WATER POLLUTION: A BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL

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Water is an essential part of every living thing on this planet. It is essential in such a way that every biotic function relies on it. Water is used in agriculture, consumption and fishery. For plants, it is necessary for photosynthesis, their food-making process, while for human and animals; it is necessary for digestion, blood circulation, temperature modulation and many others. It is therefore impossible for life to continue without it.

Though the world is composed entirely of water, almost three-fourths of earth, only a small fraction of the entirety of it is available for consumption. According to A. du Plesuis (2017), 97% of our water is salty which is found in the sea and ocean while the remaining 3% is fresh water. This fresh water subdivides into three: glaciers, the ground water and the surface water. Glaciers and snow caps are frozen in Polar Regions and are therefore unutilized. Ground water is the fresh water that seeps into the ground after precipitation, like rain and snow, while the surface water is the one that flows through rivers and lakes. Based from the research, 99% is found to be inconsumable while the consumable 1% is found underground. These fresh water sources support our existence.

With the fast-paced industrialization and growing population, this limited supply of water is starting to perish. According to Greenpeace (2017), the Environment Management Bureau of the Philippines found that out of 127 freshwater bodies that were sampled, only 40% were found to have good quality. The remaining 47% were rated fair and the 13% is of poor quality. Poor quality of water is the result of water pollution. Water pollution is the contamination of water through the acquisition of wastes. It is considered polluted when the bodies of water has concentrations of substances in a level that it prevents water from performing its functions.
These pollutants have adverse effects in human, animals and environment. Through bacteria and viruses coming from decayed materials in polluted water, diseases are acquired and transferred. Drinking contaminated water and consumption of affected animals causes health hazards. In addition to that, the balance in ecosystem is disrupted through algal bloom and acid rain. Large discharge of fertilizers in lakes and rivers promotes abnormal