

WATER POLLUTION

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It is hard to imagine and believe that 75% of the earth is covered with water; and its inhabitants are not satisfied with clean water to drink and other home uses. Some people in Africa travelling hundreds of miles every day to fetch clean water from a hole that was not properly drilled and that with only a bucket that cannot meet daily needs. On the other hand the human body is 70% water too, and when exposed to dirty water, diseases erupt (epidemics) which lead to 3.4million deaths of people each year. And Nearly 99% of deaths occur in developing the countries.

Water pollution is the contamination of water bodies such as oceans, lakes, rivers, and ground water with undesirable foreign matter caused by human activities, which can be harmful to organisms (animals, plants and humans). Pollution comes in many forms: some conventional and others toxic.

Causes of water pollution:

Urbanization: Rapid urbanization in the world during the recent decades has given rise to a number of environmental problems such as water supply, waste water generation and its collection, treatment and disposal. Many towns and cities which came up on the banks of rivers have not given a proper thought to the problems of wastewater, sewerage etc. In urban areas, the wastewater is let out untreated and causes large scale water pollution.

Industries: Most of the rivers and other sources of fresh water are polluted by industrial wastes or effluents. All these industrial wastes are toxic to life forms that consume this water. Thermal power plants, engineering industries, paper mills, steel plants, textile industries and sugar industries are the major contributors of wastewater production.

Agricultural runoff and improper agricultural practices: Traces of fertilizers and pesticides are wasted into the nearest water bodies at the onset of the monsoons or whenever there are heavy showers. Intensive and ever increasing usage of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals cause water pollution. Flood-plain cultivation is another significant contributor to water pollution.

Diarrhea is defined by the World Health Organization as having three or more loose or liquid stools per day, or as having more stools than is normal for that person.

Worldwide in 2004 approximately 2.5 billion cases of diarrhea occurred which results in 1.5 million deaths among children under the age of five. Greater than half of these were in Africa and South Asia. This is down from a death rate of 5 million per year two decades ago. Diarrhea remains the second leading cause of infant mortality (16%) after pneumonia (17%) in this age group.

Disease Contributed to the Water Pollution

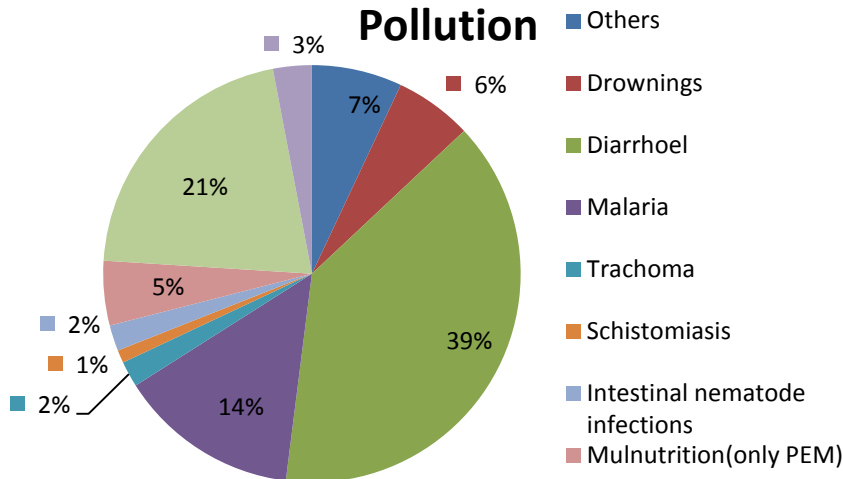


Figure 1. Disease contributed to the water pollution

The cost of these diseases is the loss of labor power, over spending of government in controlling the disease and its spreading when it's erupt, decrease in production and for the countries with tourism activities also experience the decrease the number of tourist in that particular country. All of these sum up to slow economic growth and deterioration of economic activities.

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