

Our Plastic Dilemma

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Every day, we collectively use and throw thousands upon thousands of these insignificant “household” items and don’t think twice about them or the potential consequence of our action. Plastic bags are the real killers.

They’re a menace to society and they’re a menace to Earth and we still use them so much. Our society honestly doesn’t give much thought to them – we put our things in it, store them, take them out and that’s the end of a plastic bag’s usefulness as far as we’re concerned. And like many other things in life, we take the Earth for granted as well and continue trashing it with our carelessness. Our convenience piles up and our world chokes on it.

This may sound like a typical rant about the environment and climate and whatnot, but you’ll want to consider what you’re doing and not ignore this. I’m not here to list all the disadvantages and effects of using plastic bags like school books do but we’ve become too comfortable in today’s world and we’re not willing to change our habits.

Currently, at the rate we’re going, studies predict that by 2050 we’re going to have more bags in the sea than fish (by weight). The world is doing something about this: Wales has banned plastic bags and so has Michigan while England has a small tax on them which discourages people from ‘buying’ them at grocery stores. In Pakistan, we can’t imagine there will be any legislation or government action taken with regards to this issue. It’s up to us to solve it. The problem, however, lies within with us. Change isn’t going to take place like this, everyone needs to act. We’re under the misconception that our efforts alone won’t do any good.

And that’s exactly the problem.

No matter how big or small, weak or strong, your contribution makes an impact. You can’t expect others to change their habits if you don’t change yours first. You’re supposed to set an example and others are supposed to follow you. Ali Amjad once told me that we shouldn’t waste our lives trying so hard to change the world but we should do our part first and then we should expect others to start doing theirs. Another thing he reminded us of was that you don’t always have to

go for the big change but the small change and many many small changes will become the big change itself.

So we need to change ourselves first, play our part first, then eventually the world will start to change. Remember to make sure you play your part and then expect that everything else will fall into place. Try to use reusable bags at home, work and while going to store (keep a few in your car and keep them in different places for your convenience) and be conscious of how many plastic bags you're using every day. Try to reduce that number one by one every day because every step in this direction will help the world be a better place. It's nothing overwhelming – small reminders and steps every day will help the environment gradually.

(Image source: <https://media1.britannica.com/eb-media/01/185601-049-726CBDAF.jpg>)