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AGAINST THE MOTION: IS PLASTIC BAN PRACTICALLY FEASIBLE?

Respected Chairperson, honourable judges, worthy opponents and dear audience. Today I, Khushi would like to express my views against the motion, IS COMPLETE PLASTIC BAN PRACTICALLY FEASIBLE.

First & foremost, May I ask all the present onlookers that what is the invention that tenants or embodies health care, IT, packaging, Industrials, Energy sector, Consumer staples, etc?

The answer is crystal clear, the inevitable PLASTIC.

According to Wikipedia, Packaging, construction and automotive are top three markets of plastics with a share over 43%. According to Statista, the global plastic market size increased to 579.7 B US dollars in 2020. By 2019, the plastic industry employed around 1.7 million skilled people in India & on an average, the yearly growth in employment was over 6%. By 2020, 367 million metric tons of plastic was produced worldwide and is still being produced.

Once a freak said, "If money can't buy you happiness, it can surely buy you a plastic surgery". Certainly someday the future generations would find the fossils of human and wonder why the plastics are wedged to their bodies.

Clearly this world is now more of plastic and less of living and here I strive to prove that banning plastic is absurd and quite impossible!?

- Well, in order to bolster my standpoint, I'd like to tell you some reasons why banning plastic bag is problematic :

1. A versatile invention like plastic is one of the largely used commodity globally. And as there's no bona fide alternative to plastic which is durable, highly tensile & adaptable, so undoubtedly there would be a bedlam and huge disruption in approximately all the manufacturing industries if plastic is banned instantaneously.

2. here's a scenario to understand this, a 500mL of milk costs approx. Rs 20 in a plastic pouch whereas the same quantity of milk costs Rs 35 in a bottle or paper carton packaging. Given that both offer equal freshness & quality; if you were to be a common man more concerned about savings, which packet of milk would you prefer to buy to meet your needs?? (Surely the cheaper one packed in plastic)

the goods sold in plastic packaging are easily accessible and affordable for the poorer section of the society and in cases when user wants low quantity purchases such as shampoo, soaps, edibles, etc. You'd be happy to know that most of the plastics used in our daily life are reusable and recyclable.

3. Now you may think that if we can't ban plastics on such gargantuan scale in one go, why not to begin on a smaller scale by banning single use plastic bags!? Well, India tried to negotiate the same back in 2019 by banning use of single use plastics and imposing fine on its users but sadly, I saw no huge far-fetched transformation. Moreover, it is proven by the economists that plastic ban leads to

increase in price of goods-services and reduces the profit of manufacturers, hence decreasing economic activity.

4. However, plastic bags only make up only a fraction of all the plastic waste produced in countries like Japan, Jakarta, China, etc. Hence, merely banning plastic bags isn't the elucidation of his huge plastic waste problem.
5. However, These restrictions may take a drastic turn if customers switch to other materials with larger resource footprints. For an instance, paper bags require 400% more energy to make, not to mention the harvesting of trees and use of noxious chemicals in production. Growing cotton or jute requires land, huge quantities of water, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. And to be very frank, the involvement of such enormous amount of resources or capital in meeting world's hunger crises or food shortages would be far more promising.

I'm curious if you're familiar with the concept of compensatory behavior : people often harm the environment when they try to save the planet! My Argument here is that reducing plastics use might grant people mental license to take other actions that are more detrimental to the environment.

So instead of recklessly jumping onto the PLASTIC BAN, we need to focus more on sustainable use of plastics with "reuse and recycle" unless a cheaper, green alternative is available.

Hence, the research, collaboration and government authorities are taking pragmatic approaches to find solutions and have far more succeed.

In the end, I want you to ask you, should plastics be really banned? Well this would always remain an age old debating topic, but the entire story of their effects must be more closely considered before jumping onto the conclusions.

THANK YOU!

