

7.2 IMPACTS ON ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH

- Rising populations put increasing demands on natural resources such as land, water, and energy supplies.
- As human communities use more resources, they generate contaminants, such as air and water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Continuous increase caused an increasing demand for natural resources.
- Due to urban expansion, electricity need and industrialization, human started utilizing natural resources at a much larger scale.
- Non-renewable resources are limited, They cannot be replaced easily. After some time, these resources may come to an end.
- We should ensure a balance between population growth and utilization of resources.

This overutilization creates many problems:

In some regions there are problems of water logging due to over irrigation.

In some areas, there is no sufficient water for industry and agriculture.

Thus, there is need for conservation of natural resources.

Problems associated with natural resources:

Forest resources:

- Use and over-exploitation. Deforestation.
- Timber extraction. Mining and its effects on forest.
- Dams and their effects on forests and tribal people.

Water resources:

- Use and overutilization Floods, droughts etc.
- River water conflicts. Dams and rehabilitation problems.

Mineral resource:

- Use and exploitation.
- Environmental effects of extracting and using minerals.

Food resources:

- World food problems. Effects of modern agriculture.
- Fertilizer-pesticide problems. Water logging and salinity.
- Changes caused by agriculture and over grazing.

Energy resources:

- Growing energy needs.

Land resources:

- Land degradation. Man-induced landslides.
- Soil erosion and desertification.