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Pollution of Marine Environment

Dr. Pratibha Sadashiv Desai*

Abstract :- Marine Pollution is combination of chemicals & trash, most of which comes from land sources & is washed or blown into the ocean. This pollution results in damage to the environment, to the health of all organisms and to economic structures worldwide. So purpose of this research paper is to develop awareness about pollution of marine environment & also is the time for everyone to think globally & act locally.

Keywords - Pollution, Marine Environment

Introduction :- A relationship between human population increase & environmental change has long been recognized, attempts have been made only recently to assess the cumulative impacts of land development in the coastal zone by recording their physical, chemical and biological consequences. This requires knowledge of trends in water quality & an understanding of the management of aquatic habitats. Equally important is the economic analysis of damage to natural resources and human health against which the cost of control measures will need to be justified. Many of the impacts recorded are common to most coastal developments, but it is useful to consider industrial & recreational activities separately.

Contaminants from land reach the marine environment by a variety of pathways. Coastal outfalls discharge directly to estuaries, inshore waters, bays & open coastal areas. Storm – water flows may be too great for drainage & treatment facilities & when run – off is too fast. may exceed the assimilative capacity of the receiving waters . Rivers act as large scale. Collectors and carriers of waste waters from diverse sources within their drainage basins & off – load them to the sea. Thus, rivers can be regarded as major point sources of mixed contaminants, the inputs of which depend on the contaminant load of the rivers & on the physicochemical & biological transformations taking place in the river itself & especially in the estuaries and the near- shore zone.

Objectives of the paper

1. To study the concept of marine pollution.
2. To study the causes of marine pollution
3. To study the effect of marine pollution
4. To Study the prevention of marine pollution .

Analysis of Data

Concept of marine pollution - What is carried by rivers ultimately ends up in the seas. On their way to sea, rivers receive huge amounts of sewage, garbage ,agricultural discharge biocides, including heavy metals. These all are added to sea. Besides these discharge of oils & petroleum products & dumping of radionuclides waste into sea also cause marine pollution. Huge quantity of plastic is being added to sea & oceans. Over 50 million lb Plastic packing material is being dumped in sea of commercial fleets. whereas over 300 million lb entering through inland waterways in U.S.A. Many marine birds ingest plastic that causes gastrointestinal disorders. The chemical principle in PCBs causes more damage as thinning of eggshell & tissue damage of egg. Radin nuclide waste in sea include sr- 90 , CS- 137 , PU – 239 , PU- 240 .The pollutants in sea may become dispersed by turbulence & ocean currents or concentrated in the food chain . They may sediment at the bottom by processes like adsorption. Precipitation & accumulation. Bioaccumulation in food chain may result into loss of species

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diversity. In marine water most serious pollutant is oil, Particularly when a float on sea. Oil pollution causes damage to marine fauna & flora including algae, fish, birds, invertebrates. About 50,000 to 250,000 birds are killed every year by oil. Hydrocarbons & benzpyrene accumulate in food chain & consumption of fish by man may cause cancer. Detergents used to clean up the spill are also harmful to marine life.

The causes of marine pollution— Oceans which account for 70 percent of the surface of our planet, play a pivotal role in the health of our planet & those who inhabit it unfortunately our oceans are polluted. According to the National oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, bellions of pounds of trash and of the pollutants enter our oceans every year.

Causes of Marine Pollution

1. Nonpoint source pollution.
2. Intentional discharge
3. Oil spills
4. Littering
5. Ocean mining
1. **Non point secure pollution (Runoff)** Nonpoint source pollution comes from a variety of different locations & sources the result of this is run off, which occurs when rain or snow moves pollutants from ground into the ocean.
2. **Intentional discharge**- Manufacturing plants in some areas of the world release toxic waste into the ocean, including mercury. While it's intentionally being released into the sea, sewage also contributes to ocean pollution, as well as plastic products. According to ocean conservancy, eight million metric tons of plastic goes into our oceans every year.
3. **Oil spills** – Ships are major contributors to ocean pollution, especially when crude oil spills occur. Crude oil lasts for years in the ocean & is difficult to clean up.
4. **Littering** – Atmospheric pollution, which refers to objects carried by the wind to the ocean is a big problem. Items such as plastic bags & Styrofoam containers become suspended in the water & don't decompose.
5. **Ocean mining** - .Deep-sen ocean mining causes pollution & disruption at the lowest levels of the ocean. Drilling for substances such as cobalt, zinc, silver, gold & copper creates harmful sulfide deposits deep in the ocean.

The Effect of Marine Pollution :- Ocean Pollution has many consequences that directly & indirectly affect marine life, as well as humans.

Effect of Marine Pollution-

- 1) Harmful to marine animals.
- 2) depletion of oxygen in seawater.
- 3) A threat to human health.

Harmful to marine animals :- Sea animals are common victims of ocean pollution. Oils spills, for instance, will ensnare & suffocate marine animals by permeating their gills. When the oil gets into seabird feathers, they may not be able to fly or feed their young. Animals that aren't killed by crude oil may suffer from cancer, behavioral changes & become unable to reproduce.

Marine animals also mistake small plastic debris for food or become entangled in or strangled by plastic bags & discarded fishing nets. Animals most vulnerable to harm from plastic debris in the ocean include dolphins, fish, sharks, turtles, seabirds and crabs.

Depletion of oxygen in seawater :- As excess debris in the ocean slowly degrades over many years it uses oxygen to so, resulting in less oxygen in the ocean. Low levels of oxygen in the ocean lead to the death of ocean animals such as penguins, dolphins, whales and sharks.

A threat of human health :- Pollutants in the ocean make their way back to humans. small organisms ingest toxins and are eaten by larger predators, many of which are seafood that we

eventually eat when the toxins in contaminated animals get deposited in human tissue, it can lead to long – term health conditions, cancer and birth defects.

The prevention of Marine Pollution

prevention of Marine Pollution

1. Regional and national governments should also explore national legislative frameworks on Extended Producer Responsibility. These are emerging as innovative, low cost solutions, as are policies to promote circular economies.
2. Governments, research institutions and industries need to work collaboratively to redesign products, and rethink their use and disposal to reduce micro plastic waste from pellets, synthetic textiles and tyres. Consumers and society must shift to more sustainable consumption patterns . This will require solutions which go beyond waste management and consider the whole lifecycle of plastic products, from design to infrastructure, and household use.
3. More funding for research and innovation should be made available to provide policymakers, manufacturers and consumers with the evidence needed to implement technological, behavioural and policy solutions to address marine plastic pollution.
4. Methodologies to identify, measure and address marine plastic pollution sources and plastic leakage are available, including form IUCN .

Conclusions :- Conclusions of the research paper from objectives 1,2,3,4 are as follows.

Objective 1 - To study the concept of marine pollution.

Objective 2- To study the causes of marine pollution

Objective 3- To study the effect of marine pollution

Objective 4 - To Study the prevention of marine pollution .

Conclusions-

1. Marine pollution is a combination of chemicals , land pollution , plastic, oil, atmospheric pollution , ocean mining.
2. Marine pollution is harmful to marine animals, it is also a threat to human health, because of depletion of oxygen in seawater all living organisms, fauna & flora in marine is in danger.

Recommendations –

From all above analysis of the research paper researcher states some recommendation.

- 1) Reduce chemical fertilizer use.
- 2) Opt for reusable bottles & utensils.
- 3) Organize a social distancing clean up at the beach or a nearby park.
- 4) Properly dispose of plastic and trash.

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