



Three Day National Seminar on Higher Education in India : Challenges and Prospects

13,14,15 December,2011



PERSPECTIVES IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

‘Environmental studies for sustainable development’

Environmental studies pertain to a systematic analysis of the natural and man-made world encompassing various scientific, economic, social and ethical aspects. Human impacts leading to large-scale degradation of the environment have aroused global concern on environmental issues in the recent years. The apex court has hence, issued directive to impart environmental literacy to all. Many biologists, chemists, and geoscientists study the ways humans interact with the natural ecosystems, trying to find answers to complex, inter-related problems of resources, population and pollution in an effort to care for the world we live in.

One of the primary causes of environmental degradation in a country could be attributed to rapid growth of population, which adversely affects the natural resources and environment. The uprising population and the environmental deterioration face the challenge of sustainable development. The existence or the absence of favorable natural resources can facilitate or retard the process of socio-economic development. The three basic demographic factors of births (natality), deaths (mortality) and human migration (migration) and immigration (population moving into a country produces higher population) produce changes in population size, composition, distribution and these changes raise a number of important questions of cause and effect. Population growth and economic development are contributing to many serious environmental calamities in India. These include heavy pressure on land, land degradation, forests, habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity. Changing consumption pattern has led to rising demand for energy. The final outcomes of this are air pollution, global warming, climate change, water scarcity and water pollution.

Topics:

1. Challenges to Environment
2. Biodiversity conservation
3. Environmental pollution
4. Disaster and management
5. Environment and Health hazards
6. Environmental Impact Assessment
7. Sustainable development
8. Socio-economic aspects of Environment
9. Environmental Biotechnology
10. Global warming and climate change
11. Environmental laws