

# An Analytical Study to Learn How The “Natural World” Works

**Mr. Prasenjit Ghosh**

Ph.D Research Scholar

Mangalayatan University, Department of Arts (History), Beswan, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India

**Abstract:** *The term ‘Environment’ has been derived from the French word “Environ” which means to encircle or surround. Environment literally means the surroundings in which we are living. Environment means all living components like plants and animals and non-living components like water, air etc. surrounding us. It includes all those things on which we are directly or indirectly dependent for our survival. Environmental Protection Act (1986) defined, “Environment as the sum total of water, air and land, their inter-relationship among themselves and with the human beings, other living beings and Property.” Environmental studies envisage study of interactions of the physical, chemical and biological components of the environment and also the relationships and effects of these components with the organisms in the environment.*

**Keywords:** Environment, Disaster Management, Atmosphere, Component, Mankind, History, Sustainable, Nature, Eco-system

## I. INTRODUCTION

The environment is the natural and human-made surroundings that affect and sustain life on Earth. The environment is composed of various physical, chemical, and biological components that interact with each other and with human activities. The environment is also influenced by social, economic, political, and cultural factors that shape human values, attitudes, behaviors, and institutions. Environmental studies is the academic field that systematically studies the environment and its issues from a multidisciplinary and holistic perspective. Environmental studies integrates knowledge from the natural sciences, the humanities, and the social sciences to understand, analyze, evaluate, and address the causes, consequences, and solutions of environmental problems.

### Aims and goals of the Study

- To know the importance of environment in our life and surroundings.
- To recognise the importance of the concept of sustainability and sustainable development.
- To analyse the multidisciplinary nature of Environmental Studies.
- To appreciate the importance and scope of Environmental Studies.

## II. METHODOLOGY

This paper totally based on primary and secondary Source materials like books, articles and relevant website which are critically and analytically examined.

### Meaning and Definitions:

#### What is Environmental Studies

We can define Environmental studies in different ways, depending on the context and perspective of the field. However, some of the common elements that are shared by most of the definitions are the multidisciplinary, holistic, and human-oriented nature of environmental studies. Here are some examples of how environmental studies can be defined:

“Environmental studies is an interdisciplinary field that seeks to understand the interactions between human and natural systems, and to develop strategies for managing and conserving natural resources in a way that sustains the health and well-being of both humans and the planet.” – E.O. Wilson, biologist and conservationist

“Environmental studies is not just about studying the environment, it’s about changing the world. It’s about recognizing that we are part of the natural world, not separate from it, and that our actions have consequences for the health and well-being of the planet and all its inhabitants.” – David Suzuki, scientist and environmental activist.

### **Background and Scope of Environmental Studies**

Environmental studies emerged as a distinct field of study in the mid-20th century, as a result of the growing awareness and concern about the environmental impacts and challenges of human activities, such as industrialization, urbanization, population growth, and consumption. Environmental studies also developed as a response to the emergence of the environmental movement and the recognition of the social and ethical dimensions of environmental issues. Environmental studies evolved as a branch of humanities and social sciences, with the aim of exploring the values, attitudes, behaviors, and institutions that shape the human-environment relationship and the environmental decision-making and governance processes.

Environmental studies has a wide and varied scope, as it covers various topics and themes related to the environment and sustainability. Some of the major environmental studies topics and themes are:-

#### **Environmental Science**

The study of the natural environment and its components, processes, and interactions.

#### **Environmental Ethics**

The study of the moral principles and values that guide the human-environment relationship and the environmental actions and policies.

#### **Environmental Policy**

The study of the rules, regulations, and plans that govern the environmental management and protection at different levels and sectors.

#### **Environmental law**

The study of the legal frameworks and instruments that regulate the environmental rights and responsibilities of different actors and stakeholders.

#### **Environmental Education**

The study of the methods and strategies that promote the environmental awareness, knowledge, skills, and attitudes of different groups and individuals.

### **III. NATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

Environmental Studies is a multidisciplinary field that deals with the interactions between humans and the natural environment. It covers various aspects of physical, biological, social, and economic processes that affect the environment and human well-being. Environmental studies aims to understand, analyse, and solve environmental problems using scientific methods and ethical principles.

### **IV. OBJECTIVES OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

The main objectives of environmental studies are to create awareness, impart knowledge, develop attitude, motivate participation, and foster harmony with nature. Environmental studies helps to educate people about the environmental issues and challenges, provide them with relevant information and skills, cultivate a sense of concern and responsibility for the environment, encourage them to take action for environmental protection and improvement, and promote a sustainable and equitable use of resources.

#### **V. APPROACHES OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

There are different approaches to environmental studies, depending on the perspective, focus, and methodology of the study. Some of the common approaches are environmental deterministic, teleological, possibility, systems, holistic, and interdisciplinary. Environmental deterministic approach emphasizes the influence of the environment on human activities and outcomes. Teleological approach focuses on the purpose and goals of human actions on the environment. Possibility approach considers the choices and opportunities available to humans in different environmental settings. Systems approach views the environment as a complex and dynamic system of interrelated components and processes. Holistic approach integrates the physical, biological, social, and cultural aspects of the environment. Interdisciplinary approach combines the knowledge and methods of different disciplines to address environmental issues.

#### **VI. COMPONENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

The components of environmental studies are the biotic and abiotic factors that constitute the environment. Biotic factors are the living organisms, such as plants, animals, and microorganisms, that interact with each other and the environment.

Abiotic factors are the non-living elements, such as air, water, soil, minerals, sunlight, temperature, and climate, that influence the biotic factors. The biotic and abiotic factors form the structure and function of the ecosystem, which is the basic unit of environmental studies.

Land resources in environmental studies Land resources are the natural resources that are derived from the land, such as soil, minerals, crops, forests, wildlife, and water. Land resources are essential for human survival, development, and well-being. However, land resources are also subject to degradation, depletion, and conflict due to human activities, such as agriculture, mining, urbanization, deforestation, and pollution. Environmental studies examines the use, management, and conservation of land resources, as well as their impacts on the environment and society.

#### **VII. ENVIRONMENT DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Environment development and sustainability are the concepts that relate the environment to the socio-economic development and the future of humanity. Environment development is the process of improving the quality of life of people without compromising the quality of the environment.

Sustainability is the principle of meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs. Environmental studies explores the interactions, trade-offs, and synergies between environment, development, and sustainability, and seeks to find ways and means to achieve them.

#### **VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

Environmental studies and disaster management are the fields that deal with the prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery of natural and human-induced disasters. Disasters are events that cause severe disruption, damage, and loss to the environment and society. Environmental studies helps to understand the causes, effects, and risks of disasters, as well as the strategies and policies to reduce their impacts and enhance resilience. Disaster management is the application of environmental studies to plan, organize, coordinate, and implement the disaster management cycle.

#### **IX. THE NEED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

The need for environmental studies arises from the growing environmental crisis and the urgent need for sustainable development. The environmental crisis is characterized by the degradation of the environment, the depletion of natural resources, the loss of biodiversity, the increase of pollution, the emergence of new diseases, and the threat of climate change. These environmental problems pose serious challenges to the human health, security, and prosperity. Environmental studies provides the scientific basis, the ethical framework, and the practical solutions for addressing these environmental problems and achieving sustainable development.

### **X. IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

The environment studies enlighten us, about the importance of protection and conservation of environment. At present, due to our aggressive consumerist lifestyle and carbon intensive industrial development we have created a large number of environment issues both in terms of magnitude, intensity and complexity at local, regional and global level. We shall study about these issues and suggestive measures for mitigation in the Environment Studies. Let us discuss major environmental as issues in the following paragraphs:

#### **Environmental Issues Are Of International Importance:-**

It has now been well recognised that environment issues like global warming, climate change, ozone layer depletion, acid rain, marine pollution and loss of biodiversity are not merely national issues but are global issues and hence must be tackled with international efforts and cooperation.

#### **Emergence Of Problems In The Wake Of Modernisation& Development:-**

Development in the modern period has given birth to industrialisation, urbanization, modern transportation systems, Agriculture, Housing etc. When the West developed, it did so perhaps in ignorance of the environmental impact of its activities. Evidently such a path is neither practicable nor desirable. The developing world now faces the challenge of developing without environmental degradation.

#### **Explosive Increase In Population: -**

World census reflects that one in every seven persons in this planet lives in India. Evidently with 16 per cent of the world's population and only 2.4 per cent of its land area, there is a heavy pressure on the natural resources including land. This emphasizes on the need for efficient management of natural resources for the benefits of all.

#### **Need For An Alternative Solution:-**

It is essential, especially for developing countries to find alternative paths to developmental goal. Such a goal would need to be distinct from the developed world in the manner that would conserve natural resources and avoid wasteful consumption.

#### **Need For Wise Planning Of Development:-**

Resources withdrawal, processing and use of the products have all to be synchronised with the ecological cycles in any plan of development. Our actions should be planned for the sustenance of the environment and development.

### **XI. ANALYSIS**

Our environment provides a wide range of benefits, such as the air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink, as well as the many materials needed in our homes, at work and for leisure activities. But a lot of what comes from the environment, and its chemical, physical and biological components, is taken for granted. For example, nature can prevent flooding by storing water, keep our water clean by processing and diluting pollutants, and provide enjoyment, inspiration and a place to socialise. The environment is often managed to extract or create products that can be sold, but this can be at the expense of other benefits that are equally important.

### **XII. CONCLUSION**

Environmental studies is a multidisciplinary and holistic field of study that systematically studies the environment and its issues from a human-oriented perspective. Environmental studies integrates knowledge from the natural sciences, the humanities, and the social sciences to understand, analyse, evaluate, and address the causes, consequences, and solutions of environmental problems. Environmental studies also explores the values, ethics, and policies that guide the human-environment relationship and the environmental decision-making and governance processes. Environmental studies is an interdisciplinary and applied field that covers various topics and themes related to the environment and sustainability. Environmental studies is an important and relevant field of study that offers various benefits and advantages for the well-being and survival of humans and other living beings.

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