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FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND  
TECHNOLOGY

# Lecture- 12

## Land Resources- Part 2



**Dr. Swati Sachdev,  
Assistant Professor,  
Dept. of Applied Sciences and Humanities**

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# Desertification

As per UNCED- **Desertification** can be defined as land degradation in the arid, semi-arid, and sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities.

Moderate desertification results in 10-25% fall in productivity, severe desertification induces 25-50% reduction while very severe desertification causes more than 50% decrease in productivity.

Desertification includes degradation of the ecosystems within as well as outside the natural deserts.

Characteristics of such areas are:

- Demand for food, fuel and fodder is more than carrying capacity of the land
- Species (floral and faunal) get adapted to survive in such adverse conditions
- Inadequate water resources
- Failure in expected rainfall
- Loss of vegetation cover and low productivity
- Disappearance of susceptible species



# Role of individual in conservation of natural resources

To protect natural resources conservation measures are being taken at National and International level. However, without the efforts of individual, goal cannot be achieved.

Participation of each and every individual is equally important to conserve our resources and environment.

Small droplets of water together form a big ocean. Thus small efforts taken by every individual, together can make a big differences.

Protection and conservation of our resources is not just our responsibility but it's our moral duty.



### ***Steps can be taken at individual level:***

Do not litter waste on roads and other public places.

Do not dump worship offering and other waste in water bodies.

Do not keep taps on while brushing, shaving, etc.

Use bucket instead of shower while bathing and pipes while washing cars.

Car pooling and use of public transport can reduce of energy consumption and prevent pollution.

Conserve electricity by turning lights, fans off when not in use.

Turn off your vehicles on red lights.

Plant more trees and use alternate energy resources.



# Equitable use of resources for sustainable lifestyles

Natural resources are limited and their scarcity can affect human life. In order to sustain natural resources it is important to use them judiciously.

It has been reported that majority of natural resources are consumed by the developed countries.

The per capita (per individual) resources consumption in developed countries is up to 50 times greater than in most developing countries. And even advanced countries produce over 75% of global industrial waste and greenhouse gases.

Due to such inequitable sharing of resources, people living in underdeveloped and developing countries suffer the most.

The inequitable sharing result in poor economy, poverty, less availability of resources and more pollution.

Thus in order to achieve sustainable life styles, equitable sharing of global resources is necessary.

The equitable and fair sharing of resources will narrow down the gap between the rich and the poor and will lead to sustainable development for everyone.



