

PMG6M001 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (3-0-0)

Module I

Multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies

Definition, scope and importance, Need for public awareness.

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 an individual in conservation of natural resources.
 - Equitable use of resources for sustainable lifestyles.

Module II

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 following ecosystem :-
 - a) Forest ecosystem
 - b) Grassland ecosystem
 - c) Desert ecosystem
 - d) Aquatic ecosystems (ponds, streams, lakes, rivers, oceans, estuaries)

Environmental Pollution Definition

- Cause, 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.

Module III

Social Issues and the Environment

- From Unsustainable to Sustainable development
- 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.
- Wasteland reclamation.
- 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.

Module IV

Human Population and the Environment

- Population growth, variation among nations.
- Population explosion – Family Welfare Programme.
- Environment and human health.
- Human Rights.
- Value Education.
- HIV/AIDS.
- Women and Child Welfare.
- Role of Information Technology in Environment and human health.
- Case Studies.

References

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