

*It seems that we have turned into a "throw-away" culture, as we are filling up our environment with so many plastic bags and rubbish.*

*Why do you think this has happened? What measures can you recommend for reducing this problem?*

There is some evidence that we have been headed toward a culture of "throw-away", for the environment is overwhelmingly being filled up with trash and bags made of plastic. Whilst there are many reasons behind this, both governments and individuals can mitigate the impact of the issue.

There are several grounds for what leads to us observing this "throw-away" culture and packing nature with this great amount of waste. Health-related concerns are deemed to be a major contributory factor. Nowadays, we have been witnessing a number of atrocious health complications, mostly contiguous, and as a result, people are more likely to consume disposable articles such as plastic bags and tableware to lessen the chance of being afflicted by these diseases. Besides, plastic packaging has been more palatable to consumers because it is cheap, lightweight, and plentiful. Moreover, unbridled consumerism has caused people to replace their belongings in ~~the~~ relatively shorter intervals. While promoted as a necessary means to sustain economic growth, this mounting tendency to purchase new items has resulted in producing more waste.

However, every member of society can take steps to tackle this issue, just as the government can. Firstly, people can raise their children with more respect and responsibility toward the place in which they are livelling. Were children to grow up with practical education on how their actions and consuming habits can effect change in the environment, we would have less waste problem to be dealt with. The governments, also, can levy more taxes on not eco-friendly items. Take plastic bags which are readily available ~~on~~in grocery stores as an example; it would be highly unlikely that people use their own cloth bags unless they paid more for a plastic bag. At the same time, the government can invest this tax income in more environmentally friendly alternatives. For instance, many biodegradable materials made from cornstarch or pulp-molded materials can substitute for plastic.

In conclusion, although there are many reasons behind the consumerist culture, it is about ~~the~~ time authorities and society alike started taking restorative actions to address the problem.