

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO UTTARAKHAND

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Abstract :

Environmental issues are the main issues now a day. People all over world are facing problems of global warming. 6000 to 8000 million tones of carbon dioxide adds into our global environment every year. In Uttarakhand, people use to fire the forests, dry trees, leaves and grass every year as per old mythological story. Even Government warnings, people do not stop and continue for the same act in the valley and forests. Use of Poly bags are also creating environmental issues. Safe environment shall be great beneficial for people of Uttarakhand.

Environmental Management System (EMS)

We all want a clean place to live, clean water to drink, clean air to breathe, to live in a world that is aesthetically pleasing. We also want the benefits of modern industrialization. We want to drive in cars, have the habits of using electrical & electronic appliances, walk on clean pathways. This habit is a paradox because in one side we want comfort by all means and in another side we want the purified and safe environment. Industrial development always create harm to the environment. There are the challenges to the State Government as well as Central Government, how to minimize the risk of environmental degradation.

The general meaning of Environment is surrounding. In general, the environment is equated with nature wherein physical components of the planet earth – land , air water etc., support and affect life in the biosphere. It is physical components of the earth wherein man is an important factor affecting the environment. Our immediate concern is the quality of space we live in , than air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink and the resources we draw from the environment to support our economy. Environment includes various type of forces such as physical, intellectual , social, moral, economic, political, cultural and emotional.

With rapidly growing population and increasing human aspirations, also the development of science and technology which have provided us with totally new ways of doing the things, the environment is a subject of concern as how much we are deriving from it and how much we are able to contribute towards the conservation of its sanctity. Environment is not of static existence it changes from time to time and place to place, some times gradually or else vigorously. The sudden environmental changes may not suit all the creatures. Those who could not adapt these variations vanished with time, the giant dinosaur's disappearance is an example.

Now, for environmental issues in Uttarakhand are being created by development of industrialization, cuttings of trees, deforestation, destroy of natural resources and environment by the tourists visited so many places in Uttarakhand, to some extent people are unaware about environmental issues due to illiteracy and ease of living style, in-active control works by local administration, etc.

It is very essential to create awareness of all concerned towards up-keep of environment; otherwise whole human existence will be a question. Through large scale environmental education, it is possible to develop awareness towards environment. The objectives of environmental education are –

- Creating the awareness about environmental problems among people

- Imparting basic knowledge about environment and its allied problems
- Developing an attitude of concern for the environment
- Motivating the public to participate in environmental protection and environment
- Acquiring skills to help concerned individuals in identifying and solving environmental problems
- Striving to attain harmony with nature.

It is not only about how much the hilly regions of Uttarakhand State are warming, it is also about how fast these places are warming. There have been natural environment changes. The global warming we experience is not a natural occurrence and that is not brought on by natural causes.

Global warming is temperature rise of the earth. It happens when greenhouse gases trap heat and light from the sun in the earth's atmosphere, which increases temperature of earth. This hurt many persons, animals, and plants of this region.

Due to global warming, many glaciers of Himalaya region and especially Uttarakhand State are melting. What we see heavy rains and cloud bursting to a particular hilly areas during the last thirty to forty years, is due to global warming.

The oceans are also affected by global warming. Many things that are happening to the ocean are linked to global warming. One thing that is happening is warm water, caused from global warming, is harming and killing algae in the ocean. The global warming is also destroying many huge forests. The pollution that causes global warming is linked to acid rain. Acid rain gradually destroys almost everything it touches. Global warming is also causing many more fires that wipe out whole forests. In forests, some plants and trees leaves can be so dry that they catch on fire. What we have seen during the last ten years, due to illiteracy and not properly motivated by local administrations, in many regions and forests, people use to fire the dry leaves and forests during the month of April to June months in the Uttarakhand. These are causing great harm to the forests and directly environment of the region.

We can see the reports and news published in 'Amar Ujala; News paper Dehradun Issue on 13.4.2024 and 21.4.2024, the situation caused due to fire in many places of Uttarakhand State, are very grim and need to think and to analyze at grass-root level and all levels of local administration :-

The growth of human populations, consumption levels, and mobility is the root of the most of the serious threats to biodiversity today. The main threats to our biodiversity are –

- I. Climate change
- II. Inappropriate fire regimes
- III. Changes in aquatic environment and water flow
- IV. Spread of invasive species
- V. Unsustainable use of natural resources
- VI. Loss, fragmentation and degradation of habitat, etc.

“In every district and concerned local body, sewage – whether municipal, industrial or domestic – is being discharged in River Ganga directly or through its tributaries and, thereby, causing pollution,” the Tribunal added, noting the report. (26 Feb, 2024)

The climate change in the Himalayas has resulted in irregular precipitation, temperature rise, drying up of perennial rivers, depletion of natural resources, and an increase in the frequency and intensity of flash floods.

For conserving forest reserves, Uttarakhand Govt. have already framed policies :

Uttarakhand Forest Policy, 2001: * The foremost objective of State forest policy is to provide environmental stability and ecological balance. In comparison to the fulfillment of this main objective the derivation of economic

benefit from forests is only a secondary objective, * To prepare the strategy and work plan in regard to conserve and promote the existent biodiversity, and wild life and its implementation, * Mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants and restoring the fragile ecosystem of Uttarakhand by checking the reckless exploitation of medicinal plants, unsustainable harvesting practices, lack of focus on cultivation, absence of robust market mechanism, illegal trade, loss of traditional knowledge , inadequate coordination at the administrative level and overlapping jurisdiction of various departments * Development of natural and planted forests in the State as well as all other different kinds of plants through conservation, promotion, prudent and scientific management * Efforts will be made to increase the existing forest area and productivity of trees. * Efforts will be made to bridge the gap between demand and supply of fuel wood, fodder, minor forest produce including medicinal plants, and timber for the weaker sections and local domestic demands.

Uttarakhand Action Plan on Climate Change (UAPCC), 2014 : UPACC has been formulated in accordance with the principles and guidelines of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The UPACC integrates the action plan of Uttarakhand with the ongoing and proposed developmental programmes in the state, and in tandem with the eight national missions along with the principles and guidelines listed out in the NAPCC. Climate change escalates the already existing vulnerabilities social, ecological, economic and cultural) and inequities of Uttarakhand and could manifest disastrously if not addressed adequately. At the same time, the state has already begun a range of initiatives across various sectors for building adaptive resilience to climate change as well as supporting mitigation.

Existing initiatives in the State towards Building Resilience and Mainstreaming Adaptation –

Uttarakhand State, since its creation in the year 2000, has set up institutions and promoted programmes that are bound to facilitate mainstreaming various adaptation measures, build the resilience of vulnerable communities and households, deepen impacts of national missions and /or provide co-benefits through developmental interventions :

- I. Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre (DMMC)
- II. Constitution of 12089 Community Forestry Councils (Van Panchayats) in more than 12000 villages to anchor natural resource-based livelihood programmes, Green India Mission and NM Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystems.
- III. Watershed Management Directorate
- IV. Uttarakhand Space Application Centre (SAC)
- V. Uttarakhand Organic Commodities Board (UOCB)
- VI. Deepening agriculture extension services to sub-block levels
- VII. Crop Insurance Schemes
- VIII. Constitution of Biodiversity Management Committee's (BMCs)

For controlling deforestation and degradation of forest reserve, people and local administrations in Uttarakhand State should adopt control measures :-

- I. Plantation
- II. To spread or implement the work culture for paperless concept
- III. To use recycled products
- IV. Don't use palm oil containing products
- V. To reduce meat consumption
- VI. To control on burning of firewood
- VII. Eco-forestry should be promoted and should be in implementation
- VIII. To raise awareness
- IX. To Report illegal logging,
- X. To make awareness among people living in the region about usefulness of plants and forest
- XI. To frame small-small active groups to spread awareness in society about benefits of forest and how the temperature is increasing day-by-day, etc.

The processes of dismantling and disposing of electronic waste in developing countries led to a number of environmental impacts as illustrated in the graphic. Liquid and atmospheric releases end up in bodies of water, groundwater, soil, and air and therefore in land and sea animals both domesticated and wild, in crops eaten by both animals and human, and in drinking water. We can initiate following action to reduce the impact of e-waste on environment –

- i. Donate old electronics

- ii. Recycle and dispose e-waste properly
- iii. Maintain our electronics equipment
- iv. Repurpose or re-evaluate
- v. Buy energy star rated electronics
- vi. Learn to repair broken electronics at home, etc.

Conclusion

Environment can be preserved and saved not only the efforts of Central Govt. and State Govt. of Uttarakhand, we people have the responsibilities to save tree, forests, animals, water reserve and sources, rivers, organic farming, cultivation of food grains scientifically, remain far from biomedical products, aquatic pollution caused by industrial wastes, follow the government policies, take benefits of various grants and policies following in Uttarakhand State, etc. If environment shall be safe, then we shall be safe.

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