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Plastic Waste During the Pandemic

The issue of plastic waste is affecting our environment in different ways and it is killing our environment. Plastic waste is harming our soil, water, ocean, and animals that live on our planet. During the pandemic, Covid-19 changed our shape of life in many different ways. Everyone needs to quarantine and this increases the number of plastic waste. However, plastic waste was not only a problem during the pandemic but also a problem that we should pay attention to earlier. Since plastic waste is a serious environmental issue and pandemic like COVID-19 can happen in the future again. Therefore, we must reduce our plastic waste.

Before the pandemic plastic waste was already one of the environmental issues. Some people think that plastic waste is not a big deal but I believe that plastic waste is hazardous and threatens the health of people and wildlife. The article *Classify Plastic Waste as Hazardous: policies for Managing Plastic Debris are Outdated and Threaten the Health of People and Wildlife* highlights that Less than half of the 280 million plastic tons manufactured globally in 2012 were recycled or disposed of appropriately, which resulted in significant environmental contamination. Also, while many plastics can be chemically hazardous due to possible toxicity or the absorption of other contaminants, plastic waste poses a physical threat to animals. Despite these hazards, plastic is typically categorized as solid trash in developed nations including the US, Europe, Australia, and Japan. It is hard to ignore the fact that dealing with plastic waste is not an easy job and it will cost a lot of money to recycle or dispose appropriately. But I strongly

believe that we should pay more attention to plastic waste that going into our environment and relation laws or policies to take care of them is necessary. If we do not, species of ecological and commercial significance, such as mussels, salt marsh grass, and coral, may be killed or harmed by this detritus. This way it will affect our economic activity and also, the smaller pieces of plastic will infiltrate food webs and it will harm our health as well. Therefore, I also think classifying plastic as a hazardous action might stimulate the development of novel polymers and promote substituting safer materials for hazardous ones.

As I mentioned above the problem is the microplastic. Many of plastic waste goes into the ocean each year and the amount of plastic waste is about eight million metric tons. The plastic waste we make daily is mostly bottles, wrappers, straws, or bags. However, just 1% of the plastic debris that enters the ocean annually from land comprises floating microplastics. The article *How much plastic is there in the ocean?* highlights the necessity of more ocean surveys to improve evaluations of microplastics in less-traveled areas and preventative actions, pushing for efficient waste management programs and a change in the way plastic is used, viewing used plastic as a resource for future use as opposed to throwaway convenience. I believe that this is important because this will push for efficient waste management programs and a change in the way plastic is used, viewing used plastic as a resource for future use as opposed to throwaway convenience.

Plastic is taking a big part in our lives and it makes life more convenient and easier. Also, at the industrial aspect, it is cheaper than other material costs which allows us to have a cheaper product. However, plastic waste is a different issue that many people do not pay attention to waste and impact of plastic waste. During the pandemic, the use of plastic has increased and it is

something that we should carefully consider because plastic waste is a serious issue to us and our environment.

[Explain how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected plastic waste production, especially in disposable PPE]

[Suggest a few solutions to reduce plastic waste]

[Conclusion]

Works Cited

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