

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

UNIT - 1

The Multidisciplinary Nature of Environmental Studies

Definition:

* Environmental studies deals with every issue that affects an organism.

* It is the multidisciplinary approach which gives appreciation of our natural world and the human impact on its integrity.

* It is an applied science as it seeks practical answers to make human civilization sustainable on the earth's finite resources.

Components:

* Biology, geology, chemistry, physics, engineering, sociology, health, anthropology, economics, statistics, computers and philosophy.

* It is "the study of environmental issues".

Sustainable Utilisation or Development:

* Our natural resources can be compared with Money in the Bank.

* If we use it rapidly, the capital will be reduced to zero.

* On the other hand, if we use only the interest, it can sustain us over the long time.

* This is called sustainable utilisation or development.

Scope of Environmental Studies :

- * To create awareness among the people.
- * To solve the environmental issues through this education.
- * To know various renewable and Non-renewable resources.
- * To know the Bio-diversity richness.
- * To know the potential dangers to species of plants, animals and micro-organisms in the environmental.
- * To know the causes of Natural Disaster and pollution.
- * Also, To understand the measures to minimize the effect.
- * To evaluate alternative response to environmental issues.
- * It is not only the theoretical knowledge but, to improve social skills.
- * To gather knowledge about the relationship between causes and effect of the ecological system.
- * It deals with,
 - Pollution
 - Social issues
 - Ecological aspects
 - Control measures of pollution
 - Conservation of natural resources
 - Impacts of human population on the environment.

* Its aim is to identify, control, and prevent disturbance to the environment made by human activities.

Types of Environment:

- 1) Natural environment.
- 2) Man-made environment.

Importance of environmental studies:

- * It is useful in checking environmental pollution and its related solutions.
- * It helps in maintaining ecological balance.
- * It helps to gain skills to evaluate the environmental impact by human activities.
- * It helps to protect bio-diversity.
- * It gives basic knowledge about the environmental condition and associated problems.
- * To know about ecosystem.

Environment:

"A surrounding in which biotic and abiotic components lives in a condition" is called "Environment".