

ROLE OF AN INDIVIDUAL IN CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES



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All types of natural resources are important for us, so we should give proper attention to its proper utilization and use. Special attention should be paid for non-renewable/ single use resources and they should be used only where necessary. Similarly renewable resources also require our attention, so that we may get it whenever required. The presence of non-renewable/single use resources are very limited and sparsely scattered in the earth. Natural resources are not something which can be foolishly used and thrown away, but on the other hand should be properly nurtured and taken care of so that not only we but also the future can be benefitted. We should keep in mind that not only we but also our future generation have full right on the available resources of the earth, so we must have a sustainable and ethical approach towards resource development. This type of sustainable viewpoint is necessary for sustenance in life.

OBJECTIVE : 1. Awareness of society and individual towards proper resource utilization. 2. Awareness of society towards resource conservation. 3. Awareness of society towards importance and value of life and resource. 4. Awareness of society towards resource conservation and proper ways towards it.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY : Proper knowledge of resource utilization and conservation is necessary for social development, value of life in society, sustenance of human race, conservation and development of human, population explosion, pollution problem, overdependence on natural resources etc. each and every activity of human or the various aspects of life and everything related to human is directly related to proper, intelligent and sustainable resource utilization.

If we go on utilizing natural resources the way we are doing now, then within 20 years many of our natural resources will get exhausted. In his effort to get more out of nature, man is self destroying himself. More industrialization is causing more pollution, which is then affecting human health, causing smog etc. in

today's world to put a stop in the self-destructing ways of man it is necessary for every nation to adopt measures of resource conservation in economic planning policy.

Man started overusing and overexploiting natural resources, due to which the equilibrium of the earth slowly started getting affected. While tapping natural resource for his own benefit, man has been continually exploiting nature. Rapid developments in the field of urbanization, industrialization, transport and communication, agriculture etc have helped human being to lead a very comfortable life. Rapid industrialization, urbanization, fuel need took its toll on forests. Increased deforestation started. Since vegetation cover got removed the soil became totally unprotected, due to which soil erosion increased. These led to increase in temperature, decrease in rainfall, and increase in desertification. New problems like famine, food shortages, malnutrition arose due to decline in agricultural production which led to deaths. To increase food production man started using chemical fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides etc. usage of all these started polluting soil and indirectly entered human food web/food chain and started affecting human leading to dangerous outcome. Although human have made huge stride and self development in the field of science and technology, however no scientific or technological advancement is enough to tackle, overcome and totally stop the problems of volcanoes, earthquakes, flood, famine, drought, decrease in rainfall, pollution etc.

In this present scenario if we want to save our future then we must start conserving and properly using our resources. Due to overuse & exploitation of resources the equilibrium of nature is slowly getting destroyed, due to which environmental problems like desertification, pollution etc are increasingly becoming major environmental hazards. So it is high time that we should thinking of resource conservation seriously.

Ways of resource conservation:

The other definition of conservation of resource is Resource growth and resource development. There are two basic principles of resource conservation.

1. Moral approach Every living thing has the right to stay in this world. However due to some overzealous and foolish act of man, plants and animals are getting affected and destabilized, slowly leading to getting exhausted and extinct. For ex, medicinal plants found in jungles have been an important source of medicine for the world from ancient times. But due to deforestation many medicinal plants have now become extinct. The question right now is –does man have the right for this self and world as a whole destruction?

2. The economical importance of natural resources.

Natural resources are important raw materials for various industries and services. Thus natural resources have an important bearing upon the economy of the country. Thus natural resources should be properly maintained. Man has an important role to play towards proper utilization and conservation of resources. Conservation of resources can be made by-

(A) Government (B) Social & social institutions (C) Individual and institution

(A) Government Since government is the main administrative body of the nation, so it is the government's utmost duty that it take proper measures towards its conservation. Adopting proper legal measures for this is the duty of the government. Ex, laws like- 'Wild Life Conservation Act', 'Pollution control Act' etc. However government should not only adopt measures but take proper steps to see that they are properly carried out. However some acts like 'Air Pollution Prevention Act' is seriously undertaken by the industries nowadays. Under the 'Wild Life Prevention Act' hunting or killing of wild animals is banned. Ex, hunting of tigers, leopards etc are banned.

In the previous century India had 40,000 tigers. Till 2002 the count came down to 3642 tigers. Within 3 months *i.e.* from Nov 2008 to Jan 2009 10 tigers were hunted down. At present in India there are only 1400 tigers left. 17 states have shown sign of good administrative effectiveness towards adoption of strict legal measures for the same (Lokmat, 6 Feb, 2009). At present the government has marked certain areas as 'Reserved Forest' for the proper conservation of wild life and natural vegetation. Creation of 'Wild life sanctuaries', 'National Parks' etc is being done with a view of preserving wild life. Many of these areas are located in the river basin of important rivers, so these areas have the dual role of wild life preservation, water

conservation and prevention of soil erosion. In some of these areas important medicinal plants are found. These plants are important for human. Some of these are found in marshy, alkaline soils.

The government has adopted various socio-legal measures for the proper conservation, utilization of natural resources. Ex, development of river basin, forest resources management, non-conventional energy resource utilization.

(B) Social & social institutions Various social institutions work as a bridge between government & individual. These social institutions work towards seeing that the legal measures adopted by the government are undertaken properly. These institutions work towards seeing that the legal measures adopted by the government are undertaken properly. These institutions play a major role towards conservation of natural resources. Society can adopt, undertake various measures towards conservation & utilization of natural resources. Forests reserved in the name of God are the finest example of this. Most of this type of land/forest can be found along riverside & they help in water/land conservation. Since these areas are devoid of human interference so wild life & natural vegetation is easily conserved.

Various societies & organizations have been formed to manage the water distribution system of the country. Various social institutions have taken up the role of taking care & preservation of the water source of these water distribution systems. To conserve & preserve natural resources, it is necessary that these social institutions take up cultural & moral values. For ex, stopping of fishing during rainy season is an example of this type. Rainy seasons are the breeding season of fishes so stopping fishing during the time for increasing their number is an important moral value based policy. Society plays an important role in shaping individuals use of nature. For this reason the various social customs, traditions and taboo play an important role towards the relationship between man-environment.

(C) Individual and institution It is very much important for individual & private organizations to self detect & understand their role towards resource utilization. Industries and factories should follow rules & regulations framed by the government towards pollution control.

In today's world many industries are using modern & cost effective techniques which are cutting the rate of pollution. Recycling & substitution are important ways for reducing pollution and overuse of natural

resources.

Man can play an important role in conservation of natural resources. In fact without man’s direct involvement no conservational work is ever possible.

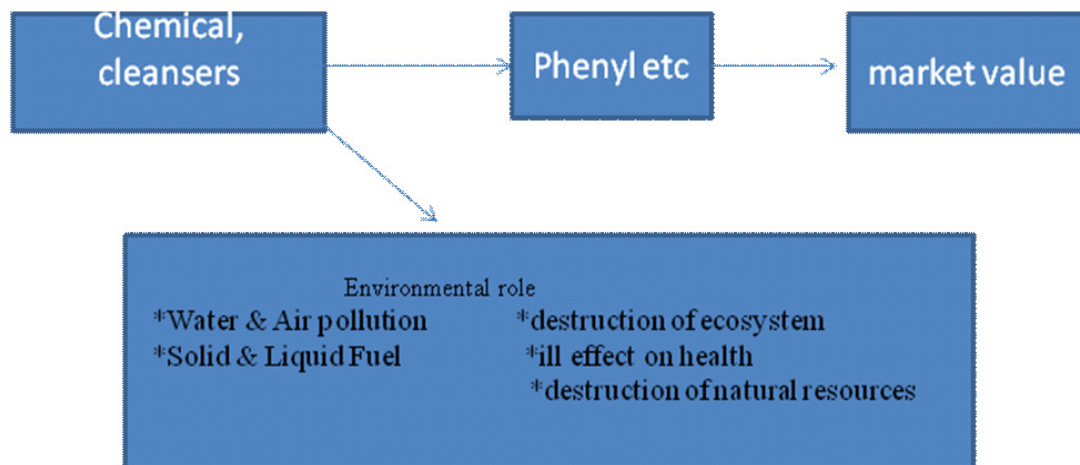
Role of individual towards resource conservation:

1. Proper & intelligent use of cooking gas, vehicles, electricity to save energy.
2. Proper maintenance of vehicles.
3. Proper use of fuel & checking the standard of fuel.
4. Repairing of broken taps to prevent water wastage.
5. In domestic level usage of only those appliances which are fuel effective.
6. Use of rain water harvestment techniques in household level.
7. Recycling & reuse of domestic

- waste water .
8. Use of organically grown crops.
9. Prevent misuse of electricity by switching off electricity by switching off electrical appliances when not in the room.
10. Minimize use of electricity appliances which consume more electricity like vaccum cleaners.
11. Differentiate dry & wet solid waste.
12. Reuse / Recycle of those waste which can be again utilized.

Use of Substitute Resource It is high time that the use of substitute resources should be thought of. This will reduce the load on the conventional resources. Moreover cycling of resources will also help reduce the load on conventional resources & these conventional resources can be utilized for more longer time.

TABLE showing items with low market value & high environmental value.



R E F E R E N C E

Environment Geography :- Dr. Aherrao, Dr. Alizad & other
 Environment Geography :- Dr. V. Gharpure