

How does pollution in large cities affect human health?

assignment



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How does pollution in large cities affect human health? Pollution, a worldwide problem which has been concerned with since 1972 (Suite 2008: 1 56), has significant effects on human health in large cities. It may be defined as several different types of pollutant in environment mainly caused by industry' and agriculture, having a harmful impact on public health. It is because cities, most of which, have depended on the two types of industry to develop the economy that the problems of urban pollution are serious.

For example, the percentage of inhabitants in Calcutta with expiratory diseases is 20 times as much as that of India average (Abashing 2002: 70).

There are 4 main kinds of pollution: air, water, and land pollution. This essay will examine how the pollutions mentioned above affecting human health in large cities. It is acknowledged that air pollution affects public health in large cities. For instance: it is suggested that in London hospital 2 percent of myocardial infarction will be induced by air pollution(Policies et al. 1997 sited in Ares 2006: 24). This paragraph will introduce 3 main pollutants: sulfur oxides, lead, and carbon monoxide. Firstly, sulfur oxides may rigger heart diseases and asthma (American Thoracic Society, 1996; Pope and Crockery, 1 999; Pope, 2000 sited in Roomier and Hernandez-Avail, 2003). It is estimated that in London more than 4000 people died of sulfur oxides in 1952 (Suite 2008: 1 59; pat and Balsas, 2001). Lead, as a pollutant caused by industry, does harm to human bodies, especially to children's brains (Suite 2008: 162).

Abashing (2002) states that " in Bangkok lead pollution could cause 200, 000 to 500, 000 cases of hypertension, 300 to 900 cases of heart attack and stroke, and 200 to 400 deaths per year (ESCAPE, 1995). Furthermore, it also

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could cause average loss of 3.5 IQ points per child before the age of seven, I. E. , an estimated total loss of 400,000 to 700,000 IQ points per year. ” On the other hand, Outdoor air pollution does harm to public health, whereas indoor air pollution may be a more serious problem in slums of large cities (Suite, 2008).

In those areas, people who depend on wood and straw heating or cooking breathe the polluted air which may include CO and does harm to their health. It is suggested that in Japan, women will get higher risk of lung cancer when they use wood to cook (Subdue, 1990 cited in Abashing, 2002). Water pollution, may be another pollution which has great effects on public health. As a result of industrialization, safe drinking water is only available in less than 30 percent of largest cities in China (Suite 2008).

There are three prime contaminations: arsenic, mercury and pathogen, which will be introduced in this paragraph. Arsenic pollution is caused by smelting industry. It is widely acknowledged that the deep-water in Taiwan contains this substance which may damage blood vessels and gastrointestinal tissue resulting in substantial effects on brain, skin and heart and limbs (Huh, 2002). Another pollutant, mercury, also an important part of industry pollution, may cause “ multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus, or chronic fatigue syndrome’ (Huh, 2002).

It may be exemplified by Inanimate disease which is resulted from this substance, caused nearly 50 deaths in Inanimate, Japan in 1955 (Oxford university, 2009; Suite 2008). Different from arsenic and mercury, pathogen is a contamination produced by agriculture or households. Hill (2004)

mentions that “ epidemics of cholera, typhoid fever, and amoebic dysentery” may be caused by pathogens in drinking water. Furthermore, in Milwaukee, United States, 400, 000 residents were ill and nearly 1 00 people died because of pathogens in 1 sass.

Land pollution, a problem which is placed in developing countries such as China and Philippines, (Hill, 2004) may be defined as a kind of pollution produced by industrial pollution, agricultural pollution, and domestic pollution. Since the close relationship between soil and water, land pollution, to some degree, can leads to water pollution. It is well known that the diffusion of heavy metals in solid waste can directly influences the quality of drinking water. As the examples mentioned above, arsenic and mercury, doth come from solid waste and do harm to public health in large cities.

On the other hand, unscientific combustion of solid Waste may also leads to air pollution. For instance, it is widely acknowledged that the combustion of plastic releases poisonous gas such as dioxin (Hill, 2004). In conclusion, there are several pollutions affect human health in large cities. Firstly, air pollution affects public health in respiratory and brain. Sulfur oxides and carbon monoxide have significant influence on respiratory and may lead to lung cancer. Secondly, water pollution could damage human health because it may notation toxic substance, e. G. Arsenic and mercury or pathogens which are related to infectious diseases. Another main pollution is land pollution which has close association with air and water pollution and also affects human health. In short, air, water and land pollution in large cities affect human health via making people absorbing poisonous substance and microbe.

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