

12/4/23

# ASSIGNMENT 6

Unit-6 Human Communities & the environment & Field Work

Q.1 Explain the role of religions in environmental conservation.

→ Religions can play a significant role in environmental conservation through various means, including promoting stewardship of nature, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all living things and advocating for sustainable practices.

Many religions have teachings and beliefs that emphasize the importance of respecting and caring for the natural world. For example, in Christianity, the Bible teaches that humans are stewards of the earth and have a responsibility to care for it. Similarly, in Hinduism, the concept of ahimsa, or non-violence, extends to all living beings, including animals and plants.

Religious institutions and leaders can also promote environmental conservation by advocating for sustainable practices & policies. They can encourage their followers to reduce their carbon footprint, use renewable energy sources & conserve natural resources.

Q.2 Describe in detail about disaster management in India with context to natural disasters like flood.

→ Disaster Management refers to the process of preparing for, responding to and recovering from natural or human-made disasters. It also

~~involve~~

involves various government agencies, non-governmental agencies and community groups.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the primary agency responsible for disaster management in India. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Home Affairs and it is responsible for coordinating the efforts of various stakeholders in disaster management. In the context of FLOODS, the NDMA has developed a comprehensive flood management plan that includes various measures such as early warning systems, flood mapping, flood control infrastructure & emergency response mechanisms.

By implementing these measures and involving various stakeholders, the government aims to reduce the impact of floods and protect communities from the devastating effects of these disasters.

Q.3 Describe in detail Chipko movement in India. Write the conclusions of that movement.

→ The Chipko movement was a non-violent ~~enviromental~~ environmental movement that originated in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand in India in the 1970s. The movement was led by local villagers, predominantly women, who protested against the deforestation & commercial logging in their region. The name Chipko comes from the word "embrace", as the protesters hugged trees to prevent them from being cut down.



The Chipko movement was a response to the rapid deforestation and commercial logging which led to landslides and soil erosion and a depletion of natural resources. The movement started in 1973 when government issued contract to commercial companies to cut down trees in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. It was led by a woman named Gaura Devi who protested against the falling of trees by forming a human chain around the trees. The protest was successful & the government cancelled the logging contracts.

In Conclusion, Chipko movement brought attention to the environmental issues faced by rural communities in India and importance of preserving natural resources. Due to this it led to the creation of the Chipko Andolan Sangharsh ~~Samiti~~ Samiti, an organisation dedicated to environmental conservation and it paved the way for ~~the~~<sup>other</sup> environmental movements in India.

Q.4

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Explain in detail about Human Population Growth. Human population growth refers to the increase in the number of people living on the planet over time. The growth has been a significant concern for many years, as it has the potential to affect the planet's resources & environment.

There are several factors that contribute to human population growth, including improved healthcare, better sanitation and advances in agriculture, food and technology which have led

to longer life expectancies, lower infant mortality rates and increased access to food, which, in turn, has led to a population boom. Due to the population explosion, the demand for resources such as land, water and energy are increasing which is leading to deforestation, depletion of freshwater resources & increased greenhouse gas emissions.

So in order to ~~mitigate~~ mitigate the impact of human population growth on the environment, several strategies have been proposed. One approach is to promote Sustainable Development. Another one is to promote family planning and education, particularly in developing countries where population growth rates are the highest.

Q.5 Give detail about Environmental Ethics.

→ Environmental Ethics is a branch of philosophy that deals with the ethical relationship between humans and the environment. It examines the moral principles and values that should guide human behaviour towards the natural world and the environment.

There are several different approaches to environmental ethics. One approach is anthropocentrism, which holds that humans are the most important beings in the natural world and that the environment should be protected for human use and benefit. Another approach is biocentrism, which holds all living beings have intrinsic value and that they should



be protected for their own sake, regardless of their usefulness to humans. A third approach is ecocentrism, which recognizes the interconnectedness of all living and non-living things and emphasizes the importance of maintaining the integrity of ecosystems.

Environmental ethics also considers issues related to sustainability, environmental justice and intergenerational equity and also it is relevant to a wide range of environmental issues, including climate change, deforestation, pollution and biodiversity loss. It provides a framework for evaluating these issues and making ethical decisions about how to address them.

Q.6 Describe in detail about resettlement and rehabilitation of the projected affected persons.

→ ~~Reset~~ Resettlement and rehabilitation refer to the process of relocating and compensating people who are affected by development projects such as dams, mines and highways. The aim is to minimize the adverse effects of these projects on the affected population and to ensure that they are appropriately compensated for any losses.

Firstly, the project developer identifies the people who will be affected by the project, then assesses the impact of the project on the affected population and develops a plan for resettlement and rehabilitation. Then further in the plan it includes provisions for

compensation, housing and livelihood restoration. Then consultation is held with the affected population, local authorities and other stakeholders. Finally to provide them with the necessary support and resources.

In conclusion, the process of resettlement and rehabilitation must be transparent, consultative and well planned with appropriate compensation, housing and livelihood restoration provided to the affected population.

Q.7 Explain any one case study of Environmental movements in detail. (i) Silent valley (ii) Bishnois of Rajasthan.

→ i) Silent Valley Environmental Movement.

The Silent valley is a Tropical evergreen forest in the western Ghats of Kerala, India, which was threatened by a hydroelectric project proposed by the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) in the 1970s. The project involved the construction of a dam across the Kunthipuzha river, which would have flooded large parts of the forest.

The Silent Valley ~~move~~ <sup>movement</sup> was launched in 1978 by a group of conservationists, scientists, and local people who were concerned about the potential environmental impact of the project demanding the government for the cancellation of the dam project and the protection of the Silent Valley forest. So in 1983, the government of Kerala declared the Silent Valley a national park.



thereby protecting it from any further development. The government also cancelled the dam project, citing the ecological importance of the forest and the opposition from the silent valley movement.

### ii) Bishnois of Rajasthan Environmental Movement.

The Bishnois of Rajasthan are a community of people who follow a unique environmental and conservational philosophy for over 500 years and have a deep respect for nature and wildlife.

The incident occurred in 1973 when the government of Rajasthan decided to clear a large tract of land to establish a weapons testing range for the Indian Army. So the Bishnoi villagers sacrificed their lives to protect the khejri trees, which are considered sacred by the Bishnois and are an essential part of the desert ecosystem. When the government officials arrived to cut the trees, the Bishnoi villagers hugged the trees and refused to move, even when threatened with force. In the end, the government officials had to use force to remove the villagers and cut down the trees.

The Bishnoi movement continues to this day, with the Bishnoi community actively involved in protecting and conserving the natural resources of Rajasthan.

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