

15ABS05-ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
(Common for EEE, ECE and CSE)

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Objectives

- To investigate the relationship between human life and environment from scientific prospective
- To help you apply the fundamentals of Environmental science to important local, regional, national and global environmental problems and potential issues

UNIT-I:**i) Multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies**

The **Multidisciplinary** nature of environmental studies Definition; Scope and importance, Need for public awareness.

ii) Natural Resources:

Renewable and non-renewable resources: Natural resources and associated problems.

a) Forest resources: Use and Over-exploitation, deforestation, case studies. Timber extraction, mining, dams and their effects on forests and tribal people.

b) Water resources: Use and over-utilization of surface and ground water, floods, drought, conflicts over water, dams benefits and problems.

c) Mineral resources: Use and exploitation, environmental effects of extracting and using mineral resources, case studies.

d) Food resources: World food problems, changes caused by agriculture and overgrazing, effects of modern agriculture, fertilizer-pesticide problems, water logging, salinity, case studies.

e) Energy resources: Growing energy needs, renewable and non-renewable energy sources, use of alternate energy sources, Case studies.

f) Land resources: Land as a resource, land degradation, man induced landslides, soil erosion and desertification.

- Role of an individual in conservation of natural resources.

- Equitable use of resources for sustainable lifestyles.

UNIT-II:**i) Ecosystems**

Concept of an ecosystem, Structure and function of an ecosystem, Producers, consumers and decomposers. Energy flow in the ecosystem, Ecological succession. Food chains, food webs and ecological pyramids.

Introduction, types, characteristic features, structure and function of the following ecosystem: -

a. Forest ecosystem b. Grassland ecosystem c. Desert ecosystem

d. Aquatic ecosystems (ponds, streams, lakes, rivers, oceans, estuaries).

ii) Biodiversity and its Conservation

Introduction-Definition: ~~genetic, species~~ and ecosystem diversity. Biogeographical classification of India. Value of biodiversity: consumptive use, productive use, social, ethical, aesthetic and option values. Biodiversity at global, National and local levels. India as a mega-diversity nation. Hot-spots of biodiversity. Threats to biodiversity: habitat loss, poaching of wildlife, man-wildlife conflicts. Endangered and endemic species of India. Conservation of biodiversity: In-situ and Ex-situ conservation of biodiversity.

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UNIT-III:**Environmental Pollution:**

Definition - Causes, effects and control measures of: -

- a. Air pollution b. Water pollution c. Soil pollution d. Marine pollution
e. Noise pollution f. Thermal pollution g. Nuclear hazards

Solid waste Management: Causes, effects and control measures of urban and industrial wastes.

Role of an individual in prevention of pollution. Pollution case studies. Disaster management: floods, earthquake, cyclone and landslides.

UNIT-IV:**Social Issues and the Environment**

From Unsustainable to Sustainable development. Urban problems related to energy.

Water conservation, rain water harvesting, watershed management.

Resettlement and rehabilitation of people; its problems and concerns. Case studies.

Environmental ethics: Issues and possible solutions. Climate change, global warming, acid rain, ozone layer depletion, nuclear accidents and holocaust. Case studies. Wasteland reclamation.

Environment Protection Act. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act. Wildlife Protection Act. Forest Conservation Act.

Issues involved in enforcement of environmental legislation. Public awareness.

UNIT-V:**i) Human Population and the Environment**

Population growth, variation among nations. Population explosion-Family welfare Programme.

Environment and human health. Human Rights. Value Education. HIV/AIDS. - Women and Child Welfare. Role of information Technology in Environment and human health.

- Case Studies.

ii) Field Work

- Visit to a local area to document environmental assets-river/forest/grassland/ hill/mountain.

- Visit to a local polluted site-Urban/Rural/Industrial/Agricultural.

- Study of common plants, insects, birds.

- Study of simple ecosystems-pond, river, hill slopes, etc.

Expected Outcome:

- Describe the structure and function of significant environmental systems
- Use scientific reasoning to identify and understand environmental problems and evaluate potential solutions
- Critically evaluate arguments regarding environmental issues

Text Books:

1. Shashi Chawla, A Text Book of Environmental Studies, Mc Graw Hill Education, 4th edition, 2014

2. De A.K., Environmental Chemistry, Wiley Eastern Ltd , 2012

Reference Books

1. Bharucha Erach, The Biodiversity of India, Mapin Publishing Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad -380013, India, Email: mapin@icenet.net (R).

2. Brunner R.C., 1989, Hazardous Waste Incineration, McGraw Hill Inc. 480p.

3. Cunningham, W.P.Cooper, T.H. Gorhani, E & Hepworth, M.T.2001, Environmental Encyclopedia, Jaico Publ. House, Mumbai, 1196p.