Plastic Ban: A Step Towards Sustainable Future

Naman[1], Shashank[2]

[1,2]*Students of SRM University, Department of Commerce*

Abstract—**The plastic ban has emerged as a crucial policy initiative aimed at reducing pollution, protecting ecosystems, and promoting sustainable development. With India enforcing a ban on 19 single-use plastic items in 2022, the focus has shifted toward environmental preservation, effective implementation, and public awareness. This article discusses the necessity, challenges, impact, and future direction of plastic bans in India and globally.**

Index Terms—**Plastic Ban, Sustainability, Environment, Pollution Control, Waste Management**

I. INTRODUCTION

Plastic pollution has become a global environmental crisis, affecting land, water, wildlife, and human health. Single-use plastics, due to their short lifespan and long decomposition period, contribute significantly to environmental degradation. Recognizing this, India and many other countries have implemented strict regulations to curb plastic usage.

Understanding The Plastic Ban
A plastic ban typically involves restricting the production, sale, and use of specific plastic items, especially single-use plastics such as bags, cutlery, packaging materials, and bottles. India's 2022 regulation targeted 19 such items, focusing on reducing waste and promoting sustainable alternatives such as cloth, jute, and biodegradable materials.

Why the plastic ban is necessary
- Reducing landfill waste and soil contamination
- Protecting animals and marine life from plastic ingestion
- Lowering toxic emissions from plastic incineration
- Encouraging adoption of eco-friendly and reusable alternatives

II. REGULATORY HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPLEMENTATION

India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change prohibited the manufacture, sale, and use of identified single-use plastics starting from July 1, 2022. Several states, including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Delhi, had already implemented early restrictions. Implementation challenges include limited availability of affordable alternatives, resistance from consumer markets, and difficulty in monitoring compliance.

Socio-Economic and Environmental Impact
Plastic bans have led to reduced visible litter and increased environmental consciousness. However, industries dependent on plastic manufacturing face transitional challenges, and consumers are adapting to alternative materials. Strengthening waste segregation systems, supporting recycling, and improving affordability of alternatives remain essential.

Steps to Make the Plastic Ban Successful
- Switching to reusable and eco-friendly products
- Supporting recycling programs and proper waste management
- Public education and awareness campaigns
- Stronger monitoring and enforcement mechanisms

III. CONCLUSION

The plastic ban represents a significant step toward environmental protection and sustainable development. Collective action from governments, industries, and citizens is critical to overcoming implementation challenges and ensuring long-term success.

REFERENCES

[1]   Government of India, Ministry of Environment Guidelines on SUP Ban, 2022.
[2]   United Nations Environment Programme Reports on Plastic Pollution.
[3]   Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) – Single-use Plastics Report.