

Environmental studies & human rights

Core - THEORY 72- hours

Credit- 4

Module I

Unit 1 : Multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies

Definition, scope and importance (2 hours)

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 overgrazing, 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, Case studies.

f) **Land resources**: Land as a resource, land degradation, man induced landslides, soil erosion and desertification

- Role of individual in conservation of natural resources.

- Equitable use of resources for sustainable life styles.

(10 hours)

Unit 3: Ecosystems

- 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 given ecosystem:- Forest ecosystem

(6 hours)

Module II

Unit 1: Biodiversity and its conservation

- Introduction
- Biogeographical classification of India
- Value of biodiversity: consumptive use, productive use, social, ethical, aesthetic and option values.
- India as a mega-diversity nation
- Hot-spots of biodiversity
- Threats to biodiversity: habitat loss, poaching of wildlife, man-wildlife conflicts
- Endangered and endemic species of India

(8 hours)

Unit 2: Environmental Pollution

Definition

Causes, effects and control measures of: -

- a. Air pollution
 - b. Water pollution
 - c. Soil pollution
 - d. Marine pollution
 - e. Noise pollution
 - f. Thermal pollution
 - g. 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. **(8 hours)**

Unit 3: Social Issues and the Environment

- Urban problems related to energy
- Water conservation, rain water harvesting, watershed management
- Resettlement and rehabilitation of people: its problems and concerns, Case studies
- Environmental ethics: Issues and possible solutions
- Climate change, global warming, acid rain, ozone layer depletion , nuclear accidents and holocaust, Case studies
- Consumerism and waste products
- Environment Protection Act
- Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act
- Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act
- Wildlife Protection Act

- Forest Conservation Act

- Issues involved in enforcement of environmental legislation
- Public awareness **(10 hours)**

MODULE III

UNIT I

WASTE MANAGEMENT:

1. Types of waste and waste handling and transportation
2. Preventive methods of waste disposal
3. Methods of waste disposal
4. Recycling of waste, Energy recovery
5. Sewage treatment plant and its process
6. Uses of recycled water.

UNIT II

CAUSES AND EFFECTS:

1. Impact of improper waste disposal on the environment.
2. Effect of non- recyclable materials and their effect on environment.
3. Legislations for proper waste disposals from industries.
4. Merits and demerits of various types of waste disposal method

UNIT III

ENERGY CONSERVATION:

1. Various types of energy and their sources.
2. Energy conservation methods.
3. Necessity for energy conservation programs
4. Energy wastage
5. Energy Management.

(7 Hours)

MODULE IV

UNIT I

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

1. Meaning and introduction to disaster
2. Types of disasters – Natural and Manmade
3. Causes for Natural disasters
4. Disaster Management and measures.

UNIT II

EMERGENCY MEASURES

1. Emergency team in organizations and their responsibilities- review meetings
2. Precautionary methods and emergency kit
3. Emergency drills and demonstrations
4. Liason with Local government and voluntary rescue organizations

UNIT III

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

1. Public Environmental Awareness
2. Methods to propagate Environmental Awareness
3. Role of NGO in Environmental Awareness (8 Hours)

Reference Books:

1. *Housekeeping operations – Raghubalan and Smritee Raghubalan.*
2. *Natural Disaster and Indian History – Tirthankar Roy*
3. *Waste water treatment – G L Karia*
4. *Hand book of solid waste management - George Tchobamoglous*

Module - V (18 Hours)

Unit 1 - Human Rights

An Introduction to Human Rights, Meaning, concept and development –History of HumanRights-Different Generations of Human Rights- Universality of Human Rights- Basic International Human Rights Documents - UDHR ,ICCPR,ICESCR.-Value dimensions of Human Rights

Unit 2 - Human Rights and United Nations

Human Rights co-ordination within UN system- Role of UN secretariat- The Economic andSocial Council- The Commission Human Rights-The Security Council and Human rights- The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination- The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women- the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights- TheHuman Rights Committee- Critical Appraisal of UN Human Rights Regime.

Unit 3- Human Rights National Perspective

Human Rights in Indian Constitution – Fundamental Rights- The Constitutional Context of Human Rights-directive Principles of State Policy and Human Rights- Human Rights of Women children–minorities- Prisoners- Science Technology and Human Rights- National Human Rights Commission- State Human Rights Commission- Human Rights Awareness in Education.

Internal: Field study

- Visit to a local area to document environmental grassland/ hill /mountain
- Visit a local polluted site – Urban/Rural/Industrial/Agricultural Study of common plants, insects, birds etc
- Study of simple ecosystem-pond, river, hill slopes, etc
(Field work Equal to 5 lecture hours)

1. Bharucha Erach, Text Book of Environmental Studies for undergraduate Courses. University Press, IInd Edition 2013 (TB)

2. Clark.R.S., Marine Pollution, Clarendon Press Oxford (Ref)

3. Cunningham, W.P.Cooper, T.H.Gorhani, E & Hepworth, M.T.2001 Environmental Encyclopedia, Jaico Publ. House. Mumbai. 1196p .(Ref)

4. De A.K.Environmental Chemistry, Wiley Eastern Ltd.(Ref)

5. Down to Earth, Centre for Science and Environment (Ref)

6. Heywood, V.H & Watson, R.T. 1995. Global Biodiversity Assessment, Cambridge University Press 1140pb (Ref)

7. Jadhav.H & Bhosale.V.M. 1995. Environmental Protection and Laws. Himalaya Pub. House, Delhi 284p (Ref)

8. Mckinney, M.L & Schock.R.M. 1996 Environmental Science Systems & Solutions. Web enhanced edition 639p (Ref)

9. Miller T.G. Jr., Environmental Science, Wadsworth Publishing Co. (TB)

10. Odum.E.P 1971. Fundamentals of Ecology. W.B. Saunders Co. USA 574p (Ref)

11. Rao.M.N & Datta.A.K. 1987 Waste Water treatment Oxford & IBII Publication Co.Pvt.Ltd.345p (Ref)

12. Rajagopalan. R, Environmental Studies from crisis and cure, Oxford University Press, Published: 2016 (TB)

13. Sharma B.K., 2001. Environmental Chemistry. Geol Publ. House, Meerut (Ref)

14. Townsend C., Harper J, and Michael Begon, Essentials of Ecology, Blackwell