

LEGACY POLLUTION: Emerging environmental and Health Impacts

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Foreword to second edition: Dr Stephania A. Cormier, Chair, PB Consortium for Environment & Health

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Dr Mahmood A. Khwaja's concern over the deterioration of environment and its impacts on the health of children in Pakistan and globally spurred the creation of the book and the production of its second edition entitled "*Legacy Pollution: Emerging Environmental and Health Impacts*". The book mainly focuses on specific areas of Pakistan, however, it deals with environmental pollution and the related health risks in such an analytical and well-described way that it can be considered a significant reference of what occurs worldwide.

The book begins with a thorough review covering the last 25 years of environmental research from three provinces across Pakistan - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh – as well as including sites around Islamabad (Federal Capital region). Through field survey work, the author and his team, then acquires new samples and presented analytical data on these samples from 38 of hazardous wastes sites. Extensive interviews were conducted with local residents. Data was collected about environmental and health concerns and perceptions about the immediacy of necessary action to address the problems.

The book concludes not with just a summary, but with a "Way Forward", in which the author presents some initial interventions including site controls, installation of remediation facilities for the treatment of hazardous wastes and distribution/creation of clean water sources for the population. It is further proposed that this is a civil issue requiring society to provide relevant information to marginalized and vulnerable groups to build awareness and understanding in those communities. Finally, Dr. Khwaja implores society to develop policy and implement legislation to protect public health and the environment.

This work highlights the growing importance of effective management of hazardous substances throughout the industrialized world in order to protect our vulnerable populations. Further, it demonstrates the importance of drawing local scientists and engineers into discussions on global environmental responsibilities with members of the community and calls for action by society, to limit generation of and exposures to hazardous wastes.

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