

# **Volunteerism and Management of Toxic Chemicals**

**By**

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Toxic chemicals pose severe threat to the planet earth and life on it. This is a great challenge for the global humanity. Toxic chemicals do not respect geographical boundaries and bring harm equally to the rich and the poor, elderly and the young. While national governments, intergovernmental agencies and international organizations are striving hard to combat the threat posed by the hazardous chemicals and their wastes, the issue demands more. It demands action from every citizen on the earth who is enjoying the blessings of the plant and whose safety is at risk. Such an action can come from the spirit of volunteerism.

Every one of us can volunteer one self for this noble cause of fighting against life threatening chemicals.

There can be various forms of volunteer work for safeguarding human health and environment.

- As a consumer should voluntarily minimize use of toxic chemicals
- As a manufacturer, we can stop manufacturing these deadly chemicals and or use best alternate technologies.
- As a trader we can stop / minimize trading in toxic chemicals
- As a wholesaler we can stop storing their chemicals and destroy stocks in accordance with global best practices.
- As a retailer we can refuse to deal in these dangerous materials.
- As a teacher we should get knowledge about toxic chemicals & wastes and inform fellow teachers and the students about them.
- As a student we should gain knowledge and disseminate it to our fellow students and friends.
- As an opinion maker we should strive to build public opinion against production and use of hazardous chemicals.
- As a policy maker we should try to steer national policies towards elimination of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes.
- As a legislator we should exert for putting forward strict legislation for prohibition of these chemicals.
- As a decision maker we should take all decisions that will save human beings and other forms of life throughout the life cycle of these chemicals

The list of volunteer actions given above is not exhaustive but indicative only. The point is that spirit of volunteerism should be created, received and strengthened through global, regional , national and local mechanisms and organizations.

{Note : this write up has intentionally been kept very brief to serve the purpose of an abstract only. If accepted an elaborate full paper will be forwarded immediately }