

Assignment

Ques-1) Explain the sources & health impacts of air & water pollution?

Ans-1) Air pollution:- It refers to the harmful or toxic pollution present in the air known as air pollution.

Sources

Industrial Emission:- The harmful or toxicity released by the industries in the form of gases in the air is the polluting our air very much. Some industries are polluting the air aggressively which is very dangerous.

Vehicle Exhaust:- As the traffic is increasing day by day due to the very much use of private vehicle that emits very harmful gases which is dangerous for health & people are facing respiratory problem due to that.

Agricultural Sources:- Agriculture play a vital role in our GDP but nowadays harmful pesticide are used which degrade the fertility of soil.

Residential heat & cooking:- Air pollution from residential heating & cooking is a major environmental & public health issue.

→ Cooking → Indoor cooking without proper ventilation lead to high indoor air pollution level.

→ Heating → In colder climate, people often burn wood, coal or biomass to heat homes.

Impacts

① Respiratory problems → Indoors are Indoors air pollutant such as particulate matter, NO_2 increases the risk of respiratory problem.

Air Quality → The AQI of India especially at North side of our country is getting worst day by day like in new Delhi AQI reached to 1000.

Cancer Risk → Exposure to indoor air pollutant such as tobacco smoke from house hold product may increase the risk of cancer.

Water Pollution → The pollution that cause due to harmful or toxic substances present in the water cause the water pollution.

Cause

Industrial Activity → The waste or dump material in industries are gone to water bodies & aquatic life.

Agricultural Runoff → This runoff occur due to the rain or soil erosion occur which leads to water pollution.

Urbanisation Runoff

Poor Stormwater Management → In some cities, storm drains don't treat water before releasing it into natural bodies.

Improper Sanitation → The no proper use of sanitation and dumping of waste in water bodies leads to toxicity & dangerous for health.

Impact

① Skin problems → The water which are polluted & we are drinking it leads to skin problem like skin cancer.

② Threat to Aquatic life → A major threat to the aquatic life is happening due to release of biotic substance like plastic or industrial wastes.

Ques-2) Discuss the observed & projected impact of climate change on natural ecosystem & human infrastructure.

Ans-2 ① Sea level Rise

Observed:-

- Sea levels have risen by over 20cm (since 1900)
- Increased coastal flooding, erosion & saltwater intrusion into freshwater supply
- Low-lying areas experience regular flooding.

Projected:-

- By 2100, sea level could rise up to 1 meter or more if emission remain high.
- Major cities & coastal communities at risk
- Potential displacement of millions of people.

② Forest Ecosystems

Observed:-

- More frequent & intense wild fire.
- Drought stress & pest outbreak weakening tree health.
- Shifts in tree ranges toward cooler climate.

Projected

- Some forest may transition to grassland due to heat.
- Loss of biodiversity as species can't adapt or migrate fast enough.

③ Human health

Observed

- Heatwave leading to higher mortality.
- Increased cases of vector-borne diseases.
- Poor air quality from wildfires & pollution worsening respiratory issues.

Projected

- Rising heat-related death, especially in vulnerable population.
- Expansion of disease-carrying insect infestation into new regions.
- Increased mental health issue due to disaster.

Agriculture

• Observed

- Reduced crop yield in some region due to drought, heat & extreme weather.
- Changes in growing season.
- Damage to crop from flooding & pests.

• Projected:-

- Potential yield decline in major staples, especially in tropical regions.
- food insecurity & rising prices.

Q3 Explain the concept of adaptation vs. resilience in the context of climate change. How can indigenous knowledge help in climate adaptation?

Ans-3 - In the context of climate change, adaptation focused on adjusting to the actual or expected impact of climate change, while resilience emphasises the capacity of system to absorb shocks, recover from events & continue functioning effectively.

Adaptation:

It involves making adjustments to reduce vulnerability to climate change impact. This includes actions like drought-resistant crops, building stronger defences against floods, or developing early warning systems for extreme weather events.

Resilience-

It is about the capacity to withstand, absorb & recover from the impact of climate change.

Indigenous knowledge-

1) Traditional Resource Management - Most indigenous communities have developed sustainable resource management practices that enhance their resilience to environmental variability. These practices can be adopted & strategies.

2) Traditional Practises → This knowledge can inform adaptation & strategies by providing insights into tradition crop varieties, water management, technique & other practises that proven effective in specific contexts

3) Building Community Resiliences → By incorporating this knowledge into adaption planning, communities can enhance their social capital build trust & develop a stronger sense of ownership over adaption efforts.

Ques-04) Describe the principle & applications of 3Rs

(Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) & concept of circular Economy in Waste Management.

(Discuss Sustainability, resource efficiency & real world example)?

Ans-04) The 3Rs are a core framework in sustainable waste management, aimed at minimizing the environmental impact of human activity.

1) Reduce

Principle

Minimize the amount of waste generated in first place.

Goal

Use fewer resources by making smarter purchasing and production decisions.

- Sustainability Impact - Reduce energy use, pollution and raw material extraction.
- Resource efficiency → Avoid overconsumption & reduce the burden on natural resources.

Real world Examples

- Lightweight packaging by companies like Coca-Cola to reduce plastic.

2) Reuse

Principle → Use items multiple times before discarding them.

Goals: Extend the life of products through repurposing or repair.

- Sustainability → Reduces the demand for new resources & cut down on landfill use.
- Resource efficiency → Makes better use of existing material.
- Real World Examples
 - Thrift stores & second-hand market.
 - Reusable water bottles

Recycle

Principle :- Convert waste material into new products

Goals:- Transform used material into raw input for manufacturing.

- Sustainable Impact → Decrease extraction of material & lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- Resource efficiency → Creates close loops in material cycles.
- Real world Examples. A aluminum can being recycled into new cans

Circular Economy → The circular economy is a broader economic model that expand on 3Rs by designing waste out of the system.

Sustainability

Lower environmental impact through reduced emission & waste.

- Social sustainability, including job creation in recycling, repair.

Real World Application :-

- IKEA: offers furniture take-back & repair services.
- Amsterdam: first city to adopt Circular Economy.

Ques-05) What is ISO 14001? Discuss its role in environmental management system & how it's support Sustainability?

Ans-05) ISO 14001 is a globally recognized standard developed by International Organization for Standardization (ISO) that provides a comprehensive framework for establishing, implementing, maintaining & improving an Environmental Management System. It is designed to help organization of all types & size systematically manage their environmental responsibilities in a way that contributes to long-term sustainability. By adhering to ISO 14001, organization commit to reduce their environmental footprint, complying with applicable laws & regulation.

Objective of ISO 14001

- The primary objective of ISO 14001 is to support organization in identifying & managing the environmental aspects of their operation, products & services. Its aim to minimise harmful effect on the environment caused by organizational activities.
- Ensure adherence to applicable environmental laws, regulation & other requirements.
- Risk Management → Identify & control environmental risks in processes & operation.
- Resources Efficiency → Improve use of resources & reduces waste.

framework of ISO 14001 (Based on PDCA cycle)

ISO 14001 follows the Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle

- Plan

- • Identify environmental aspects & legal requirements
- • Set environmental objective & targets
- • Develop an EMS policy & action plan

- Do

- • Implement the EMS
- • Train employees & establish communication procedures

- Check

- Monitor & measure processes against environmental objective.
- Conduct internal audits & evaluate compliance

- Act:

- Take corrective & preventive actions.
- Review management system performance.

Benefits for industries:-

- Regulatory Compliance:- Helps meet legal & regulatory environmental obligations.

- Cost Reduction:- Enhance efficiency in resource usage, reducing waste & energy consumption.

- Risk Reduction:- Identifies potential severe environmental risks & provides measures to control them.