

WATER **POLLUTION**

AFRICA'S WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS



YOUSSEF AMR | ALA WEBSITE RESOURCE | JULY 30, 2023

PROLOGUE

One of the most common problems that the world is suffering from now is “Water Pollution”. The African continent is the most affected by this problem by several factors we are getting to know in this website.

-AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF:

Fertilizers, pesticides, and other agricultural chemicals can runoff into waterways, where they can pollute the water and harm the aquatic life.

-INDUSTRIAL WASTE:

Factories and other industrial facilities often dump their wastes into rivers and streams, which can pollute the water and make it unsafe for drinking, bathing and fishing.

-SEWAGE:

In many parts of Africa, there is inadequate sanitation infrastructure, which means that sewage is often dumped into rivers and streams, polluting the water and causing health problems.

-PLASTIC POLLUTION:

Plastic waste is a growing problem in Africa, and it can end up in waterways, where it takes a very long time to decompose, which can drastically harm the aquatic equilibrium.



THE MOST COMMON WATER POLLUTION TYPES

Water pollution can have serious effects on the environment, human health, and wildlife. There are different types of water pollution, some of the main types are:

-BIOLOGICAL POLLUTION:

This occurs when water is contaminated by disease-causing microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Microbiological pollution can pose a serious threat to human health, as it can cause infections such as cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and hepatitis. Microbiological pollution can result from sewage, animal waste, and runoff from areas with poor sanitation.

-PHYSICAL POLLUTION:

Physical pollution in Africa is often caused by plastic waste, trash, and sediment. Plastic waste can block waterways and harm aquatic life. Trash can also block waterways and harm aquatic life. Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult for aquatic life to see.

-CHEMICAL POLLUTION:

Chemical pollution in Africa is often caused by agricultural runoff, industrial waste, and mining. Agricultural runoff can carry fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals into waterways. Industrial waste can contain a variety of harmful chemicals, including heavy metals and solvents. Mining can also release harmful chemicals into the water, such as mercury and cyanide.

-GROUND WATER POLLUTION:

This occurs when pollutants seep into the underground water sources that supply drinking water to millions of people. Groundwater pollution can be caused by leaking underground storage tanks, septic systems, landfills, agricultural chemicals, mining activities, and industrial waste.

-SURFACE WATER POLLUTION:

This occurs when pollutants are discharged directly or indirectly into water bodies such as lakes, rivers, and oceans. Surface water pollution can be caused by sewage, urban runoff, agricultural runoff, industrial effluents, oil spills, and marine dumping.

-POINT & NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION:

-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION: This refers to the pollution that comes from a single identifiable source, such as a pipe or a drain. Point source pollution is easier to monitor and control than non-point source pollution.

-NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION: This refers to the pollution that comes from diffuse sources that are hard to identify and measure, such as runoff from agricultural fields or urban streets. Non-point source pollution is harder to monitor and control than point source pollution.

CONSEQUENCES OF WATER POLLUTION

Water pollution is a serious environmental problem that affects the health and well-being of humans, animals, and plants. Some of the negative consequences of water pollution are:

-LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY:

Water pollution can destroy the natural habitats and ecosystems of aquatic life. Some species are more vulnerable to the effects of certain pollutants and may become extinct or endangered. Water pollution can also alter the distribution and diversity of aquatic species.

-ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Water pollution can affect the social and economic development of countries and regions. Water pollution can reduce the availability and quality of fresh water, which is essential for agriculture, industry, and domestic use. Water pollution can also damage the tourism and recreation industries that depend on clean water.

-WATER-BORNE DISEASES:

Water pollution can cause various infections and illnesses in humans, such as typhoid, cholera, diarrhea, hepatitis, and bilharzia. These diseases can be fatal if untreated. Water pollution can also cause chronic toxicity and neurological issues from chemical pollution.



SOME SOLUTIONS TO ADRESS WATER POLLUTION

There are many actions that can be taken to address water pollution, both at the individual and collective levels. Some of the possible solutions are:

-WASTEWATER TREATMENT:

Treating water before it enters the waterway system is one of the most efficient ways of reducing water pollution. Wastewater treatment involves removing contaminants from water using physical, chemical or biological processes, it also can reduce the amount of organic waste, nutrients, pathogens, metals, and chemicals in water.

-REDUCING PLASTIC WASTE:

Plastic waste can harm marine life, entangle animals, and release toxic chemicals. Reducing plastic waste can be done by using reusable or biodegradable alternatives, recycling plastic products, and avoiding single-use plastics.

-WETLANDS:

Wetlands are areas where land and water meet, such as marshes, swamps, bogs, or fens. Wetlands are natural filters that can help reduce water pollution by trapping sediments, nutrients, metals, and pathogens. Wetlands also provide habitat for wildlife and buffer against floods and droughts. Wetlands need to be protected and restored to maintain their ecological functions.

-GREEN AGRICULTURE:

Agriculture is one of the major contributors to water pollution due to the use of fertilizers, pesticides, animal waste, and irrigation. Green agriculture is the practice of farming in an environmentally friendly way that minimizes water pollution. Green agriculture can be done by using organic or natural fertilizers and pesticides, managing animal waste properly, implementing crop rotation or cover crops, and adopting drip irrigation or sprinkler systems.

-AWARING PEOPLE:

Awaring people about the problem by mass media means and adverts in streets and neighborhoods and teaching small kids in schools about this problem.

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT WATER POLLUTION

is an important step to motivate people to act and prevent its negative impacts. There are many ways to raise awareness about water pollution, such as:

-EDUCATING YOURSELF AND OTHERS:

Learning more about the causes, effects, and solutions of water pollution can help you understand the issue better and share your knowledge with others. You can use reliable sources of information, such as books, articles, documentaries, or websites, to educate yourself and others about water pollution. For example, you can share our website that provides facts and tips about water pollution.

-SPREADING THE WORD:

Using social media, blogs, podcasts, or newsletters, you can spread the word about water pollution and its consequences. You can also use creative ways to communicate your message, such as poems, stories, songs, or images. For example, you can create a graphic art that illustrates the effects of water pollution on aquatic life using this tool.

-JOINING OR ORGANIZING CAMPAIGNS:

You can join or organize campaigns that aim to raise awareness and advocate for solutions to water pollution. You can participate in events such as World Water Day, Clean Up the World, or World Oceans Day, or create your own local initiatives. You can also sign or start petitions, write letters, or contact your representatives to voice your concerns and demands.

-TAKING ACTION IN YOUR DAILY LIFE:

You can take action in your daily life to reduce your contribution to water pollution. You can adopt water-saving habits,



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