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**Vision of Education in India: Concerns and Issues**

**BEDC-202**

**Unit-VII**

**Protection and conservation of Environment**

The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates is called as Environment. Environmental issues are issues related to human impact on the living environment, habitats, land use and natural resources.

Environmental quality has deteriorated during past two decades. This is because of the gap between the intent of the policy and the actual achievement. India's environmental problems are mainly due to its high population and limited natural resources. Protection of the environment poses a fundamental challenge to the nations desire to industrialize faster.

Environmental Protection is the practice of protecting the natural environment by individuals and Government.

The protection of environment is needed for sustainable development. The Industrial pollution, degradation of forests, depletion of ozone layer, the greenhouse gases results in global warming and climate change which shows an adverse impact on environment and human health.

There is a need for conservation of Biodiversity, protection of wetlands and prevention of environmental pollution, promotion of ecological balance enabled sustainable development.

What is mean by protection and conservation?, here…

Both terms involve a degree of protection, conservation – means prevention of wasteful use of resources.

Protection – means saving from danger, discomfort etc.

Manmade Pollution and over usage of nature are the major threat to the natural environment, which leads to natural disasters too.

There are many environmental issues in the world and in India. Air pollution, water pollution and soil pollution are all challenges for India.

According to a survey conducted by World Bank, India has made some of the fastest progress in addressing environmental issues. But,

still it has a long way to reach.

When comparing with other countries still India is in better position. But, the rate of increase in damage is higher. The environmental performance index rated India at 177th position out of 180. As of 2020, India is having 21 most polluted cities out of 30 in the world.

**Environmental Issues**

Loss of bio diversity is a major issue. Here, we should know, what is bio diversity- Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

Biodiversity forms the foundation of the vast array of ecosystem services that critically contribute to human well-being. Biodiversity is important in human-managed as well as natural ecosystems.

Decisions humans make that influence biodiversity affect the well-being of themselves and others. Nearly 20 – 70 species are becoming extinct each day. Urbanization and Economic development are major causes, but huge population is the major cause for environmental degradation. Growing population exerts pressure on agricultural land, leads to pollution. Pollutions in Air, Water, land and in Sound are considered to be of major pollutions to be addressed while thinking about Environmental issues..

**Air Pollution**

Major sources of Air pollution in India includes the rapid burning of fuel; wood, Usage of highly polluting public transport system and High emission thermal plants. The annual crop burning procedure in north west India are a major seasonal source of air pollution. India has the third largest emission of Carbon di oxide, a major greenhouse gas.

**Water Pollution**

Water pollution is due to poor management of available water sources and poor management of established treatment system too. Over usage of ground water and river sand leads to decrease in ground water level and drinking water scarcity. Fertilizers and pesticides used in agricultural lands are found in rivers, lands and in ground water. Lack of organized garbage and wastage removal, lack of sewage water treatment, Lack of flood control, poor rain water harvest, diversion of consumer waste into rivers leads to water pollution.

**Soil Pollution**

Trash and garbage are common sight in India. It is a major source of Land pollution. Lack of organized garbage and wastage removal is prevailing in India. 40% municipal waste in India remains simply uncollected. A recent study found that about half of   
India’s medical waste is improperly disposed of.

**Sound Pollution**

Noise wise India can be termed as the most polluted country in the world. Increased number of vehicles and industries leads to Noise.

**Natural Disasters**

Natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, cyclones, volcanic eruption can be unpredictable, devastating and can cause irreparable damage. They can cause huge loss of life and property.

**Nuclear Issues**

Radioactive waste is a nuclear fuel that contains radioactive substance and is a by-product of nuclear power generation. The radioactive waste is an environmental concern that is extremely toxic and can have devastating effect on the lives of the people living nearby, if not disposed properly. Radioactive waste is considered to be harmful for humans, plants, animals and surrounding environment.

**Global warming**

Global warming is the term used to describe a gradual increase in the average temperature of the Earth’s atmosphere and its oceans, a change that is believed to be permanently changing the Earth’s climate. With global warming on the increase and species and their habitats on the decrease, chances for ecosystems to adapt naturally are diminishing. Many are agreed that climate change may be one of the greatest threats facing the planet.

So for we have seen about various Environmental issues. Let us see about the policies and laws which formulated by India in another video.

**Policies and Laws for Environmental Protection and Conservation**

**Various efforts are being made to control India's environmental problems. There are several provisions provided in Indian Constitution for Protection of environment.**

**Forest Conservation**

The role of forests in the national economy and in ecology was emphasized in the 1988 National Forest Policy, which focused on ensuring environmental stability, restoring the ecological balance, and preserving the remaining forests. The 2009 Indian national forest policy document emphasizes the need to combine India's effort at forest conservation with sustainable forest management.

**Conservation of Biodiversity**

Conservation of Biodiversity is the need of the hour. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 is a federal legislation enacted by the Parliament of India for preservation of biological diversity in India, and provides mechanism for equitable sharing of benefits arising out of use of traditional biological resources and knowledge.

**Wildlife Conservation**

Wildlife conservation is the practice of protecting [endangered plant and animal species](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endangered_species) and their [habitats](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habitat). One of such imitative is the Project Tiger.

The main objective of Project Tiger is to ensure a viable population of tiger in India for scientific, economic, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values and to preserve for all time, areas of biological importance as a natural heritage for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people. Project Elephant (PE), a centrally sponsored scheme, was launched in February 1992 to provide financial and technical support to major elephant bearing States in the country for protection of elephants, their habitats and corridors.

**Policies for the protection and conservation of Environment in India**

The government has recognized the need for planned land and water resource management and the protection of environmental resources is included in the constitution since 1976. The constitution’s, 42nd  amendment act of 1977 obligates the Government to protect and improve environment for the good of society as a whole. Number of Acts like Biodiversity Conservation Act, environment Protection Act, Wildlife Preservation Act, Water Pollution Prevention Act, Air Pollution Prevention Act etc. are enacted from time to time for environment preservation.

Since, Independence, Government made many laws to protect and conserve environment. They are:

1976- law insists the state to endeavour to protect and improve the environment.

The law made in 1974- insists for water management

The law passed in1981- was for forest conservation

Law implemented in 1980 is for the air pollution control

In 1986 law enforced to control the Environmental pollution

In 2000 law came into force for Noise pollution control

1985 Ministry of Environment and Forest Created.

In 2010, Government published permissible noise level in urban and rural areas.

By 2019, India imposed nationwide ban on single use plastics.

By, 2016, the Indian Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued a draft notification of Bharat Stage (BS) VI emission standards for all major on-road vehicle categories in India. The standards apply to light- and heavy-duty vehicles, as well as two- and three-wheeled vehicles, the BS VI standards will go into effect for all vehicles in these categories manufactured on or after April 1, 2020.

Starting from the year 1990s, reforms were introduced. The quantum of area of forest in 1992, India recorded increase in forest area in 2010.

So for we have seen about Environment, its issues and Governments’ indicatives in the form of Policies and laws to protect them. Now, we shall bring out the Common Man’s commitment towards the Environmental Protection

We should Reduce, reuse, and recycle the natural resources to conserve natural resources.

We may Volunteer for clean ups in our community. We can get involved in protecting our watershed, too.

When we further our own education, we can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.

The less water we use, the less runoff and waste water that eventually end up in the ocean.

Should reduce usage of plastics and Polyethene and should use reusable shopping bags.

Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Hence, LED bulbs should be used everywhere.

Trees provide food and oxygen. They help to save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.

We should avoid sending chemicals into our waterways. Should Choose non-toxic chemicals for the domestic usages.

To save the trees, should reduce usage of papers.

To reduce air pollution, we all should prefer public transports instead of individual vehicles as much as possible.

We should r educe our interferences with forests.

If, everyone starts concern towards our Environment, we can enjoy the Natures gift- the natural environment in its own colour and odour.

Video Links

<https://youtu.be/lXucZ5MfZDs>

<https://youtu.be/Cn9v3EKF1Rk>

<https://youtu.be/PRTRw8D5SZ0>