PGSO S3 01
Exam. Code: EVS

Environmental Sociology

SEMESTER III

SOCIOLOGY

BLOCK : 2

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Subject Experts

Professor Chandan Kumar Sharma, Tezpur Central University

Dr. Sanjay Barbora, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati

Course Co-ordinator: Dola Borkataki, KKHSOU

SLM Preparation Team

UNITS	CONTRIBUTORS
8,10,11	Tanay Choudhury, OKDISC
12	Tanay Choudhury, OKDISC
	Ankur Deka, OKDISC
9, 13	Ankur Deka, OKDISC

Editorial Team

Content : Dr. Sambit Mallick, IIT, Guwahati

Language : Dr. Abhigyan Prasad, B.Barooah College, Guwahati

Structure, Format & Graphics : Dola Borkataki, KKHSOU

August, 2019

This Self Learning Material (SLM) of the Krishna Kanta Handiqui State University is made available under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-ShareAlike4.0 License (International): http.//creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0.

Printed and published by Registrar on behalf of the Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University.

Head Office : Patgaon, Rani Gate, Guwahati-781 017;

City Office : Housefed Complex, Dispur, Guwahati-781 006; Website: www.kkhsou.in

The University acknowledges with thanks the financial support provided by the **Distance Education Bureau, UGC**, for the preparation of this study material.

CONTENTS

Unit 8: Environmental Issues and Problems:
Contemporary Environmental Problems: Meaning and Definition, Water Pollution, Deforestation, Urban Waste and Solid waste disposal, Slums, Sanitation, Technological Waste, Importing Waste Exporting Waste

Unit 9: Global Warming and Climate Change:

Climate Change: Meaning and Definition, Global Warming: Meaning, Definition and Causes, Impact of Global Warming and Climate Change, Projections of future changes in climate, Examples of impact of global warming , Projected future impacts of Global Warming and Climate Change, Ways to mitigate and tackle Global Warming induced Climate Change

Unit 10: Environment, Development and Modernisation:

Development and its implications on the environment, Construction of roads, buildings and destruction of greenery, Development, modernisation and threat to the environment, Issues pertaining to air as a result of development activities, Construction of Dams and its effects, Role of MNCs, Issues pertaining to soil,
Bio-Diversity Conservation

Unit 11: Environmental Movements:

Causes of Environmental Movements, State power and Developmental Ideology, Different Environmental Movements and Politics of Movements

Unit 12: Environmental Ethics and Environmental Laws:

Meaning and Concept of Environmental Ethics, Factors and Events that paved the way for Environment Ethics and law, Consensus Regarding Environmental Ethics, Consensus as Regards to Practical Issues**,** Initiatives of International Agencies to Protect and Preserve the Environment , Stockholm Conference, The Brundtland Commission, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), The Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement

Unit 13: Environmental Issues in Northeast India:

Colonial Era Policies, Post-colonial Environmental Issues, Mining of coal, Destruction of forest and shrinkage of forest cover, Deterioration of water quality, Depleting Wetlands, Soil Erosion, Construction of Dams, Extinction of Species, Why are the species endangered?, Exploitation of natural resources and biodiversity conservation

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 second 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 8 discusses the contemporary environmental problems like pollution, deforestation, so on and so forth. Unit 9 discusses about causes behind climate change and global warming, their impact and ways to mitigate them. Unit 10 explains how the obssession to growth and development has led to destruction of the environment. The unit will help the learners to develop a critical perspective on the developmental projects of modern society and how it poses threat to the environment. Unit 11 discusses about the causes behind environmental movements, different environmental movements in India so on and so forth. Unit 12 explains the concept of Environmental Ethics and various international initiatives to protect the environment. Unit 13 discusses environmental problems and issues such as destruction of forests, depletion of wetlands, extinction of species so on and so forth in the context of Northeast India.

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 intereted 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.