I- INTRODUCTION

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The endocrine system is made up of glands, hormones and receptors found in numerous places in the body. It is the link between the nervous system and reproduction, immunity, metabolism and behavior. It is a vital system that deals with most body functions, and without this system we could not live.

Colborn and Clement (1992) define endocrine disruptor (EDs) as any substance that can interfere with normal hormonal function. Most of endocrine disruptors are synthetic, fat soluble compounds (like pesticides including: chlorinated organic chemicals such as Toxaphene, Kepone or industrial compound as Dioxin and Phenol). The most common characteristics include persistence in the environment and in living organisms for a long period.

Colborn et al., (1996) documented that EDs have adverse health effects. This is caused by the exposure to man-made synthetic chemicals, xenooestrogen and to less extent natural phytoestrogen that act on the endocrine system by interfering with and disrupting the normal hormonal functions. There is evidence that this is a serious public health problem that affects people who are directly exposed to EDs and that could also affect the unborn children, and the future generations.

Chhonda (2000) pointed that evidence on the health effects associated with exposure to chemicals that disrupt the endocrine system comes from observations and studies of wildlife. The embryo and fetus, whose growth and development are closely regulated by the endocrine system, appears to be particularly vulnerable to exposure to chemicals with endocrine disrupting capability.

Females exposed to these chemicals can pass it to developing offspring, either in eggs (amphibians, reptiles, birds) or the womb (mammals) and after birth through breastfeeding. So while adult animals may not display ill effects, their offspring may suffer lifelong health effects that includes modified immune systems, altered sexual behavior, reduced fertility, impaired reproductive patterns, congenital malformations, cancers of the male and female reproductive tracts they could also cause behavioral and developmental problems in children **(Kielhorn et al., 2000)**