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TOPIC: CARELESS DUMPING OF WASTE MATERIALS AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE ENVIROMENT.

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Living in developed or developing countries, chances are companies in those countries dispose of quite litrally tons of hazardous waste products every day. Sadly, much of this waste is not dealt with properly and can come back to haunt us. Anything from a bubble gum wrapper to toxic waste if left unchecked could greatly harm the eco systems.

Hazardous waste is any thing thrown away that can still potentially harm its surroundings and those who dwell in them. This could be anything from chemical waste and materials to household garbage such as cleaning solutions, batteries and non-biodegradable materials.

Non- biodegradable materials are substances which cannot be broken down by natural organisms and acts as a source of pollution. Examples on non-biodegradable materials ar plastics, cans, metals etc. While biodegradable materials are changed naturally by bacteria into substances that do not harm the enviroment. Examples of biodegradable materials include food materials, kitchen wastes and other natural wastes.

There are different ways individuals get rid of their waste materials which leaves a negative mark on our ecosystems; they consist of the following :

1. Dumping in water ( oceans, seas, lakes etc)

2. Dumping on soil, and this is a risk especially when it includes non biodegradable materials.

3. Dumping in non designated dumping sites etc.

Some causes of illegal dumping include:

1. High level of overall waste production

2. Avoidance of disposal fees at waste management sites

3. Lack of knowledge of the importance of proper waste disposal and recycling.

From dumping waste materials into lakes, to dumping them by the road sides, improper waste removal affects all living organisms in different ways such as:

A.) Soil contamination: This is the number one problem caused by improper waste removal and disposal. Some wastes that end up in landfills excrete hazardous chemicals that leak into the soil. Like in the case of plastic bottles, when they eventually break down, they release DEHA, a carcinogen that affects our reproductive systems and causes liver dysfunctions. It also affects plant growth.

B.) Air contamination: Some papers and plastics are burned in land fills, emitting gas and chemicals that hurt the ozone layer. Waste that releases dioxins are also dangerous and pose a health risk when they diffuse into the air we breathe, add that to the methane gases that decomposing wastes release.

A.) Water contamination: Hazardous wates in the enviroment leech into the ground and ultimately into ground water. Sometimes wastes are thrown directly into bodies of water which are used for many things from watering fields to drinking and this can cause severe risks to the plants, animals and humans using it.

D.) Bad impact on human health

E.) Bad impact on animals and marine life

F.) Invitation for disease carrying pests and insects ( i.e. mosquitoes, rats etc)

G.) Causes extreme climate changes

In conclusion, we have only one planet and our careless handling of waste is harming and destroying it. Taking care of the planet is our resposibility, for ourselves, our children, every organism on the planet, and the planet as a whole.