

Paper SWE 515: ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL ACTION

Objectives:

- To learn the environment aspects of society and human beings
- To understand the integration of social work with ecology and environment
- To study social movements and the associations related to environment

Course Content:

Unit-I

The Concepts of Environment: Natural Resources: Renewable and non-renewable resources: Forest resources, Water resources, Mineral resources, Food resources, Energy resources, Land resources; 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; Biodiversity and its conservation

Unit-II

Technology and Ecological Imbalance: Technology, Industrialization, Urbanization and Globalization- their impact on Environment; Changing land use patterns and the rural society; Construction of Dams and its consequences- displacement, relocation and rehabilitation; Deforestation and Ecological Imbalance

Unit-III

Pollution and Environment: Pollution of Natural Resources- Air, Soil, Water, Energy crisis and Rural Poverty; Effects of environment on human culture, food habit, livelihood and health; Environmental awareness-role of youth, communities, NGOs and professionals, Environmental education at primary and secondary levels, Environmental education for students, Tribal, Rural and Urban people.

Unit-IV

Policies and Programmes: Environmental Legislations, National Policy of Environment preservation, Rio Summit and its implications, Government Schemes and programmes, Women and Conservation of Environment; Panchayats and Environment; International and National organizations initiatives for Environment protection.

Unit-V

Environment Protection Movements: Ecological Movements (Global level, People's initiatives to save their environment- Bhudan movement, Chipko Movement, Save forests movement, Mitti Bachao Andolan, Save Ganga Movement, Anti- Coco-cola movement in Kerala, Women's Ecological Movement, Movements against big dams-Narmada and Tehri, Eco farming-natural farming efforts), Forestation programmes and policies. Role of environmental activists: Vangari Mathai, Vandana Shiva, Medha Patkar, Sunder Lal Bahuguna and Arundhaty Roy.

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