

PalArch's Journal of Archaeology
of Egypt / Egyptology

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION(THE DEATH OF FISH) IN IRAQ

Sundus Jasim Shaaibith

Department of Economics, Faculty of Management and Economics/University of Al-
Qadisiyah, Iraq

Email: sundus.shaaibith@qu.edu.iq

Sundus Jasim Shaaibith, The economic and social impacts of environmental pollution(the death of fish) in Iraq-Palarch's Journal Of Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 17(9), ISSN 1567-214x

Abstract

Many people around the world can recall having walked on the street and seen smoke in the air or having walked on the beach and seen countless pop cans popping in the sand. This common event is known worldwide as pollution which is described as the occasion in which the land, air, and water become filthy with several pollutants affecting the plant life and other organisms that live in these conditions.

The increasing percentage of pollution around the world has created alternative methods that are commonly used to stop the growing epidemic. Among growing increase of conventional pollutants the environmentalists and other world organizations have invented the three R systems that represent the three greener alternatives to polluting. The three are R's are recycle, reuse, and reduce all of which are aimed at reducing our impact on the environment around us.

Keywords: Environment, pollution, pollutants, Iraq, economic, water pollution.

Introduction

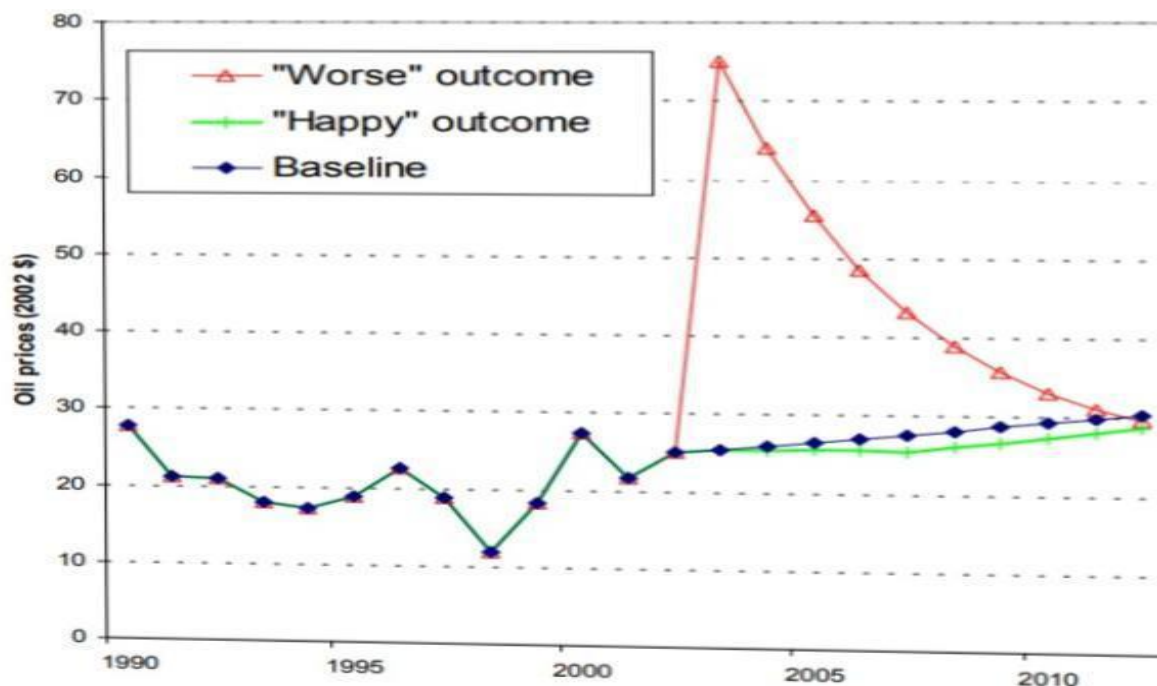
Hassig and Al Adely argue in their book known as Iraq: Culture of the world, that Iraq has been a major discussion featured in news all over the world in the last ten years of the 20th century and in the early years of the 21st century. Its ancient history has fascinated and owed many though triggering the international community to have many negative reactions. In ancient days, Iraq was known as Mesopotamia meaning "land between two rivers-the Euphrates and the Tigris" with Arabs, Sumerians, Turks and Babylonians contributing to the prosperity of the country.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Nowadays, the sea pollution becomes a serious problem for the whole world. When technology in this world grows to be more advance, the sea pollution will become more serious. "Pollution is the introduction of pollutants into the environment to such a point that its effects become harmful to human health, other living organisms, or the environment."(Pollution 2007) Sea pollution can cause many different problems. The problem inside that is damage the health and well of humans, plants and animals. Water from the sea is the primary source used by the human, animals and plants. So the sea is polluted will affect the organism in the sea and human was eating the organism in the sea. This will make the origination of serious disease to human and animals. When this problem was happen, this is damage the ecosystem in whole world. In some areas of the world, seas have become so polluted that ecosystems are in danger. Pure, the sea is unpolluted can balance the ecosystem of this world. In this modern, many human have understood the problem of sea and other water pollution.

The third effect of the sea pollution is water quality. Every year, there are many countries close the beach. This is because water quality in many countries was become more serious after the sea pollution. The water quality is causes by the sewage, waste released from factory and others. Most of the human stay near at the beach, they will use sea water and play at the beach. This will make the human infected by the hepatitis, stomach aches, vomiting and more. For example, some of the state in Africa, there was many people infected by this disease because they do not know the dangerous of the polluted water. There was many cases was happen in most of the countries that their water quality was very poor. This was make the human stay at there was infected the disease. For the example case,

"In 1993, high cryptosporidium levels in Milwaukee's drinking water supply sickened more than 400,000 residents. Every year, seven million Americans are sickened by contaminated water." (*Water pollution effects* 2006) Poor of the water quality also usually make the skin cancer of the surfer. The surfer did not know the dangerous of the sea was polluted. After they go to surf at the sea, then they will easily to get the skin cancer. The government in most country was close the beach and the stop all the sea activities. This is because the government has known the dangerous of the sea pollution and worry about the image of the country. Image of the country is very important because the first image of the tourist will look the environment of that country. If the tourists have the bad image of the country will make the economic of that country ywill decrease.



Water Pollution and its Negative Effects

This is another form of pollution where the unwanted materials contaminate water bodies. Many pollutants leading to water pollution include pathogens, chemicals, and thermal contaminations. Pathogenic pollution is caused by water contaminations through bacteria such as the coliform bacteria. Other microorganisms cause water contamination such as the salmonella, novovirus, and parasitic worms among others. On the hand, chemical substances released from factories and industries cause water pollution. Chemicals released from the industries, factories, and other sectors of the economy such as agricultural sector include both organic and inorganic chemicals. These chemical substances interfere with the purity of water and most of these chemicals cause so much diseases and complications (Silverman).

Human activities such as burning charcoal leading to global warming cause increase in general temperatures thus interfering with the temperatures of water bodies. Other human activities also influence the temperatures of water bodies using engines within such water bodies thereby interfering with the water temperatures. Changes in water temperatures and chemical presence within the water bodies directly affect the aquatic life through killing the living things within such water bodies. As a result, the effect on such aquatic life leads to their death hence the negative effects of water pollution (Atkinson).

Deaths of aquatic lives affect human activities indirectly and directly. For instance, the death of fish due to chemicals and changes in water temperatures has the direct effect of reducing the amount of food available for people in terms of proteins. This has the indirect effect or poor health due to reduced proteins as well as reduction in the economic activities

causing poor performance of the economy (Silverman). Contaminated water by pathogens causes diseases to human beings thereby reducing the productivity of the citizens of a given nation. Just as the other forms of pollution, water pollution influences forces nations to employ the use of national resources to reduce these effects. Consequently, this leads to poor economic performance.

OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are framed for the purpose of the present study:

To study the socio-economic life of the respondents in Iraq

To analyse the problems of environment in the study area;

To study the respondents' behaviour on household sanitation and environmental hygiene practices in the study area.

To study the respondents' behaviour on environmental and common property resource management practices in the study area

To find out the defects and problems in the existing environment hygiene and discomfort at their life;

To put forth suitable suggestions to improve the respondents' environment protection for healthy life.

Political Consequences

This section looks at the regional implications of the war and occupation in Iraq.

Economic Consequences

Since the 2003 invasion, the US has engineered policies to open the country up to foreign investors, disbanding various state-owned factories and enterprises; the IMF has imposed a package of economic reforms including an end to fuel, food, and health subsidies. The destruction of Iraq's economy has pushed unemployment levels as high as 60 percent

Negative impacts of economic growth Creative Destruction

Generally, economic growth is good for the welfare of an economy. However, as Acemoglu (2009) notes, it tends to create both winners and losers. Schumpeter (1942) also coined the term 'creative destruction' which highlights how the progress brought on by economic growth could lead to a destruction of an old economic structure, in the process of creating a new one. According to Cox and Alm (2008), this implies that a society cannot

reap the benefits of creative destruction without acknowledging that there will be some individuals who will end up being worse off. Acemoglu (2009, p. 8) states that “productive relationships, firms and sometimes individual livelihoods will be destroyed by the process of economic growth, because growth is brought about by the introduction of new technologies and creation of new firms”, and these replace firms and technologies currently in existence.

Economic growth also leads to a shift in the structure of production, with a move from agricultural and manufacturing to services. For instance, in the United States, at the start of the nineteenth century, around 90% of the population was engaged in agriculture. However, in the second half of the nineteenth century, there was a considerable decline in the percentage of employment in agriculture, and an increase in both manufacturing and services to over 20% of employment. Over the years, both the shares of employment in agriculture and manufacturing have experienced a decline, while over 70% of the

Improved living standards

When rich countries today are compared to their own history, there is a vast difference in the standards of living (Weil, 2013). As Weil (2013, p. 22) observes, there has been an unprecedented increase in living standards in most parts of the world over the last half century. While the life expectancy of a person born in Japan in 1880 was 35 years, today the life expectancy in Japan has gone up to 83 years. Also, the average worker in the United States would have had to work for 333 hours to buy a refrigerator. Today, a better refrigerator can be bought in 20% of that time by an average worker. While having a reading light in the night was once a luxury which only the very rich could afford, today about 75% of the world has access to electricity in

Environmental Problem

Effect on Health

Water pollution and water scarcity

More than 2 million deaths and billions of illnesses a year attributable to pollution, poor household hygiene and added health risks caused by water scarcity.

Air pollution

Many acute and chronic health impacts excessive matter levels are responsible for 300,00 – 70,0,000 premature deaths annually and for half of childhood chronic diseases; women and children in poor rural areas affected by smoky indoor air.

Atmospheric disasters

Possible shifts in vector-borne diseases; risks climatic natural: diseases attributable to ozone changes depletion (perhaps 300,000 additional cases of skin cancer a year worldwide; 1.7 (million cases of cataracts).

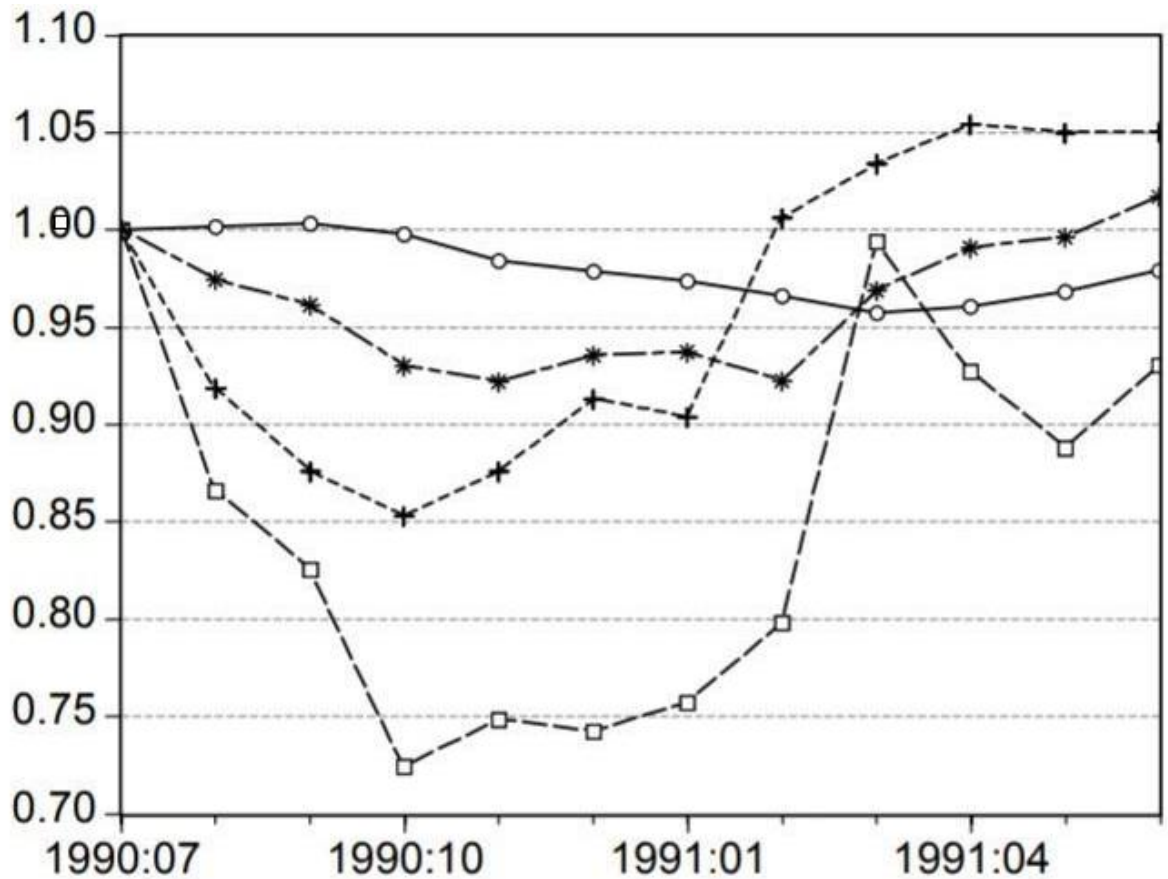
Among the environmentally-based diseases water, food and oil borne diseases affect a majority of the world population. Diarrohea, Cholera and Hepahtis A and E have the clearest link to the environment and spread by both bacteria and virus. According to a WHO study, Diarrohea deaths were around 2.5 million in 1996. Around 4 billion cases of diarrohea cause widespread debilitations each year.

The nuclear development and use, the world over is a major threat to human health today. The radiation hazard arising from Extra Low Frequency (ELF) magnetic fields of between one and one hundred hertz (HZ) as well as the very High frequency fields of 147 MHZ, which can alter the outflow of calcium ions from the brain tissue of children, in particular with steadily weakening resistance causes tumour formation in the human body.

METHODOLOGY

There are two types of water sources, ground water and surface water and they both have different pollutants. Some of the sources of surface water pollution include:

Point source pollution- This refers to a single recognizable source of water pollution and the contaminants enter the channel through passages such as a ditch or a pipe. This can be done through discharges from a factory, stormwater or a sewage line. From the book written by S.K. Agarwal, he says that much of the pollution in our rivers is caused by human activities which are not controlled causing accelerated flow of soil minerals from the land to the rivers. He says that point source water pollution can be prevented by ensuring that the water coming from factories and sewerage systems is well treated before being released into rivers and other water bodies.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental health can be defined as “the aspect of public health that is with all external conditions such as all forms of life, substances, forces, problems and challenges and any other condition in the surroundings of man that that may extent an influence on man’s health and well-being”. Disease in this sense represents maladjustment of the human being to his environment.

This rapid industrial growth has made water pollution, air pollution, and hazardous wastes pressing environmental problems in many areas of the developing world. Industrial emission’s combine with vehicle exhausts to cause air pollution, while concentrations of heavy metals and ammonia loads are often high enough to cause major fish kills down- River from industrial areas. The lack of hazardous waste facilities compounds the problem with industrial wastes.

This problem can be checked by treating those wastes that are deposited to the water bodies. The sewage systems in especially in urban centers should be kept in good condition so as to prevent the organic waste from trickling into the water bodies. Erosion control measures should be employed to minimize the surface run-off. Farmers need not to overuse the agricultural chemicals.

Soil and Noise Pollution

Both soil and noise pollution are the least famous of all the pollutions; although they are not talked about as often as others they remain important. Soil pollution, is one of the most important of all the others principally because most of the things we eat and live off of are somehow related to the soil and if the soil is contaminated we all are affected in one way or another. Soil pollution is any presence of man-made products in the natural soil environment

CONCLUSION

Industrial disposals and other chemical contaminants that enter waterways through agricultural runoff, storm water drains, and industrial discharges may persist in the environment for long periods and be transported by water or air over long distances. They disturbed the function of the endocrine system, resulting in reproductive, developmental, and behavioral problems. The endocrine disrupters reduced the fertility and increased the occurrence of still births, birth defects, and hormonally dependent Cancers such as breast, testicular, and prostate cancers. The effects on the developing nervous system can include impaired mental and psychomotor development, as well as cognitive impairment and behavior abnormalities and pharmaceuticals such as antibiotics and synthetic sex hormones from contraceptives. The GOs and NGOs should take effective steps to clean and green the streets, schools, public safety, etc. Even though it's obvious that society stands to benefit from such things, people have always struggled to find some sensible, acceptable way to pay for them. This perennial wrangle. Far on the right, they tell us that self-interested private ownership is the fairest and most efficient way to assign resources.

References:

1. Bottum, Joseph, and Michael Novak. "The Leadership of George W. Bush: Con & Pro." *First Things*. March, 2007, No. 171, pp. 31-35.
2. Diamond, Larry. "The Pressure Builds." *Hoover Digest*. 2006, No. 3, pp. 21-29.
3. Dobriansky, Paula J., Henry A. Crumpton, and F. Gregory Gause III. "Tyranny and Terror: Will Democracy in the Middle East Make Us Safer?" *Foreign Affairs*. Jan/Feb, 2006. Vol 85, No. 1, pp. 135-138.
4. Fearon, James D. "Iraq's Civil War." *Foreign Affairs*. Mar/Apr, 2007. Vol. 86, No. 2, pp. 2-15.
5. Feldman, Noah. *What We Owe Iraq: War and the Ethics of Nation Building*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2004.

6.Hanson, Victor Davis. "Five Years On." *Hoover Digest*. 2006, No. 4, pp. 82-86.

7.Hanson, Victor Davis. "Hard Pounding." *Hoover Digest*. 2006, No. 3, pp. 10-17.

8.Hill, Charles. "The Rogues are Losing: Why the Rogues of the Middle East Have a Very Short Future." *Hoover Digest*. 2005, No. 4, pp. 66-68.

9.Kagan, Frederick W. "Iraq is Not Vietnam." *Policy Review*. Dec, 2005 & Jan, 2006, No. 134, pp. 3-14.

10.Weigel, George. "Just War and Iraq Wars." *First Things*. April, 2007, No. 172, pp. 14-20.