

Editorial**Pollution and our Homeland****Mohsin Masud Jan**

Editor

Pollution is a major environmental problem in most of the developing as well as the developed countries. Most of these countries such as the U.S have been quite successful in solving these problems by passing out certain environmental laws and producing alternatives to such sources which cause a lot of pollution such as coal and oil power stations. There are also laws which make sure that the waste from the industries is being disposed off correctly and is not in any way harmful to the environment. However in Pakistan pollution problems have been rising since the country's inception. Very few people have shown any concern about the negative effects of pollution on themselves as well as their environment. Hence this problem is increasing day by day which may lead in the destruction of our natural environment as well as our own. In Pakistan there are three major sources of pollution:

1. **Air Pollution:** in Pakistan the most common source of air pollution is mainly vehicles whose exhaust fumes pollute the air. Unlike other developed countries where there are catalytic converters and efficient vehicles which may cause less pollution, the situation in Pakistan is totally topsy-turvy. As most of the people are poor they do not have enough money to repair or spend money on their vehicles so that they can become environmentally friendly. Even car manufacturers do not make environmentally friendlier cars and the people are forced to buy these cars. More fuel is burned as most of the roads in Pakistan are broken and there is a lot of traffic. Many industries in big cities such as Karachi and Lahore give out harmful pollutants such as sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide. The government and the authorities take little concern about these industries. As a result of this the sky of Lahore and Karachi is covered with thick smog. This may lead to many respiratory diseases and may also be harmful to the animals living in such places.
2. **Water Pollution:** this is a major problem in Pakistan. There are many sources of water pollution in Pakistan. Most of them are found in Karachi as it is an area of industries. Although it is a government policy to filter the industrial water and then release it into the sea many industries here are dumping contaminated water in seas thereby increasing the threat of extinction of marine life as well as polluting the water. Almost the whole of city's sewerage is dumped into rivers and the sea.

As a result of this Karachi is facing many problems in the access of clean water and most parts of the city are still without water. The oil spill incident has increased the amount of pollution in the sea as well as has caused most of the beaches to be polluted. It is said that the oil spill disaster from Tasman Spirit has killed hundreds and thousands of fishes as well as destroyed much of the marine life. It has also caused eye infections and respiratory problems to those living near the sea. Further leakages in pipelines have polluted the clean water which we have so little of.

3. **Land Pollution:** As Pakistan is not a rich country, it does not have enough money to spend on waste disposal systems. As a result most of the household and other waste is usually thrown away on empty plots next to the houses and is then burned which may be harmful to the people living in the area. Only less than 5% of the waste is recycled and most of it is disposed off directly on the ground. There are only a few garbage cans along the roads so people living far away have to dispose off their waste somewhere else. This attracts flies which then spread diseases. Apart from this, the rubbish thrown would disintegrate in a 1000 years from now. Hence an increase in land pollution may in turn slowly destroy our natural environment which is already at risk.

As the world is incessantly changing, there are many attributes which are leading towards a prosperous life but on the contrary, some problems are spreading of great magnitude; one of them is pollution.

Pakistan is one of the developing countries which are sustaining the pollution problem. Traffic congestion is one of the main causes of air pollution. The usage of old transports is ruining the situation. No prevailing laws are strictly implemented, as a result, factories exude their smoke into the air. Simultaneously, wasted poisonous substances are excreted in the water of rivers and lakes which is causing water pollution.

Pollution in Pakistan is persistently increasing and on the other hand, healthy environmental policies are not on the priority list, resulting in the spread of disease. The Government should make substantial environmental policies and should implement them rigorously. Awareness campaigns among people should be executed to educate them about their health and climate. So that in future, we may be able to see our country with salubrious environment.