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Course Title and Number

Modern Throw - Away Habits Are Harmful For The Environment

Today the issue of dealing with wastes has become extremely relevant. The population is growing, which results to the increase in product consumption. And all that leads to an increasing number of wastes. A big amount of rubbish is thrown away every day. Only in Britain this number can reach 430 million tones of waste per one year – that's enough to fill the Albert's Hall, as Aida Edemariam states in her article titled 'Rubbish'. The wastes come from different sources – commerce, industry, constructions, quarrying, household. The author admits, that the majority of home rubbish is loaded on the land fields, which are rather limited and disgusting. Such practice can eventually lead to the shortening of the country lands. Besides, a big percent of all wastes is made up by those which are ecologically unsafe (Edemariam, 2007).

Not always people make rational decisions when it comes to the waste issue. Food leftovers could usually be found in the litter bins, whereas it would be much more practical to use them as compost. One more serious fact causing such irresponsible attitude to food, is that customers are used to perfect looks of products they buy, that's why both – farmers and consumers tend to reject every imperfect fruit or vegetable they come across! As well as that people commonly throw away the products just looking at the expiry date stated at the package, although it's often much earlier, than food is actually spoiled. So, the way people shop seems to be a central problem.

Yes, it has to be admitted, that the shopping habits changed with the time. Earlier women generally went to their local shops with just one basket and bought as much as they could carry. Today, people are getting more well-off, go to the shops buy car and are likely to become rather spendthrift when buying loads of unnecessary things.

The type of packages we use is also a matter of concern – piles of plastic trays and bags can form up around 32, 000 tones of plastic a year; the number of glass containers approximately matches the number of 2.1 million tones of glass. Surprisingly, only 30% is factually recycled (Edemariam, 2007)!

Every year only 17% of homely wastes is actually turned into composed or recycled, though it could be 70%. In England around 2\3 of households have recycling collections, but some still fail to use this kind of service. Because of this, strict fines have been introduced by state committees. The

sum of money the British people have to pay in case they reject the recycling service is equal £1.000 (Edemariam, 2007).

It's a well-known fact, that litter from highly- developed countries is often sent to the third world countries, where it can be recycled at much lower price. But even under such circumstances the packages that are transported not always contain only paper. Thus, the executives from the Netherlands refused to accept 6,000 of waste paper to China from Great Britain motivating their reject by the fact, that the packages with 'clean waste paper' contained as well drink cans, old clothes, wood, carrier bags, plastic packages and batteries.

The best suitable way out seem to burn all the litter in the country it's produced, turning it into fossil fuels. Other kinds of waste could be used instead of gas or coal. It's been estimated, that such approach toward dealing with waste could produce 1\6 of world's energy every year.

Works cited

Edemariam, Aida. "Rubbish". The Guardian. 11 June 2007. Print