

**NAME: ASHA MOHAMMED,**

**AGE: 21,**

**GENDER: FEMALE**

**THE KAI.**

According to National Geographic, the ocean covers about 70% of earth's surface, which is practically the whole earth. It further illuminates that the Oceans hold about 1.34 billion cubic kilometers of water; roughly 97% of the world's water supply. The Oceans are divided into smaller bodies: seas, beaches and, bays.

All these are home to billions of fauna and flora, both unicellular and multicellular. These organisms depend on each other for survival. The plants have photosynthesis and chemosynthesis for nutritional purposes, while carnivorous life-forms, have aquatic animals.

It is home to phytoplankton that give off nearly half of earth's oxygen through photosynthesis. It absorbs the sun's heat and converts it to a more usable form, thermal energy, which helps regulate global temperature patterns and, causes convectional rainfall on land; this helps in agricultural activities and cooling of the earth.

The life-forms in the ocean do not just help each other survive but humans as well. Oxygen from phytoplankton, food from edible plants and crustacea/fishes. It also has a therapeutic effect if you choose to really look and listen to the waves.

But nothing is without challenges! The ocean is no different, right from climate change to human irresponsibility. Climate change encompasses both global warming and greenhouse effect. These lead to an increase in water levels due to melting of glaciers and polar areas, affecting both marine life and humans living ashore. This may also cause storms. Carbon dioxide makes the water acidic killing most marine life.

Humans are the never-ending challenge! Global warming and greenhouse effect included! Due to the emission of carbon dioxide from vehicles and factories. Oil spillage by ships. Pesticide/fertilizer manufacturing companies channel their waste to water bodies causing overgrowth of plants, leading to death of most marine animals by suffocation. Overfishing is another problem, leading to near depletion of fish!

But no challenge is without solution. The United Nations came up with 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the 2017 oceans conference and aim at addressing how to achieve them in this year's conference. Scientists are also inventing techniques to curb climate change. Various countries have developed policies that govern how factories dispose of waste and penalties to those that fail to adhere. The general public is also being educated on importance of preserving and conserving the oceans and what non-biodegradable substances are.

**SCHOOL: KABARAK UNIVERSITY**

**CITY/COUNTRY: MOMBASA, KENYA**

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Fishermen are employed to avoid trawling. Most western countries are reducing the use of cars to curb greenhouse effect. Marine parks are being adopted by most countries to protect and conserve biodiversity. Countries whose military has sonar devices are advised to minimize using them as the sound emitted affects and even sometimes kills marine life.

As someone from the coast, I learned to appreciate the ocean because, Mombasa generally depends on it. Right from tourism, history, mermaid folklores, transport, fishing, the Kenya ports authority to the naval base. The Indian Ocean is everything to us!

Let us fervently try to preserve the oceans and marine life for us and posterity and not taint the legacy of those that came before us, discovered them, the life in them, used them, and still managed to leave them in decent condition, why can't we live up to that or at least try to?