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The Plastic Phenomenon

As technology advances, humans have gotten more greedy in their use of resources and many do not respect that other creatures share the planet with us, because they do not care for consideration. Plastics are the main cause of people's concern from grocery stores, markets, industries, companies, and business to over production. These things People should stop using plastics because plastics affect human health, cause climate change and harm ocean marine life.

Many people argue that should plastic be banned? Some people say plastics should be banned because plastic causes negative impacts to human society and earth, while some people say plastic should not be banned because plastic does not harm the environment. Who knows ? A student from Institute of Economics and Materials University, Beijing China, Qunfang Zhu argues that the public should understand the law of plastic-bag ban because plastic-bag banned will lead to a better outcome and the future. The coming of the plastic-bag ban has good positioning and complies with the idea of scientific development and sustainable development, conforming to the masses' longing for improving the environment (Zhu 2517). He afterwards talks about why the use of PBB is important and what its benefit is. Depending on some people, they will accept the ban of PBB while others would not accept the ban of PBB. The law of PBB includes supervising manufacturing enterprises and the market of plastic bags, and the supervising made by Industry and Commerce Departments to merchants (Zhu 2517). This has

stipulated clearly that quality control depts should establish product quality supervision mechanisms in plastic -bag manufacturing enterprises (Zhu 2517).

This is further explained by North American Affairs Manager with the Consumer Choice Center and special to financial post, David Clement, when he argues that prime minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau's plastic ban would not help the environment because alternatives to plastic come with negative energy consequences like carbon dioxide to release massively. To additionally legitimize the boycott, Canadian Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Catherine McKenna referred to pictures of marine life being harmed or slaughtered because of plastic in our seas (Clement par. 1). McKenna's point of view in Clement's article, he refutes McKenna's perspective by saying a prohibition on single-use plastics fails to help the issue of plastic affecting sea marine life, and does almost no regarding ecological effect (Clement par. 3). Even though the banning of plastics is ethical, Clement says that a ban of plastic does not lead to better environmental outcomes (Clement par. 5). He afterwards explained in depth about why banning plastics would not be enough to help the environment. The number one public enemy of everyday use is plastics, Clement signifies. Examination from Danmark's Service of environment really tested that customary way of thinking when it looked to analyze the absolute effect of plastic packs to their reusable correlative (Clement par. 6). In addition, Clement observes that Canadians support the idea of a ban of plastics, but they do not want to pay for it leading to higher prices for goods due to plastic regulations (Clement par. 7). As a result, Trudeau's ban is a significant problem, because of higher prices that everybody sees.

On the other hand, some experts argue that plastic is not the problem but it's how people use it. A master's degree holder in Marketing Management also a Founding member and Director of Faber Infinite Consulting, Faber Jalay Pandya argues that not only plastics are associated with

evil because of them being in the industries, it is because of how people use them irresponsibly. Even the theme of the World Environment Day 2018 “Beat Plastic Pollution” conveys the message to tackle the pollution and disposal management rather than just simply banning it (Pandya par. 2). Pandya afterwards talks about some of his discussions throughout his article. A ban of plastic is not an effective solution when plastics have more pros than cons. However, it is true that plastics have worsened natural resources and caused pollution, but at the same time, people have to understand this situation because of human insensitivity acts that plastic has turned into a curse (Pandya par. 11). Furthermore, spiritual leader and founder of Isha Foundation, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev explains how plastic can be a piece of good fortune for humanity if used properly (Pandya par. 15). Many creative inventions which focus on plastic waste disposal like: building a road out of plastic waste or using plastic waste to generate electricity must also be given an eye in order to achieve the collective goal of removing plastic pollution (Pandya par. 15). In addition, Pandya noted that not only plastic can serve a lot of human necessities, it is a fine and great material. Plastics need to be treated in the same manner and more awareness should be created for it (Pandya par.16). For this reason, Pandya signifies to the readers and other experts that people should remember that many lives are dependent on the plastic industry as well as the economies also depend on the same (Pandya par. 16).

From my point of view, I am of the opinion that people should stop using plastics because plastics affect human health. College of Sericulture, Chintamani and University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Rinku Verma says that warm surrounding air from one source of air pollution is caused by burning of plastic waste. Most of the time, the Municipal Solid Waste containing about 10-12% of plastic is burnt, releasing toxic gases into the environment which include substances like Dioxins, Furans, Mercury and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (Verma et al.

702). In addition, more amounts of contaminants will be exposed to those at the food chain's highest level like humans. This impact of burning plastic waste contains chemicals that affect humans and ecosystems due to its presence on transportation from unmanageable landfills (Verma et al. 704). Even though plastics contain many toxic chemicals and have the ability to transport pollutants as well, plastic is not safe (Verma et al. 704).

As a student myself, I am not an expert but I will apply all my knowledge and experiences about the plastic pollution issue. On October 31, 2019 I went snorkeling off the beach, river area in the subdivision of Lingayen and Dagupan, Pangasinan. Around that time, when I was snorkeling throughout my day, there was a lot of plastic waste laying in the waters and I saw portions of laundry detergent, shampoo, bottles, plastic bags, others etc. Not only have I seen plenty of plastics in the rivers and beaches, there is plenty of trash on the ground when I was traveling around in the Luzon area places and almost all have zero public trash cans on the streets. Most tourist, farming, forest and jungle areas in the Philippines are much cleaner than most cities. For example when I was traveling around Manila, there were many people that had trash that they needed to throw and people inside of their car, buses, jeepneys, tricycles would just throw their trash outside of their car window; I do see it whenever I go outside anywhere.

Further, I am given to understand that people should stop using plastics because plastics cause climate change. Senior editor for Chemical & Engineering News and a B.S. in physics from the University of Michigan, Alexander H. Tullo explains further in depth that although burning plastics reduces plastic pollution, it also affects waste-to-energy facilities. Tullo understands how this method can make a change to the plastic pollution problem but also WTEF creates societal challenges. He afterwards talks about the use of WTEF and what its effects are. Instead of using gas or charcoal, electricity is produced by burning up plastics in WTEF. After

burning up plastics, it leads to ashes, the rest of the plastic waste heads for the landfills, but most plastics are discarded in landfills. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Americans recycled only 9.1% of their plastics in 2015 (Tullo 35). In response to the plastic pollution crisis, politicians are utilizing bans of plastic which leads to societal challenges (Tullo 35). According to Marco Castaldi, director of the Earth Engineering Center at the City College of New York, when he points out that the U.S. municipalities leading the pack are still achieving only a 30% recycling rate (Tullo 36). Adding to Castaldi's statement, Tullo remarks that even with plastics stacking up, banning would not keep enough plastic out of the landfill to solve the plastic waste problem.

Over and above that, I come to the conclusion that people should stop using plastics because plastics harm ocean marine life. According to Area de Ecologia, Facultad de Ciencias del Mar y Ambientales, Universidad de Cadiz, Campus de Excelencia Internacional del Mar, Andres Cozar

To a large extent, while plastic pollution is a serious problem to our society, we must accept that plastics affect us and the earth's environment. Much of the natural resources from earth are being used to produce plastics that some people used plastic and they just discarded them without care. This will affect aquatic animals from plastic and later on in the future, there will be more plastic than aquatic animals.

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