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Polluted Dhaka: Reasons, Impacts and Cure.

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Abstract:

In this research paper, I will try to describe how we are creating pollution in our everyday life on a daily basis. I will try to demonstrate the impacts of those problems from different perspective. I will try to merge some data to describe these problems and then find a suitable solution to the greatest problem that our beloved city Dhaka is suffering from, which is the “Pollution Problem”.

Introduction:

Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, has been the center of all attraction for the people for a very long time. There are several reasons to why this city is always on the focus. Almost every people of this country are somehow connected to this city. The main reason being that, this city provides most of the work, hence a source of income for people. If I say that this is a myth, I won't be wrong. But people have always believed that, if they could come to Dhaka, their fate will have the

blessing of the almighty himself. Not only this belief is causing problems to them but also it is creating pollution in the city.

Now, when I say pollution, it means every types of pollution, every bit of contaminants that cause distress in the nature. Pollution only happens because of us, humans. I will be describing these ways, how we humans are creating these pollutions. Not only that we are doing it willingly but even our unwilling approaches are creating pollution. We are polluting the soil, the air, the water, the atmosphere and thus polluting the environment.

It has become such important issue that immediate action should be taken. Air has become so unhealthy that even breathing this air can cause several health issues that are in certain cases lethal. The soil has lost its fertility and thus the amount of crops harvest is decreasing every year. The amount of people is rising day by day and the food we are harvesting is decreasing, the equation is not supporting us and we are on a path towards havoc.

Maintaining balance in the nature is so necessary yet so hard for us humans to maintain. We are making the imbalance even worse with our everyday activity. We do not have the slightest intent towards this issue.

Now, it is not like no initiative has been taken, but these initiative are not enough on its own. You cannot solve an equation without understanding the problem first. That is why we are going to understand how we are creating these problems and then we will talk about the impacts that these problems are causing us. And then finally we will talk about how to stop this massacre so that our future generation can have a healthy and happy life.

Keywords: Pollution, environment, air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution.

Limitation of Study:

When we talk about a problem that is creating distress to the environment, nature itself, the limitation comes in many ways. There are always better and ways to move forward to do something good. A different approach always is helpful. In the paper, we will only talk the pollution regarding Dhaka, Bangladesh. When we move from describing a country to describing the whole world, the number of study and time for research increases. This means, it will then take a lot of people and a lot of time to research and then accumulate those data. That is why; this paper is only based on the occurrence of Dhaka city.

Methodology:

In this paper, I have tried to merge some data and then on behalf of those data, a derivation of statement which will describe the problem itself, then the impacts of those problems and finally generate some solutions to those problems. This means, this paper has been written while conducting the research in both qualitative and quantitative basis. While doing research, I have gathered most of the data using internet, I have used a lot of data from a lot of different sites.

Problem Statement:

First things first, let us visit to the main problem; Pollution. The current population of Bangladesh is 167, 194, 182^[1]. But the land area is only 148,460KM². The population has raise in a lot but the land area has not. This is one of the soul reasons for pollution according to N.Sadik^[2]. Now, we cannot always give blame to something that is not in our hand. Well, this is not actually true that this is not in our hand, we always had our options but we never chose to do those. The number of people comes to Dhaka every year is huge. E&E reporter Lisa Friedman wrote in an article that, the number is almost 500,000, which is almost equivalent to the population Washington, DC^[3]. The number of people who lives in Dhaka in 2022 is 22,478,000 which a 3.39% of increase from 2021^[4]. So due to this huge population in Dhaka, it is really tough to maintain proper city maintaining techniques. And thus proper care of our beloved city is being hampered. To maintaining food supply a huge number of people are working in different sectors. We have farmers, workers, builders and all. Farmers are applying more fertilizer due to the lack of knowledge and a belief that more fertilizer and pesticide will produce more crops, the land is losing its fertility. We have workers in different work sites. These people are doing their work which is good but problem becomes when they release some of the material in the open land. This is polluting the land, and also the air. We are consistently putting our wastes in the open creating pollution. These wastes are releasing aura that is polluting the air. To build more structures for these excessive people, we need more bricks. This brick making process causes a huge amount of air pollution. We people do not stop there; we like to spit in the open. This spit then dissolves in the air and water that causes air

and water pollution. Wastes from different chemical also create water pollution. A lot of people mean a lot of transportation vehicles. We Bangladeshi's are quite fond of destroying the nature. And we consistently try to find different ways of doing that. We use unfit buses so much. Most of the vehicles that we see in the street are unfit. These unfit vehicles are consistently releasing black fume. According to a study, 15% percent of the air pollution in Dhaka is caused by these unfit vehicles^[5]. Dhaka's air is now so polluted that it is now in the 2nd position in the AQI rank^[6]. According to the rank Dhaka has 225 AQI which is very unhealthy and has health risk breathing this air.

Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.

Figure 1 AQI Label

Now, these problems are a summation which creates the final problem that's environment pollution, as to these are the fundamental elements of the nature. If we want to make list of how we are creating pollution, it will take days to measure and write. So let's move on to the impacts which are caused by this pollution problem.

Impacts:

The impacts of pollution problem are so vast that in mare words, describing it will not help us understand. As we are living in the

society, effects of environment always affect us and the level it affects us is on a different scale. When we harvest the crop on polluted land, it will not produce the expected amount of crops. Polluted land can also help formulate breeding grounds for different insects like; mosquitoes and flies. These pollutes the environment even badly cause these can leads to diseases like malaria, dengue and other types of diseases. There are different types of chemicals that can cause the land to pollute in different ways. These make the land like poison and not only we humans, but animals and life inside the sea world even suffer the consequences. There are different types of chemical from the environment that can causes different types of problems on human health^[8]. Inhaling these toxic elements can cause lung cancer, asthma, ventricular hypertrophy. There are long time effects like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, psychological complications fetal growth and low birth weight etc. Using toxic water in daily life can also create a lot of problems. Drinking impure and toxic water can create a lot of water diseases. Not only that, animals those are drinking this water frequently are the victim. Even the number of greenery under water has reduced in a large number. Due to this the number of fish in rivers is now reducing day by day. A huge number of varieties of fishes are no longer under the sea. We have lost these groups due to pollution. These are the problems that we are facing on ourselves. But what about the nature? We are consistently destroying the nature and the balance that it maintains. But unlike other, nature has its own healing process. Because of this pollution, we are now facing a lot of earthquakes, tsunamis and floods are very common in our country and these are all because of pollution.

Solution:

The solution to these is simple. One word to solve these problems once and for all; “Awareness”. Can we fight earth-quake? No! Can we fight or withstand tsunami? No! But what if we don’t let these happen in the first place. All we need to do is creating awareness in ourselves and in others. This will be the first step to stop pollution. We will not throw wastes outside; rather we will place them in a safe place from where all of these wastes can be expelled. We will not spit outside. Instead we will do it in washrooms. We will not throw chemical wastes outside. In that way, it will not be exposed to the environment. So it will not pollute. These are the steps that we can take to prevent pollution from our side. Now for the government, they are like the rule makers and protectors of the country and its people. So they have a huge role to play to save the environment. Good disposal system with quick disposable features should be implemented. Different types of awareness program should be introduced to the people. Prizing and punishment should be implemented. Other sources of earning should be created in other districts so that people can go to those areas to find works. This will take some load off of Dhaka. Cleaning on regular basis should be continued to save the nature in the capital.

Conclusion:

Bangladesh was always a green country. But number of people is increasing and the greenery is melting. And pollution is just making things worse. We are messing with the environment, polluting the very place we love the most. And we are suffering and making animals suffer the consequences of our own doing. Now the decision

is ours; if we want to do something good or not. If we want to make this city pollution free for the next generation, we should start working to solve this issue, But if we are not interested then, lets pray to god to have mercy on our souls!

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