

Water Pollution & Health Impacts in India [†]

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Abstract: One of the pressing problems of the 21st century is related to both quality and quantity of water. Unplanned urbanization, rapid industrialization, and ever-increasing population have degraded the water quality in many areas of India. Surface and groundwater sources in Indian cities are being polluted by organic, inorganic, and biological effluents generated by fertilizers, domestic sewage, industrial effluents containing chemicals, paints, and surface runoff containing plastic trash-glass pieces and debris from construction areas. Heavy metal toxicity is another source of threat linked with several health risks. Many of these toxic heavy metals, when are discharged in water bodies, enter the food chain and show biological magnification leading to malfunctioning of metabolic processes in human bodies. Untreated municipal wastewater owing to a large amount of organic content present in it, is also a source of concern in developing countries like India. 70% of Indian water resources are polluted, which results in huge socio-economic costs leading to deaths of thousands of people drinking contaminated water, and a large number of working days are lost to waterborne diseases. This paper studies the various sources of water pollution and the health effects felt on people after consuming polluted water.

Keywords: water pollution; effluents; heavy metal toxicity; waterborne diseases and health effects.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.