

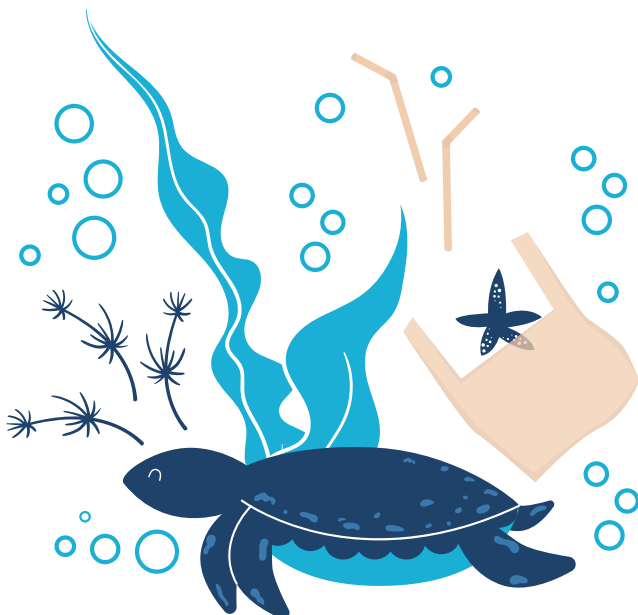
PLASTICS IN DEPTH: HOW POLLUTION TOOK OVER OUR OCEANS

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"The ocean is a mirror reflecting the world."

As of today, our oceans are facing deterioration. The fauna and flora have been adversely affected by the plastics, and heavy metals caused by the use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, and effluents from industries, marine vehicles, etc. Most of the oxygen on the earth is provided by the oceans. It is believed that life originated from the oceans and it provides habitat to millions of organisms. The ocean contains many important seaweeds that are very nutritious to humans. The oceans are being exploited needlessly as a resource. Overfishing is disturbing the aquatic ecosystem. Excess carbon dioxide in oceans causes the pH to rise which is lethal to the aquatic animals. Biological magnification is occurring and high amounts of microplastics and heavy metals like mercury are getting accumulated in the fishes and other marine organisms, which are in turn very harmful for organisms up in the food chain like humans.



FACTS

- Plastics consistently make up 80% of all marine debris studied.
- There may now be around 5.25 trillion macro and microplastic pieces floating in the open ocean. Weighing up to 269,000 tonnes.
- 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and 1 million sea birds are killed by marine plastic pollution annually.



There is a dire need to take action to protect our oceans. We should make use of biodegradable and non-hazardous alternatives. We need to raise our voice and create awareness before it's too late and save the oceans. The deeper and ethical reason is that, not only will it benefit humans, but, each species and each organism has its own importance and deserves to live. It's crucial that we leave behind majestic, beautiful and therapeutic stretches of oceans for our future generation. The oceans are not just merely sources of revenue or just another one of the ecosystems that we got to save. There's a part of our being. Industrial effluents should be treated and overfishing controlled. We as individuals should urge the government to make amendments to the laws and provide even more protection to our oceans.