PGSO S3 01
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Environmental Sociology

SEMESTER III

SOCIOLOGY

BLOCK : 1

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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Unit 5: Culture, Gender and Environment:

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

The course **'Environmental Sociology'** introduces a specialised field of Sociology dealing with the Environment. It intends to familiarize the learners with some of the basic concepts in Environmental Sociology. Its objective is to make the learners understand about the human-nature interaction and the contemporary environmental issues.

The course comprises of 13 units and are divided into two blocks. The first block consists of the first seven units and the second block consists of the remaining six units. **Unit 1- Unit 8** discusses mostly the different concepts and theoretical perspectives in Environmental Sociology **Unit 9-13** mostly focuses on environmental problems. **Unit 1** helps the learner to understand the basic concepts like Environment, Eco-System and Ecology. **Unit 2** describes the emergence of Environmental sociology and explains its scope and its emergence in India. **Unit 3** discusses the different theoretical perspectives. **Unit 4** deliberates on the different types of Environmentalism. **Unit 5** discusses about the relationship between Culture, Gender and Environment. **Unit 6** discuses about Sustainable Development. **Unit 7** deliberates on the different types of natural resources and their utilization. **Unit 8** discusses about different environmental issues and problems. **Unit 9** discusses about two very serious environmental concerns of our time i.e Global Warming and Climate Change. **Unit 10** critically discusses how development and modernisation is posing threat to the environment. **Unit 11** talks about the different environmental movements. **Unit 12** focuses on environmental ethics and environmental laws. **Unit 13** discusses about the different environmental problems of the Northeastern region of India.

The course on Environmental Sociology aims to make the learners more sensitive towards the environment. After going through the entire course, the learner shall get a detailed understanding of the basic concepts and theoretical perspectives of Environmental Sociology. They would also be able to critically analyse the contemporary environmental issues and problems. Further, they would also know about the various laws. policies and measures to protect and preserve the environment.

BLOCK INTRODUCTION

This is the first block of the paper titled 'Environmental Sociology' of M.A Sociology 3rd Semester Programme of Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University. This block intends to provide the learners a basic understanding regarding one of the specialised fields of Sociology i.e Environmental Sociology. After reading this block, the learners will be able to understand the different aspects of Environmental Sociology Unit 1 will explain the learners, some of the basic concepts like environmental, eco-system and ecology. The learners will also get to know about various ecological perspectives in this unit. Unit 2 shall explain to the learner why environment is a sociological issue and why and how environmental sociology emerged as a separate field of study in sociology. Unit 3 shall discuss the different theoretical perspectives such as Marxism, Gandhism, Ecological Marxists, Ecofeminism, Anthropocentrism, and New Ecological Paradigm (NEP). Unit 4 shall deal with the concept of Environmentalism and the different types of environmentalism like Deep Ecology, Social Ecology, and Radical Ecology. Unit 5 while discussing about the relationship between Culture, Gender and Environment shall focus on the how social structure is related to environment. Unit 6 shall discuss the concept of sustainable development, indicators of sustainable development and various Acts for protection of environment. Unit 7 shall discuss about different types of natural resource such as commons, water resource and forest resource and the issues pertaining to their access, control and distribution.

While going through the units of the block, you will find that unit is further divided into certain sections and sub-sections, wherever necessary, for your better understanding. Again, the units carry certain *activities* after a particular section where needed. These "ACTIVITIES" will provide you the opportunity to practically apply your own thoughts based on the knowledge gained from reading the text in a particular section. Besides, in order to give you additional information on certain relevant topics, you will find a category called "LET US KNOW" after the sections in each unit. Another category that has been included at the end of each section of a particular unit is "CHECK YOUR PROGRESS". The purpose of this category is to help you to asses for yourself as to how thoroughly you have understood a particular section. You may then match your answers with "ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS" given at the end of each unit. The section "FURTHER READING" in each unit contains the names of a few books, which you might want to consult if you are interested in learning more elaborately about the concepts discussed in a particular unit. Furthermore, the category called "POSSIBLE QUESTIONS" is intended to give you a hint of the type of questions you are likely to get in the examination.