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## **Water Pollution due to Industrial Waste**

Karachi is the industrial and corporate centre of Pakistan. This one city alone contributes 20% to the country's GDP and accounts for half of the government's revenues. At the same time, its port handles majority of the country's sea-borne trade. However, all this comes at a certain price.

The sea water of the metropolitan is considered to be the worst affected part of the country because of the discharge of industrial waste from Korangi, Landhi, and Karachi Export Processing Zone. In the Korangi industrial area; 2,500 industrial units including 170 tanneries dispose untreated waste into the sea. A continuous flow of water with animal dung from Bhains Colony is another source of pollution. Added to this are the oil spills from ships and fishing trawlers transiting the port. Interestingly, City District Government Karachi is among the biggest cause of polluting the sea by throwing three tones of waste in it on a daily basis.

The resulting situation is a harbinger of many ills. It is disrupting fishing activities, paralyzing economic activities and eventually impacting the local fishing communities. Besides depriving the fishermen from their livelihood, the growing pollution levels are also destroying the marine life. Some of the marine life is contaminated with lead, which if consumed by humans through seafood, can lead to anemia, kidney failure, and brain damage. Even the mangrove forests, protecting the feeder creeks from sea erosion as well as a source of sustenance for fishermen, are threatened by this pollution.

Unfortunately, this ever worsening situation has failed to draw the attention of both the public as well as private sector. Till date no serious initiatives have been taken in this regard and even now the attitude of concerned authorities is marked with a lack of commitment.