



Algunas consideraciones acerca de la contaminación ambiental [

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text (article)

Analítica

In this article the concepts and facts which define pollution and the way to reduce it are analysed. Human behaviour in relation to the problem is the first factor to be studied. Every human activity pursues an objective that implies a benefit, but the results can also produce harm. If this harm does not revert to those who generate it, we are in front of a phenomenon that in economy is known as "externality". This may be due to failure in the allocation of resources and the use of public wealth. Most environmental problems cannot be solved without State intervention, but State intervention only is not enough. To understand the pollution phenomenon and the relationship between specific contaminated agents and the prevalence of specific symptoms seems to be a priority. This reliable information about Santiago in relation to air polluting agents and related hazards, but the epidemiological surveillance required is still not enough. The people involved with the source of pollution must have a clear picture of the harm they produce and include this knowledge in their decision making. International public opinion has been interested to see that countries like Chile increase their expenditure on environmental protection. It is likely that this could lead to sanctions towards countries that neglect the environment. It is highly desirable to reach a consensual agreement without an "ideologicalised" debate, enabling objectives to be reached and measures taken to protect the environment

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