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**ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION IN NIGERIA: ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS**

**Introduction**

It’s a well-known fact that higher organism (human beings) are creature that are dependable on and interact with their environment. This human-environmental interaction can be positively and negatively. The positive interactions are those that do not harm the environment or support it examples use of renewable energy, afforestation etc. while the negative interactions are those that harm the environment e.g. environmental pollution, hurting of wildlife etc. and cause it’s degradation. For this and several other reasons environmental issues now occupy a center stage in academic discourse and other public places both at the national and international levels.

For instance, in Nigeria according to the Nigeria Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA), Federal Ministry of Environment and other relevant agencies, these environmental issues include sanitation, depletion of ozone layer, flooding, poverty and in fact environmental pollution which is the main focus of this essay.

Environmental pollution can be defined as the discharge of substances that make the environment impure known as pollutants which can be solids, liquids, gases or mixture of them into the environment that causes or may cause acute (short-term) or chronic (long-term) detriment to the earth’s ecological balance or that lowers the quality of life.

The different types of pollution common in Nigeria are:

* Water pollution
* Air pollution
* Noise pollution
* Land/soil pollution

Apart form the a forth mentioned types, there some other types of pollution that affect us in a suitable but yet significant way: these include

* Radiation pollution
* Visual pollution which is relatively newer and unconventional concept.

**Definition**

* Water pollution is the introduction into water bodies substances beyond which water natural purification system can handle thereby degrading and making water unfit for human consumption, profitable use and affect the organisms living in it.
* Air pollution is the accumulation in the atmosphere of substances in sufficient conc. That endanger human health or produce other measured effects on living matter and other materials
* Noise pollution it’s a composite of sounds generated by human activities ranging from blasting stereo systems to the roar of supersonic transport jets.
* Land/soil pollution is the process of dumping solid or liquid waste materials on the land or underground in such a manner it could contaminate the soil, ground water etc.
* Radiation pollution it’s any form of ionizing or non-ionizing radiation that results from human activities. The most well-known radiation results from the detonation of nuclear devices and controlled release of energy by nuclear-power generating plants.
* Visual pollution can be defined as the whole of irregular formations, represents unorganized dumping of liters, billboards, cables, wires, worn-out buildings, heaped construction materials etc. that affects a person’s ability to enjoy a view

**Causes**

The major causes of environmental pollution in Nigeria are associated with human activities and albeit persistent human interaction with the environment which include; Industrialization of our society and the introduction of motorized vehicles which caused an exponential growth in the production of goods and services. Coupled with this growth has been a tremendous increase in waste by-products. It has also been observed that man through industrial, agricultural and the ever increasing urbanization process, security and terrorist activities tend to directly and/or indirectly pollute the environment. Also, unrestricted use of pesticides, insecticides, herbicides and indiscriminate dumping of refuse excreta and animal dung as well as spillages from refineries, large scale bush etc. are perceived as some of the leading factors of environmental pollution in Nigeria.

**Consequences or effects**

The negative impact of environmental pollution in contemporary Nigeria society are:

1. On agricultural and hunting activities: the agricultural and hunting activities of farmers in Nigeria have far reaching effects on the environment and human health by altering the lithospheric and atmospheric pathways of hydrologic cycle thus, impacting negatively on air, soil and water substances mostly used by man.

Also, bush burning in other to farm or for hunting activities produces secondary problems with clearance of vegetation such as erosions by wind or water. Other examples are; heavy grazing of cattle which reduce the water retaining capacity of soil, over fertilization of farms by rural farmers and use of chemicals in streams and rivers in search for game.

1. On industrial activities: civilization of human society with rapid technological advancement and increasing industrial production to satisfy human needs have created unexpected industrial pollution for examples in Nigerian cities such as Lagos, Ibadan, Kano, Port Harcourt etc. the exhaust fume from industrial machines inject in to air pollutants during execution, processing and disposal of minerals that depletes the ozone layer and causes many more danger to life on land and in waterbodies.

**Conclusion and recommendations**

The environment is safe when it is in order of what nature wants it to be. However, the introduction of harmful substances ( pollutants) by human beings intentionally or not which contaminate the environment is a dangerous act that causes harm and other deadly diseases.

The following are recommendations in which the society can adhere to in other to combat this issue:

* Creating environmental awareness to people which can be achieved by organizing seminars, conferences, public announcement on radio and television stations to educate people on effects of and ways to avoid environmental pollution
* Urban development planners and related agencies of government should continue to sponsor jingles on radio and television houses on why it is not proper to build houses on flood areas
* Afforestation
* A prompt legislative framework should be put in place to make laws that would tackle headlong issues of noise pollution in Nigeria
* The government should monitor the implementation of laws and regulations against pollution