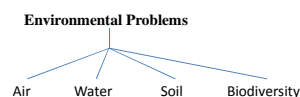


ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Environmental Policy

The commitment of the Government on abatement of pollution for preventing deterioration of the environment is called as Environmental Policy.

The policy elements seek to shift emphasis from defining objectives for each problem area towards actual implementation including long term vision document to forecast the sustainable utilization of natural resources.



Need

- Demonstrate the organization's commitment to improving its environmental performance
- Communicate the organization's mission, vision and beliefs towards the environment to the staff and other interested parties
- Provide a framework for guiding the organization's ongoing environmental improvement efforts.

Objectives

- Prevent pollution at source
- Encourage, develop and apply the best available technical solutions
- Ensure that the polluter pays for the pollution and control arrangement
- Focus protection on heavily polluted areas and river stretches
- Involve the public in decision making

Environmental Standards

- The present standards are based on the concentrations of pollutants in effluents and emission. The norms will be revised to lay down mass-based standards, which will set specific limits to encourage the minimization of waste, promote recycling and reuse of materials as well as conservation of natural resources.
- Standards will not merely be a regulatory tool but will be a mechanism to promote technological upgradation to prevent pollution, conserve resources and regulate waste. For this purpose, code of practice and guidelines will be evolved for specific processes.

- The environmental effects from production to disposal of product that are hazardous and toxic will be taken into account in the regulations.
- Regulations of liability and compensation for damages will supplement standards to promote greater care and caution, particularly the management of hazardous wastes and remedial action in case of contamination of soil and ground water.

Fiscal Measures

□ This is another step to give industries and consumers clear signals about the cost of using environmental and natural resources. The expectation is that market-oriented price mechanisms will influence behaviour to avoid excessive use of natural resources.

□ There are several fiscal incentives for installation of pollution control equipment and for shifting polluting industries from congested areas. The items for which excise and customs rebate are allowed will be reviewed. This will stimulate the advancement of abatement technologies and create increased demand for the products.

□ Economic instruments will be investigated to encourage the shift from curative to preventive measures, internalize the costs of pollution and conserve resources. A direct economic signal is offered by an effluent charge based on the nature and volume of releases to the environment. The level will be based on the cost of treatment and the flow discharged, in order to provide an incentive to set-up treatment plants.

□ These instruments will also have a distributive effect as the revenues will be used for enforcement, collective treatment facilities, research and promoting new investment.

Integration

Critical pollution areas for control of pollution come under different departments and levels of Government. Sectoral Ministries, state government, local bodies and agencies responsible for planning and implementation of development projects will be required to integrate environmental concerns more effectively in all policy areas.

Policy making, legislation and law enforcement influence each other. The increase in the number of regulations increases difficulties in enforcement. Legislation regulating particular activities will be amended to incorporate and eliminate clashes with environmental criteria.

Traditional instruments for monitoring of compliance and investigation of offences are becoming over-burdened. An integrated overview and organizational structure for decentralized environment impact assessment and environmental law enforcement based on cooperation with local authorities will be sought.

Environmental Audit

❖ Industrial concerns and local bodies should feel they have a responsibility for abatement of pollution.

❖ The procedure of an environmental statement will be introduced in local bodies, statutory authorities and public limited companies to evaluate the effect of their policies, operations and activities on the environment, particularly compliance with standards and the generation and recycling of waste.

❖ An annual statement will help in

- identifying and focusing attention on areas of concern
- practices that need to be changed and
- plans to deal with adverse effects.

Environmental Statistics

The collection and integration of environmental, economic and health data will be done to determine the status and to develop a concise set of environmental indicators for monitoring the effects of pollution. Information and access to the public are essential so that everyone knows what is happening to the environment.

Public Partnership

□ The public must be made aware in order to be able to make informed choices.

□ A high governmental priority will be to educate citizens about environmental risks, the economic and health dangers of resource degradation and the real cost of natural resources.

□ A system of certification of goods that are environmentally friendly will set up to make available information to encourage environmental consciousness amongst consumers.

□ Greater emphasis will be placed on promoting awareness.

Environmental laws

In the Constitution of India it is clearly stated that it is the duty of the state to 'protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country'.

It imposes a duty on every citizen 'to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife'.

Reference to the environment has also been made in the Directive Principles of State Policy as well as the Fundamental Rights.

The Department of Environment was established in India in 1980 to ensure a healthy environment for the country. This later became the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1985.

The constitutional provisions are backed by a number of laws – acts, rules, and notifications.

The EPA (Environment Protection Act), 1986 came into force soon after the Bhopal Gas Tragedy and is considered an umbrella legislation as it fills many gaps in the existing laws. Thereafter a large number of laws came into existence as the problems began arising, for example, Handling and Management of Hazardous Waste Rules in 1989.

Environmental Policy In India

During the British Reign in India:

- **Shore Nuisance (Bombay and Kolaba) Act, 1853**
- **The Indian Penal Code, 1860**
- **The Indian Easements Act, 1882**
- **The Fisheries Act, 1897**
- **The Factories Act, 1897**
- **The Bengal Smoke Nuisance Act, 1905**
- **The Bombay Smoke Nuisance Act, 1912**
- **The Elephant's Preservation Act, 1879**
- **Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, 1912**

Environmental Policy In India

Modern India

- **National Council for Environmental Policy and Planning was set up in 1972 which was later evolved into Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) in 1985.**
- **MoEF and the pollution control boards (CPCB i.e. Central Pollution Control Board and SPCBs i.e. State Pollution Control Boards) together form the regulatory and administrative core of the sector.**

- **The Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution and the National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development were brought out by the MoEF in 1992.**

- **The EAP (Environmental Action Programme) was formulated in 1993 with the objective of improving environmental services and integrating environmental considerations into development programmes.**

National Environment Policy, 2006

- **It the first initiative in strategy-formulation for environmental protection in a comprehensive manner.**
- **It undertakes a diagnosis of the causative factors of land degradation with a view to flagging the remedial measures required in this direction.**
- **It recognizes that the relevant fiscal, tariffs and sectoral policies need to take explicit account of their unintentional impacts on land degradation.**

- **The solutions offered to tackle the problem comprise adoption of both, science-based and traditional land-use practices, pilot-scale demonstrations, large scale dissemination, adoption of Multi-stakeholder partnerships, promotion of agro-forestry, organic farming, environmentally sustainable cropping patterns and adoption of efficient irrigation techniques.**

Following is a list of the environmental legislations that have come into effect:

General

1986 - The Environment (Protection) Act authorizes the central government to protect and improve environmental quality, control and reduce pollution from all sources, and prohibit or restrict the setting and /or operation of any industrial facility on environmental grounds.

1986 - The Environment (Protection) Rules lay down procedures for setting standards of emission or discharge of environmental pollutants.

1989 - The objective of Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules is to control the generation, collection, treatment, import, storage, and handling of hazardous waste.

1989 - The Manufacture, Storage, and Import of Hazardous Rules define the terms used in this context, and sets up an authority to inspect, once a year, the industrial activity connected with hazardous chemicals and isolated storage facilities.

1989 - The Manufacture, Use, Import, Export, and Storage of hazardous Micro-organisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells Rules were introduced with a view to protect the environment, nature, and health, in connection with the application of gene technology and microorganisms.

1991 - The Public Liability Insurance Act and Rules and Amendment, 1992 was drawn up to provide for public liability insurance for the purpose of providing immediate relief to the persons affected by accident while handling any hazardous substance.

1995 - The National Environmental Tribunal Act has been created to award compensation for damages to persons, property, and the environment arising from any activity involving hazardous substances.

1997 - The National Environment Appellate Authority Act has been created to hear appeals with respect to restrictions of areas in which classes of industries etc. are carried out or prescribed subject to certain safeguards under the EPA.

1998 - The Biomedical waste (Management and Handling) Rules is a legal binding on the health care institutions to streamline the process of proper handling of hospital waste such as segregation, disposal, collection, and treatment.

1999 - The Environment (Siting for Industrial Projects) Rules, 1999 lay down detailed provisions relating to areas to be avoided for siting of industries, precautionary measures to be taken for site selecting as also the aspects of environmental protection which should have been incorporated during the implementation of the industrial development projects.

2000 - The Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 apply to every municipal authority responsible for the collection, segregation, storage, transportation, processing, and disposal of municipal solid wastes.

2000 - The Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules have been laid down for the regulation of production and consumption of ozone depleting substances.

2001 - The Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001 rules shall apply to every manufacturer, importer, re-conditioner, assembler, dealer, auctioneer, consumer, and bulk consumer involved in the manufacture, processing, sale, purchase, and use of batteries or components so as to regulate and ensure the environmentally safe disposal of used batteries.

2002 - The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) (Amendment) Rules lay down such terms and conditions as are necessary to reduce noise pollution, permit use of loud speakers or public address systems during night hours (between 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight) on or during any cultural or religious festive occasion

2002 - The Biological Diversity Act is an act to provide for the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and knowledge associated with it

Forest and wildlife

1927 - The Indian Forest Act and Amendment, 1984, is one of the many surviving colonial statutes. It was enacted to 'consolidate the law related to forest, the transit of forest produce, and the duty leviable on timber and other forest produce'.

1972 - The Wildlife Protection Act, Rules 1973 and Amendment 1991 provides for the protection of birds and animals and for all matters that are connected to it whether it be their habitat or the waterhole or the forests that sustain them.

1980 - The Forest (Conservation) Act and Rules, 1981, provides for the protection of and the conservation of the forests.

Water

1882 - The Easement Act allows private rights to use a resource that is, groundwater, by viewing it as an attachment to the land. It also states that all surface water belongs to the state and is a state property.

1897 - The Indian Fisheries Act establishes two sets of penal offences whereby the government can sue any person who uses dynamite or other explosive substance in any way (whether coastal or inland) with intent to catch or destroy any fish or poisonous fish in order to kill.

1956 - The River Boards Act enables the states to enroll the central government in setting up an Advisory River Board to resolve issues in inter-state cooperation.

1970 - The Merchant Shipping Act aims to deal with waste arising from ships along the coastal areas within a specified radius.

1974 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act establishes an institutional structure for preventing and abating water pollution. It establishes standards for water quality and effluent. Polluting industries must seek permission to discharge waste into effluent bodies. The CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) was constituted under this act.

1977 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act provides for the levy and collection of cess or fees on water consuming industries and local authorities.

1978 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Rules contains the standard definitions and indicate the kind of and location of meters that every consumer of water is required to affix.

1991 - The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification puts regulations on various activities, including construction, are regulated. It gives some protection to the backwaters and estuaries.

Air

1948 - The Factories Act and Amendment in 1987 was the first to express concern for the working environment of the workers. The amendment of 1987 has sharpened its environmental focus and expanded its application to hazardous processes.

1981 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act provides for the control and abatement of air pollution. It entrusts the power of enforcing this act to the CPCB .

1982 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules defines the procedures of the meetings of the Boards and the powers entrusted to them.

1982 - The Atomic Energy Act deals with the radioactive waste.

1987 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act empowers the central and state pollution control boards to meet with grave emergencies of air pollution.

1988 - The Motor Vehicles Act states that all hazardous waste is to be properly packaged, labeled, and transported.

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

CONTENTS

- Human development.
- Need of sustainable development.
- Environmental ethical issues.
- Resource consumption pattern.
- Need of equitable utilization.
- Equity disparity.
 - a) Western and Eastern countries.
 - b) Urban and Rural equity issues.
 - c) Gender equity.
- Suggestions.

Human Development

- ❖ **Economical status is considered as human development**
- ❖ **Due to industrialisation at early stages world got divided into developed and underdeveloped countries**



Causes of pollution



Sustainable development

Sustainable development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own Needs.

Environmental ethics

- Environmental ethics deals with issues related to the **rights of individuals** that are fundamental to **life and well being**. This concerns not only the needs of each person today, but also **those who will come after us**. It also deals with the rights of **other living creatures** that inhabit **on earth**.

Resource consumption pattern

- Environmental destruction is largely caused by the consumption of the rich.
- The worst sufferers of environmental destruction are the poor
- Even where nature is being 'used' it is being taken away from the needs of the poor and towards those of the rich.
- Even among the poor, the worst sufferers are the backward cultures and occupations, and most of all, women.

Cont...

- If we care for the poor, we cannot allow the Gross Nature Product to be destroyed any further. Conserving and recreating nature has become our highest priority
- The well educated urban dweller consumes much larger quantities of resources and energy

Source: Annual Environment Report of India, 2009

WORLD'S ENERGY CONSUMPTION PATTERN

COUNTRY	POPULATION*	ENERGY USE*
USA	305	26.6
EU-27	499	20.2
CHINA	1333	24.8
MIDDLE EAST	199	6.9
LATIN AMERICA	462	6.7
AFRICA	194	7.7
INDIA	1140	7.2
OTHERS*	1766	42.2

Population- In millions
 Energy Use- 1000 THW (Thw=3.6 megajoules)
 Others-remaining countries in asia n australia like japan, butan, bangladesh,pakistan,etc

Source: IEA/OECD, Population OECD/World Bank

Between Western and Eastern Countries



- Western countries use greater amounts of resources and energy per individual and also waste more resources.
- They have exhausted there own resources and are now exploiting eastern nations at cheaper rates

Urban and Rural

- Rural communities supplying the needs of the urban sector.
- Land of villages is being taken over by the urban and industrial sectors to expand.
- Thus while the cities get richer, the rural sector, especially the landless, get poorer.
- The urban rich must appreciate where their resources are derived from and be willing to pay a fair price for using them.



Gender discrimination

- The ratio of energy consumption of men and women in world is 9:7 And population wise it is 1.1:1
- The conditions are worst in poor and undeveloped societies.
- In India the average time of hard work done by a Woman is 1.75 times greater than Man.



SOME SUGGESTIONS

- While conserving resources these ethic issues must be considered.
- There must be equitable use of resources over the Globe.
- Conservation of nature should start at individual level.

Some Do's and Dont's

- Choose products with limited packaging.
- Donate used books and magazines to schools, hospitals, or libraries.
- Participate in the events that highlight the need for creating Sanctuaries and National Parks.
- Do not present flower bouquets instead give a potted plant.
- Do not disturb, tease, hurt or throw stones at animals in a Protected Area and stop others from doing so.

Cont..

- No wildlife products should be used.
- Use a pressure cooker as much as possible to save energy
- Get your family to eat together, it will save re-heating fuel.
- Try using public transport systems like trains and buses as far as possible
- Do not use unnecessary outdoor decorative lights.
- Do not put food in the refrigerator when they are still hot.
- Each one teach one about conservation of environment

Environmental Ethics

- Environmental ethics is the discipline in philosophy that studies the moral relationship of human beings to, and also the value and moral status of, the environment and its nonhuman contents.
 - Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Different Foci of Environmental Ethics

- 1. Anthropocentric
 - Human centered
 - The environment has value only for what it can provide for us

Value of Environment

- Instrumental Value
 - The environment has value because it helps people to reach some end
 - Food
 - Shelter
 - Clothing
 - Medicine
 - Entertainment

Ecosystem Services

- Ecosystem Services are the processes by which the environment produces resources that we often take for granted such as clean water, timber, and habitat for fisheries, and pollination of native and agricultural plants.

Ecological Society of America

Ecosystem Services

- moderate weather extremes and their impacts
- disperse seeds
- mitigate drought and floods
- protect people from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays
- cycle and move nutrients
- protect stream and river channels and coastal shores from erosion
- detoxify and decompose wastes
- control agricultural pests
- maintain biodiversity
- generate and preserve soils and renew their fertility
- contribute to climate stability
- purify the air and water
- regulate disease carrying organisms
- pollinate crops and natural vegetation

Value of Ecosystem Services

- In the 1990s a group of ecologists attempted to estimate the monetary value of ecosystem services
 - Estimates ranged from 18 – 52 trillion dollars!
 - Mean- 33 trillion
- Equal to 1.8 times the GDP of the USA

Frontier Ethic

- A frontier ethic assumes that the earth has an unlimited supply of resources.
- If resources run out in one area, more can be found elsewhere or alternatively human ingenuity will find substitutes.
- This attitude sees humans as masters who manage the planet.

Cnx.org

Judeo-Christian Ethic

Genesis 1 28

And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and **subdue** it; and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Different Foci of Environmental Ethics

- 2. Biocentric ethic
 - views all life as possessing intrinsic value.
- Intrinsic value
 - Aspects of the environment have inherent value just because they exist

<http://www.carroll.edu/msmillie/envethics/biocentric.htm>

Biocentric Ethic

- an individualistic biocentric ethic recognizes intrinsic value in every living thing
- a holistic biocentric ethic recognizes species or aggregates of living things
 - species are not living, so some argue that it is not possible to have holistic approach because "species" are not living

Biocentric Ethic

- An egalitarian biocentric ethic accords equal value to all living things
- A nonegalitarian biocentric ethic would give greater value to certain living things over others.



Foci of Environmental Ethics

- Ecocentric ethic
 - All aspects of the environment, both living and non-living, have inherent value



Land Ethic

- Developed by American Aldo Leopold
 - Sand County Almanac- 1939
- Leopold thought that ethics direct individuals to cooperate with each other for the mutual benefit of all.
- He argued that this 'community' should be enlarged to include non-human elements such as soils, waters, plants, and animals, "or collectively: the land".

Aldo Leopold



Leopold On His Farm in Wisconsin



Leopold Quotes

- "That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics."
- "A land ethic, then, reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of land."

Stewardship Ethic

- The Stewardship Ethic claims that because they have superior intellect, it is ethically correct that humans act as stewards of the land.
- OK, to use earth to provide our needs, but we need to do so in a sustainable manner.
- Sustainability Ethic

Environmentalist Christian View

- More recently some Christians and Christian groups have argued that "dominion" should be interpreted to mean "stewardship"



Deep Ecology

- Deep ecology is a contemporary ecological philosophy that recognizes an inherent worth of other beings, aside from their utility. The philosophy emphasizes the interdependence of organisms within ecosystems and that of ecosystems with each other within the biosphere.
- Norwegian Arne Naes- 1970s



Wikipedia

Deep Ecology

- Core principle is the belief that, like humanity, the living environment as a whole has the same right to live and flourish.
- Deep ecology describes itself as "deep" because it persists in asking deeper questions concerning "why" and "how" and thus is concerned with the fundamental philosophical questions about the impacts of human life as one part of the ecosphere, rather than with a narrow view of ecology as a branch of biological science.

Ecofeminism

- **Ecofeminism** is a social and political movement which points to the existence of considerable common ground between environmentalism and feminism with some currents linking deep ecology and feminism.



Wikipedia

Ecofeminism

- Ecofeminists argue that important experiential, theoretical, and linguistic parallels exist between the oppression and subordination of women and nature in Western cultural tradition through the transformation of differences into culturally constructed conceptual binaries and ideological hierarchies that allow a systematic justification of domination ("power-over power") by subjects classed into higher-ranking categories over objects classed into lower-ranking categories (e.g. man over woman, culture over nature)

