



Role of an Individual in conservation of Natural Resources



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Conservation of natural resources

As the human population is growing continuously, the consumption of natural resources is also increasing. With the increase of industrialization and urbanization of the modern human society, the use of all these resources is increasing day by day. If these resources are not properly managed and used, there will be a serious scarcity of these resources. So, we need to conserve the natural resources.

Conservation is the proper management of a natural resource to prevent its exploitation, destruction or degradation.....

Why should we conserve natural resources?

- As we know that nature provides all the basic needs which are necessary to us but, we are overexploiting or overusing these resources.
 - if we go on overexploiting the nature, there will be no more resources available in the future.
- So there is an urgent need to conserve the nature. Here are some needs:
 - To maintain ecological balance for supporting life.
 - To preserve different types of biodiversity.
 - To preserve the natural resources for the present and future generations.

What is calling for our attention?

- India as country is blessed with rich natural resources. But from our research on the usage of natural resources in our country, we found that the resources are depleting every day. For example:
 - Forest and arable land is being depleted due to urbanization, overpopulation and overconsumption
 - Wild life resources are being lost due to illegal poaching, hunting and industrialization.
 - Water resources are being contaminated are drying up due to industrialization.

Conservation of natural resources in India:

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- The Government of India has undertaken many measures for the conservation of the resources
 - Regulations and reforms for proper housing and infrastructure development to avoid land acquisition problems.
 - Mass media public service messages to educate the people on the importance of conservation of resources.
 - Increase the wildlife and forest reserves in the country.
 - Schemes to do a proper inventory of the resources and monitor changes in the environment.
 - Various projects and schemes that promote conservation of resources.

**As a responsible citizen, we should
mainly conserve:**



Soil



Water



Biodiversity



Forests

Conservation of soil:

- ❖ Soil conservation measures should aim at preventing or at least minimising the soils loss. In order to do this proper land utilisation coupled with agricultural practices should be adopted.
- Some methods of conserving soil:
 - Crop rotations: Alternatively growing a cereal and a legume in the same field will not only increase the yield, but also increase the fertility of the soil. They also help in checking soil erosion.
 - Mulching: Inter culturing operations will kill weeds and soil mulches help the plants to be rooted firmly in the soil.
 - Strip cropping: This is an agricultural practice of growing plants in suitable strips in the field. This is of the following types.
 - Dry farming method: This may be practised where rainfall is low, indefinite and variable. In dry farming methods only crops are grown that can sustain even a very low rainfall.

Some images of soil conservation:



Mulching



Strip farming



Crop rotation



Dry farming

Conservation of water:

- A step to conserve water is the step to secure the future. The most essential among all the natural resources on earth is water. A drop of water is worth more than a sack of gold for the thirsty man. Water conservation is what that can reduce the scarcity of water. It aims to improve the efficiency of use of water, and reduce losses and waste.
- **Tips to save water :**
Avoid leakage of water from the taps.
- Turn the tap off when not in use especially when you brush your teeth or wash clothes.
- Rainwater harvesting is the another method to conserve water.
- The water supply should be limited in those areas which enjoys the unlimited water supplies.

Technical methods to conserve water :

1. Rainwater Harvesting
2. Historical Water Bodies
3. Ponds

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Conservation of biodiversity:

- Biodiversity provides the base for the livelihoods, cultures and economies of several hundred millions of people, including farmers, fisher folk, forest dwellers and artisans. It provides raw material for a diverse medicinal and health care systems. It also provides the genetic base for the continuous up-gradation of agriculture, fisheries, and for critical discoveries in scientific, industrial and other sectors. The rapid erosion of biodiversity in the last few decades has impacted on the health of the land, water bodies and people.



Measures to conserve biodiversity:

- **1. Legislation:** Formal policies and programmes for conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity resources dates back to several decades.
- **2. In-situ Conservation:** Conserving the animals and plants in their natural habitats is known as in situ conservation.
- **3. Ex-situ Conservation:** Ex-situ conservation of plants and animals preserve/ or protect them away from their natural habitat.
- **Recording Indigenous Knowledge:** The lives of local communities are closely interwoven with their environment, and are dependent upon their immediate resources for meeting their needs. Etc.

Conservation of forests:

- Keeping in view the importance of forests in our life, the people all over the world have stopped unnecessary deforestation. Our Government has also made laws to prevent unnecessary felling of trees. Government has decided to declare certain forests as protected areas. These protected areas are called Reserves or wild Life Sanctuaries. Here no one is allowed to hunt animals. There are about 150 wild life sanctuaries in India. People come from all over the world to see these sanctuaries. They consist of some of the most beautiful and rare animals.

Methods of conserving forests:

- For the conservation of forests, following steps can be taken:
- (a) Conservation of forest is a national problem so it must be tackled with perfect coordination between forest department and other departments.
- (b) People's participation in the conservation of forests is of vital importance. So, we must get them involved in this national task.
- (c) The cutting of trees in the forests must be stopped at all costs.
- (d) Afforestation or special programmes like Van Mahotsava should be launched on grand scale.
- (e) Celebrations of all functions, festivals should precede with tree-plantation.
- (f) Cutting of timber and other forest produce should be restricted.
- (g) Grasslands should be regenerated.
- (h) Forest conservation Act 1980 should be strictly implemented to check deforestation.
- (i) Several centres of excellence have been setup and awards should be instituted.

By our Indian Constitution

Legislation for conservation

- Various laws and acts have been passed in Indian constitution for the protection and conservation of various natural resources. Some of them are:
 - Environment Protection Act, 1986.
 - Forest Conservation Act, 1980.
 - Chipko Movement, 1988.
- And many more...

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Thank you!

