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Pollution is the world's biggest killer – 23rd October, 2017

Level 0

Pollution is the world's biggest killer. It caused 16 per cent of all deaths in 2015. Most people died from heart disease, lung cancer and stroke. Around 92 per cent of these deaths were in poor and developing countries. Bangladesh and Somalia were most affected by pollution. Brunei and Sweden were least affected.

A researcher said pollution was linked to poverty and poor health. He said it threatens human rights. Air pollution was the biggest killer. It killed 6.5 million people in 2015. The second biggest killer was water pollution. Next, was pollution in the workplace. A scientist said: "Air pollution is reaching crisis point."

Level 1

Pollution is the world's biggest killer. It caused one in six, or 16 per cent, of all global deaths in 2015. Most of these deaths were from diseases like heart disease, lung cancer and stroke. Researchers said 92 per cent of pollution-related deaths were in poor countries, especially countries with a lot of economic development. Bangladesh and Somalia were the countries most affected. Brunei and Sweden had the lowest numbers of deaths because of pollution.

A researcher said: "Pollution, poverty [and] poor health...are deeply [linked]." He said pollution threatens human rights, such as the right to life and health. Air pollution was the biggest killer. It killed 6.5 million people in 2015. The second biggest killer was water pollution. Next, was pollution in the workplace. A scientist said: "Air pollution is reaching crisis point." People with breathing problems, children and the elderly are hardest hit.

Level 2

A study has found that pollution is the world's biggest killer. It caused one in six deaths in 2015. This was 16 per cent of all global deaths. Most of these deaths were from diseases like heart disease, lung cancer and stroke. The study is in the medical journal 'The Lancet'. Researchers said about 92 per cent of pollution-related deaths were in poorer countries, especially countries with a lot of economic development, like India and China. Bangladesh and Somalia were the worst affected countries. Brunei and Sweden had the lowest numbers of pollution-related deaths.

A researcher said: "Pollution, poverty, poor health, and social injustice are deeply [linked]." He added: "Pollution threatens fundamental human rights, such as the right to life." He said air pollution was the biggest killer. It led to 6.5 million premature deaths. The second biggest killer was water pollution. The next largest killer was pollution in the workplace. A scientist said: "Air pollution is reaching crisis point." She said the people who pollution hit the hardest are those with breathing and lung problems, children and the elderly.

Level 3

A new study has found that pollution is now the world's biggest killer. One in six deaths worldwide is because of pollution. This is 16 per cent of all global deaths. Most of these deaths were from non-infectious diseases caused by pollution. These include heart disease, lung cancer and stroke. The study was published in the medical journal 'The Lancet'. Researchers said most pollution-related deaths occurred in poorer countries. About 92 per cent of these deaths were in low-income nations, especially countries where there is a lot of economic development, such as India and China. Bangladesh and Somalia were the worst affected countries. Brunei and Sweden had the lowest numbers of pollution-related deaths.

Study co-author Karti Sandilya said: "Pollution, poverty, poor health, and social injustice are deeply intertwined." He added: "Pollution threatens fundamental human rights, such as the right to life, health, wellbeing, and safe work." He said air pollution was the biggest killer. Air pollution led to 6.5 million premature deaths. The second biggest killer was water pollution, which caused 1.8 million deaths. The next largest killer was pollution in the workplace, which was linked to 800,000 worldwide deaths. Scientist Dr Penny Woods said: "Air pollution is reaching crisis point." She said the people who pollution hit the hardest are those with breathing and lung problems, children and the elderly.