

PY5CRT 15: ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Credit: 4 Teaching Hours: 3/week

Objectives

- To help students understand how their decisions and actions affect the environment, build knowledge and skills necessary to address complex environmental issues, as well as ways to take action that can keep our environment healthy and sustainable for the future thereby encouraging character building, positive attitudes and values.
- To develop understanding of basic human rights and appreciate the inherent value of being human, to assume responsibility to stand up for own and other's rights, develop empathy towards people from all social strata.

Module I

Unit 1 : Nature of environmental studies -Definition, scope, importance and interdisciplinary nature of environmental studies, need for public awareness about environmental Science

Unit 2 : Natural Resources : types of natural resources, Types of renewable and non-renewable resources.

Unit 3 Depletion and exploitation of Natural resources, economic aspects.

Unit 4: Need for protection and restoration of resources. Modes of conservation of natural resources, role of individuals.

Unit 5: Ecosystems: Concept of an ecosystem: case study: Introduction, types, characteristic features, structure and function of the given ecosystem:- Case study: Forest ecosystem

Unit 6 : Conservation issues in India and Kerala: social and cultural aspects.

Unit 7 : River Ganga, western Ghats- mention Gadgil committee report, Kasthuriengan report. **(12 hrs)**

Module II

Unit 1: Biodiversity and its conservation: Value of biodiversity: consumptive use, productive use, social, ethical, aesthetic and option values.

Unit 2 : India as a mega-diversity nation. Hot-spots of biodiversity, threats to biodiversity.

Unit 3: Environmental Pollution Definition, types, Causes, effects and control measures of pollution

Unit 4 : Disaster management: floods, earthquake, cyclone and landslides.

Unit 5: Environment related Social Issues; social problems related to energy and Water, Climate change, global warming, Consumerism and equity and equality of resource distribution.

Unit 6: Life and work of environmental activists in India and around the world (Case studies).

Unit 7: Environment Protection Act & Issues involved in enforcement of environmental legislation. **(20 hrs)**

Module III

Unit 1. Environmental psychology: Nature and Characteristics of Environmental Psychology

Unit 2. Environmental perception

Unit 3: Environmental cognition

Unit 4: Environmental ethics, values, attitudes, beliefs & dispositions

Unit 5: Relation between Environment and human behaviour

Unit 6: Nature and Human Nature: meaning of nature to humans different world views

Unit 7: Changing environment related attitudes and practices. **(12 hrs)**

Module IV

Unit1. Theories of Environment -Behaviour Relationships (Briefly) -Arousal, Environmental, Load, Adaptation Level and Ecological Approach.

Unit 2. Practicing environmentally responsible behaviours: Changing cognition, attitude and Behavior to Save the Environment,

Unit 3 : Environmental Impact Assessment (Briefly)

Unit -4: Finding solutions: Environmental ethics, legislation and equitable use of resources

Unit 5: concept of sustainability: sustainable life styles designing sustainable towns and cities

Unit 6: Psychological interventions to change human behaviour: behaviour modification, cognitive behaviour modification, observational learning.

Unit 7: Studies on the effect of environmental features on human behaviour – temperature, global warming, pollution, degradation of environmental quality etc.

(20 hrs)

Module - V

Unit 1- Human Rights: Introduction to Human Rights, Meaning, concept and development of concept

Unit 2 : Three Generations of Human Rights (Civil and Political Rights; Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

Unit-3 Human Rights and United Nations:: Contribution of main human rights related organs - UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, ILO,

Unit 4: Declarations for women and children, Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Unit-5 Human Rights in India – Fundamental rights and Indian Constitution

Unit 6 : Rights of children and women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Castes and Minorities

Unit 7: Human rights activists : Case study: discuss life and work of activists. **(18 Hrs)**

References

Environmental Studies

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- Clark.R.S., Marine Pollution, Clarendon Press Oxford (Ref)
- Cunningham, W.P.Cooper, T.H.Gorhani, E & Hepworth, M.T.(2001). Environmental Encyclopedia, Jaico Publ. House. Mumbai. 1196p .(Ref)
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- Heywood, V. H & Watson, R.T. (1995). Global Biodiversity Assessment, Cambridge University Press 1140pb (Ref)
- Jadhav.H & Bhosale.V.M. (1995). Environmental Protection and Laws. Himalaya Pub. House, Delhi 284p (Ref)
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- Rao.M.N & Datta.A.K.(1987). Waste Water treatment Oxford & IBII Publication Co.Pvt.Ltd.345p (Ref).
- Raven, P. H., Berg, L.R. & Hassenzahl, D. M. (2010). Environment (7th Edition) John Wiley & Sons, Inc.