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AN ANALYSIS ON MICROPLASTICS POLLUTION WITH RESPECT TO MARINE ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract

Microplastics means any kind of plastics which is lesser than 5 mm in size. In recent years, it has been found that this microplastic also plays an important role in causing marine pollution. Further, it is also found that these also affects the human health, flora and fauna. The microplastic are formed due to littering of plastic debris. These microplastics are found in cosmetic products such as tooth pastes, skin products etc. During sewage treatment these are not filtered out but they are directly released into the oceans. It has also been found that the major source of microplastics are from synthetic textiles. Further, it is found that average 1900 micro million fibers can be discarded during one wash from those industries. These are the some of the ways how microplastics enters into oceans. In this paper the researcher analyses what are the major effects of microplastic pollution and how it can be controlled. Further, the researcher emphasizes that uniform rules and stringent laws should be passed worldwide to control such pollution.

Keywords: Microplastics, Marine Pollution, Environmental degradation.

Introduction

Nowadays, usage of plastics are increasing day by day. Every people prefer usage of plastics due to its cost feasibility. But, these plastics causes environmental pollution. Plastic plays an important role in polluting not only lands but also marine environment. It has been found that production of plastics globally has been increased to 400 million metric tons per year¹²⁷.

The increased production of plastic began only after Second World War. Most of the plastic industries were opened during these years and its production is being increased even still date. Hence, there was a drastic plastic usage from the year 1950. In the year 1950, it was found that two million tons of plastics were produced globally. At present, it has increased to almost 378 tons. It is estimated that if the usage of plastics continues, by the year 2050 the production of plastic would reach to 1100 million tons globally. These plastics are mainly used in food package. This also includes single use plastics. This single usage plastics are used as containers for food and beverages. The increased production and usage of plastic will lead to plastic waste and it is the main reason for marine pollution.

"Plastics including microplastics are now present in our natural environment. They are becoming part of the Earth's fossil record and a marker of the Anthropocene, our current geological era. They have even given their name to a new marine microbial habitat called the plastisphere"¹²⁸.

In the year 2000 the term "Microplastics" came into usage. Microplastics means any plastics which are lessor than 5mm in size. The major cause of marine pollution is caused due to marine debris. Marine debris can be defined as "any persistent, manufactured or processed

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