IJARSCT
ISSN (Online) 2581-9429
International Journal of Advanced Research in Science, Communication and Technology (IJARSCT)
International Open-Access, Double-Blind, Peer-Reviewed, Refereed, Multidisciplinary Online Journal
Impact Factor: 4.819
Volume 2, Issue 1, February 2020

Impact of Human Activities on Forest Cover

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Abstract: *Forest cover is one of the most valuable natural resources that supports biodiversity, ecological balance, climate regulation and human survival. In recent decades, rapid industrialization, urbanization, population growth and excessive exploitation of natural resources have caused severe depletion of forest cover in India. Deforestation, forest fires, shifting cultivation, mining, overgrazing and developmental activities have resulted in soil erosion, floods, droughts, loss of biodiversity and ecological imbalance. The destruction of forests also affects tribal communities, agricultural productivity and the overall economy of the country. This article discusses the major threats to forest cover in India and highlights their environmental and socio-economic consequences. It further emphasizes the importance of conservation strategies such as afforestation, agroforestry, social forestry, environmental awareness programmes and sustainable resource management. The study also focuses on environmental ethics, public participation and eco-regeneration measures including green belts and protected forest areas. Conservation of forest resources is essential for achieving sustainable development and ensuring ecological security for future generations.*

Keywords: Forest Cover, Deforestation, Biodiversity, Environmental Degradation, Conservation Strategies, Sustainable Development, Afforestation, Agroforestry, Forest Fires, Ecological Imbalance, Natural Resources, Environmental Awareness, Green Belts, Eco-Regeneration, India

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