

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

- Stimulate interest in the environment and endeavours to generate awareness about environmental concerns among students.
- Develop an understanding of how natural resources and the environment affect quality of life and the quest for sustainable development.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of environmental issues and principle and apply their knowledge to mitigate the environmental problems.
- Understand and resolve some of today's most challenging scientific and policy issues—including global climate change, pollution, biodiversity conservation, sustainability, environmental pollution and toxic waste disposal, disease control, disaster management, socio-environmental issues and balancing resource use and preservation.
- Design and evaluate strategies, technologies, and methods for sustainable management of environmental systems and for the remediation or restoration of degraded environments.
- Recognizes the global changes and responses for attaining a more sustainable environment.

UNIT 1: MULTIDISCIPLINARY NATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Definition, scope and importance, need for public awareness.

UNIT 2: 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 forest 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 over-grazing, 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.

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 3: ECOSYSTEMS & BIODIVERSITY

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 ecosystems:-

- a. Forest ecosystem, b. Grassland ecosystem, c. Desert ecosystem, d. Aquatic ecosystems (ponds, streams, lakes, rivers, oceans, estuaries).
- b. Biodiversity- Definition : genetic, species and ecosystem diversity. Biogeographical classification of India Value of biodiversity : consumptive use, productive use, social, ethical, aesthetic and option values.
- c. Biodiversity at global, National and local levels. India as a mega-diversity nation Hotspots of biodiversity.
- d. 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.

UNIT 4: ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Definition, Cause, effects and control measures of :- Air pollution, Water pollution, Soil pollution, Marine pollution, Noise pollution, Thermal pollution, 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.
- Climate change, global warming, acid rain, ozone layer depletion, nuclear accidents and holocaust. Case Studies.

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

UNIT 5 : SOCIAL ISSUES & THE ENVIRONMENT

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

Field work : Visit to a local area to document t 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.

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- b). Bharucha Erach, The Biodiversity of India, Mapin Publishing Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad- 380 013, India, Email:mapin@icenet.net (R)
- c). Brunner R.C., 1989, Hazardous Waste Incineration, McGraw Hill Inc. 480p
- d) Clark R.S., Marine Pollution, Clanderson Press Oxford (TB)
- e). Cunningham, W.P. Cooper, T.H. Gorhan i, E & Hepworth, M.T. 2001, Environmental Encyclopedia, Jaico Publ. House, Mumabai, 1196p .