Save the Bees: Disappearance and Decline

In grade school, my mom drove my sister and me to school every day. In the fourth grade, on a fall September day was an atypical start of my school day. After overcoming my early morning weariness, I made my way out the door to my mom’s minivan. As I shiftlessly opened the door to the minivan, and then proceeded to ascend into my seat, I began to feel a sharp pain in my leg. As swiftly as I sat down, I jumped up from my seat and noticed that the pricking pain was coming from my thigh. When I looked closer at my leg, I realized that I had sat on a bee. After removing the bee from my thigh, I began to feel saddened due to the fact of unintentionally killing the bee. My mom quickly calmed me down after realizing what had happened; this instance was the first time that I had a close personal experience with a bee. The stinging pain only persisted until the afternoon; I did not pay the price as much as the bee did. Moving forward from that experience, this is not the only way bees are dying. There are multitudes of factors that are affecting the bee population. The advantageous effects of bees significantly impact the environment. Bees are a necessity to the world, being the main pollinator to flowers, vegetables, and fruits. Bees are indispensable to the survival of human life.

Daniel Lee Kleinman and Sainath Suryanarayanan are prominent professors at the University of Wisconsin. Kleinman earned a doctorate in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin. Suryanarayanan also earned a doctorate from University of Wisconsin in Philosophy.
and Zoology/Animal Biology. Kleinman and Suryanarayanan had numerous publications together, including *Dying Bees and the Social Production of Ignorance*. Their article exemplifies the current debates over the role of certain insecticides in causing Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). This phenomenon of accelerated bee die-offs is occurring in the United States and around the world. Kleinman and Suryanarayanan state, “CCD was first reported by migratory, commercial beekeepers operating in the business of crop pollination. Growers have become increasingly dependent on managed honey bees in order to pollinate their fruit, vegetable, and fiber crops” (499). The disappearance of bees led to the realization that insecticides perceived to kill insect pests were doing more harm than good to bees. Raising bees for the sole purpose of pollination and then renting the bees from one farm to another quickly spread CCD. In the authors’ findings, “An increasing range and diversity of classes of insecticides, such as the ‘neonicotinoids’ and ‘ketoenols’ that are replacing the older varieties, are characterized by a newer systemic mode of action” (499). This so-called ‘greener’ and ‘reduced risk to humans’ insecticide is the chemical that is the culprit to the bees. Even low doses that are exposed to the bees can create an altering effect when returned to the hive which results in CCD. As Klienman and Suryanarayanan articulate the severity of CCD, ignorance about beekeeping is still a controversial issue. Commercial bee keepers have never seen this happen before, and bee keepers need answers. All in all, having thriving hives exposed to neonicotinoids is the determination of life or death for a bee.

What would the world be eating without the pollination of bees? Could the world survive without bees? Are humans killing bees or are the insecticides killing bees? In the film *Kidnap*, Karla’s son is kidnapped by her ex-husband Terry. Being lost, taken, or kidnapped is a horrific event that can happen for a young boy and mother. Imagine the beekeeper as a mother and the
bees being her young boy. Karla goes on a frantic and high-speed pursuit during that displays she will do anything to save her son. In Karla’s limitless pursuit to get her son back, she does come close numerous times to retrieving her son. Karla says, “As long as my son is in that car, I will not stop! Wherever you go, I will be right behind you!” In this moment Karla is yelling this from a distance at Terry who is in another car with her son. This instance even signifies that being kidnapped has a whole different meaning to Karla. As the bees are disappearing and being taken away from their hives, the bee keepers do feel the effect. All in all, bees need to be protected from the harsh chemicals that are causing them to die-off. It is as much a part of our protection and survival as a mother’s care is to her son.

References


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P. uses a citation from the fiction, rather than simply summarizing. This adds a great deal of authenticity to her writing. Notice how she also paraphrases in the direction of her Extension’s purpose after this citation as well. The quotation is about a mom rescuing her son. But P. brings it into the conversation of bees with her #4.

Commented [PC8]:
I’m not overly obsessed with MLA format for the References as long as all of the info is there so that P’s classmates and peers can find the original article used.