

## **BIOREMEDIATION: AN ECO SOLUTION.**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

With the developing industrialization and urbanization, the threats in nature that are harmful to both nature and humans are growing at a vast rate. Certain pollution cannot be avoided completely although we understand that it will be dangerous in future. This is because there is no other way to proceed with the development plans without utilizing these natural resources. On the other hand, increasing population becomes a great disadvantage in controlling this issue effectively. Thus, controlling of pollution alone is not going to help us solve this issue but a remedy that can rejuvenate the environment from is polluted state to a clean state Is much more important. And this remedy should be something that will not disturb the other components of nature. Hence the process of bioremediation where the living components are employed either in natural habitat or in a specific specialized habitat for the purpose of clearing the pollutant is the best method. Here the remediate implemented can be a microbe, plant, natural chemical feeders etc. but a biotic component. Thus, bioremediation can be defined as the process of using living organisms to control and prevent the prevailing pollution issue. The applications, types, advantages, and disadvantages of bioremediation would clearly be explained in this chapter.

### **KEYWORDS:**

Bioremediation, environmental pollutants, microbes, Soil bacteria, Biostimulation, Bioaugmentation, Biodegradable waste, Bioremediation techniques, Bioremediation applications, Bioaccumulation, Phytoremediation.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Bioremediation is a groundbreaking approach to environmental cleanup that harnesses the power of living organisms to mitigate and restore contaminated ecosystems. As human activities continue to generate hazardous pollutants, conventional remediation methods often prove inadequate and costly. In contrast, bioremediation offers a more sustainable and eco-friendly solution.

At its core, bioremediation capitalizes on the natural ability of microorganisms, plants, and even certain animals to metabolize or break down toxic substances into harmless byproducts. These organisms act as "biological cleanup crews," effectively degrading pollutants such as oil spills, heavy metals, pesticides, and industrial chemicals.

There are two primary types of bioremediations: in situ and ex situ. In situ bioremediation involves treating contaminants on-site, where they are found, without the need for excavation. This method is particularly useful when dealing with large-scale contamination or hazardous substances that are challenging to transport. On the other hand, ex situ bioremediation involves removing contaminated materials and treating them in controlled environments before returning them to the original location.

One of the key advantages of bioremediation is its potential to be cost-effective and sustainable compared to conventional cleanup methods. It minimizes the need for extensive excavation and transportation of pollutants, reducing environmental disruption and associated expenses. Moreover, bioremediation often results in the complete degradation of contaminants into harmless substances, leaving behind restored and healthier environments.

### **CONCEPT OF BIOREMEDIATION:**

Bioremediation technology using microorganisms was reported by George M Robinson. Bioremediation is a combination of two words "bio" mean living and remediation mean to solve a problem, to bring a site and affairs into the original state.

Bioremediation is defined as the use of microorganisms or plants to manage environmental pollution. It is an approach used to treat wastes including wastewater, industrial waste and solid waste. Bioremediation process is applied to the removal of oil, petrochemical residues, pesticides or heavy metals from soil or ground water using living microorganisms to remove

the environmental pollutants or prevent pollution. It uses naturally occurring bacteria and fungi or plants to degrade or detoxify substances hazardous to environment. These organisms enzymatically attack the pollutants and convert them into harmless products. Bioremediation can be effective only where environmental conditions permit microbial growth and activities.

### **CLASSIFICATION OF BIOREMEDIATION:**

There are classified into two types:

i) In Situ bioremediation.

ii) Ex situ bioremediation.

When bioremediation takes place in the environment, we call it In situ bioremediation and when contaminated material is removed from the environment and treated elsewhere we call it Ex situ bioremediation.

### **IN SITU BIOREMEDIATION:**

In situ bioremediation mean there is no need to excavate or remove soil or water in order to accomplish remediation. It involves in the supplying oxygen and nutrition by circulating aqueous solution through naturally occurring bacteria to degrade compounds. In situ bioremediation is applied to the degradation of contaminants in saturated soils and ground water.

There are two types of in situ bioremediation:

- Intrinsic (natural) in situ bioremediation
- Engineered in situ bioremediation.

### **INTRINSIC IN SITU BIOREMEDIATION:**

Conversion of environmental pollutants into the harmless form through the innate capabilities of naturally occurring microbial population is called Intrinsic in situ bioremediation.

### **ENGINEERED IN SITU BIOREMEDIATION:**

It induces the degradation process by enhance the physiochemical condition to encourage the growth of microorganisms. Some techniques included in IN situ bioremediation that are Bioventing, biosparging, bio augmentation.

- i) **BIOVENTING:** it is a process of stimulating the natural in situ biodegradation of contaminants in soil by providing air or oxygen to existing soil microorganisms. It uses low air flow rate to provide only enough oxygen to sustain microbial activity in the zone.
- ii) **BIOSPARGING:** It involves the injection of air under pressure below the water table to increase ground water oxygen concentration and enhance the rate of biological degradation of contaminants by naturally occurring bacteria. It increases the contact between soil and ground water through mixing in the saturated zone.
- iii) **BIOAGUMENTATION:** indigenous or exogenous microorganisms are frequently added to the contaminants sites in order to reinforce the natural biological processes.

#### **EX SITU BIOREMEDIATION:**

It involves the removal of wastewater material and their collection at a place to facilitate microbial degradation. Based on contaminants under treatment Ex situ bioremediation is classified into two types.

- Solid phase system/ treatment.
- Slurry phase system/treatment.

#### **SOLID PHASE SYSTEM/ TREATMENT:**

Solid phase system includes organic waste present in solid form that is leaves, Animal manure, agricultural waste and problematic wastes that is domestic waste, sewage waste, industrial waste. The traditional clean up method involves the processing of the organic material.

Some techniques included in solid phase treatment that are land farming, composting, biopiles.

**LAND FARMING:** Land farming is the most basic method of bioremediation. Contaminated soils are blended with soil amendments like bulking agents and fertilizers

before being tilled into the ground. They are excavated and spread out in layers of around on a lined treatment area inland farming.

**COMPOSTING:** Composting is the natural process of recycling organic matter, such as leaves and scarps, into a valuable fertilizer that can enrich soil and plant with help of microorganisms. The decomposed matter, which often ends up looking like fertile garden soil is called compost.

**BIOPILES:** A biopile is a type of ex situ treatment that uses biological processes to transform pollutants into low-toxic byproducts. It also known as mounds, heap, cell, static pile compost. It is a combination of both land farming and composting.

### **SLURRY PHASE SYSTEM/TREATMENT:**

The contaminants solid material like soil degraded sediments etc., Microorganisms and waste formulated into slurry are brought within a bioreactor. Slurry phase treatment involves three major components, and they are water, suspended particulate matter and air. Slurry phases include Bioreactor techniques.

**BIOREACTOR:** When material is removed from the environment, it can be put into bioreactor, large vessel where the contaminants material can be monitored and condition for bioremediation can be controlled.

There are two types of slurry phase:

- Aerated lagoons
- Low shear airlift reactor

**AERATED LAGOONS:** Aerated lagoons is used for a treatment of small wastewater, for growth of microorganisms, nutrients and aeration are distributed to the reactor. The limitation of system is that this reactor is not suitable for treatment of waste containing evaporating material or components.

**LOW SHEAR AIRLIFT REACTOR (LSAR):** Low shear airlift reactor has been developed to overcome the limitation of slurry phase in case of volatile containing waste. LSAR are like cylindrical tank which is made up of stainless steel.

### **ADVANTAGES OF IN SITU BIOREMEDIATION:**

- The polluted soil is not dug up for in-situ bioremediation techniques.
- With the help of this technique, both dissolved and solid pollutants are treated volumetrically.
- When compared to pump and treat procedures, expedited insitu bioremediation can frequently reduce the amount of time needed to treat sub-surface pollutants.
- It might be feasible to totally convert organic pollutants into harmless elements like carbon dioxide, water, and ethane. Because there is little site disruption, it is a cost-effective solution.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF IN SITU BIOREMEDIATION:**

- Depending on the site, not all pollutants will completely be converted into innocuous products.
- If a molecule's transformation stops at an intermediate stage, the intermediate could be more dangerous and/or mobile than the parent compound; some resistant pollutants are also incapable of degrading.
- Due to the addition of nutrients, electron donors, and electron acceptor when improperly applied, injection wells may get plugged by voluminous microbial growth.
- Local microorganism activity is inhibited by heavy metal and organic chemical concentrations.
- Microorganism acclimatization, which is frequently necessary for in-situ bioremediation but may not happen for spills and resistant substances.

### **ADVANTAGES OF EX SITU BIOREMEDIATION:**

- It is suited to a variety of pollutants.
- Suitability is easy to evaluate using information from the site investigation.
- Because the polluted environment in a bioreactor system is easier to handle, monitor, and anticipate than it is in solid-phase systems, more biodegradations occur there.

## **DISADVANTAGES OF EX SITU BIOREMEDIATION:**

- It is not applicable to contamination with heavy metals or with chlorinated hydrocarbons like trichloroethylene.
- The Soil that is impermeable needs to be processed further.
- Before adding the soil to the bioreactor, the pollutant can be physically extracted or washed out of the soil.

## **MICROORGANISMS USED IN BIOREMEDIATION:**

The nutritional chains that are a crucial component of the biological balance in life depend heavily on microorganisms. With the aid of bacteria, fungi, algae, and yeast, polluted materials are removed during bioremediation. Under the presence of hazardous substances or any waste stream, microbes are capable of growing in temperatures below zero as well as under severe heat. The biological system and adaptability of microorganisms make them suited for the cleanup process. The fundamental ingredient needed for microbial action is carbon. Microbial consortiums worked in many situations to do bioremediation.

These microorganisms comprise *Achromobacter*, *Arthrobacter*, *Alcaligenes*, *Bacillus*, *Corynebacterium*, *Pseudomonas*, *Flavobacterium*, *Mycobacterium*, *Nitrosomonas*, *Xanthobacter*, etc.

There are groups of microbes which are used in bioremediation such as:

**Aerobic:** aerobic bacteria have degradative capacities to degrade the complex compounds such as *Pseudomonas*, *Acinetobacter*, *Sphingomonas*, *Nocardia*, *Flavobacterium*, *Rhodococcus*, and *Mycobacterium*. These microbes have been reported to degrade pesticides, hydrocarbons, alkanes, and polyaromatic compounds. Many of these bacteria use contaminants as carbon and energy source.

**Anaerobic:** anaerobic bacteria are not as regularly used as aerobic bacteria. There is an increasing interest in aerobic bacteria used for bioremediation of chlorinated aromatic compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls, and dechlorination of the solvent trichloroethylene and chloroform, degrading and converting pollutants to less toxic forms.

The following categories of microorganisms are employed in bioremediation:

*Acinetobacter*, *Sphingomonas*, *Nocardia*, *Flavobacterium*, *Rhodococcus*, and *Mycobacterium* are just a few examples of complex chemicals that can be broken down by aerobic bacteria. According to reports, these bacteria can break down polyaromatic chemicals, hydrocarbons, alkanes, and pesticides. A large number of these bacteria utilize pollutants as a source of carbon and energy.

Compared to aerobic bacteria, anaerobic bacteria are not used as frequently. Aerobic bacteria are utilized in bioremediation to break down and transform contaminants into less harmful forms, including polychlorinated biphenyls, chlorinated aromatic compounds, and the solvents trichloroethylene and chloroform.

#### **FACTORS AFFECTING MICROBIAL BIOREMEDIATION:**

Bioremediation is a process of waste management technique by using the methods of reduction, elimination, alteration, transformation of contaminants presents in the natural ecosystem like soil, sedimentation, air and water through the application of microbes, fungus, chlorophyllin plants or their enzymes. Biochemical reactions breakdown the pollutants by microbes enzymatic metabolic pathways. Bioremediation was found to be significantly affected by soil types and the removal of pollutants varied in soil and clay soil. Biotic and Abiotic factors affect the growth and behavior of microbial cells. Bioremediation is a process and is subjected to multiplying the heterogeneous surroundings influencing the rate of reactions. The efficiency of bioremediation depends on many factors including the nature of chemicals and concentration of pollutants. In this bioremediation process depends on many factors to removing the contamination and affected factors. Microbial bioremediation process affecting factors are nutrients, temperature, pH, oxygen availability, concentration of contaminants, moisture content, site characterization, metal ions and microorganisms.



## **NUTRIENTS:**

The basic nutrients available for the growth of microbes are carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and calcium. The nutrients availability of this concentration affects the degradation of the contaminants directly. A negative impact may be excessive presence of nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus on the degradation of hydrocarbon. Hydrocarbon degradation is also limited in low concentrations. Biodegradation efficiency can improve their bacterial optimization in the ratio of C:N:P. Nutrient availability is limited in aquatic biodegradation. If the microorganism's metabolic activity and the biodegradation rate can increase by adding nutrients to cold environment. Small amounts of essential nutrients are found in nature. Addition of nutrients adjusts the essential nutrient balance for the growth of microbes and reproduction as well as having a impact on biodegradation rate and effectiveness. Oil eating microbes also have a nutrient for their growth and development.

## **TEMPERATURE:**

Temperature is the most important factor to determine the survival of microorganisms and hydrocarbon composition under both in situ and ex-situ conditions. It has been found that higher temperatures of 30°C-40°C increases bioremediation in the soil and marine environment. At an optimum temperature, the rate of microbes' activity increases with temperature and reaches its maximum level. It became decline suddenly with increases or decreases in temperature level and same time stop after reaching a specific temperature. In cold regions, such as the Arctic, the natural oil degradation process is very slow and puts more effective pressure on microbes to clean up spilled oil. In sub-zero water freezes the microbial transport channels and rendering it unable to perform their metabolic functions. Temperature affects the metabolic enzymes involved in degradation. Compounds degradation requires a specific temperature and affects the microbial activity and physiological properties and speedup or slowdowns the bioremediation process.

## **pH:**

In the bioremediation process optimum pH value is required and it ranges from 6-8. Which means a neutral pH. It is a suitable pH for the degradation of petroleum hydrocarbons. A compound's acidity, basicity, alkalinity affects microbial

metabolism and removal process. The growth of microbes can be predicted by the soil's pH. High values or low values of pH showing a inferior results, even slight changes in pH, the metabolic processes are highly susceptible. Some of the fungi and acidophilic microbes degrade the contaminants in an acidic environment.

#### **OXYGEN:**

Oxygen is a very important factor in determining the extent and rate of biodegradation of contaminants. Aerobic biodegradation is much faster than anaerobic biodegradation. Oxygen availability plays a significant role. For the aerobic respiratory breakdown of organic contaminants. Biodegradation rates can be improved by using organisms that do not require oxygen. Anaerobic decomposition occurs as most living organisms need oxygen to survive. In most of the cases, addition of oxygen can be boosted by the hydrocarbon metabolism.

#### **CONCENTRATION OF CONTAMINANTS:**

The concentration of contaminants can affect microbial activity directly and the concentration of contaminants in lower there will be a decreasing rate of degrading enzymes produced by bacteria in the soil. In higher concentration of contaminants observed the presence of toxic effects.

#### **MOISTURE CONTENT:**

The microbes have enough water to achieve their better growth. When the soil is highly wet condition, the biodegradation agents does not work well.

#### **SITE CHARACTERIZATION AND SELECTION:**

It is necessary to conduct adequate remedial investigation before proposing a bioremediation remedy to work characterize the extent of the contamination. The selection process includes many methods, and the methods are determining the horizontal and vertical extent of contamination, defining the parameter, sampling locations, describing sampling and analysis methods.

#### **METAL IONS:**

Metals are important in small amounts for bacteria and fungus but in high quantity inhibit the metabolic activities of the cells. Metallic compounds have a direct and indirect impact on the rate of degradation.

### **APPLICATIONS OF BIOREMEDIATION:**

Bioremediation is a powerful and eco-friendly approach used to tackle environmental contamination caused by various pollutants. It harnesses the natural abilities of living organisms or their byproducts to degrade, detoxify, and remove hazardous substances, ultimately restoring the affected ecosystems. This process has a wide range of applications that are crucial in addressing environmental challenges across the globe.

One of the primary applications of bioremediation is in soil remediation. Soil pollution from industrial activities, oil spills, and agricultural chemicals poses a significant threat to ecosystems and human health. Bioremediation offers an effective solution by introducing specific microorganisms that can break down or metabolize pollutants into harmless substances. These microorganisms can degrade hydrocarbons, heavy metals, pesticides, and other contaminants, helping to restore soil health and fertility.

In the realm of water treatment, bioremediation plays a vital role in cleaning up polluted water bodies. Microorganisms, such as bacteria and algae, are used to remove organic compounds, sewage, and industrial waste from water sources. In some cases, constructed wetlands are utilized, where plants and microorganisms work together to purify water, making it safe for both human consumption and aquatic life.

Another critical application of bioremediation is in the cleanup of oil spills. When oil is released into the environment, it can have devastating effects on marine and coastal ecosystems. Bioremediation offers a natural solution by employing oil-eating microorganisms that metabolize the spilled oil, accelerating its degradation. This reduces the ecological impact of the spill and aids in the recovery of affected areas.

Bioremediation also plays a significant role in managing biodegradable waste. In composting processes, microorganisms break down organic waste, converting it into nutrient-rich compost that can be used to improve soil quality and support agricultural activities. In wastewater treatment plants, microbes help break down organic matter, nutrients, and toxic substances, ensuring that treated water is safe to be released back into the environment.

The industrial sector benefits from bioremediation as well. It provides an eco-friendly approach to treat industrial effluents and hazardous wastes, reducing the environmental impact of these activities. By using microorganisms to degrade or transform toxic chemicals, bioremediation enables industries to adopt sustainable waste management practices.

Additionally, bioremediation plays a role in restoring groundwater contaminated by various pollutants. In this application, microorganisms are introduced into the groundwater to break down the contaminants, effectively cleaning up the water source and making it suitable for human consumption.

Phytoremediation is another valuable application of bioremediation, which utilizes plants to remove, degrade, or stabilize pollutants from soil and water. Certain plant species can accumulate heavy metals and other contaminants, effectively acting as "green cleaners" for contaminated areas. Bio assimilation and biosorption are the two different mechanisms that are found in microalgae. The water pollution that has been incomparably growing in these years due to industrialization and other organizable activities of humans has been declared unavoidable. But still nature offers a solution by giving us these microalgae that can solve the pollution issue in water. It acts by forming an algal bloom and utilizes the pollutants as its nutrients. And this process is commonly called phytoremediation.

Furthermore, bioremediation can be employed to control air pollution. Microorganisms are utilized to treat emissions from industrial facilities and waste treatment plants, reducing the release of harmful gases into the atmosphere.

Mycoremediation as the name suggests, is the form of bioremediation where the fungi is employed in performing the duty of decomposers. When we use fungi, it would be both easy for us and friendly to the environment as it does not require any high processes and can grow both in biotic and abiotic components. The only considerable fact is that it needs a condition that is neither moist to extreme nor hot to the other end. For example, white rot fungi and brown rot fungi are used for the decomposition of lignin and cellulose respectively. One of the other major environmental issues faced in today's lifestyle is oil spills. Fungi has been successful in clearing this issue as they can use oil as their nutrition and grow well. Another critical phenomenon that occurs in fungi is its microfiltration mechanism in its mycelium. This can be successfully employed for removing toxins emitted as the product of degradation of chemical waste.

Protozoa are considered only for their parasitic nature. but an interesting fact is that those parasites can even be employed as a bioremediation enhancing the soil nutrition. Similarly, not only protozoa but also bacteria, fungi, algae and other microorganisms can be added to the soil in order to enhance the nutrient content or to promote it to a better state from current polluted state. This is known as bio augmentation. When the employed microbe is genetically modified species it is called bio stimulation.

Like fungi, another remediate for oil spill is nematode stimulation. But the way of clearing the pollutant by these are entirely different from fungi. Here the focus is to solve the issue of heavy metal accumulation in the gut and muscle of fishes. Nematodes such as the echinocephalus sp are used as natural remedies for it.

In conclusion, bioremediation is a versatile and environmentally friendly technique with numerous applications in addressing environmental pollution. Its ability to harness the power of nature's own processes makes it a promising solution to safeguard ecosystems, human health, and the overall well-being of the planet. As technology and scientific understanding progress, bioremediation will continue to evolve, offering even more effective and sustainable solutions for environmental challenges in the future.

### **BIOREMEDIATION IN OIL SPILLS:**

Bioremediation is a natural and eco-friendly approach used to mitigate the environmental impact of oil spills. When oil is spilled into marine or terrestrial ecosystems, it can cause severe damage to wildlife, habitats, and water quality. Bioremediation harnesses the power of microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi, to break down and degrade the spilled oil into harmless byproducts.

In this process, specialized microorganisms feed on the oil, converting it into less harmful substances like carbon dioxide and water. These microorganisms are often naturally present in the environment, but sometimes, specially selected strains are introduced to enhance the cleanup process.

Bioremediation offers several advantages, including cost-effectiveness, minimal disturbance to the ecosystem, and reduced reliance on harsh chemicals. However, its success depends on various factors, such as environmental conditions, temperature,

and nutrient availability. Furthermore, it may not be suitable for all types of oil spills or locations.

### **BIOREMEDIATION IN HEAVY METALS:**

Bioremediation is an eco-friendly and cost-effective approach used to mitigate heavy metal pollution. Heavy metals, like lead, mercury, cadmium, and arsenic, pose serious threats to the environment and human health due to their toxic nature and persistence in ecosystems. Bioremediation utilizes living organisms, such as bacteria, fungi, and plants, to remove or transform these contaminants.

Microorganisms play a key role in bioremediation, as they can either immobilize the heavy metals through adsorption or bioaccumulate them within their cells. Certain bacteria and fungi possess metal-binding proteins that sequester the metals, reducing their mobility in the environment. Plants, known as hyperaccumulators, are used in phytoremediation to take up and store heavy metals in their tissues, which can later be harvested and disposed of safely.

The success of bioremediation depends on factors such as the type of contaminant, environmental conditions, and the presence of appropriate microorganisms or plants. It offers a sustainable alternative to traditional remediation methods, like excavation and incineration, which can be costly and disruptive.

While bioremediation has shown promise in addressing heavy metal contamination, its widespread implementation requires careful planning, monitoring, and consideration of site-specific factors to ensure its effectiveness and protect the environment.

### **FUTURISTIC TRENDS ON BIOREMEDIATION:**

Bioremediation, a cutting-edge approach to environmental cleanup, is poised to revolutionize the way we combat pollution in the future. This eco-friendly technique employs living organisms or their byproducts to neutralize, degrade, or remove contaminants from soil, water, and air. Several futuristic trends are expected to shape the advancement of bioremediation in the coming years.

Firstly, the integration of synthetic biology and genetic engineering will play a pivotal role. Scientists are actively exploring ways to enhance the natural abilities of microorganisms or even engineer new ones with tailored traits to target specific pollutants. This approach will lead to more efficient and precise bioremediation strategies.

Secondly, nanotechnology is set to revolutionize the field. Nano-sized particles can be engineered to absorb or degrade pollutants more effectively than traditional methods. These nanomaterials can be employed to remediate large-scale pollution scenarios with heightened efficiency and reduced environmental impact.

Next, the implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) will optimize bioremediation processes. AI-powered systems can analyze complex environmental data, predict contaminant behavior, and design customized remediation plans, thus accelerating the overall cleanup process.

Furthermore, the rise of bioenergy and biofuels will make bioremediation economically sustainable. Waste biomass from bioremediation processes can be harnessed to produce renewable energy, reducing costs and enhancing the attractiveness of large-scale remediation projects.

Additionally, the exploration of extremophiles and their unique capabilities will expand bioremediation possibilities. These hardy microorganisms thrive in extreme conditions and could be utilized to tackle challenging pollutants in environments previously considered too hostile for remediation.

Lastly, the establishment of international collaboration and regulatory frameworks will foster the global adoption of bioremediation technologies. As pollution knows no borders, sharing knowledge and best practices will be crucial in effectively addressing environmental challenges worldwide.

In conclusion, the future of bioremediation is bright, as advancements in synthetic biology, nanotechnology, AI, bioenergy, extremophiles, and global cooperation converge to create sustainable and effective solutions for a cleaner, healthier planet.

#### **ADVANTAGES OF BIOREMEDIATION:**

- It is very beneficial to the environment as it removes metals, Insecticides, arsenic etc and releases less harmful products to the environment.
- This is a natural process of cleaning by eliminating the pollutants.

- This is a safe process to humans and causes no threat to humans.
- This process consumes less energy than other methods like landfilling.
- This has fast approval as it is a natural, human and environmentally friendly process so people accept it without any regard.
- This is a cheap process compared to other technologies like refineries and can be done in small number of investments.
- In bioremediation, minimal equipment is required to eliminate harmful pollutants.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF BIOREMEDIATION:**

- Bioremediation is a more time-consuming process than other methods like excavation.
- It undergoes the process with specific condition in the presence or absence of pollutants.
- It is not possible for all the pollutants to turn into harmless substances like lead and cadmium.
- These techniques are used to treat only biodegradable substances like pesticides, agrochemicals, organic halogens, etc.
- In this process, harmless substances are released into the environment. Still, sometimes the new product may be more harmful than the original component.
- In this process, the regularity is uncertain cause we cannot predict the result.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Bioremediation is a promising approach for environmental cleanup. By using living organisms, such as bacteria, fungi, or plants, it aims to degrade or neutralize pollutants, restoring contaminated sites. This eco-friendly method has several advantages, including cost-effectiveness and minimal disruption to the ecosystem. However, successful implementation depends on various factors, like site-specific conditions and pollutant types.

To optimize bioremediation efficiency, ongoing research is essential to explore new microbial strains and genetically engineered organisms that can degrade specific pollutants more effectively. Furthermore, combining bioremediation with other



remediation techniques, such as phytoremediation or chemical methods, may lead to synergistic effects and enhance overall remediation performance.

In conclusion, bioremediation holds great promise as a viable and sustainable approach for addressing environmental pollution. However, its success hinges on continued advancements in research, the development of innovative strategies, and a comprehensive understanding of the complex interactions between contaminants, organisms, and environmental factors. With further improvements and implementation, bioremediation can contribute significantly to the restoration and protection of our ecosystems for a cleaner and healthier planet.

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