

Modern Society, Environment and Sustainability Discourses:-

✓ 1. Modern Society:-

Modern society refers to a society shaped by industrialization, science, technology and rational institutions.

Key Features:-

- Nationalism: Rise of modern nation-states with centralized govt.
- Urbanization: Movement of people and power from rural areas to cities.
- Industrial Society: Economy based on, industrial production and distribution.
- Mass society: Shared culture created through mass media.
- Mechanization: Replacement of human labor with machines and technology.
- Democratization: Free elections, rule of law, human rights.
- Commodification: All aspects of life treated as market goods.

✓ 2. Environment and Modern Society:-

- Industrialization brought economic growth but caused environmental damage.
- Air, water, soil, forests, and human health were negatively affected
- Environmental costs were ignored as the "price of development".
- Nature is losing its ability to regenerate resources.
- Environmental degradation also harms the economy in the long run.

✓ 3. Technology and Environment

→ Technology improved living standards but increased resource consumption.

⇒ Negative Impacts:-

→ Excessive CO₂ emissions.

→ Air and water pollution from industries and vehicles.

→ High energy use and carbon footprint.

→ E-waste from discarded electronic devices.

→ Depletion of natural resources.

✓ 4. Development and Environmental Awareness:-

→ 1800s: Industrial revolution → Pollution and deforestation.

→ Late 1800s - Early 1900s: Conservation movement and national parks.

→ 1960s - 1970s: Modern environmentalism, first Earth Day (1970).

→ 1980 - 1990s: Climate change concern, Brundtland Report (1987), Earth Summit (1992).

→ 2000s - Present: Focus on climate change, renewable energy, SDGs.

✓ 5. Brundtland Report (1987)

Title: Our Common Future.

Introduced the concept of Sustainable Development.

Definition: Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs.

✓ 6. Sustainability Discourses:

- Development must balance society, economy and environment.
- Long-term welfare is more important than short-term profit
- Sustainability ensures survival and quality of life for future generation.

One line conclusion:-

- Modern society has improved human life but damaged the environment; sustainability discourses aim to balance development with environmental and social responsibility.

☐ Modern Society has a vice versa relation with the environment:-

- Modern society and environment have a vice versa (two way) relationship, meaning each affects the other.
- On one hand, modern society depends on the environment for natural resources such as air, water, land, energy and raw materials. Industrialization, urbanization and technological development are only possible by using these environmental resources.
- On the other hand, modern society negatively impacts the environment. Industrial activities, mechanization, excessive energy use and mass consumption cause air and water pollution, deforestation, climate change and depletion of natural resources.

At the same time, environmental degradation directly affects modern society by causing health problems, economic loss, climate disasters and reduced quality of life.

Therefore the relationship is vice versa:-

→ Society influences the environment and

→ the environment influences society.

This interdependence makes sustainability development essential to maintain balance between modern social progress and environmental protection.