

LESSON 23

THE WORLD OF ORGANIZATION

SUMMARY

Our environment plays a vital role in determining our well-being. We live in an environment and the quality of our life depends on the quality of the surrounding environment. Today various types of pollution (e.g., water, air) are creating stress for the people.

Environmental Stress

Stress is any physical or emotional state that causes bodily or mental tension. In the same way environmental stress can be defined as an undesirable transaction between the person and the environment.

Environment has been used to include the physical world and socio cultural surrounding in which we live and interact with others.

The field of environmental psychology deals with the diverse effects of environment on behaviour. Below are different ways in which the human-environment relationship can be understood -

- **Humans subjugated to Nature**
– In this view, human beings believe that the nature rules human beings. The various components of nature were considered supernatural and objects of worship.

- **Humans Control over Nature**
– With the advent of science and technology, nature no longer remained a thing to be afraid of. But devastating natural calamities, global warming, depletion of the ozone layer all are now matters of great concern. Nuclear power has become a constant threat to the world. These problems lead us to think about environment differently in which a balance between man and environment is warranted.
- **Symbiotic Relationship between Human and Nature** – Human beings and nature have always shared an interdependent relationship which means that no one is sufficient in itself. Human beings derive a lot from nature in various forms and it also becomes a necessity that a sense of duty towards nature is generated.

Pollution Issues

Environment has both constructive as well as destructive effects on human life. The various types of pollution as air pollution, water pollution and noise pollution.

Pollution is an undesirable change in the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of air, land and water that may harmfully affect life. It is an unfavourable

alteration of the environment largely as a result of human activities. It causes problems to the animal and human world.

Air Pollution

It is defined as an imbalance in the quality of air so as to cause adverse effects on the living organisms. It is caused by the excessive presence of certain gases and suspended material particulates (SPM). The air is the carrier of oxygen for all life forms. Gases like carbon di-oxide (CO₂), Nitrous Oxide (NO₂), Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and suspended particulates including lead are the major pollutants. These not only cause irritation but also result in diseases like respiratory problems, cardio-vascular problems, hypertension, asthma, eye-related and neurological problems and result in early deaths too.

The major sources of air pollution are increase in power consumption, industrialization, vehicular traffic and burning of refuse, garbage, smoking and cutting trees for building construction.

Water Pollution

Pollution of water refers to addition of excess undesirable substance to water that makes it harmful to human, animal and aquatic life. The poor quality of water causes various diseases like diarrhoea, intestinal worms and hepatitis. It has also been found that ten percent of all diseases and twenty

percent of the communicable diseases in India are water-related.

The water quality is usually affected by –

- domestic and human waste water
- industrial waste water
- agricultural run-off

Noise Pollution

It is defined as the intensity, loudness, timbre or pitch of sound which causes us physical discomfort or it may be unwanted because of the situation. The intensity is an important dimension yet the degree of annoyance is not necessarily related to intensity only. Factors like familiarity and attitude often influence the degree of annoyance. Some of the ill-effects can be seen in the form of health hazards such as sleeplessness, nervousness, depression, irritability, asthma, problems in communication, accidents etc.

Crowding

It can be defined as the psychological tension produced in environments of high population density, especially when individuals feel that the amount of space available to them is insufficient for their needs. Crowding may result in poor performance of complex tasks, stressor after effects, and increased physiological stress. Effects of crowding are as follows:

Crime - crimes such as pick-pocketing and snatching tend to occur in crowded settings.

Crowding in Corrective Institutions (Prisons) and Psychiatric Institutions-

Overcrowding in prisons has become a major problem in India as well as other parts of the world, leading to riots/clashes between inmates and stress among prison officers. Patients with mental disorders, such as schizophrenia and neurosis etc., exhibit higher sensitivity to crowding. This leads to assaults on other patients or staff.

Effects on emotion and behaviour - It has been observed that crowding leads to increased physiological arousal and stress.

Greenhouse effect

The greenhouse effect is a natural process that warms the Earth's surface. When the Sun's energy reaches the Earth's atmosphere, some of it is reflected back to space and the rest is absorbed and re-radiated by greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases include water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone and some artificial chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). The absorbed energy warms the atmosphere and the surface of the Earth. This process maintains the Earth's temperature at around 33 degrees Celsius warmer than it would otherwise be, allowing life on Earth to exist.

The problem we now face is that human activities – particularly burning fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas), agriculture and land clearing – are increasing the

concentrations of greenhouse gases. This is the enhanced greenhouse effect, which is contributing to warming of the Earth.

Sustainable Development

According to World Commission on Environment and Development or Brundtland Commission, sustainable development is defined as “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. **Sustainable development** means preservation of the stocks of resources including environmental resources and exhaustible resources.

Difference between Want and Need

- A want is a wishful thing, which you desire to have. There is no end to our desires and wants.
- A need is something without which you cannot survive, e.g. for our physical survival we need air, food, water, clothes, house and medicine. Then we have our professional needs. For instance, a writer needs a pen. A carpenter needs his tools. Fortunately, our needs are few but wants are unlimited.
- When we want to buy anything, we should question ourselves: “Do I want this? Or do I need this?”
- By buying things we really do not need, we not only waste money, but also contribute to the exploitation of natural resources. Such things end as rubbish.
- Simple living means to live physically with less wants but with inward richness such as joy, contentment, beauty and wisdom.

Evaluate yourself

1. Discuss the different types of pollution.
2. Describe the different ways in which human-environment relationship can be understood.