POLLUTION

Introduction

Pollution refers to the release of harmful substances or contaminants into the environment, leading to adverse effects on living organisms and the natural world. Pollution is a widespread problem that affects all aspects of life, including air, water, soil, and even noise pollution. The causes of pollution can vary and can be attributed to human activities such as industrialization, transportation, and urbanization. Pollution poses a severe threat to the environment, and it is important to take measures to control and mitigate its effects.

❖ **Types of Pollution**

1. Air Pollution

Air pollution is the presence of harmful substances in the air we breathe. This can come from natural sources, but is largely caused by human activities such as burning fossil fuels and industrial activities. Air pollution can lead to a variety of health problems, including respiratory issues and heart disease.

Figure 1 Air pollution

2. Water Pollution

Water pollution occurs when harmful substances are introduced into bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, and oceans. This can come from a variety of sources, including industrial activities, sewage treatment plants, and agricultural runoff. Water pollution can harm wildlife and make it unsafe for human consumption.

3. Soil Pollution

Soil pollution occurs when harmful substances are introduced into the earth, either through human activities such as industrial pollution or through natural sources such as contaminated soil. Soil pollution can have negative effects on plant growth and can leach into groundwater, leading to further contamination.

4. Noise Pollution

Noise pollution is the presence of unwanted or harmful sound in an environment. This can come from a variety of sources, including traffic and industrial activities. Noise pollution can lead to hearing damage over time, as well as stress and annoyance.

5. Light Pollution

Light pollution is the presence of artificial light in an environment that can interfere with natural processes and human health. This can come from lighting used in cities and towns, as well as advertising and illuminated signs. Light pollution can disrupt wildlife and have negative effects on human sleep patterns.

Table 1 Statical Data on Air Pollution

City	PM2.5 (µg/m³)	NO2 (ppm)	SO2 (ppm)
New Delhi	143	0.034	0.006

City	PM2.5 (µg/m³)	NO2 (ppm)	SO2 (ppm)
Beijing	98	0.039	0.002
Mexico City	150	0.034	0.013
Lima	36	0.016	0.001
Mumbai	58	0.028	0.007