

INEVITABLE POLLUTANTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THEIR NEGATIVE EFFECTS

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Unknowingly, we the human beings are exposed to many pollutants in our day-to-day life, which are unavoidable and can cause adverse effects on our health. It is a bare fact that man is the cause and maker of the inevitable pollutants. Pressure from rapid population growth, urbanization, and industrial expansion, huge energy utilization, biotechnology, and development of new technologies for the advancement, have accelerated changes leading to serious environmental problems. The main reservoirs of these unavoidable pollutants are air, water, and soil. Various pollutants in the form of heavy or trace metals, oxides, hydrocarbons, suspended particulate matters, biocides, plastics, toxic chemicals, radio nuclides etc. are discharged to the environment constantly, mainly due to mining, road traffic, industrialization, agricultural development and various other anthropogenic activities. After continuous deposition into ground or surface water bodies, these chemicals and toxic metals may change standard quality of potable water. Agricultural chemicals are polluting food (residual toxicity), under ground water (contamination), soil flora, fauna and encouraging emission of green house gases leading to global warming, depletion of ozone layer, ground water pollution by nitrates where fertilizers application rates are high. In the present article, we have tried to highlight the unavoidable pollutants discharged to the environment constantly, their sources, which are mainly responsible for the environmental degradations like production of toxins, emission of green house gases, indoor pollution, and their negative effects on human health.
