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ENVIRONMENT : ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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**INDEX-B**

No.	Title of the Paper	Authors' Name	Page No.
1	The role of Artificial Intelligence In future technology	Dr.Ashok Chavan	1
2	Environmental conservation is a need of hour for the betterment of Indian Society: A case study.	Dr. K. B. Patil	3
3	Automation of Academic Libraries: Barrier and its Solution	Dr. Pawar Ganpat Ramsing , Mr. Shinde Sunath Bhanudas	6
4	ICT in Academic Library Services for Sustainable Development	A.R. Wathore , Dr. G. R. Pawar	9
5	Sustainable development through chemistry	Pawde Shubhangi Subhashrao	12
6	Animal Behaviour Predict Environmental Disaster	Malviya M. K.	15
7	Impact of Climate change on Agriculture	Asst. Prof. Pandhari R.Gore	20
8	Study of Eco-criticism in Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness	Dr. Nakade Meera Murlidhar	24
9	Land Pollution: Causes, Effects and Remediation	Mrs. Rekha B. Lonikar	27
10	Municipal Solid Waste Management In Maharashtra	Dr. Santosh P. Gutte	30
11	Natural Disasters : An Overview	Mr.Shrikrishna D.Jadhav	32
12	पर्यावरण समस्या व भारतीय संविधान	डॉ. राजाराम रा पिंपळपल्ले	36
13	शेतीवर हवामान बदलाचा परिणाम	प्रा.डॉ. सतीश बाबूराव डोंगे	39
14	मानवी जीवन आणि पर्यावरणीय समस्या: आव्हाने आणि उपायोजना	प्रा.डॉ.एकनाथ वैजनाथ भिंगोले	41
15	हरित ग्रंथालय : पर्यावरण रक्षणाचा एक वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोन	श्री. महेश पांडुरंग केसरकर , डॉ. गणपत रामसिंग पवार	44
16	हवामान बदलाचा शेतीवरील प्रभाव	श्री.बालाजी वैजेनाथ आचार्य	49
17	पर्यावरण आणि अर्थव्यवस्था परस्पर संबंध	प्रा.डॉ. रामदास डी. मुकटे	56
18	भारतीय संस्कृती आणि पर्यावरण संरक्षण	डॉ बाळासाहेब शंकरराव क्षिरसागर	60
19	कृषिवर वातावरण बदलाचा परिणाम	प्रा. डॉ. बालाजी वसंतराव चिल्लर्गे	65
20	छत्रपती शिवाजी महाराजांचे पर्यावरण धोरण	प्रा.डॉ.सुदर्शन सदाशिव क्षेत्री	67



Environmental conservation is a need of hour for the betterment of Indian Society: A case study.

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Abstract:

Environmental problem is a universal problem and it is not limited to any one country. Human being has a lion's share in destroying the environment by using his intellect more and more and overcoming the nature with the force of his intellect to make his life more happy and prosperous. Humans are selfish; for power, wealth and ambition to conquer nature; destroy the nature day by day. Growing needs caused industrial revolution, massive deforestation, large factories, building and construction of large dams leads to the degradation of large forests. Industrialization is accelerating the process of urbanization leading to increase in urban population. The role of society in environmental conservation is very important because there is not enough awareness about the environment. Man and nature complement each other and nature provides many opportunities to the man. Humans should take advantage of this opportunity to stay within the framework of the environment,

Keywords: *Environment, conservation, society, awareness, India.*

Introduction:

Environment plays a very important role in the development of human society. If the environment is conducive to human life, human life can be happy and prosperous. It is clearly seen that, in many scriptures of India - the air, water, fire, land and life etc. are worshiped by giving a very important place.

The famous American sociologist L. F. Ward distinguished between humans and non-human animals. Humans are intelligent, but animals are not. Non-humans do not overpower the nature. They live as nature has provided and eats food available in nature as per season. But human being has a lion's share in destroying the environment by using his intellect more and more and overcoming the nature with the force of his intellect to make his life more happy and prosperous.

Humans are selfish; for power, wealth and ambition to conquer nature; destroy the nature day by day. Growing needs caused industrial revolution, massive deforestation, large factories, building and construction of large dams leads to the degradation of large forests. Industrialization is accelerating the process of urbanization leading to increase in urban population. Increased population leading to excessive natural resources, use of water, overuse of fuels due to the increase in the number of vehicles, the destruction of life has started, so the environmental degradation has become a serious problem. From the common man to the intellectuals, the environment has become a matter of deep concern and reflection.

Objectives of the study:

1. To study current environmental problems in India.
2. To study public participation in environmental conservation.
3. To develop the awareness in society about environmental conservation.

Fact Analysis:

Environmental problem is a universal problem and it is not limited to any one country. As the environmental problem has become not a local but a global problem, in 1972, the first World Conference on the Environment was held at the international level in Stockholm, Sweden. Since then, people have been giving a lot of importance to the environmental problems, but even today, there is not enough awareness developed about the environment in the world. We celebrate many events like; 22nd March World Water Day, 22nd April Earth, 22nd May World Biodiversity Day, 5th June World Environment Day, 1st week of July Vanmahotsav, 16th September Ozone Day etc. but still the importance of these days is not seen reaching the general public. World Environment Day is celebrated on 5th June in all countries of the world with the sublime intention to create a sense of responsibility and awareness about the environment in all people. Schools, Colleges, Nature Lovers,



Environment Departments, NGOs etc. encouraged to organize Seminars, discussions, workshops, debates on Television, Radio, articles in Newspapers publish on Environment and Environmental Degradation, Importance of Environment, Plantation for ecological balance, Environmental education programs, training etc. Countless money is spent on environmental education, but, in India, the education on environmental conservation and awareness has not reached much to the society. There is a compulsory subject of Environmental Studies at undergraduate level for every stream in our country, no one take it seriously. Subject teachers are not appointed in every college and classes are not conducting seriously. We should come out from this situation and give scientific education to the students at degree level to overcome the problem.

Efforts to raise environmental awareness have become a major task of the United Nations today. Many organizations working today such as the Green Peace Society, Friends of Earth, World Wild Fund etc. Many campaigns were started with the noble intention of creating awareness about environment in India, including Chipko movement, Apiko movement, Shantighat movement, Aravali rescue movement, etc. but as many people do not seems to be aware of it. It is very necessary to increase the role of the society in environmental conservation. Dr. Rajendra Singh has created an organization called 'Tarun Bharat Sangh' for water conservation in the state of Rajasthan and has created a large amount of awareness among the people.

Today, almost one million hectares of forests are being destroyed in India every year. There is a scientific report that 367 square kilometers were destroyed in the two years from 2009 to 2011 but people have no awareness about this. According to the report of the Union Ministry of Environment, 30.97 lakh trees were cut down in 2020-21 while 3.6 crore trees were planted at a cost of Rs. 397 crores. It is very important to pay attention to this and public participation in the environmental conservation is very important. Deforestation has invited numerous floods; snow melting in the Himalayas has caused floods in the rivers of North India. It is very important to create awareness in the society about the loss of around 50 thousand crores every year due to environmental destruction. The central government has announced 124 polluted cities in India. Delhi is the most polluted city among these cities. These cities have exceeded the limits of pollution. Every Indian metro city is facing serious problem in terms of air, water and land. It is necessary to make the society aware that how important is the environment for the existence of all the living creatures on earth, how important is it to maintain the balance of the environment. Humans are disturbing the nature for their development, as a result the quality of the environment is deteriorating and the whole world is suffering the consequences of the environmental degradation. By creating awareness among the people and guiding them on how to stop the degradation of the environment, importance of environment, It is necessary to make available sufficient literature on environmental knowledge. In the rural areas some meetings are held by the agriculture department on environmental awareness, about soil testing or some guidance is given about disease control, but it is seen that there is very little participation of the farmers in those meetings. Today a very serious problem in the rural areas due to the terrible drugs like herbicides, pesticides and chemical fertilizers, there is no proper guidance on how to use it, how much it should be used; thus it leads soil pollution, water pollution and ultimately leads to environmental degradation.

According to NITI Ayog, India was undergoing worst crisis in its history, that nearly 600 million people were facing high to extreme water stress; and about 2 lakh people were dying every year due to inadequate access to safe water.

India is home to 11.5% of all flora and 6.49 % of all fauna in the world. According to Botanical Survey of India (BIS), 18 species of plants – 14 flowering and 4- non flowering – have gone extinct. Whereas in animals, four animals such as Asiatic Cheetah, Sumatran Rhinoceros, Pink-headed Duck and Himalayan Quail are considered extinct in India.

It is necessary to provide a thorough understanding of the various types of pollution caused by the additional human intervention and its effects on the living organisms, the causes of this pollution, how it affects the society and what is the duty of every citizen to control the pollution. What are the things that pollute today? What are the alternatives? How important is it to do with the things that cause pollution? It is important to give information because today in rural areas near about 30 to 40 kg. Plastic can be found in the stomach of many cattle.



Conclusion:

It is the need of the hour to inculcate the feeling that everyone who is born on earth has the right to live, spread a message in the whole world that, live and let the world live and to understand the importance of environment. The role of society in environmental conservation is very important because there is not enough awareness about the environment. Man and nature complement each other and nature provides many opportunities to the man. Humans should take advantage of this opportunity to stay within the framework of the environment, the society should be aware that, it is necessary to develop the feeling of brotherhood because, due to the realization that the majority of the countries are coming together on the same platform and making collective efforts to maintain the environmental quality. This is the only solution to conserve the Environment, to save the nature and live the healthy life.

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