

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

L.No	Title of Lesson	SKILLS	Activity
26	Environmental Degradation and Disaster Management	Self Awareness, Problem Solving, Effective Communication, Decision Making, Critical Thinking	Must not Degrade Environment

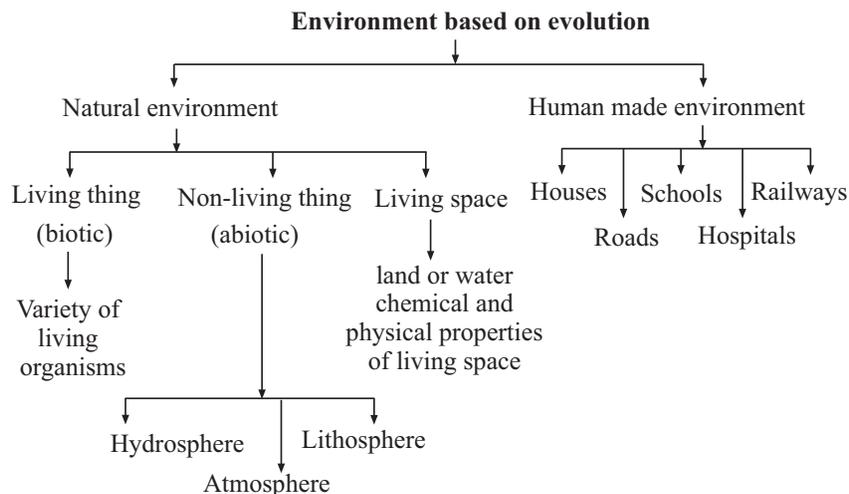
Meaning

Trees are being cut for cultivation in rural areas and for constructing houses, multiplexes and roads in urban areas. We all feel the impact of pollution owing to emission of carbon monoxide by large number of vehicles and harmful gases from factories. All these human activities are adversely affecting our environment. The deterioration of environment has led to various kinds of man made disasters and calamities. Bhopal Gas Tragedy, landslide and London smog are some of the examples of such disasters or calamities.

Meaning of Environment and its importance

- Commonly environment means the surroundings in which we live.
- It is defined as the sum total of all the conditions and circumstances and the living and non-living things around an organism which affects its life.
- Environment is very important for our survival.
- We are dependent on the environment for our food, shelter, water, air, soil, energy, medicines, fibres, raw materials for our industries.

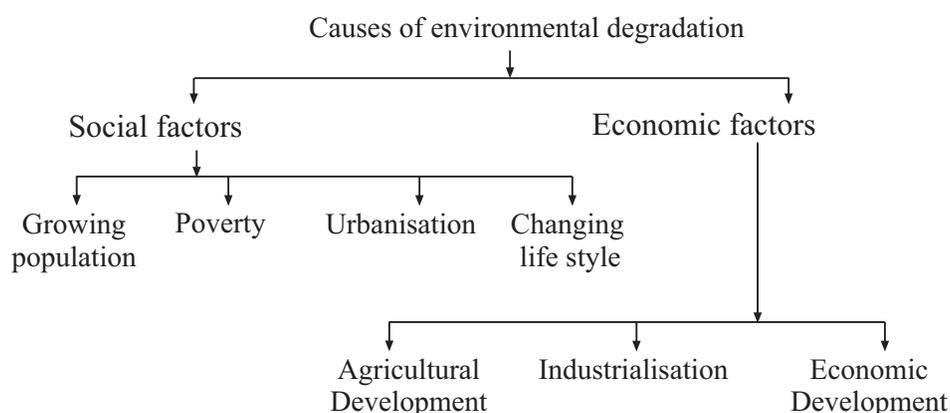
Classification of Environment



The Dynamism and the Variety of the Environment

The environment is dynamic by nature. Environment does not remain static. The environment differs from place to place and from one time in history to another. For example, the environment of the Himalayas is different from that of the Indian desert. Even it has changed over a period of time. The environment of a place does not remain the same. Some changes take place naturally while other are caused by human interventions. Even the human made environment has been undergoing changes. Simple huts or houses have been replaced by skyscrapers, villages are changed into towns, cities and megacities. Means of transport and communication have been revolutionised.

Causes of Environmental Degradation



We can save our environment from degradation and at the same time create wealth in three ways: recycling, reusing and reducing.

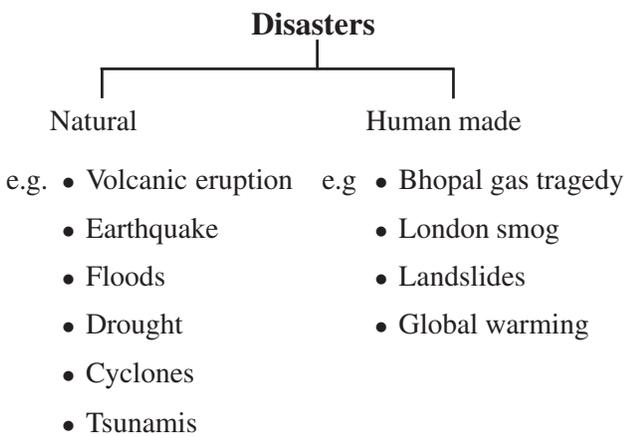
Recycle		Reuse		Reduce consumption	
What to recycle	Its Impact	What to reuse	How	What to reduce	How
Organic waste such as banana peels, egg shells and leftovers of vegetables	It will enrich soil	Cans/Tins	Use as Pencil Holder	Plastic	Use cloth bag for shopping and say no to plastic bags
Paper	Trees will be saved from being cut	Paper	Make rough pads out of remaining unused paper	Electricity	Switch off lights and fans when you leave a room
Aluminum	It will reduce need for more bauxite	Cloth	Use as Carpet Sheets	Water	Close taps when water is not being used and store only the needed amount of water

Sustainable Development

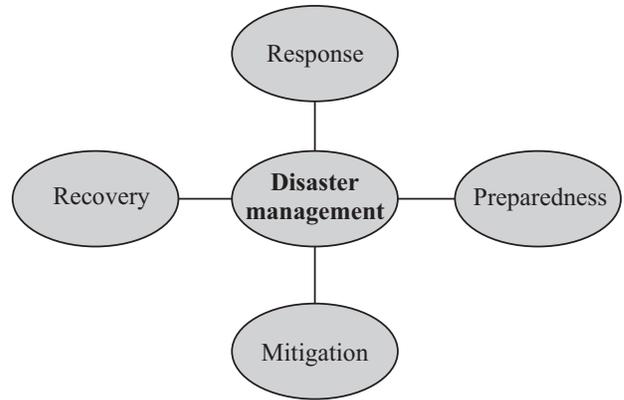
There are serious consequences of environmental degradation. It is strongly felt that the major reason of environmental degradation has been the model of development adopted by human society. The concept of sustainable development has emerged as an alternative model that will halt environmental degradation. The concept of sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability requires managing the needs of development in a way that ensures that the economy and society continue to exist without destroying the natural environment on which we live. We can achieve the goal of sustainable development by using our natural resources scientifically and wisely.

Disaster Management

It is a fact that growing share of devastations around the world are triggered by disasters that stems from environmental degradation and resource mismanagement. Disasters have become challenges to the world but with due care, these can be managed. A disaster is the tragedy that negatively affects society and environment. Disaster can be classified into two categories i.e. Natural disaster and human made disasters.



Floods and landslide could occur both naturally and by human intervention. We cannot stop happening or occurrence of disasters completely but their effects can be minimised by adopting suitable strategies called disaster management. Its process involves four phases i.e. mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.



If these four techniques are applied and the risks are identified in advance, the effects of disasters can be minimised to a greater extent.

Evaluate Yourself

- Q. Explain the measuring of environmental degradation with suitable examples.
- Q. 'Environment is not static'. Substantiate this statement with suitable examples.
- Q. What can you do at your personal level to save environment from degradation.