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Outline of Presentation

- Contents
- Uses of Water
- What is Insecurity
- Insecurity on Local Levels
- Insecurity on Global Levels
- Insecurity in the News
- TV Show Example
- Solutions

Content of Presentation

- **Topic: Water Insecurity**
- **What is Water?**
 - It is the essential component for sustainable living. 90% of our body weight is water. We need to stay hydrated to survive.
 - What do we use water for?
 - Drinking/hydration
 - Sanitation
 - Bathing/Hygiene
 - Cleaning/Household
 - Cooking
 - Agriculture
- **What does it mean to be Water Insecure?**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1f-G6v3voA>
- **Where is this an issue?**
 - In the United States we view it in a different sense. Because our tap water is polluted, we have to go to the store and buy bottled water.

- However in a global sense, such as places like Tanzania and India, locals have to deal with getting water from a contaminated source because there is no other option, and even then this source can be miles from their home.
- **News Articles Examples**
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/18/opinion/climate-change-saudi-arabia-water.html>
 - Saudi Arabia and China are coming to the United States because they lack the water that is required to produce the pork/other products that they sell.
 - http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/02/c_137507412.htm
 - 300 million have not received improved access to water and 1.7 billion lack access to basic sanitation
 - <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/yemen-millions-children-could-soon-be-without-food-or-water-economic-crisis-deepens>
 - “The cost of food and water supplies has skyrocketed as the national currency value has plummeted”
 - <https://www.globalcommunities.org/node/37493>
- **What would Water Security even look like?**
 - Examples from each aspect of community living that contributes to water security
 - Government
 - Economic Development
 - Water Hazards
 - Governance
 - Financing
 - Cooperation
 - Ecosystems
- **Sense8 Example**
 - I strongly believe that film is such a powerful tool in today’s media-driven society and I felt it was the best way to get people to empathize with people who are dealing with these issues. Sense8 is a series about strangers around the world being connected. They can feel, think, and see what the other characters are going through and experiencing. This scene depicts the effects of a water shortage in a community in Kenya. The man who drives miles away and retrieves water in his truck and drives it back to this community has increased his price for his services without notice. The community protests against his choice and in doing so, the main characters from the show experience the anger and frustration and chaos this community is living in. I have a video here I think does an amazing job of showing the direness of the issue. This clip from the netflix series Sense8. : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Og7-73_KJPM
- **Solutions**

- Personal Level
 - What can you do as a citizen of your community? State? Country?
- Government Level
 - What steps should the government take in addressing this issue?
- **Effects of Water insecurity**
 - Diseases such as
 - Harmful health effects such as
 - Less time for family, social life, economic comfort, other amenities of life

Presentation



The Eco-Rep team watching a moving video example of a community going through a water riot occurring in Kenya. Me! discussing the lengthy trips local women would take to get



Zoe learning about water insecurity!



Me! discussing the lengthy trips local women would take to get water for their families, often in an unclean state

Summary of Conversation

I was excited to have these conversations having lived in India and Egypt and visited Tanzania. After my presentation, we moved towards a discussion about what we had learned. What I had gathered was that for half of the group, most of this was new information. Everyone has heard of Flint, Michigan, and everyone knows that “things are different” in foreign countries but no one knows the specifics. Hailey, a student who attended my presentation said “I thought everyone in the world had safe water. It’s 2018!” Another student, Alicia said “I didn’t realize there are so many places in the US that are water insecure! I thought it was only in far away places like Africa. Even a developed country can have water insecure cities!”

What people found to be the most shocking piece of information was the foam that has created out of the toxic polluted waters of the Yamuna River. We got to conversation on the idea

of government involvement on these issues, both in the United States and in India. In India it is against the law to pollute the rivers. Rivers such as the Ganges and the Yamuna are viewed as holy and to pollute them would be disrespecting Mother Earth. Even with these laws and spiritual beliefs in place, the river is still the most polluted on this planet. Companies based in western countries such as the United States and some in Europe outsource their labor and work to cities in India where people are desperate to work and accept low wages, unfair labor practices, and unsafe working conditions. In connection to this Maggie brought up a great point about the ethics of this issue. "We can't go and tell India to stop accepting Western companies' offers of work in their countries. Without the work, people are unemployed and then it becomes an issue of unemployment." The companies from the United States, from Switzerland, from Germany, etc. send their work to India and use it as a loophole. Then they pollute the resources of India and here we are in the United States completely blind to the fact of the effects our consumption is having on the environment over there." We also talked about the water sources in the United States. Zoe said "I just got back from Pittsburgh. I had no idea the water was contaminated with radium!" It seems that it is not an issue of "They are on the other side of the world so I didn't know" because even Zoe being in the same town as the issue didn't make her realize it was happening. Another student, Morgan said, "I live right by Flint, Michigan and it's so scary that the whole thing happened so close to me! They had to come and test my pipes and everyone asks me about what it's like being there. There's a noticeable difference, even when just driving by Flint." Another student, Jack mentioned another crisis, "Have you heard about the water crisis in South Africa? We should spread awareness of what will happen if we don't conserve our water."

All of what we had was great conversation. We talked about so many aspects from governmental policies, the well-being of humans, how we are affecting both land and aquatic animals (Don't get me started on this topic, I have so much to say) We then tried to look at more realistic goals in changing the way we use water. "Since most of our water use is in farming, why don't we just invent more sustainable farming methods that consume less water?" - Adam D. I once took a class called *Food For Thought* and in it, we learned about crickets/bugs being a sustainable option for food. We had cookies that were made out of cricket powder and had a discussion about how much less water cricket farmers use to farm crickets. I brought up the points I had learned in the class. Adam went back to the point about more water recycling facilities. Overall, what I had hoped to gain from this presentation was reached. I educated students on the vast issue of water insecurity in all corners of the globe and engaged them in critical thinking about the topic. I wanted to ingrain in their minds that these issues are something that people deal with every day and have been dealing with for years. And hopefully will take their newfound knowledge to their own communities and share, educate, and change the way people view water insecurity.

Video Link to Presentation:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q3q17wyUttswefWrtImtgYiR8zPl3Xer/view?usp=sharing>