



FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

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Lecture-3



LECTURE 3: Kinds of Pollution and its Causes

Some of the major forms of pollution are as follows:

1. AIR POLLUTION:

Air pollution is generally accomplished through air pollutants. The definition of air pollutants is given under sec 2(9) of the Air Pollution Act, 1981.

Section 2(a): Air pollutant means any solid, liquid or gaseous substance including noise present in the atmosphere in such concentration as may be or tend to be injurious to human beings or living creatures or plants or property or environment.

Section 2(b): Air Pollution means the presence in the atmosphere of any air pollutant.

Air pollutants may be gaseous or particulate pollutants. With the progress of the society a large amount of gaseous waster and fine particles are emitted into the atmosphere.

The natural air has got its air purification process and through this process it could be able to be remove different types of pollutants which are continuously introduced into the atmosphere.

When the rate of pollution is high or the self purifying capacity of the air comes down, accumulation of pollutants takes place posing a serious threat to the human health.

2. WATER POLLUTION:

Water is a significant element in the biosphere because on one hand it is vital for the survival of all forms of life and on the other hand it helps in the movement, circulation and cycling of nutrients in the biosphere.

It supports life-system and its shortage has been serious concern of human being's.

Section 2(6) of Water (prevention and control of pollution) Act, 1974:- means such contamination of water or such alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of water or such discharge of any sewage or trade effluent or any other liquid, gaseous or solid substance into water (whether directly or indirectly) as may, or is likely or create a nuisance, domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural or other legitimate uses, or to the life and health of animals or plants or of aquatic organisms.

3. LAND POLLUTION:

Land is in fact the very heart of life layer(biosphere) because it represents a zone wherein plant nutrients produced, held, maintained and are made available to plants. It is important for human society because it is the basic medium for food and various needs of man and other living creatures.

Land and soil pollution takes place mainly due to the disposal of solid and semi-solid waste from agricultural practices and from poor sanitation, soil erosion, consequent upon land use changes, deforestation, excessive use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, polluted waste water from industrial and urban areas.

Urbanization coupled with the desire of men to live comfortably has further aggravated the problem.

4. FOOD POLLUTION:

Food is one of the most essential resources of human survival. Pollution of food begins when the seeds need to be protected from use of chemicals. Again chemicals are used to protect plant growth, flowers, fruits and vegetables.

5. RADIO-ACTIVE POLLUTION:

The advent of nuclear weapons and also to have more and more such destructive weapons has led the exposure level to radiations caused by such tests increase.

Radio-active pollution immediately affects the man and it is his health which is at stake. There is every possibility that water sources particularly the rivers and sewers are likely to be affected by such radiation.

Man may be exposed to such contamination directly by the radioactive particles in air, radioactive gases and absorption of contaminants by respiratory tract and indirectly by consuming food chains.

6. NOISE POLLUTION:

The word noise simply connotes unwanted sound or ordinarily by noise we can mean a sound which is unpleasant that exerts a pressure on our mind.

The sources of noise pollution are numerous, but broadly it can be divided into two.

- Industrial and

- Non- industrial.

The effects of noise are becoming deadlier day to day. It impairs our sensibility, physiological, psychological; it may lead to loss of hearing, speech interference, loss of efficiency, various diseases, and interference with sleeping besides certain other miscellaneous effects.

Causes of Pollution:-

There are many causes for pollution. Some of the are as follows:

- Air pollution can be caused by both human and anthropogenic sources.
- The main contributors for air pollution are human-made pollutants due to activities like combustion, construction; mining, agriculture and warfare are significant.
- Emissions from motor vehicles are one of the leading causes of air pollution.
- Pollution sources that are stationary include chemical plants, coal-fuelled power plants, petrochemical plants, oil refineries, nuclear waste disposal, large live stock farms, incinerators, factories producing PVC, metals, plastics and other heavy industry.
- Pollution from agriculture comes from clear felling, burning and spraying of pesticides and herbicides. Humans are the primary cause of global warming since 1950s.
- Soil contaminants include chlorinated hydrocarbons, heavy metals, solid hospital wastes, lead, and fuel. Ordinary landfills are the source of chemical substances entering the soil environment.
- Water pollution can be caused by discharge of toxic pollutants like pesticides, heavy metals and non-degradable chemical compounds into fresh or ocean waters.
- The sources of these can be industries, chemical, heavy metal, hospital wastes. They also can be untreated or partially treated sewage water.