

ENVIRONMENT

essay

Sometimes I hear on the radio Members of Parliament talking about the environmental problems in Slovenia and in the world. They are always talking what they will do, when they come to the authority. They promise to the simple minded electors how they will fight against nuclear power, clear the forest, industrial pollution and so on. And when we are taken in and the win on the general elections, the dreams about the friendly environment disappear. At the end, you realise that you can not trust to anyone; so if you want to make something in this way, you have to do it yourself.

In my country you can really see results of industrial pollution at any place. Exhaust fumes, acid rain, factory chimneys,... these are things which we are living with. And if we do not change our attitude to the nature, we really can expect more and more ecological disasters.

If we look on environment and people as sociologists see it, we can realise that every human being needs some general goods. And people make goods to raise the quality of life. But on the other hand, quality of life expresses itself with the natural goods, too. If I just give some examples of natural goods: fresh air, drinkable water, the ozone layer,... And that is, were we stuck. How can we have high quality of life when we are neglecting the natural goods?

The government helps by solving ecological problems with money. I can not say it does not help. It does, but not enough. We have to realise that without individual consciousness we can not fight against self-destruction.

If we want to fight against the pollution, we have to have some leaders at first. Usual the leaders go in associations. The most known association which fights for a green world is called Greenpeace. I really respect their work and their way of life, because they are not stretching to get money, but to save our planet. Someday I hope I will join them.

So, what can an individual do? Well, at first you do not have to join any organisation if you can not. You can contribute your part for saving our environment by collecting old newspapers, driving cars

which use lead-free petrol, giving pressure on governments to stop building nuclear power stations and so on.

I remember once I and my friend collected old newspapers for about half a year, so we filled our cellar. We collected about one ton and a half and then we sold it to an company. But we did not make it just for money (in the end we did not get much), but for the satisfaction and so we felt useful.

So, do not you dare to close your eyes and say: »I do not have to help, others will make it for me, too!« You better stand up and fight for the world you are living in. We can only be strong if we are together.