



Nature Club Council

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NOTE ON GARBAGE AND TOXICS!

gather for all beings

Toxics and garbage are modern words. Almost all living organisms produce waste.

But garbage is the left over of the modern human life style. The toxic in an environment can be best described as a substance or matter which cause harm to the life . In simple language we call it poison. The worst toxic created by man is the DIOXINS. They are 2 lakh times more poisonous than DDT. From the cigarette or beedi smoke to the smoke from vehicles and factories and the small effluents from our houses to the major problems in Chaliyar and Eloor are the range of toxics we find in Keralam. The pesticides we use in tea gardens and rice fields to the aerial spraying in plantations are the small but dangerous sides of pollution and toxics around us. We are ignorant about many of these things. Suddenly some new generation experts are telling us that incineration and other expensive solutions are available for the simple problem. We are fortunately aware that these are the discarded and outdated technologies from the West and they are nothing but dumping dirty things upon us taking money from us.

What are the toxics doing to our environment? We know for sure that some of them are deadly which remains in the environment for longer periods and affects all living things in the worst possible ways. We do not know much about the recently produced chemicals and contradictory to the claims of the producer, there are indications of the dangers from them also. The point to ponder here is the ways in which we approach the issue. The toxics also follow many other laws and once produced and used there is only one solution to the problem - dilution, which is nothing but postponement of a problem to make it reappear stronger and in a dirtier way. The only solution to toxic substance is not to use them. We have many such poisons around us and the faithful lot use it with reverence and create Bhopal around us. The people who were poisoned on 3rd Dec.1984 were ignorant . This was the worst disaster and the most badly managed one. The agony and problems is something which we cannot write because we have not experienced such injustice and irresponsibility. This is the 15th year of remembering Bhopal and what you and me can find today is a large number of small and big Bhopals around us. May be we can try our best to understand about those and then decide what we should do with this dangerous burden .

Keralam was well known for its cleanliness. Our cities were rated as the best urban areas with clean streets and canals. Some miracle has happened in the last five - six years . Today we have a stinking Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi and all the municipalities competing with the filth and dirt to become the No.1 in the State. The garbage bins and the state expenditure on garbage removal has reached alarming levels. The stinking container around the corners, are they the temples of modernisation and development? The state had plenty of drinking water and people willing to share water. When we saw the white tourists few years back with mineral water bottles we never expected that our coasts and land will have this piled up and that there will be a demand for incinerators to convert these reusable stuff to dioxins and furans. Little did we realise about the implications of our own changing lifestyles. We believe that we have some complex problem- the garbage. Yes, if we put all sorts of stuff in to the dust bins and want a solution which is not harmful to us. Then there is the good news that there is none! The only solution is not to put them in to those strange containers which have one thing common where ever we keep them- the stink. The issue needs a careful analysis and we can find that the solutions are simple and inexpensive. That is why there are not many takers.

We could not gave all the fact or ideas of the two issues. We want you to take a creative and honest look at the issues in your locality and report that to others. We appreciate free and creative expression.

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