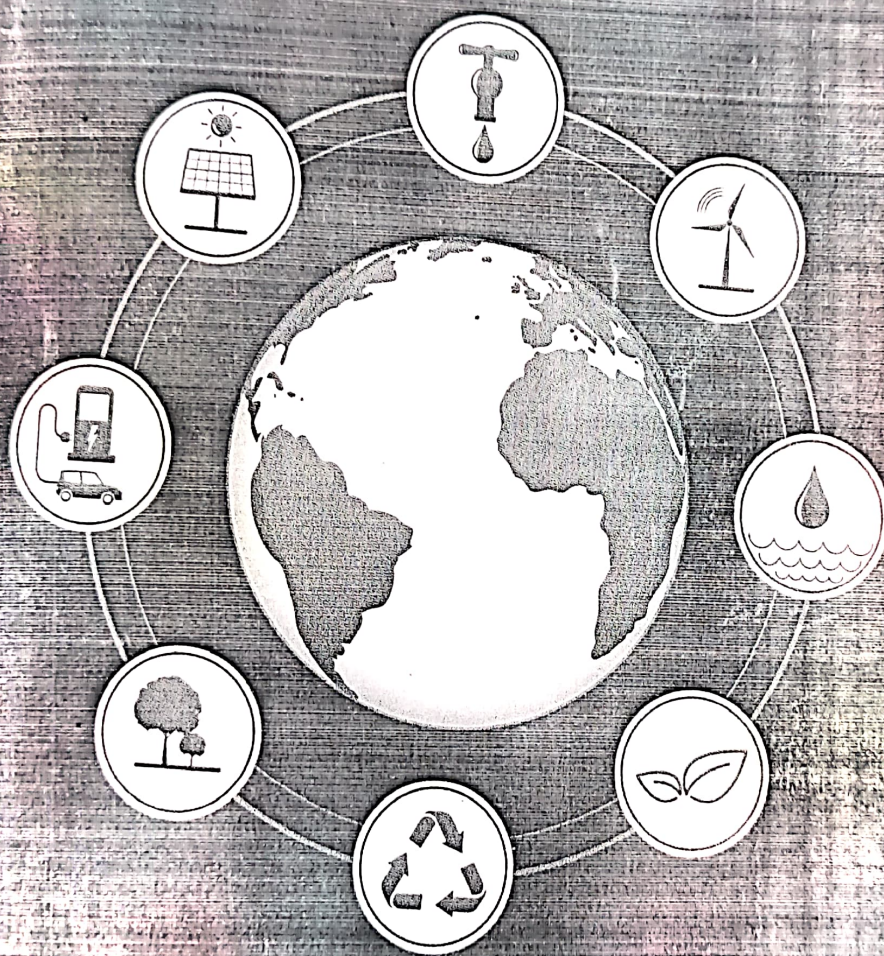


Environment & Sustainable Development Goals

A Multidisciplinary Approach



Mrs. Anu Kandhari
Dr. Vani Arora

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Water Pollution: A Growing Challenge to Health and Ecosystem

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Abstract

Polluted water is the main concern in India and as well as the world now a days. Polluted water not only affects the present generations but will also be going to have a very bad impact on future generations. This contaminated water is the main cause of number of diseases in the world. According to UN Report 2012, 2.2 billion people around the globe do not have access to safe drinking water. Report says that 69 percent of freshwater is in the form of ice in glaciers and 30 percent is available as groundwater which shows that most of freshwater is not accessible to human beings that their survival. Thus, freshwater which is extremely important for the survival of human being and is natural habitat for aquatic animals is quite rare now. In this context, present

paper explores the causes of water pollution, effect of polluted water on ecosystem and also studies various measures to solve the water quality issues. The paper concludes that industrial waste, heavy metals, chemicals, global warming and agricultural wastes are major threats to clean water. This polluted water not only affects the human health but also depletes aquatic system, ecosystems and lead to destruction of biodiversity. A decisive and thorough measure has to be taken to implement the plans designed by the government to ensure that the targets set must be achieved on time so that natural aquatic environment can be treated properly and ecosystem can be protected.

Polluted water is the main concern in India and as well as the world now a days. Polluted water not only affects the present generations but will also be going to have a very bad impact on future generations. This contaminated water is the main cause of number of diseases in the world. According to UN Report 2012, 2.2 billion people around the globe do not have access to safe drinking water. Report says that 69 percent of freshwater is in the form of ice in glaciers and 30 percent is available as groundwater which shows that most of freshwater is not accessible to human beings that their survival. Clean water is the base of manufacturing activities as well as for social and economic development of any economy. Most of the health related concerns that human being is facing in this world are related to poor water quality. These problems will be further intensified by climate change which leads to melting of glaciers and disruption of water cycle. Thus, freshwater which is extremely important for the survival of human being and is natural habitat for aquatic animals is quite rare now.

In this context, present paper explores the causes of water pollution, effect of polluted water on ecosystem and also studies various strategies to combat water quality problems.