

A Text Book of Environmental Science

A Text Book of Environmental Science

Dr (Mrs.) Vidya Thakur

Retd. Professor

Department of Environmental Science

Dr Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry,
Nauni, Solan-Himachal Pradesh 173 230 (INDIA)

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*To my
Late Parents*

Foreword

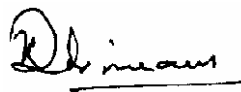
There is inseparable relationship between living organisms and their environment, which is essential for the existence and development of the living organisms as well as ecosystems. All the living organisms are affected by the environment and vice-versa. It is vicious cycle if the interaction is harmonious, but if any of the components overpower the other one it becomes dangerous or hazardous to the system, which can be well observed under today's scenario. Increasing population pressure in the third world countries and technological advancement in the developing and developed countries have severely affected all the environmental parameters and human being are facing the consequences now. Environment is the aggregate of external conditions and influences affecting living organisms.

Environmental Science, therefore, is methodology to understand causes and effects of all forces operating and affecting the surroundings directly or indirectly. Infact it is interdisciplinary subject embracing wide variety of topics and study areas to address the upcoming environmental hazards threatening the very existence of human being. Therefore, the need of the hour is to have global commitment in the form of mass movement to make the environment worth living on long term basis.

I understand environment is one of the important and essential subjects to be taught in all the educational institutions from primary school to Universities. This book covers scientific and the practical approaches for understanding, assessing and monitoring of environmental deterioration and for conservation and sustainability which are

of immense use for the various work profiles of institutions and society.

I congratulate Dr (Mrs) Vidya Thakur, Retired Professor, Department of Environmental Science College of Forestry, Dr Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan for writing this Text Book of Environmental Science.



(K.R. Dhiman)

Vice-Chancellor
Dr Y.S. Parmar University of
Horticulture and Forestry,
Nauni, Solan

Preface

It gives me immense pleasure to bring this text Book of Environmental Science in to form after my long experience of teaching the courses of Ecology and Environment and Botany at Under Graduate and Post Graduate levels in the University.

Increasing population pressure in the third world and advanced technological developments in the developed and developing countries are deteriorating the environment besides causing loss to ecological balance of biosphere (ecosystem) day by day, resulting depletion of natural resources and loss of biodiversity, global warming and climate change. Today, man has challenge to solve these adverse conditions and influences in time to come. Environment is the aggregate of all external conditions and influences affecting the growth and development of living organisms.

The need of the hour is to have global commitment of humans to make our environment sustainable. Thus, implementation of every environmental policy, programe, project and plan comes down to the common denominator- Environmental education. Environmental Science and environmental education, therefore, is about understanding the causes and effects of positive and negative aspects of global and local issues of short and long term with their direct and indirect effects. Environmental science is a interdisciplinary subject, embracing a wide variety of topics and different areas of study that address the upcoming environmental hazards threatening the very existence of human being and formulation of policy planning to combat these hazards in a sustainable manner. Keeping in view the importance of environmental science, it forms one of the important and essential subjects to teach in

schools, colleges, universities and other institutions as per the direction given by the Supreme Court of India. Environmental science is a promising field because it deals with the management and sustainability of environment, now government is also stressing on the formulation of its policies, programmes and projects on environmental management. But the institutions of environmental education and environmental science in India are in their infancy. Therefore, there is need of perfect and well qualified trainers, teachers and researchers in this field. So, keeping in view these factors, there is dire need to develop training, teaching and research skills and capabilities in the field of environmental management and environmental science.

Now there are many books available in the market having related material. This book has been written with deep concern to fulfill the needs of Indian students, teachers, environmental managers and policy makers and others readers. The main theme of the book is to inculcate sense of environmental cleanliness and environmental management and to enhance knowledge of the basic concepts, tools and techniques of environmental science, so as to enable them to find out the causes of environmental problems and issues and to identify practicable alternatives for their resolution (solution). I hope this book will surely help in improving teaching, training and research aptitudes in environmental science and also help resource owners and managers, policy makers and governmental and non-governmental bodies in judiciously using and managing natural resources and environment as well, which is essential for the sustainability and improvement of livelihood security of rural and urban communities of our country.

The book comprises of 14 chapters which present a comprehensive and compact treatment of both theoretical and applied aspects of environmental science. Chapter 1 introduces the readers and teachers of the book with back ground history of ecology and environmental biology, concepts, scopes and approaches of ecology and environment. Chapter 2 presents the introduction of environment - definition, importance and components of environment and their interactions with living organisms. Chapter 3 presents global and Indian environment

– and their past and present status. Chapter 4 deals population ecology i.e. its characteristics, factors regulating population size, population and environment, human population and its status. Chapter 5 explains urbanization, its characteristics and causes, effects of urbanization on land use systems, opportunities and constraints and its impacts on environment. Chapter 6 discusses pollution and its types-air, water, soil and noise, their impact on living organisms, environment and socio-economy and their control measures. Chapter 7 discusses biodiversity, its definition, importance, causes of threat and values, assessment and monitoring biodiversity and environment and impact of climate change on regional and global biodiversity. Chapter 8 discusses natural resources, definition and types, causes of depletion and conservation. Chapter 9 explores the importance and scenario of environmental education in India-non-formal and formal environmental education. Chapter 10 discusses the introduction of Environmental Impact Assessment, role of Ministry of Environment and Forests, GoI in its implementation and role of EIA in implementation of projects and others developmental activities. Chapter 11 presents environmental policy and legislation in India. Chapter 12 explains eco-friendly role of biotechnology in pollution abatement-bioremediation its definition, concepts and role in water and soil pollution control, phyto-remediation and its role in soil pollution control. Chapter 13 presents introduction to environmental economics, definition and basic concepts, evolution and development of environmental economics, externalities, cost-benefit ratio, transnational characteristics of environmental issues, example of cost-benefit ratio of multipurpose dam. Chapter 14 comprises of questions both subjective and objective.

Glossary of important technical terms related to the subject has been included at the end of each chapter.

I do not claim any originality of ideas, concepts and theories related to the environmental science presented in this book, but the new and original in the book is the way it has been synthesized, organized and presented material in the form, that is my own opinion and idea, is easy to comprehend and apply according to the need of the readers. In preparing

and writing this book and development of thought and ideas about environmental science, I have been greatly benefited from my 29 years of teaching and research experiences in ecology and environment and related subjects, thereby interaction with the students, colleagues, policy makers and managers, and of course from the literature I read that is writings, *i.e.* books and research papers of eminent ecologists, scientists, environmentalists, foresters, bio-technologists and articles of NGOs and other Institutions benefitted me. To name and list them all would not be possible here. I extend my heartfelt thanks to them all and recognize their contribution as given in the references.

I would, however, like to place on record my utmost thanks to Dr. S.D. Bhardwaj, Dean College of Forestry, Dr, Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan (HP) for the suggestions and encouragements during the preparation and writing of this book. My sincere thanks are due to Dr. K.S. Verma, Professor and Head Department of Environmental Science, for his valuable suggestions during the writing the manuscript of the book and advising me to compile the manuscript in the form of the book, otherwise it would have not been in this form. My utmost thanks are due to my parental Sanaik family – Nauhradhar, Sirmour (H.P.) for the support and encouragement, otherwise I would have never been able to do such type of assignments.

Without the understanding and encouragements of my husband Jeet and son Vijit, I would never have been able to undertake the task of writing of manuscript of this book, I do thank them.

Finally, I am thankful to the Department of Environmental Science, COF, Dr. Y.S. Parmar UHF, Nauni, Solan for providing congenial environment during the writing of this book.

My sincere thanks are due to Mrs Neeta Rawat of Department of Directorate of Extension, Dr Y.S. Parmar UHF, Nauni, Solan for her painstaking efforts in metamorphosizing the material of the book to a nice presentable form.

July, 2011

Vidya Thakur

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