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**Environmental Pollution, Its Causes and Its Effects on the Society We Live In**

Pollution, in general terms, is the contamination of one’s environment with harmful or unwanted substances. If we look at it in this sense, there is one form of pollution or the other all around us. Whether it is in the form of noise, gases, or dirt, it is everywhere. So how exactly did these substances get there, what caused them and in return, what have they led to or caused?

**Forms of Environmental Pollution**

Environmental pollution can be broadly classified into two: natural pollution, which occurs when the environment has been contaminated due to natural phenomena such as earthquakes, droughts, flood etc., and man-made pollution, which, as its name entails, is caused by human activities. There are also various types of environmental pollution, some of which include air pollution, land pollution, water pollution and noise pollution.

**Causes of Environmental Pollution**

No single cause can be considered as the root cause of environmental impairment. Humans play a vital role in the degradation of the environment as most of their activities could be pointed out as some of the generally underlying factors. Such activities include:

1. Industrial Activities:

It is without a doubt that factories and plantations cause pollution, the majority of it being air and water pollution. The factory chimneys produce enough black smoke to cover the skies and most of the waste they dispose of goes into the rivers and seas.

1. Vehicles:

The use of vehicles has become increasingly rampant, especially in the last decade. Though they have proven beneficial in many ways, vehicles operating on diesel and fuel emit a massive amount of smoke leading to an exponential increase in air pollution. Not only that, the sounds the vehicles generate also cause noise pollution. In short, the higher the traffic, the greater the amount of pollution.

1. Agricultural Activities:

To sufficiently supply agricultural products to the ever increasing population, more environments are destroyed to tend to these needs (Rinkesh). Things like deforestation take place. There is also an increasing use of pesticides and herbicides which leads to contamination of water and soil.

**Effects of Environmental Pollution**

Environmental pollution has had several effects on both human beings and the ecosystem. Some of them include:

1. Effects on Human Beings:

Air pollution can cause several illnesses in the lungs such as asthma, cough allergies and so on. Not only that, environmental pollution has played a major role in the development of cancer. This is why warning is always given out when eating canned goods.

1. Effects on Animals:

This is caused by the destruction in the environments they live in. Deforestation, bush burning and such render animals on land homeless. In the water, pollutants such as oil lead to depletion of oxygen, which causes death of some of the organisms living in the various water bodies.

1. Effects on the Ecosystem:

One of the major effects of environmental pollution on the ecosystem is climate change. Ozone layer depletion, greenhouse gases and global warming are all forms of climate change, most of which are caused by human beings. These affect the physical and biological components of the ecosystem.

In conclusion, the causes and effects of environmental pollution are many (Appannagari). The current stage of the earth that we are seeing is the cause of centuries of exploitation of earth and its resources. Man has exploited the wealth of nature at the cost of his and the environment’s health. If nothing is done soon about the way we utilize our resources to benefit both man and the environment, the whole earth will become a wasteland in a matter of years.

# References

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