

Background and Possible Outcomes of the research on rivers in Bangladesh

According to the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), around 350,000 kilograms (350 metric tons) of toxic waste is dumped into rivers every day from about 7,000 industries and other residential areas in greater Dhaka and its adjacent areas alone. Sadly, the biggest pollutants are the industries and the government institutions who discharge sewage and dump municipal wastes into the rivers. Ironically, a list of DoE shows that out of 280 sources of pollution of the Dhaka rivers, at least 220 are public and private hospitals who do not have effluent treatment plants. Such is the degree of contamination of river water that at least 56 rivers of the country have been identified by a recent survey as biologically dead. Additionally, the beds of all major rivers have been filled with so much polythene that it has made dredging very difficult. While 30,000 tons of plastic reside in the 4 major rivers of Dhaka, Karnaphuli, the major river of Chattogram, is contaminated with a 2-7 meter layer of plastic.

The following outcomes will be expected from this research on rivers in Bangladesh:

1. Identify the definition of rivers rights
2. Identify the loopholes of legal bindings of rivers
3. How to develop a polluter pays principle with appropriate compensation
4. Identify the components of rivers health card
5. To propose how to monitor the ETPs of industries, public and private hospitals and others
6. How to impose taxes and fines for the pollution of water by the industrial units.

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