

**OBJECTIVES: To enable the students to**

- Create awareness that the life of human beings is an integral part of environment and to inculcate the skills required to protect the environment.
- Gain knowledge about the environment and its allied problems.
- Develop positive attitude and concern for the environment.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** On completion of this course the students will be able to.....

1. Understand the nature, components of an ecosystem and that humans are an integral part of nature.
2. Realize the importance of environment, the goods and services of a healthy biodiversity, dependence of humans on environment.
3. Evaluate the ways and ill effects of destruction of environment, population explosion on ecosystems and global problems consequent to anthropogenic activities.
4. Discuss the laws/ acts made by government to prevent pollution, to protect biodiversity and environment as a whole.
5. Acquaint with international agreements and national movements, and realize citizen's role in protecting environment and nature.

**UNIT- I: Environment and Natural Resources: 06 Hrs.**

1. Multidisciplinary nature of environmental education; scope and importance.
2. Man as an integral product and part of the Nature.
3. A brief account of land, forest and water resources in India and their importance.
4. Biodiversity : Definition; importance of Biodiversity - ecological, consumptive, productive, social, ethical and moral, aesthetic, and option value.
5. Levels of Biodiversity: genetic, species and ecosystem diversity.

**UNIT- II: Environmental degradation and impacts 10Hrs**

1. Human population growth and its impacts on environment; land use change, land degradation, soil erosion and desertification.
2. Use and over-exploitation of surface and ground water, construction of dams, floods, conflict over water (within India).
3. Deforestation: Causes and effects due to expansion of agriculture, firewood, mining, forest fires and building of new habitats.
4. Non-renewable energy resources, their utilization and influences.
5. A brief account of air, water, soil and noise pollutions; Biological, industrial and solid wastes in urban areas. Human health and economic risks.

6. Green house effect - global warming; ocean acidification, ozone layer depletion, acid rains and impacts on human communities and agriculture.
7. Threats to biodiversity: Natural calamities, habitat destruction and fragmentation, overexploitation, hunting and poaching, introduction of exotic species, pollution, predator and pest control.

**UNIT- III: Conservation of Environment****10 Hrs**

1. Concepts of sustainability and sustainable development with judicious use of land, water and forest resources; afforestation.
2. Control measures for various types of pollution; use of renewable and alternate sources of energy.
3. Solid waste management: Control measures of urban and industrial waste.
4. Conservation of biodiversity: In-situ and ex-situ conservation of biodiversity.
5. Environment Laws: Environment Protection Act; Wildlife Protection Act; Forest Conservation Act, Coastal regulation zone act, EIA (Environment Impact Assessment).
6. International agreements: Montreal and Kyoto protocols; Environmental movements: Bishnoi's of Rajasthan, Chipko, Silent valley.

**Suggested activities to learner:****(4 hours)**

1. Visit to an area to document environmental assets: river/forest/flora/fauna, etc
2. Visit to local polluted site - Urban/Rural/Industrial/Agricultural site.
3. Study of common plants, insects, birds and basic principles of identification.
4. Study of simple ecosystems - forest, tank, pond, lake, mangroves etc.
5. Case study of a Forest ecosystem or a pond ecosystem.

**Suggested textbook:**

- Erach Barucha (2004) *Textbook of Environmental Studies for Under graduate courses* (Prepared for University Grants Commission) Universities Press.
- Purnima Smarath (2018) *Environmental Studies* Kalyani Publishers, Ludhiana

**Reference books:**

- Oum, E.P., Odum, H.T. & Andrews, J. (1971) *Fundamentals of Ecology*. Philadelphia: Saunders.
- Pepper, I.L., Gerba, C.P. & Brusseau, M.L. (2011). *Environmental and Pollution Science*. Academic Press.
- Raven, P.H., Hassenzahl, D.M. & Berg, L.R. (2012) *Environment. 8th edition*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Singh, J.S., Singh, S.P. and Gupta, S.R. (2014) *Ecology, Environmental Science and Conservation*. S. Chand Publishing, New Delhi.
- Sengupta, R. (2003) *Ecology and economics: An approach to sustainable development*. OUP.
- Wilson, E.O. (2006) *The Creation: An appeal to save life on earth*. New York: Norton.
- Groom, Martha J., Gary K. Meffe, and Carl Ronald Carroll (2006) *Principles of Conservation Biology*. Sunderland: Sinauer Associates,