Science Competition – 2020 : Essay

## **Hazards of plastic**

## **Introduction**

The usage of plastic in daily life is about one trillion single-use plastic bags are used annually across the globe. That's nearly 2 million every minute. More than half a billion plastic straws are used every day around the world and plastic every year is over 300 million tons.

The hazards of plastic are:

- ➤ Plastic is not decomposable.
- ➤ If we throw, plastic will be in soil for decades.
- > Animal will die when it eats plastic.
- > Plastic contaminates natural stream.
- If we burn plastic, it releases toxic gas and leads to air pollution.

So, to save earth we need to find out a method.

## The method of reducing plastic:

Nowadays we are throwing the plastic cup after drinking the juice. Instead of that we can use a lolliware which is like a glass and made up of agrar which is the` world's first edible drinking cup for juices. Similarly, Tea shop at Trichy uses buiscuit cup for tea, the buiscuit holds tea for 10 minutes.

Like this in Chennai, edible cups should come into effect. We should also avoid usage of plastic bags and use cloth bags & paper bags and we must avoid drinking bottled water which contributes largely to plastic pollution.

Even though I would say plastic is water resistant, it blocks the water to go into underground. When we throw plactic in soil (it lasts 1000 yrs) and it have a dangerous chemical called Bisphenol-A (BPA) which is dangerous to human-being and animals because of possible health effects of BPA on the brain and prostate children. It can also affect children's behavior. Actually Plastic leads to destroying the marine life and polluting the earth. Millions of tons of plastic are in the environment as waste, especially in the oceans and seas. Further, when plastic is incinerated, it can be harmful to human's health and increase carbon emissions that contribute to climate change. To be sure, this is a big problem. Plastics degrade the environment. This may indeed harm marine life and their ecosystems also us and animals.

In 1997 the first plastic Bakelite was fully synthetic plastic which contained no molecules found in nature. Bakelite was invented by Leo Baekeland.

The plastic was first banned in Bangladesh in 2002. Similarly 13 countries banned single – use plastic. In India our Indian railways and Air India banned single-use plastic.



We have good news as our prime minister in his Independence Day speech last year had promised to crack down on single-use plastic from 2 October 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, as part of broader efforts to completely ban it by 2022. ... "It (the ban) is already in place in several states," the source said.

We don't even need to ban plastic but we should not throw it only recycling or else use cloth bags and paper bags.

## ----- Go green, no plastic -----

