

Water pollution

If you look at our planet in space, you will find that earth is a blue planet, 71% of the earth's surface is covered by water. Water is essential for life and civilization. Scientists believe that the first life on earth appeared in water because it allows organic compounds to react in ways that ultimately allow replication. Water accounts for 70% of the human body, anyone who don't drink water for more than 3 days will die. So in human history, civilizations has historically flourished around rivers and major waterways. The kingdom of Babylon is on the Euphrates River; ancient Egyptian on the Nile river; ancient Indian on the Indus Valley river; China flourished around the yellow river.

However, we are facing serious water pollution problems. According to United Nation Word Assessment's report, all rivers that flowing through Asian cities is polluted; only five of fifty five rivers in Europe are barely usable; one billion people in the world is drinking unclean water; twenty five million people die each year from unclean water. Take China's mother river Yellow River which supplies water to millions of people in the north region of the country for example, according to criteria used by the UN Environmental Program, 33.8 percent of the river's water sampled registered worse than level five, meaning it's unfit for drinking, aquaculture, industrial and agriculture. Additionally, a notice posted on the committee's website said: Only 16 percent of the

river samples reached level one or two, which means it's safe for household use.

Industries and manufacturing made up 20 percent of the discharge into the Yellow River, 23 per cent coming from households and 6.4 per cent from other sources. For India, more than 70 percent of the fresh water is converted into being unfit for consumption. Not only India and China, many countries are suffering from the same problem. Various sources of pollution such as industrial pollution, oil pollution, sewage and waste water, mining activity, marine dumping, underground storage and tube leakages, agricultural activities.

The three main sources of water pollution are:

1. sewage discharge
2. industries discharge
3. agriculture-the water flow through agricultural land and is polluted by chemical fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

Nowadays, many countries and institutions are taking efforts to control water pollution and many methods are proposed and practiced. There are five ways that are widely used. The first way is sewage treatment. Pipes will take water to treatment center and several stages of waste water treatment will be implemented. The treated water will become clean enough to be filtered into river. The second way is practice green agriculture. Green agriculture uses many natural agricultural

technologies to reduce the usage of fertilizer and pesticide. The third way is Industrial waste water treatment. Industries usually build a waste water treat center and choose suitable strategy according to their own contamination source. The forth way is using anti-pollution laws and polices such as USA's Safe Drinking Water Act, Canada Water Act, China's Water Pollution Control Act. The fifth way is propaganda and education. The importance of preventing water pollution is emphasized through school education, community advocacy and advertisement.

Although we already have some methods to control water pollution and have achieved positive results in some region. The problem is still serious, especially in developing country. Thousands of casualties are reported and most of them are shocking. It is demand for us to joint persistence and efforts of people all over the world.

Jichen Dai

Dec 06 2019

