

Rivers and Human Health

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Inquiry Question

How do rivers affect human health concerning pollution and disease?

How do rivers affect people locally and globally?



We are working to change this.

United Nations Related Sustainability Goals

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



How do rivers affect human health locally?

Recently, one of the most prominent stories regarding rivers and human health has been the debate over the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Thousands of people come out and protest the construction of a crude oil pipeline that has a high chance of bursting and contaminating their main source of fresh water.



Dakota Access Pipeline (Locally affected flowing fresh water)

Once the Dakota Access Pipeline is constructed, it has the potential to contaminate the water that millions of people rely on.



How do rivers affect human health globally?

All over the world, people suffer from water related diseases that come from drinking the unclean river water. More than 2 billion people suffer from diseases related to drinking unclean water, and many children die early on due to the same diseases.



Disease

One person in six lives without regular access to safe drinking water. Over twice that number -- 2.4 billion people -- lack access to adequate sanitation. Water-related diseases kill a child every eight seconds, and are responsible for 80 per cent of all illnesses and deaths in the developing world -- a situation made all the more tragic by our long-standing knowledge that these diseases are easily preventable.

Because almost a third of the population lives without a toilet (more people have smartphones than a toilet), it creates an unsanitary water that continues to transfer diseases.

Pollution

Due to the lack of sanitation in developing countries, there is a large amount of human pollution in the rivers. Additionally, in many countries in SE Asia, like India and China, they don't have as many places or adequate space to dispose of trash so they dispose of waste of all kinds in rivers and other bodies of water, making it dangerous for consumption.



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