

S/No 11

CORE MODULE SYLLABUS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES  
FOR UNDER GRADUATE COURSES OF ALL BRANCHES  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Unit 1 : The Multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies

Definition, scope and importance

(2 lectures)

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 forests 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

  
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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.

(8 lectures)

### 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 following ecosystem :-
  - a. Forest ecosystem
  - b. Grassland ecosystem
  - c. Desert ecosystem



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- d. Aquatic ecosystems (ponds, streams, lakes, rivers, oceans, estuaries)

(6 lectures)

#### Unit 4 : Biodiversity and its conservation

- Introduction – Definition : genetic, species and ecosystem diversity.
- Biogeographical classification of India
- Value of biodiversity : consumptive use, productive use, social, ethical, aesthetic and option values
- Biodiversity at global, National and local levels.
- 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
- Conservation of biodiversity : In-situ and Ex-situ conservation of biodiversity.

(8 lectures)

#### Unit 5 : Environmental Pollution

##### Definition

- Causes, effects and control measures of :-
  - a. Air pollution
  - b. Water pollution
  - c. Soil pollution
  - d. Marine pollution

  
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- 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.

Diaster management : floods, earthquake, cyclone and landslides.

(8 lectures)

#### Unit 6 : Social Issues and the Environment

- From Unsustainable to Sustainable development
- Urban problems related to energy
- Water conservation, rain water harvesting, watershed management
- Resettlement and rahabilitation 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.

  
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- Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act
- Wildlife Protection Act
- Forest Conservation Act
- Issues involved in enforcement of environmental legislation.
- Public awareness.

(7 lectures)


**Unit 7 : 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.

(6 lectures)

**Unit 8 : Field work**

- Visit to a local area to document environmental assets-river / forest / grassland / hill / mountain

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

  
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