GEVSDM S4
Exam code: EVS

Environmental Studies and Disaster Management

SEMESTER - IV

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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First Publish : Sept, 2010 (Reprint : January, 2013, 2015; December, 2015)
New Edition: May, 2018 (Reprint : December, 2018)

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

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

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

Environmental and Disaster are the two most discussed terms in the world today. All living and non-living things we see around us contribute a part to our environment. But our invironment is subjected to ruthless destruction leading to many problems and even to disasters. Disaster is an event of occurrence due to natural as well as human-induced factors. Generally, it happens without any warning or with a warning of a very short period of time. All disasters cannot be prevented, but if with adequate planning and prior preparations, the impact of disasters can be minimized to a large extent. Therefore, in order to resolve these problems, conservation of the environment is of utmost importance. It is also necessary to study disaster management. On the other hand, environment conservation and disaster management are possible only if the general people are made aware about them. Therefore, the university has included a course on "Environmental Studies and Disaster Management" in its graduate programme. The course has been divided into seven units for the benefit of discussion:

Unit 1 : Concept of Environmental Studies
Unit 2 : Natural Resources
Unit 3 : Ecosystem
Unit 4 : Biodiversity and Its Conservation
Unit 5 : Environmental Pollution
Unit 6 : Concept of Disaster
Unit 7 : Disaster Management

In unit 1, you will read about the nature and scope of environmental studies, its definition, importance, objectives, multidisciplinary character and the environmental principles. Besides, you will also come to know about the importance of public awareness about environmental conservation. In unit 2, you will read about natural resources and how their proper use can be beneficial for the development of mankind. Unit 3 will acquaint you with the ecosystem and the various topics associated with it, like food chain, food web, energy flow, ecological pyramid etc. Unit 4 includes biodiversity and various factors associated with its conservation. In unit 5, you will read about the causes of environmental pollution, its sources and its effects. Units 6 and 7 will give you an idea about disaster, its types and how to combat it, i.e. disaster management.

While going through a unit, you will notice some boxes, containing such information as would help you to understand some of the difficult, unfamiliar terms. You will find an item called "ACTIVITY' where you will apply your knowledge and thoughts in some questions pertaining to the relevant topic. Again, we have included some relevant concepts in "LET US KNOW" along with the text. And, at the end of each seection, you will get "CHECK YOUR PROGRESS" questions. These have been designed to self-check your progress of study. It will be better if you solve the problems put in these boxes immediately after you go through the sections of the units and then match your answers with "ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS" given at the end of each unit.