

GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT



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We live on planet earth and have used natural resources for our basic existence and development. Ecosystem services are fundamental to physical, social, cultural and economic well-being. However, as the needs and greed for man over increased, the misuse of natural resources also increased. As a result, the world's natural environment is under tremendous pressure. Human development threatens the resources and services that nature provides through its habitats and wildlife. The result is that humanity is now facing many problems and health issues, including pollution. Although both men and women face environmental problems, rural women's lives have been particularly affected. When we feel that our existence is in danger and face many environmental problems, we realise that we should conserve the environment and adequately use natural resources. We must preserve and protect the environment for the present and future generations.

In this lesson, you will learn about the impact of environmental degradation on human life in general and women in particular and various concerns related to women's health and quality of life due to environmental challenges. The focus will also be given to describing the role played by humans in conserving natural resources and biodiversity and various environmental movements in India



OUTCOMES

After studying this lesson, learner

- touches upon the impact of environmental degradation and quality of human life;
- explains the concept of environmental conservation and sustainable development;
- examines challenges faced by humans due to the depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation, especially by women from rural, tribal and remote areas;
- highlights concerns such as those related to -
 - (a) traditional Chullahs used in rural households and urban slums and their impact on

Gender Issues and Social Change



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the health of women

- (b) non-availability of women's toilets and
- (c) extra load of work on women.

- describes the pivotal role played by humans in conserving natural resources and biodiversity
- identifies and analyse various movements in India for environmental conservation and protection.

8.1 IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND QUALITY OF HUMAN LIFE

8.1.1 Environmental Degradation and Scarcity of Resources

Environment degradation is the deterioration of the total environment through the depletion of resources available in the form of biotic and abiotic components present in our surroundings, including necessary components like air, water, soil, plant, and animals. It is the reduction of the quality of all other living and non-living elements of our planet.

Scarcity means when the supply is less than the demand. The term scarcity is used in the relative sense, not the absolute one. When the demand is not fully met, and the supply of resources is limited to meet human needs, it refers to resource scarcity.

Environmental degradation results in the quality deterioration of resources and leads to their scarcity.

8.1.2 Population growth and Environmental Degradation

Environmental degradation is a social issue. Population growth exerts pressure on the environment for the fulfillment of the requirements of everyone. As a result, the quality of the environment is deteriorating. The availability of natural resources is limited.

The overexploitation of these resources degrades the quality of the environment. The overgrowing population is causing many problems, for example, the availability of land, food, and quality of environmental services, employability, and other facilities. Therefore, there is a direct link between population growth and environmental degradation.

8.1.3. Quality of Life (QOL)

QOL is the degree, to which a person is healthy, comfortable, and can participate in or enjoy life (source: Britannica).

QOL is "A person's perception of their position in life in terms of the culture and value systems in which they live and about their goals, expectations, standards, and concerns".

The World Health Organization

QOL includes life satisfaction with the indicators of wealth, employment, environment, physical and mental health, education, leisure and leisure time, social relationships, beliefs, safety, security, and freedom.

Though economic development works to enhance the quality of life, social relations and the status of the environment are also very important. The environment is the foundation of our life. It provides us with air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat, and land to live in. Therefore, the better the environment, the better is the quality of our life.



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8.1.4 Impact on the quality of human life

The environment has a natural balance system. All the components, whether biotic or abiotic, naturally remain in equilibrium. When this balance is disturbed by human activities, it causes various environmental problems such as the greenhouse gas effect, ozone layer depletion, and soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, climate change, air pollution and scarcity of water. The main reasons for these problems are uncontrolled population, urbanisation, industrialisation, deforestation, forest fires, unhealthy lifestyle, and many more.

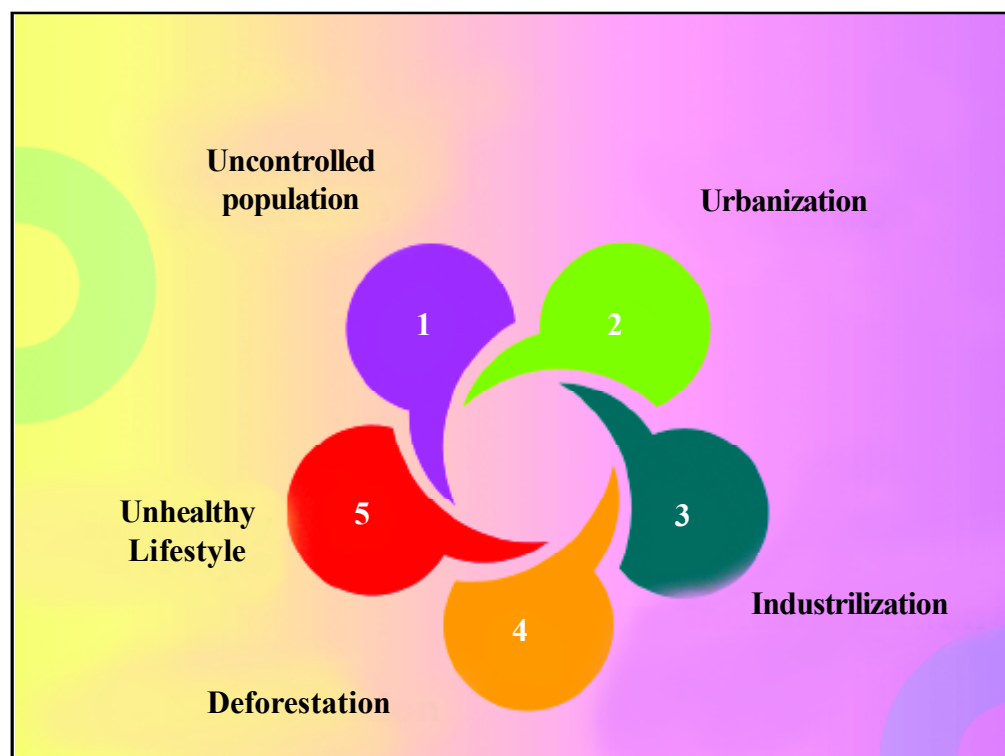


Fig 8.1: Major Causes of Environmental Problems

All these problems affect our life when the availability of natural resources decline. We struggle for drinking water, clean air and a noise-free environment. We need a healthy and happy life for a good quality of life. For this, we need to control the population and stop the exploitation of the environment.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.1***Notes*

1. Describe the meaning of Environment degradation.
2. Explain the relationship between population growth and environmental degradation.
3. Clarify how a natural balance is disturbed.
4. Identify the indicators of quality of life.

8.2 CONCEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

8.2.1 Environmental Conservation

Conservation is an action-oriented task. Its main objective is to reduce the deterioration of the quality of substances. Environmental conservation is to protect natural resources from exploitation. Its purpose is to save the environment. It focuses on reducing the degradation of the quality of natural resources and environmental services and maintaining its status. Conservation guides us in the responsible use of natural resources. Environmental conservation can minimise environmental problems, and the balance in nature can be maintained. This will reduce pollution and improve the quality of water, air, and environmental services, further improving our quality of life.

“If the conservation of natural resources goes wrong, nothing else will go right.”

M.S. Swaminathan

We can conserve the environment through forest conservation, biodiversity and soil conservation, waste management, recycling, reducing waste, controlling pollution, and creating public awareness.

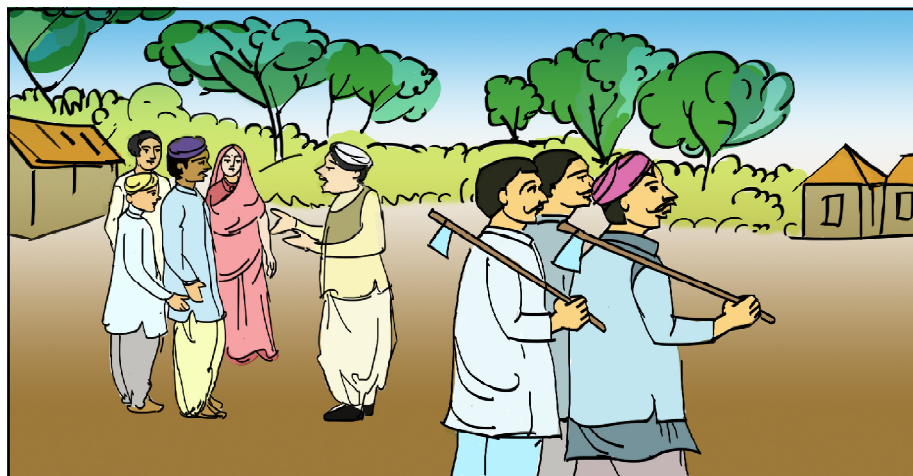


Fig 8.2: Awareness on Environment conservation

Furthermore, the environment can be restored through conservation through the optimal use of natural resources so that the needs of the present generation and future generations can be met.

8.2.2 Sustainable Development

“Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Gro Harlem Brundtland

Sustainable development (SD) is the development that aims to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations. The main goal of sustainable development is to achieve a sustainable society where the demands of every individual are met, and they can lead a good quality of life. Achieving a sustainable society requires all the necessities of human life, i.e. clean air, safe drinking water, nutritious food, adequate natural resources and services and healthy people with good relationships, where everyone’s financial needs are also met.



Fig 8.3: Three Pillars of Sustainable Development

The three main pillars of sustainable development are – (1) environment, (2) economy and (3) society. It aims to achieve environmental conservation, economic development and social equality, including political aspects. One of the important elements of sustainable development is environmental protection and conservation.

The United Nations announced 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 to end poverty and protect the planet. The 17 SDGs are targeted to be achieved by 2030 to achieve a sustainable society and improve the quality of life.



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**INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.2****Notes**

1. What is the main objective of environmental conservation?
2. When is World Conservation Day celebrated?
3. What are the three main pillars of sustainable development?
4. How many sustainable development goals have been announced by UNESCO?

8.3 CHALLENGES FACED BY HUMANS DUE TO THE DEPLETION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Human beings face many challenges in life. There is a depletion of natural resources, and the quality of the environment is decreasing, directly impacting human life. The loss of natural resources and environmental damage are creating various problems related to food, nutrition, health, and economic insecurity. These are threatening the basic necessities of human life and livelihood.

8.3.1 Challenges Faced by Humans

Major challenges humans face are freshwater depletion, availability of clean air, pollution-free environment, food security, and lack of holistic health. In addition to the above, there are issues related to climate change, global warming, species loss, waste disposal, natural hazards, ocean acidification and ozone layer depletion. All these environmental issues degrade the quality of human life and threaten the existence of life on planet earth.

The key issue is how to minimise environmental problems and support environmental services to sustain life on Earth.

8.3.3 Challenges faced by Women from Rural, Tribal and Remote Areas

There is a direct relationship between women and natural resources. Depletion of natural resources has a negative impact on women's life. Women need adequate resources to help raise their children, provide medical services and educate them. They have to bear the impact of environmental degradation.

Women from rural, tribal, and remote areas live closer to nature, providing them with a livelihood. Women in developing countries, especially in rural areas, depend highly on locally available natural resources for their livelihood.

These women manage forests as well as the agricultural sector and are also looking after the sources of water, fuel, and food. They are responsible for cooking, fetching the drinking water and arranging the fuel. Their conventional wisdom helps in seed conservation to growing



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quality crops. However, factors like lack of formal education, limited mobility, economic poverty, discrimination in food distribution, food insecurity, family workload, limited access to resources, exclusion from policy, lack of decision-making ability, and lack of access to health care and financial participation add to their vulnerabilities.

8.3.4 How environmental degradation affects women

When the environment deteriorates, women are the first to suffer. They are mainly responsible for providing water, food, fuel, wood, and fodder to the household. Due to environmental pollution, they walk miles to fetch firewood, water, and fodder. Most households use firewood, crop residue, and cow dung for cooking, so women are constantly exposed to an internally polluted environment that affects their health. While fulfilling family responsibilities, they forgo their share of food at home, making them vulnerable to disease and infection. Natural calamities bring hardships to women. In natural calamities, such as droughts and floods, women's situation worsens due to lack of access to water and sanitation, reduced food intake, increased workload and unavailability of resources for the family. During many disasters, the clothes/dress of women impedes their mobility, and sometimes, it causes unprecedented deaths. In such times, women are vulnerable to bullying and gender-based violence at home and outside.

8.3.5 Impact on Human Rights

Human rights are compromised due to environmental degradation, especially fundamental human rights, i.e. right to food, health, and shelter. Environmental degradation is the most significant contributor to hunger, malnutrition, various diseases and limited access to water worldwide. The scarcity of resources leads to migration to cities in search of employment. The deterioration in the environment affects the right to safe and secure life. Environmental degradation and scarcity of resources affect the quality of human life.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.3

1. Explain the challenges for rural women due to environmental problems.
2. Which of the following is most affected due to environmental degradation -
 - a. Urban men
 - b. Urban women
 - c. Rural men
 - d. Rural women
 - e. All above



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3. What affects the right to safe and secure life?

8.4 MAJOR CONCERNS RELATED TO WOMEN

Women play an important role in the family as caregivers and providers of food and fuel. The equipment used for cooking food since ancient times is a matter of concern.

8.4.1 Traditional Chullahs

Food is essential to sustain life. Fuel is required to light fixtures for the cooking of food. Traditional Chulhas are used in rural homes and urban slums. These Chulhas release fumes that pollute the environment and affect the user's health.

Most rural women still depend on locally available traditional fuels such as animal dung, crop residues and fuel wood. Even today, wood or biomass, coal, and kerosene are used as fuels to prepare food in villages and remote areas that cause toxic and environmental pollution. Moreover, in ill-ventilated houses, the pollution generated by these Chulhas affects human health. These lead to many health-related problems, such as acute and chronic respiratory, lung, and eye diseases.

Cooking food with fossil fuels produces smoke that contains many chemicals such as toxic hydrocarbons, Carbon Monoxide gas and suspended particulates (TSP). This smoke, inhaled by women while cooking, is extremely harmful to them. In addition, women and children who stay indoors longer than men are adversely affected due to internal air pollution by these chemicals.

Some common health issues caused by smoke from traditional Chulhas are Tuberculosis, Bronchial infection and other acute respiratory infections.

Pneumoconiosis is the deposition of carbon or silica particles in the respiratory tract and lungs, burning in the eyes, and frequent watering of the eyes, a respiratory infection.

The women should be aware of environment-friendly sources like solar energy, biogas, smokeless Chulhas and other resources that can protect them from disease.

8.4.2 Environmental impact of Traditional Chulhas

- Demand for wood, cattle dung, biomass, and traditional fuels such as coal, contributes to the destruction of local forests, causes deforestation and results in soil erosion and desertification.
- The need for wood is so high that trees are not allowed to grow, and young trees are cut down for wood.
- In areas with low fuel availability, roots and shrubs are also cut and taken for fuel, causing soil erosion and loss of soil fertility.

Burning fossil fuels and wood produces smoke and carbon dioxide; this pollutes the atmosphere and causes air pollution.

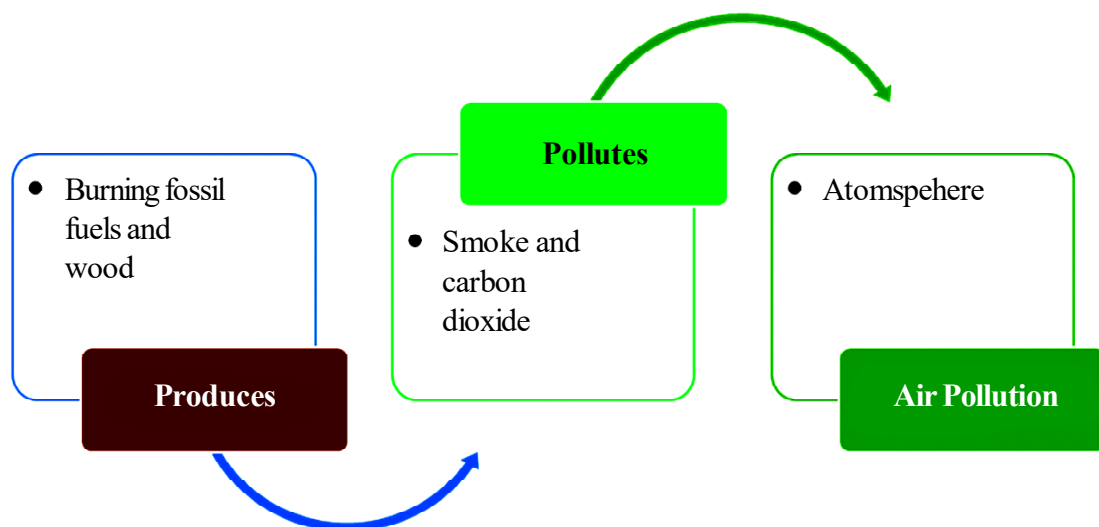


Fig 8.4: Environmental Impact of Traditional Chullahs

Currently, central electric power and gas such as LPG or light petroleum gas are used as fuel. However, the government's new scheme, "Ujjwala", has taken it to rural households.

8.4.3 Non availability of women's toilets

Even in the 21st century, the rural areas of India, in particular, lack infrastructure for toilets, and open defecation is the common norm. There are no private toilets, and their homes are not connected to septic tanks. The children defecate over open drains and unused railway tracks.

The toilets and bathrooms in urban slums are common facilities. This is a major problem for women, adolescent girls and school-going girls. These toilets are ill-maintained and have a limited water supply with garbage around.

The lack of toilets in rural schools is the primary reason for preventing the high dropout rate of girls from schools. In addition, many women hold their urine for long and avoid drinking liquids which may cause abdominal pain and constipation.

Safe and hygienic disposal of human waste is a persistent problem in semi-urban and rural areas leading to high mortality rates and declining health of people in the community.

Lack of toilets and improper sanitation in the villages lead to Diarrhea and several water-borne diseases like Cholera, Typhoid, and Gastroenteritis. Many people die due to inadequate drinking water, sanitation and environmental pollution.

Women in semi-urban and urban also face acute problems. These can be seen in the diagrams:



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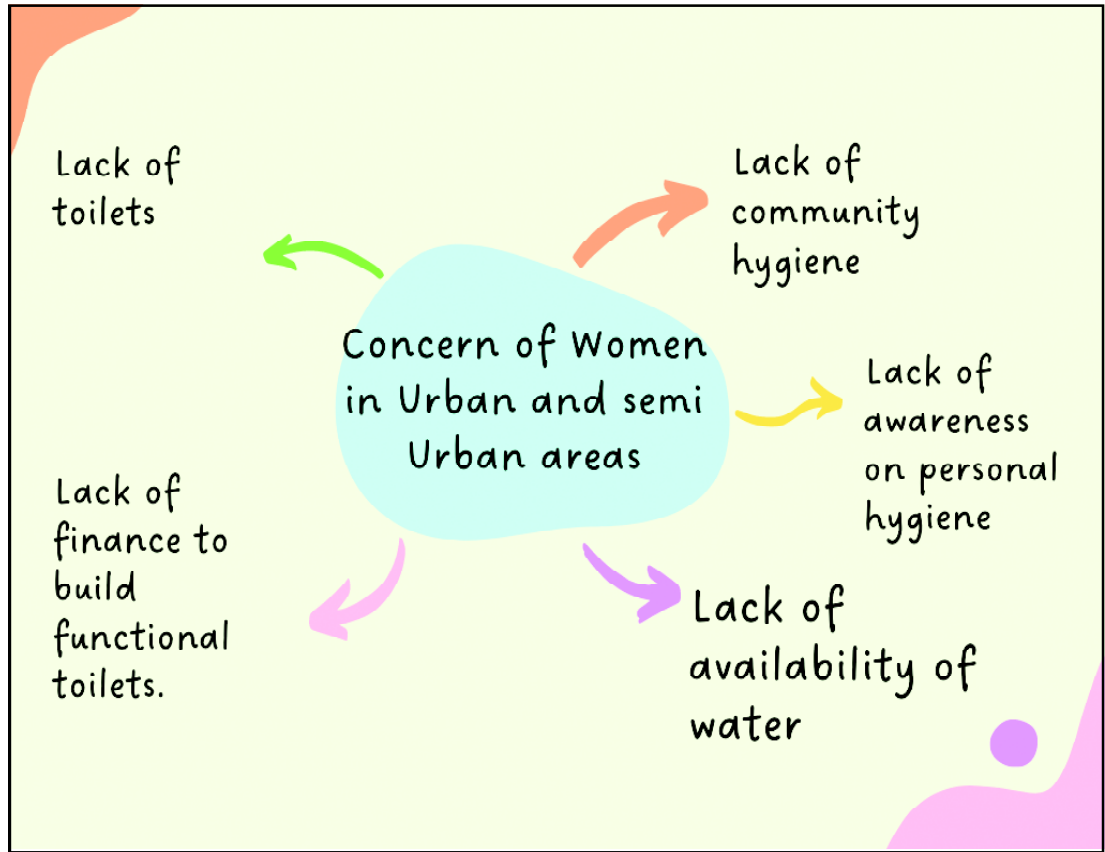


Fig 8.5: Concerns of Women living in Urban and Semi-urban Slum areas

In view of the above, the government has launched the ‘Clean India’ campaign through various media such as TV, radio, and advertisements. Under the campaign, financial assistance for the construction of toilets is provided.

8.4.4 Extra load of work on women

Women have far more household responsibilities than men. For example, a woman who works in an office has the dual responsibility of home and office. Moreover, if someone’s children are small or there is an older person in the house, the childcare and elderly care also falls on the women. In many households, roles and responsibilities are divided away the men and women. However, where there is an equal division of labour, more hidden forms of home care tasks fall on the women.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.4

1. What are the traditional sources of fuel in rural areas?
2. What are the common health issues caused by smoke?
3. What is the name of the government’s new scheme for fuel in rural areas?

4. What benefits are given to beneficiaries under clean India campaign.

8.5 ROLE PLAYED BY HUMANS IN CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY

Natural resources are materials and components that are found within the environment. These exist in a natural form, undisturbed by mankind. The amount of biodiversity and geo-diversity present in different ecosystems often characterises a natural resource.

These natural resources are used to make products, called man-made resources. Most of these resources are exhaustible, meaning they have a finite amount of time and can be exhausted if improperly managed.

Biodiversity and Natural resources are the Earth's treasures. Bio means life, and diversity means variety. Therefore, biodiversity is the variety of all life forms on Earth that includes animals, plants, microorganisms, and human beings. Walter G. Rosen coined the term biodiversity in 1985. The benefits of biodiversity are numerous and multifaceted. The ecosystem works well when there is a diversity of relationships because all the species are linked in one way or another and are in continuous interactions. Conversely, the over-extraction of natural resources leads directly to the loss of biodiversity and a collapse of ecosystem services.



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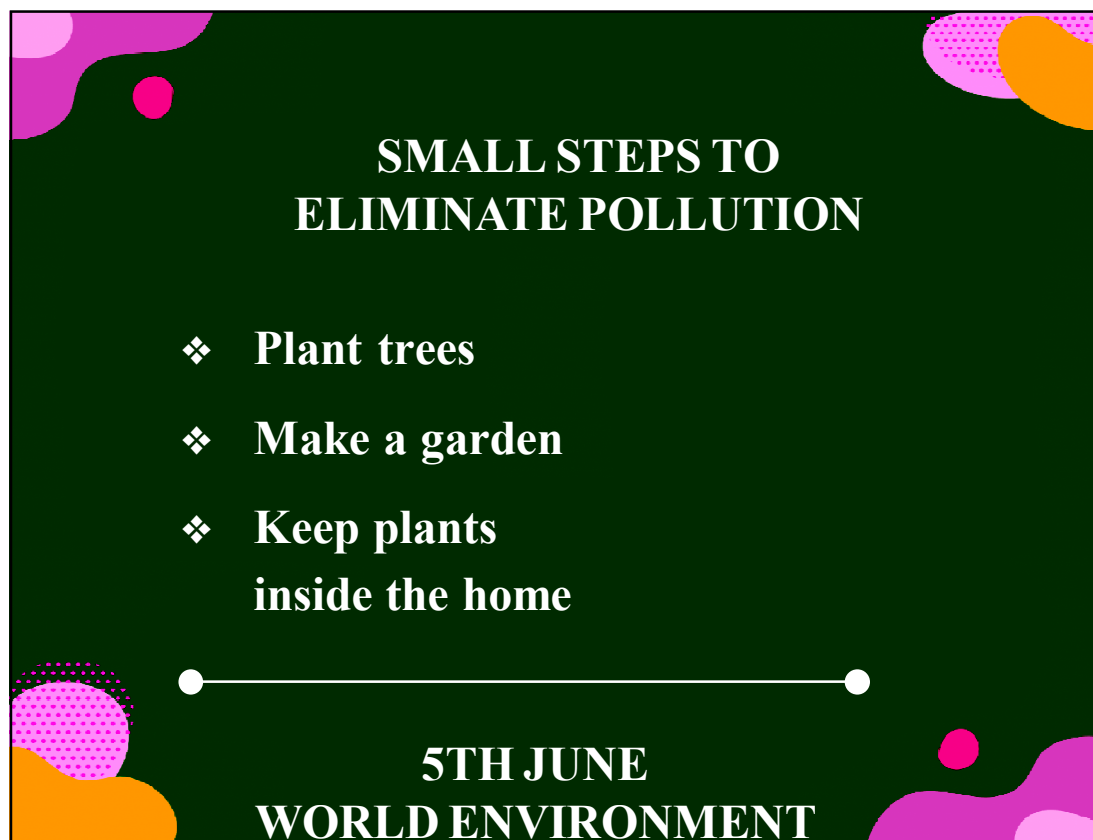


Fig 8.6: Small steps to eliminate pollution

**Notes****8.5.1 Role played by individuals in Conserving Natural Resources**

Industrialisation and advancement in human lifestyles affect the availability of natural resources. Therefore, the conservation of natural resources is of utmost importance. For example, waste recycling is essential to conserve natural resources for future generations. For example, various valuable products are made with wood from trees. Recycling these products can minimise the number of trees cut down in a year. Similarly, metal items may be reused and recycled. Promoting the reuse and recycling of products not only saves our natural resources but also helps save energy and reduce pollution.

We need to adopt an eco-friendly way of life to conserve natural resources. For example, one can use a source of energy to conserve natural gas. For instance, hydro, solar, or wind power are healthy and great alternatives for conserving natural resources. Energy conservation can be done in small steps, potentially leading to significant savings. Similarly, one can eliminate pollution by planting trees, making a garden and keeping plants inside the home.

8.5.2 Role of women in conserving natural resources

Women play a key role in managing, conserving, and utilizing natural resources. Women have a direct and deep relationship with natural resources such as forests, soil, and water. In tribal areas, the forest wealth is considered entirely that of women.

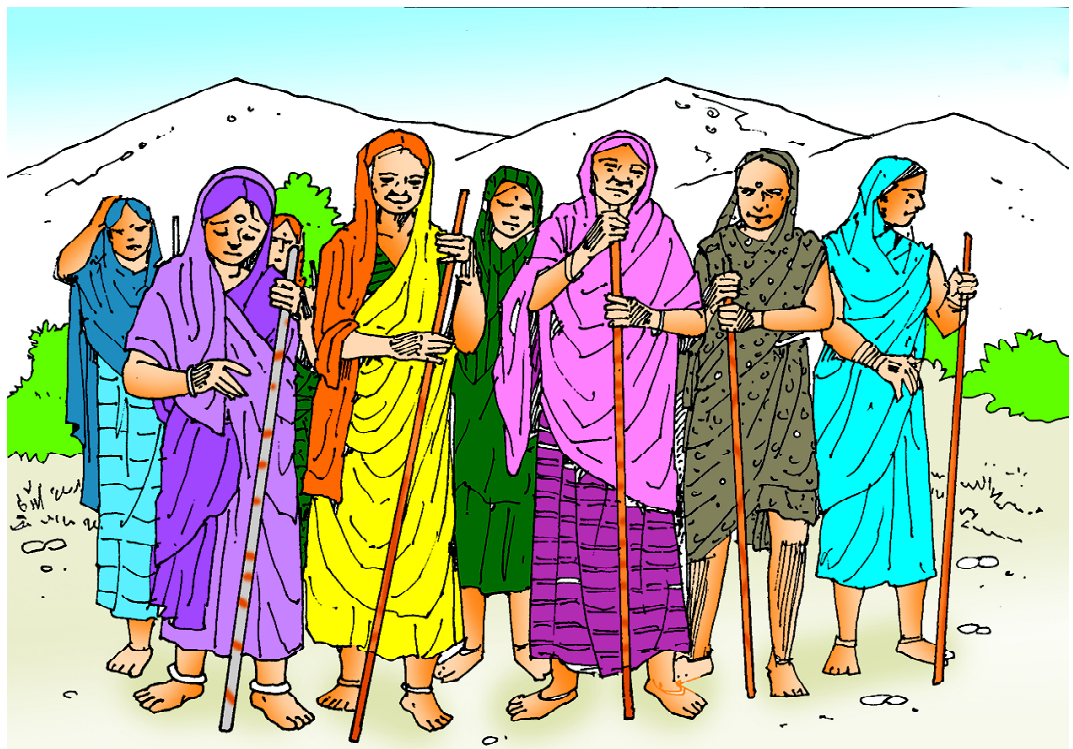


Fig 8.7: Tribal women protecting environment

Indian women have been protecting the environment for centuries, the proof of which is the worship of trees, water, land, air, sun, etc. They act as natural resource managers and are

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important in providing fire and water, healthcare, and waste management. The women are also seen as the custodians of natural resources; they take care of seeds and water sources and have the traditional knowledge of plants, including food and medicines. They tend to be domestic animals. The use of this vast knowledge of women is essential for environmental protection.

8.5.3 Role played by Humans in conserving biodiversity

Humans are an integral part of nature. The sustainable use and management of natural resources are important to biodiversity conservation. There is a greater awareness that biodiversity is important for our existence and well-being. Two major biodiversity conservation strategies are in situ (on-site) and ex-situ (off-site).

In India, at least 10 percent of recorded flora, and possibly a significant fraction of its wild fauna, are threatened, with many on the verge of extinction. In the last few decades, India has lost at least 50 percent of its forests, polluted over 70 percent of its water bodies, built or cultivated upon its grasslands, and degraded many coastal areas.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is contributing to the conservation of biodiversity using in situ techniques, for example, Biosphere Reserves, National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and other protected natural zones. The joint forest management systems enable the tribal and local communities to have access to non-wood forest products while protecting the forest resources. Botanical and zoological gardens have extensive collections of plant and animal species in different climatic regions of India. The land and diverse food and medicinal plants are also being conserved successfully by the tribal together with various non-governmental organizations. Women, in particular, have an important role in agro-biodiversity conservation.

8.6 MOVEMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

8.6.1 Chipko Movement

On 26 March 1974, the auction of two and a half thousand trees took place in Raini village of Chamoli district in Uttarakhand state. The contractor sent the workers to cut the trees. During that time, the local people had gone to Chamoli for compensation for their land. However, Gauri Devi gathered around 27 women and agitated for tree protection. The women clinging to the trees announced they would not let the workers cut. The workers could not cut the trees and had to return. This woman-led initiative in Chamoli district spread throughout Uttarakhand and became the famous Chipko Movement. In the mountain areas, people clung to the trees to save trees. The participation of women was so strong that renowned environmentalists like Sundarlal Bahuguna and Chandiprasad Bhatt joined the Chipko Movement; this movement has brought in front many such women like Bachni Devi, who have led agitations to save the trees in different areas.



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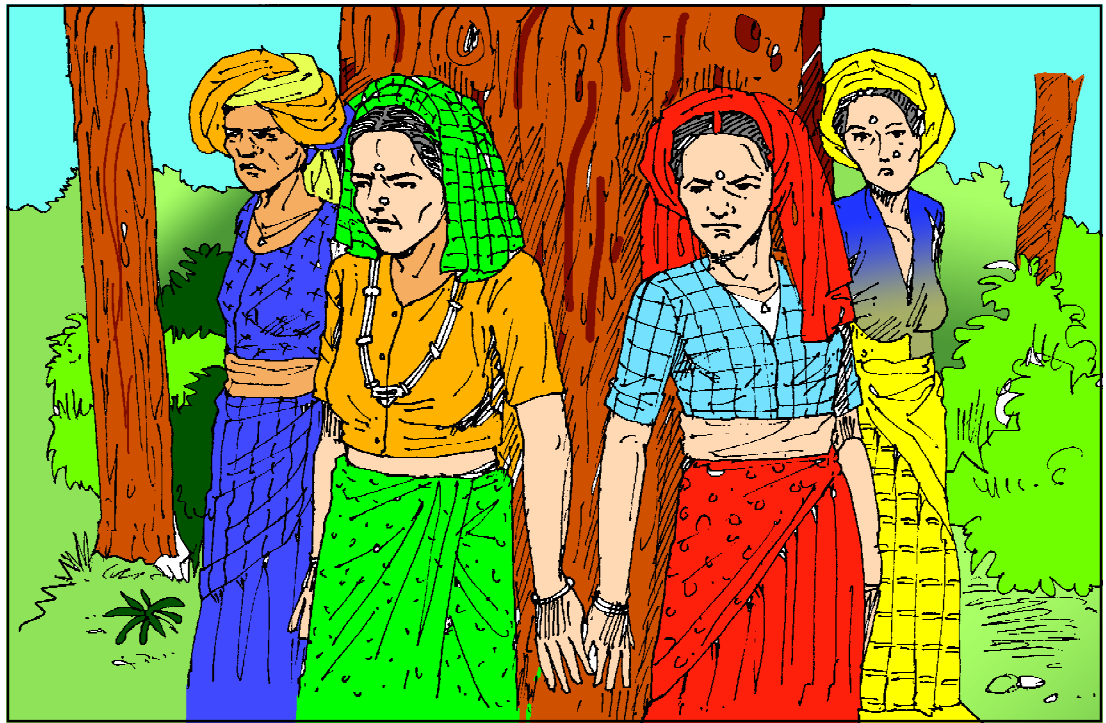


Fig 8.8: Chipko Movement

8.6.2 Navdanya Movement, 1982

Vandana Shiva started Navdanya movement in 1982. Its goal was to protect biodiversity, the environment, and wildlife and promote organic farming. The headquarter of Navdanya is located in the foothills Himalayas outside Doon Valley in Uttarakhand. It is a campaign to preserve traditional grains and their seeds. In addition, it promotes traditional farming practices among the farmers through training. Navdanya has shown that diverse crop production without synthetic chemicals is feasible and economically viable.

8.6.3 Jungle Bachao Andolan, 1980

The Jungle Bachao Andolan started in Jharkhand (then Bihar) in the early 1980s. It later spread to Orissa. At that time, the government proposed replacing the natural Sal Forest in the Singhbhum district with commercial teak plantations. The tribals opposed it through collective representation. This gave birth to the 'Jungle Bachao Andolan'. In many places, the entire nursery of teak, planted by the government, was destroyed, causing a substantial economic loss. Millions were lost due to this. The tribals had made up their mind that they would reclaim their land at every cost. After a long fight, the 'Forest Rights Bill' was enacted in the year 2006.

8.6.4 Narmada Bachao Andolan

Narmada River has primarily influenced the culture, tradition, and livelihood of the indigenous tribal and many nearby rural populations. The Narmada Bachao Andolan was started in the year 1985. Medha Patkar, a famous social activist, started this movement when the dams



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were built on the Narmada River. It started as a struggle for the resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced people due to the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Dam across the Narmada River. It raised concern about submerging people's houses and changing the Narmada River's course. It was a peaceful movement led by Medha Patkar, who sat on a hunger strike throughout.

The court intervened and ordered the government to ensure the rehabilitation of the affected people before restoring the construction of the dam with revised guidelines.

8.6.5 Nature Conservation Foundation

The Nature Conservation Foundation was founded in 1996 as a non-governmental wildlife conservation and research organisation based in Mysore, India. It aims to promote the use of Science for wildlife conservation. While promoting wildlife conservation, they also provide livelihood and development options to local communities. Its high-altitude programs focus on human-wildlife conflicts and the conservation of endangered species. In addition, they research human resource use and its effect on wild species and ecosystems. Its philosophy is a conservation movement that focuses on protecting the species from extinction, maintaining and restoring habitats, enhancing ecosystem services, and protecting biological diversity.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.5

1. Evaluate the role of women in protection of environment.
2. What is the Navdanya movement for?
3. How did people protest during Narmada Bachao Andolan?
4. What is the aim of the Nature Conservation Foundation?

8.7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE CONSERVATION ROLE OF COMMON MEN AND WOMEN

Over-exploitation of living resources threatens our survival. Therefore, conserving the environment is an essential part of Earth's biological life support system.

Love and respect for nature help us look at how we use natural resources in a new and sensitive way. Think of the beauty of a wilderness, a natural forest in all its magnificence, the expanse of green grassland, the clean water of a lake that supports life, the crystal-clear water of a hill stream, and the magnificent power of oceans; all are beautiful and full of life. These are nature's wealth, and we must conserve them for future generations.



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8.7.1 Conservation Role of Common Men

Environmental protection is a part of our culture. The cooperation of the common people is essential for environmental protection. Humans need to develop a green mindset. Minimal use of plastic should be done to save the environment. The waste materials from households should be divided into different sections. Farmers should do organic farming using fertilisers and pesticides to the minimum. By using less electricity, less water, and less gas, a person can contribute to environmental protection. Conservation of rainwater, use of eco-friendly items and tree plantation help in the protection of the environment. People’s participation in campaigns is important in environmental conservation.



Fig.: 8.9: Steps to protect and care for the Environment

8.7.2 Women in Conserving the Environment

Women have been a source of inspiration to humanity since time immemorial. Women’s foresight, vivacious enthusiasm, and commitment within born leadership qualities are valuable assets to society.



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Fig 8.10: Women protecting Environment

Women have had a close relationship with nature, protecting it occasionally. Women are food producers, home food managers, and consumers. They have a broad understanding of local biodiversity with many unique insights into local species and ecosystems gained from practice over centuries. There is a tradition in Uttarakhand whereby a tree is planted by the girl in the mother's place called Maiti after marriage. It builds an emotional bond with the tree, a kind of environmental conservation.

8.7.3 Women and Sustainable Development

India is rich in traditions and cultural values, with women in a prominent place in society.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals. Attention has been paid to ensuring women's participation in important areas such as management, environmental protection, and inclusive economic and social development.



Fig 8.11: Awareness about environmental conservation

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Global warming can be reduced by 2 °C by empowering women and girls in developing countries, the climate research organisation's report on according to "Project Drawdown", 2020. They estimate that working on girls' education and family planning can reduce 85 gig tons of carbon emissions by 2050. The slow population growth rate also reduces the pressure on the ecosystem to avoid explanations of resources. When resources are saved, and women are educated, families will get better nutrition and financial stability, ultimately promoting sustainable development. The Rio Declaration also recognizes that women are important in environmental management and development.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.6**

1. How can life be saved?
2. Why does a girl plant a tree at her mother's house in Uttarakhand after marriage?
3. In which areas, awareness of women should be done?
4. What is required to achieve sustainable development?

**WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT**

- Environmental degradation reduces the quality of the environment's living and non-living elements. There is a direct relationship between population growth and environmental degradation. The better the environment, the better will be our quality of life.
- Environmental conservation guides us in the responsible use of natural resources. It is the restoration of a healthy environment by optimizing the use of resources to meet the needs of the present generation without harming the quality and availability of future generations, which is called sustainable development. The United Nations announced 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, which are targeted to be achieved by 2030.
- The major challenges facing all human beings are lack of fresh water, availability of clean air, pollution-free environment, food security and overall health. Apart from the above, there are also issues related to climate change, global warming, species loss, waste disposal, natural hazards, ocean acidification, ozone layer depletion, social equality etc. Moreover, human rights are compromised due to environmental degradation and explanation. Women from rural, tribal and remote areas mainly depend on natural resources as their main livelihood is dependent on nature.



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- Women play an important role in the family as primary caregivers and providers of food and fuel. Using traditional Chulhas releases smoke, which causes many health problems such as Tuberculosis, bronchial infections, and other acute respiratory and eye infections. It also pollutes the atmosphere and causes air pollution.
- Rural and urban slum areas lack toilets, and people defecate in open fields. Lack of toilets and improper sanitation in village's leads to Diarrhea and other water born diseases like Cholera, Typhoid and Gastroenteritis.
- The benefits of biodiversity are often referred to as the goods and services of numerous and multifaceted ecosystems. Conservation of natural resources is of utmost importance, for which waste recycling is necessary to conserve at least some of the natural resources for future generations. Gender equality is important in natural resource management. Women play an important role in managing, conserving and using natural resources. They play an important role as natural resource managers.
- Biodiversity is significant for our existence and well-being on Earth. Two major biodiversity conservation strategies are in situ (on-site) and ex-situ (off-site). Chipko movement to save the environment started in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand when people stuck to gated trees to save them. In 1982, Vandana Shiva started the Navdanya movement to protect biodiversity, the environment, and wildlife and promote organic farming. Jungle Bachao Andolan started in Jharkhand (then Bihar) in the early 1980s. Social activist Medha Patkar started Narmada Bachao Andolan in 1985. It began as a struggle to rehabilitate displaced people due to the Sardar Sarovar Dam construction on the Narmada River. The Nature Conservation Foundation is a 1996 non-governmental wildlife conservation and research organisation that aims to promote the use of Science for wildlife conservation in India.
- Conserving the environment is essential to protecting biological life support systems on Earth. Life can be saved only by protecting the environment. Women continue to contribute to environmental protection. As a result, resources are saved, women are educated, and families will get better nutrition and financial stability. The participation of women is essential for sustainable development.

**TERMINAL EXERCISE**

1. Explain the problems caused by population growth?
2. Justify how environmental degradation impacts the quality of human life?
3. Identify the benefits of environmental conservation?

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4. How can natural resources be conserved?
5. Define Sustainable Development Goals.
6. How are environmental conservation and sustainable development related?
7. Describe how does traditional Chulhas affect women's health?
8. Discuss why is biodiversity important?
9. How can natural resources be conserved?
10. What will be your role in conserving biodiversity and natural resources?
11. Describe the significance of the Chipko Movement.
12. What was the reason behind Narmada Bachao Andolan?
13. Discuss the role of women in environmental conservation.
14. Evaluate how can women contribute to sustainable development?

**ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS****8.1**

1. Environment degradation is the deterioration of the total environment.
2. There is a direct relationship between population growth and environmental degradation; when the population increases, environmental degradation also increases.
3. Natural balance is disturbed due to human activities.
4. Wealth, employment, environment, physical and mental health, education, social relationships, safety, security, and freedom.

8.2

1. The main objective of conservation is to reduce environmental deterioration.
2. On 28th July
3. Environment, economy and society.
4. Seventeen sustainable development goals.



Notes

8.3

1. Staying healthy is a big challenge for rural women.
2. d. Rural women
3. The right to safe and secure life is affected due to deterioration in the environmental quality.

8.4

1. Animal dung, crop residues and fuel wood.
2. Tuberculosis, Bronchial infection, other acute respiratory infections, and Pneumoconiosis.
3. “Ujjwala”
4. Financial assistance has been given to the villagers for the construction of toilets.

8.5

1. By worshiping trees, water, land, air, sun, etc.
2. It is a campaign to preserve traditional grains and their seeds.
3. People chose the path of peace in this movement and sat on hunger strikes to protest.
4. To promote the use of Science for wildlife conservation in India.

8.6

1. Life can be saved only by protecting the environment.
2. Maiti.
3. Education, awareness of their rights, family planning and ability to make their own decisions.
4. Gender equality, women empowerment, and full participation of women.

MODULE-3

Education and Gender

This module is designed to acquaint the learners with condition of women during pre-independence period and how various laws and movements affected women's education before and after independence. The module also discusses various educational policies emphasizing on how it ensures gender equity. The module also focuses on the role of government schemes and programmes and role of non-government organization in promoting education and gender equality.

9. Development of Women's Education in India
10. Gender and Educational Policies
11. Schemes and Programmes Towards Gender Equality