

6. Types of Environmental Pollution

BVES-151: Environmental Studies

Unit 2: Environmental Pollution and Waste Management

Topic: Types of Environmental Pollution

□ What is Environmental Pollution?

Environmental pollution is the introduction of harmful substances or contaminants into our natural environment, causing adverse effects on humans, wildlife, and ecosystems.

Pollution negatively impacts:

- Human health
- Plants and animals
- Soil, water, and air quality
- Climate and overall environmental balance

□ Main Types of Environmental Pollution

There are several major types of environmental pollution:

1. Air Pollution

- **What it is:** Release of harmful gases, particles, and chemicals into the atmosphere.
- **Causes:** Vehicle emissions, factories, burning fossil fuels, forest fires.
- **Effects:** Respiratory illnesses (asthma, bronchitis), global warming, smog, acid rain.

2. Water Pollution

- **What it is:** Contamination of lakes, rivers, oceans, groundwater by harmful substances.
- **Causes:** Industrial waste, sewage discharge, agricultural runoff (fertilizers, pesticides), oil spills, plastics.
- **Effects:** Harm to aquatic life, unsafe drinking water, diseases like cholera and typhoid.

3. Soil (Land) Pollution

- **What it is:** Degradation of soil quality due to harmful chemicals or waste.
- **Causes:** Industrial waste dumping, agricultural pesticides, chemical fertilizers, plastic waste.
- **Effects:** Reduced soil fertility, contaminated crops, health issues from toxic chemicals.

4. Noise Pollution

- **What it is:** Excessive or unwanted noise causing disturbance and health impacts.
- **Causes:** Traffic, construction activities, loud music, industrial operations.
- **Effects:** Hearing loss, stress, sleep disturbances, increased blood pressure.

5. Thermal Pollution

- **What it is:** Change in temperature of water bodies due to human activity.
- **Causes:** Cooling water discharge from power plants and industries.
- **Effects:** Disturbs aquatic ecosystems, reduces oxygen levels, harms aquatic organisms.



6. Radioactive Pollution

- **What it is:** Release of radioactive materials into the environment.
- **Causes:** Nuclear power plant accidents, radioactive waste disposal, nuclear tests.
- **Effects:** Radiation sickness, genetic mutations, cancer, environmental damage.

7. Light Pollution

- **What it is:** Excessive artificial light disturbing natural environments and wildlife.
- **Causes:** Streetlights, brightly lit buildings, advertising boards.
- **Effects:** Disturbs wildlife behavior, sleep disruption, loss of visibility of stars.

□ Major Sources of Pollution

Source	Examples of Pollutants Released
Industries	Chemicals, heavy metals, smoke, wastewater
Agriculture	Fertilizers, pesticides, animal waste
Transportation	Vehicle exhaust gases, noise
Urbanization	Solid waste, sewage, noise, artificial lighting
Energy Production	Fossil fuels emissions, nuclear waste

□ Impacts of Environmental Pollution

Pollution affects the environment in many ways:

- **Health Issues:** Respiratory illnesses, cancers, infections.
- **Biodiversity Loss:** Wildlife deaths, habitat destruction.
- **Climate Change:** Increased greenhouse gases causing global warming.
- **Economic Costs:** Increased healthcare costs, damage to agriculture.

◎ Simple Steps to Reduce Pollution

- **Reduce, reuse, recycle** waste.
- Choose **public transport, cycling, or walking**.
- Use **eco-friendly products**.
- Save energy by turning off lights and appliances.
- Avoid single-use plastics.

□ Quick Self-Check Questions

1. Define environmental pollution in simple terms.
2. List four major types of pollution.
3. Give two examples of causes for water pollution.
4. Why is noise pollution harmful?
5. Name two ways you can help reduce pollution daily.



□ Summary of Types of Environmental Pollution

- Environmental pollution includes air, water, soil, noise, thermal, radioactive, and light pollution.
- Pollution negatively impacts human health, wildlife, and ecosystems.
- Responsible actions and awareness help significantly reduce pollution.

AYURVEDBHARATI.ORG