

SHOULD SINGLE-USE PLASTICS BE BANNED? ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

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Abstract. This study examines the environmental and economic impacts of banning single-use plastics, focusing on both advantages and challenges. With the rapid growth of plastic consumption worldwide, single-use plastics have become a major contributor to environmental pollution. However, their role in modern economies makes the issue complex and controversial. The study applies the IMRAD approach by analyzing existing literature and identifying key findings. The results indicate that while banning single-use plastics can significantly reduce environmental damage and improve public health, it may also lead to increased production costs and economic adjustments. The paper concludes with recommendations for gradual transition and sustainable alternatives.

Keywords: single-use plastics, environmental pollution, sustainability, plastic ban, economic impact

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматриваются экологические и экономические последствия запрета одноразового пластика, включая как преимущества, так и проблемы. В условиях роста потребления пластика одноразовый пластик стал одной из главных причин загрязнения окружающей среды. Однако его роль в экономике делает этот вопрос сложным. Исследование основано на анализе существующих источников. Результаты показывают, что запрет может снизить загрязнение, но приведет к экономическим изменениям.

Ключевые слова: одноразовый пластик, экология, устойчивое развитие, экономика

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada bir martalik plastiklarni taqiqlashning ekologik va iqtisodiy ta'siri o'rganiladi. Hozirgi kunda plastiklardan foydalanish keskin oshib, atrof-muhit ifloslanishining asosiy sabablaridan biriga aylandi. Tadqiqot mavjud adabiyotlar tahliliga asoslangan. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, plastiklarni taqiqlash ekologik foyda beradi, ammo iqtisodiy muammolarni ham keltirib chiqaradi.

Kalit so'zlar: bir martalik plastiklar, ekologiya, barqarorlik, iqtisodiyot

In recent years, single-use plastics have become an essential part of modern life due to their convenience and low cost. Items such as plastic bags, bottles, and packaging are widely used for a short period and then discarded. As a result, plastic waste has increased significantly, creating serious environmental challenges. Large amounts of plastic end up in oceans, rivers, and landfills, where they remain for hundreds of years without decomposing. This growing problem has raised global concern and encouraged researchers to examine whether single-use plastics should be banned.

This study aims to explore the environmental and economic impacts of banning single-use plastics by analyzing both positive and negative aspects. The research is based on a qualitative review of existing literature, including academic articles, environmental reports,

and publications from international organizations. Sources were selected based on their relevance and credibility. A comparative approach was used to evaluate different perspectives, and the data was organized into key themes such as environmental damage, economic effects, and possible alternatives. In addition, general observations were included to reflect real-life patterns of plastic usage.

The findings reveal that banning single-use plastics can have several important environmental benefits. Firstly, it can significantly reduce pollution levels. Plastic waste is one of the main sources of environmental contamination, especially in marine ecosystems. Many animals suffer from ingesting plastic or becoming trapped in it, which often leads to death. Secondly, reducing plastic use can help prevent the formation of microplastics, which are harmful particles that can enter the food chain and affect human health. Thirdly, a plastic ban can encourage the development of sustainable alternatives, promoting innovation and environmentally friendly practices.

However, the study also highlights several economic challenges associated with banning single-use plastics. One major concern is the increase in production costs, as alternative materials such as paper, glass, or biodegradable products are often more expensive. This may lead to higher prices for consumers and financial difficulties for businesses, particularly small enterprises. Another issue is the potential loss of jobs in the plastic manufacturing industry. Since many people depend on this sector for employment, sudden changes may cause economic instability. Furthermore, not all alternatives are completely sustainable, as some require more energy and resources during production.

The results suggest that the impact of banning single-use plastics is complex and depends on various factors. The duration and method of implementation play a crucial role in determining the outcomes. A gradual transition may be more effective than an immediate ban, as it allows industries and consumers to adapt. In addition, public awareness and education are essential in promoting responsible consumption. Individuals must understand the importance of reducing plastic use and adopting sustainable habits.

In conclusion, single-use plastics have a significant impact on both the environment and the economy. While banning them can lead to substantial environmental benefits, it may also create economic challenges. Therefore, a balanced approach is necessary. Governments should introduce policies that support sustainable alternatives and help businesses transition smoothly. At the same time, individuals should take responsibility for reducing their plastic consumption. By combining environmental awareness, economic planning, and technological innovation, it is possible to minimize the negative effects of plastic use and move towards a more sustainable future.

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