

A simple and comprehensive text on

ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

[Mahatma Gandhi University B.A Economics Semester V]

Dr. Siby Abraham
Dr. A P Philip



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PREFACE

ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY
(B.A. ECONOMICS SEMESTER V)

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CONTENTS

Chapter 1.1.	Introduction	INT	1-3
Chapter 1.2.	Environment, Resources and Energy	ERE	1-45
Chapter 2.1.	Economics and Environment	EE	1-33
Chapter 2.2.	Bio-diversity	BD	1-24
Chapter 3.1.	Social Issues and Environment	SIE	1-10
Chapter 3.2.	Environmental Pollution	EP	1-21
Chapter 4.1.	Waste Management	WM	1-15
Chapter 4.2.	Environment laws	EPL	1-10
Chapter 5.1.	Human Rights	HR	1-29

Environmental studies is inter-disciplinary and involves the study of the interactions among the components of the environment with a focus on environmental pollution and degradation. Thus, 'environment studies' comprises various branches of disciplines like chemistry, physics, life sciences, medical science, agriculture, public health, geography, geology, atmospheric science, etc.

Environmental studies basically aims to find methods for sustainable existence of natural systems without any harm so that the future generations also can enjoy this beautiful earth and its resources. The relevance of the discipline is increasing day by day due to the fast industrial and economic growth leading to rapid environmental degradations and related problems.

People, especially in urban areas, are highly exposed to industrial pollutions and environmental threats. They live in landscapes heavily modified by construction works and similar developmental activities. At the same time, people in rural areas are also causing environmental degradations by intensive agricultural operations, overdependence on forests, grasslands, rivers and seashores for their living. Modern societies began to find out easy answers to the question of producing more resources for the growing requirement and consumption which started causing irreversible environmental degradation. For example, increasing food production by using fertilizers and pesticides, dams for irrigation and power, construction of huge business complexes, etc., are inevitable for growth and development. However, these types of activities cause irreversible environmental harm too.

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