

PRACTICAL-8

Importance of The Multidisciplinary Nature of Environmental Studies

The word environment is derived from the French word ‘environner’ which means to ‘encircle or surround’. Thus our environment can be defined as “the Social, Cultural and Physical conditions that surround, affect and influence the survival, growth and development of people, animals and plants”. This broad definition includes the natural world and the technological environment as well as the cultural and social contexts that shape human lives.

EVS is a multidisciplinary academic field that is involved with the exploration, research, and expansion of an understanding of the living and physical environment. It also helps in a better understanding of the natural, political, technological, economic, social, and cultural aspects of environments. It can also be said that Environmental Studies or EVS is the science of physical phenomena in the environment.



The word ‘disciplinary’ means to have a disciplined study in a particular field. On the contrary, multidisciplinary refers to the combination of more than one discipline or field of study. It defines the multi-sectoral, and multi-dimensional study in various fields. For instance, when you study various subjects such as Science, Social Science, Mathematics, English, etc., then it is considered a multidisciplinary course of study.

What do you understand by the Multidisciplinary Nature of Environmental Studies?

Environmental Study is a vast subject to be studied upon. It has all the aspects of various subjects such as anthropology, science, social science, statistics, economics, computers, geology, health, and sociology. It illustrates the multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional study in various fields. It also educates us about the Physical, Social, Cultural, and Biological aspects.

It brings our natural environment and human impacts altogether. It is a multidisciplinary approach that deals with every issue that affects an organism. It covers the impacts of environmental science and social aspects of the environment as well.

Why is EVS known as the Multidisciplinary Nature of Environmental Studies?

Environmental Studies consist of different components. They are listed below:

- Anthropology – It is the study of human characteristics, their biological and psychological wellbeing, their societies and cultures, their development and evolution.

EVS is related to anthropology as it deals with the study of humans and their environment as well across space and time.

- Biology – It is a branch of science that is concerned with the study of living organisms. It includes their physical structure, chemical processes, molecular interactions, development, and evolution. EVS is related to biology as it deals with the natural habitat of the living organisms.
- Chemistry – It is a branch of science that studies chemicals and the substances of which matter is composed of. In EVS, for the understanding of natural phenomena, we require knowledge of chemistry.
- Computers – With the advancing world, computers have become everyone's requirement. The Environmental Protection Agency uses computers to maintain a record and to investigate chemicals that are used in soil and water.
- Economics – It is a branch of knowledge that is concerned with the production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services. To protect the environment from pollution, global warming, and climate change, various economic policies have been developed in analysing and finding solutions or remedies for environmental issues.
- Geology – It is the study of physical structures and the substances that are present on earth, their history, and the processes they go through. EVS also deals with the study of the earth and the environment.
- Physics – It is a branch of science that studies the energy and matter in space and time and their relationship with each other. Physics works on energy conservation, atmospheric models, and various issues related to the **environment**.
- Sociology – It is the study of social life, social change, social causes, and the social consequences of human behavior. It also deals with the relationship between modern societies and the environment.
- Statistics – It is the study of collecting, analysing, interpreting, and presenting quantitative data. It is also used to analyze data to discover patterns and suggest the best growth of the environment.

Importance of Multidisciplinary nature of Environmental Studies

Environmental Studies is essential as it helps us to understand our surrounding environment and natural phenomena. Numerous points provide us the importance of the Multidisciplinary nature of Environmental Studies. They are:

- It helps in gaining knowledge about the current environmental issues. It provides us with the necessary skills to obtain solutions for various environmental issues such as pollution, global warming, and climate change.
- It helps in maintaining the ecological balance through fundamental knowledge of environmental systems and processes.
- It provides us information about the changes in the environment due to anthropogenic factors. It also provides us the skills for analysing different environmental systems and changes in the environment because of human activities.
- It aims to preserve and protect biodiversity. It makes us familiar with the various species of flora and fauna. It provides us with different ways to preserve and protect them.

- It provides us the consciousness about our duties towards the environment. It additionally educates us about the various environmental issues which need to be resolved at a faster pace. Environmental issues such as conservation of energy, toxic emissions, water conservation, proper disposal of wastes, rising global temperature, and many more are also explained to us by environmental studies.
- Various more issues such as the depletion of natural resources, growing human population, rising numbers of natural calamities, for instance, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, drought, are all serious concerns that need to be taken seriously. EVS makes us understand the harmful and drastic effects of these issues on the environment, and humans as well.
- By studying Environmental Studies, people can explore and connect with their natural and surrounding environment. It helps people in developing their insights for understanding human processes, natural phenomena, and various changes in the environment.

What is the Scope of Multidisciplinary Nature of Environmental Studies?

The scope of Multidisciplinary Nature of Environmental Studies consists of various aspects such as biological, cultural, social, and physical. It is also related to other subjects such as science, geography, economics, statistics, health, technology, population, and ecology.

- Biological aspects – This is one of the most essential aspects of environmental studies. It is the solution of an organism, or a population, or a community to changes in its environment. Human beings, plants, animals, microorganisms, birds, insects are all included in the biological aspects.
- Cultural aspects – The environment gives knowledge about different customs, laws, dresses, values, and religious beliefs. They all are included under cultural aspects. Environmental studies help us in understanding these diverse aspects.
- Physical aspects – The environment which is shaped by human activities are considered as physical aspects, for example, bridges, roads, buildings, industries, etc. Apart from them, natural resources such as land, air, water, minerals, vegetation, landforms like hills, oceans, mountains, forests, etc.
- Social aspects – It illustrates the standard of living, tastes, preferences, educational status, and etiquettes of individuals living in society. Environmental Studies give acquaintance about people who have linguistic, cultural, and educational differences in societies.

How the Multidisciplinary Nature of Environmental Studies helps in solving environmental problems?

Environmental Studies deals with various areas – conservation of natural resources, controlling pollution, the impact of the growing human population on the environment. A multidisciplinary nature is required to address these complex environmental problems. These problems are connected with different sectors like agriculture, land degradation, economic loss, contamination of natural resources, forestry, habitat fragmentation, ozone layer depletion, solid waste management, etc.

The emerging climatic and environmental concerns need multidisciplinary solutions. Environmental issues are an alarming indication of upcoming disasters. Therefore, to gain knowledge about these issues, the Multidisciplinary Nature of Environmental Studies is a must. There are various ways in which our environment can be conserved. Some of them are listed below:

- Replacing disposal items with reusable ones.
- Proper disposal of wastes
- Recycling of paper, plastics, etc.
- Neutralizing the poisonous emissions by the factories
- Conserve resources like water and electricity
- Support eco-friendly products more
- Afforestation and reforestation
- Enhancement of the use of public transport
- Limit the use of paper
- By spreading awareness about the importance of the environment

A pure, harmless, and pollution-free environment is every individual's right. These issues can be solved when people acquaintance with the need of conserving the environment. For this, knowledge of Environmental Studies is needed.

Conclusion

EVS is a multidisciplinary academic field that is involved with the exploration, research, and expansion of an understanding of the living and physical environment. It has all the aspects of various subjects such as anthropology, science, social science, statistics, economics, computers, geology, health, and sociology. It brings our natural environment and human impacts altogether. Environmental Studies is essential as it helps us to understand our surrounding environment and natural phenomena.

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