

How do Humans Impact the Environment? ~Pharmaceuticals~

By Nick Lee

What is the industry?

Pharmaceuticals:

The pharmaceutical industry is responsible for the production and research of medicines and medications.

Pharmaceuticals are essential to modern day life and we need the pharmaceutical companies to produce us medicines that can keep us healthy and alive but for a price. Pharma is essential health of a nation and without the industry we would be forced to make our own medicines and/or do everything naturally.



How did we used to practice this industry?

In the mid 1800's a new modern industry emerged, that was pharmaceutical companies, companies have been making medicine for centuries but it wasn't until companies started to make their reach further and start making wholesale. Back in Mesopotamia and Egypt (where pharma is said to first come from), private owners would make a product and sell it locally to people who walk into their shop to buy a product but more times than not it was a side-gig.



How do we practice it now?

In modern times we have specific companies that produce the medication and then send it to pharmacy's that will then distribute it into the public. Pharma is essential to modern day life and is a way for people to start healthy, whether it's insulin or just pain medication it is all essential. Modern companies will usually produce multiple type of medication, these companies will produce for money and that is why our medicine is so expensive even advil.



How is this industry impacting the environment in a good or bad way?

The Pharma companies produce chemicals (That's what medicine is made of) that when we take it will be in our urine and feces and when we urinate or defecate we will be releasing some of those chemicals in our body into the sewage system which in most cases is not filtered correctly and some of these chemicals are poisonous to the wildlife or environment and can harm our planet if not dealt with in our sewage system. Not to mention the waste in the factories them selves. These companies release toxins and chemicals into the environment due to the lack of government regulations on their companies.



What sustainable alternatives that can modify or replace the practice?

Sadly there isn't much you can do to replace this practice, big pharma is essential to the economy and is necessary for some people to live, without it millions could die due to the lack of medication. However we could modify it. The government if it were bold enough could enforce restrictions on the companies to force them to pay for clean up and enforce safe dumps for their toxic waste. We could do more for our sewage system by upgrading and repairing parts that are essential to the filtration of the toxins in the urine or feces.



What can you as an individual do to reduce your impact when it comes to this industry?

Sadly, this is an essential industry and if you need medicine you go to the pharmacy and without meds coming in you are out of luck, we need the pharma companies to send the medication for us. Unless you know how to get the chemicals to produce your own medicine and can make it efficiently you can't get any medication. Personally I don't take a whole of medication too often so its okay but the people who need it to live can't do anything but take it. It is literally essential, without it lots of people will die.

