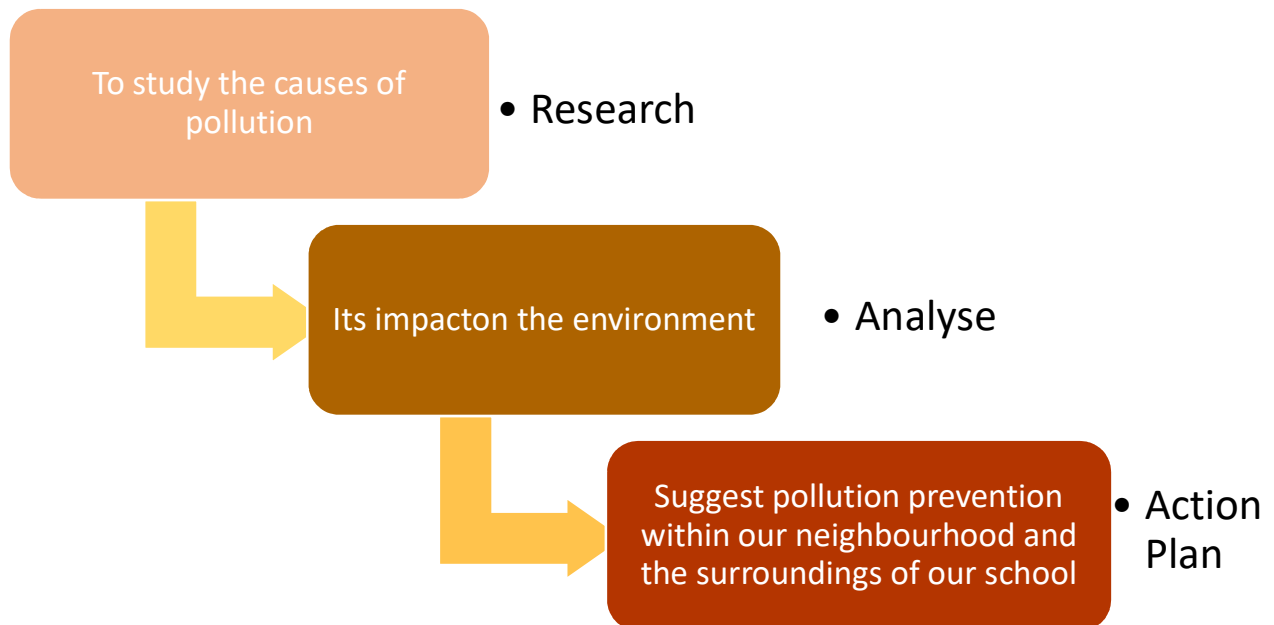


Small actions change our life!

‘Small drops make oceans.’ This is the proverb said for years on the importance of saving money. Similarly, in today’s modern world the small pieces of waste disposed on land, pieces of plastic disposed into the sea and small emissions released into the air make massive pollution in the environment. This enormous scale of pollution already threatens mankind. The ecosystem is being devastated by manmade activities such as irresponsible dumping of waste and lack of consideration for others and future generations. Thereby, urging all to look out for sustainable solutions that can prevent pollution.

The young reporters from Wise Oaks International School studied the causes of different types of pollution analysed the impact of pollution on our lives and suggested pollution prevention measures.

SCOPE



Air pollution

Pollution caused due to various human activities is one of the significant concerns throughout the world and in Singapore. The percentage of greenhouse gases is increasing in the atmosphere due to modernisation of the society resulting in an increasing number of industries, automobiles, and deforestation. Greenhouse gases are a major contributor to smog and air pollution leading to respiratory infections, heart diseases and skin cancer. This is a global as well as community problem to be addressed by each one of us. The best solution for this is to follow and implement the sustainability goals recommended by the UN.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



In 1952, the Great Smog of London killed 8000 people in London. In the continent of Asia, Southeast Asian countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, and Indonesia have always been suffering from the adverse effect of haze pollution. The primary reason for the haze pollution has been forest fires in Sumatra and Indonesia. One of the severe haze outbreaks occurred in Singapore in the year 1972. Since then, haze pollution has been an everlasting issue imposing health hazards in the lives of the people living in these countries. In Singapore, there was a huge economic loss caused by the hazardous effect of haze during the outbreak that occurred in 1997 was approximately between S\$ 97.5 million and S\$ 110.5 million.

Water pollution

As the quote says, "No water no life". People should realise that maintaining the quality of water is of utmost importance for the survival of all living organisms. When fresh and marine water bodies are contaminated with toxic pollutants such as plastics and industrial wastes, the quality of water deteriorates leading to water pollution. This pollution not only endangers the aquatic biomes but also threatens our lives by contaminating the groundwater which is one of the sources of drinking water.

It starts with small problems such as dumping waste in water bodies and leads to huge threats involving the extinction of the ecosystem. This requires small actions from every individual which will help us to reach the sustainability goal as recommended by the UN to have clean water bodies and save underwater lives.



The picture depicts that the turtle is entangled in the plastic net discarded by humans in the ocean which leads them to death. Sea turtles confuse plastics with jellyfish which is one of their favourite foods. While trying to consume plastic bags sea turtles get entangled with plastics and eventually die. Like this sea turtle, thousands of other marine creatures are harmed and killed. Plastics, trashed by humans on the beach harm the hatchlings and the nests of sea turtles.

How to prevent air pollution:

- Stop smoking
- Drive less
- Turn off your engine while waiting at the traffic light
- Don't burn your garbage
- Switch to electrical or manual equipment.
- Reduce the usage of vehicles, increase carpooling, use bikes for short distances and encourage using public transport and walking or cycling to nearby places. Stop burning garbage and use electric cars to reduce air pollution.

How to prevent water pollution

- NEA is conducting beach cleaning sessions.
- NEWater started in 2014. It recycles wastewater into pure drinking water. Singapore's river was polluted a lot, then NEWater recycled the river, and the pollution is less.
- We need to use water wisely.

It's time for action!

The young reporters of Wise Oaks International School reported the initiatives of the eco team led by Ms. Aaga, Head of the Green Team. Identifying and analysing a problem itself is not a solution to it. Keeping that in mind the skill enhancement programme created an opportunity to derive an action plan and to connect them to the real problem of water pollution. The action plan was to create awareness to stop littering beaches. These senior students at Wise Oaks International School, Singapore incorporated beach cleaning activity as a part of their co-curricular lessons based on the theme of

'Socioectopia'. Learners of Grades 5-6-7 were engaged in cleaning up the shores of Changi Beach, Singapore based on the recommendations given by NEA through the Clean Singapore learning trail programme and were enlightened with the knowledge of various hazards of water pollution and the importance to stop it. A few senior students interviewed the visitors of the beach about their views on water pollution and the threats imposed on marine creatures.

- THINK BLUE AND GO GREEN
- STOP MARINE POLLUTION
- LIVE AND LET LIVE

The above slogans of the students reverberated on the shore of Changi Beach spreading the importance of not littering as a part of their community outreach activity.



Be responsible citizens by vowing to do small acts of following the 3Rs, that aid in a cleaner world for future generations. Let's march towards achieving our common goal of protecting the environment by taking small steps and reaching out to greater heights of a LITTER-FREE Earth.

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