 Deforestation can be stopped by afforestation. This is the process of planting trees and sowing seeds. For every one tree that is cut down, ten should be planted. Rules should also be enforced by the government against illegal tree cutting. To be able to cut a tree, one must be licensed by the federal government.