

Environmental Protection and Ethics

Q.1. What is an ENGO? What role does it play in environmental education?

Ans. An ENGO (environmental non-governmental organization) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) in the field of environmentalism. Examples of ENGOs include the WWF, Greenpeace, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy and the Environmental Investigation Agency.

Role of NGO: The Consequences of the Environmental pollution are not hard to comprehend, whereas the solution to ending environmental pollution is not easy to come by this is an unending complex and intricate debate and may be single solution, however attempts can always be made to find out solution to specific problems keeping in view the technological solutions legal parameters and judicial pronouncements & the role of NGO's has a very important to protection of environment through social services. The NGO's from past five decades have witnessed the difficult problems encountered in providing health care services to our poor people; spread the awareness to public protection of wildlife, forest, human right, Women and Children etc.

Human beings are the ecologically dominant species in the whole ecosystem. Although they have the same need for heat, light, water and food that other species have, they alone possess attributes that give them dominance over other living species. Thus, human beings compete far more successfully than all other living creatures. Furthermore, human beings have been able to manipulate natural forces in the eco-system with an intensity unsurpassed by any other living being. This manipulation has given rise to the break down of the natural self-protective and self-perpetuating mechanisms built into nature, a situation made even worse by a belief that human beings have the right to use the natural environment solely for their own design and ends, without consideration for the consequences of their own designs and ends, without consideration for the consequences of their actions on the system. With the gearing up of industrial revolution, this human tendency towards nature becomes much stronger. The use of technology and machines to subjugate nature became the credo of the modern world.

Q.2. Why are NGOs formed? Give some examples of NGOs in India while explaining.

Ans. Non-governmental organisations are often setup to plug in the gaps left by the government. India as a nation still has a large population that is vulnerable – in terms of health, education, jobs and opportunities in general. This has also seen a large proliferation of NGOs. By some estimates, India has 3.3 million NGOs, or one NGO for every 400 individuals. This may seem like a large number and it is. A lot of NGOs setup in India are either dormant or fraudulent, used for a wide range of illegal activities such as tax evasion and misappropriation of government funds. Regardless, there are still a large number of credible NGOs that do genuine work for the people, providing important services – from education to health to disaster management to pet care, these NGOs play a positive role in virtually every sector of the economy.

In India, there are NGOs doing brilliant work in different fields. In the education sector for example, some of the most prominent NGOs would include Pratham (research on educational outcomes, famous for the Annual State of Education Report), Teach for India (direct intervention in low income classrooms) and Akshya-Patra (involved with the mid-day meal scheme). Others such as Goonj are involved with other problems having the poor. Goonj specially focuses on clothing and believes that merely by reusing the existing clothing in the nation, one important characteristic of poverty can be eliminated. Moreover, a substantial number of NGOs are involved with one of the most important problems facing the poor: Lack of quality skills and employment opportunities. These NGOs focus on skill development and livelihood creation by creating entrepreneurial opportunities for them.

Q.3. What do you understand by environmental ethics and human values? Explain

Ans. Environmental Ethics & Human Values: Environmental ethics is the philosophical discipline that considers the moral and ethical relationship of human beings to the environment. In other words: what, if any, moral obligation does man have to the preservation and care of the non-human world?

While ethical issues concerning the environment have been debated for centuries, environmental ethics did not emerge as a philosophical discipline until the 1970s. Its emergence was the result of increased awareness of how the rapidly growing world population was impacting the environment as well as the environmental consequences that came with the growing use of pesticides, technology, and industry.

Environmental ethics helps define man's moral and ethical obligations toward the environment. But human values become a factor when looking at environmental ethics. Human values are the things that are important to individuals that they then use to evaluate actions or events. In other words, humans assign value to certain things and then use this assigned value to make decisions about whether something is right or wrong. Human values are unique to each individual because not everyone places the same importance on each element of life. For example, a person living in poverty in an undeveloped country may find it morally acceptable to cut down the forest to make room for a farm where he can grow food for his family. However, a person in a developed country may find this action morally unacceptable because the destruction of forests increases carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, which can negatively impact the environment.

Environmental ethics, along with human values, make for challenging philosophical debates about man's interaction with the environment. Water and air pollution, the depletion of natural resources, loss of biodiversity, destruction of ecosystems, and global climate change are all part of the environmental ethics debate. And we see that within the discipline of environmental ethics there are tough ethical decisions humans must consider.

Q.4. Explain the salient features of Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974. Also discuss what are the functions of CPCB?

Ans.

1. This Act may be called the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
2. It applies in the first instance to the whole of the States of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal and the Union Territories; and it shall apply to such other State which adopts this Act by resolution passed in that behalf under clause (1) of article 252 of the Constitution.

3. It shall come into force at once in the States of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal and in the Union territories; and in any other State which adopts this Act under clause (1) of article 252 of the Constitution on the date of such adoption and any reference in this Act to the commencement of this Act shall, in relation to any State or Union territory, mean the date on which this Act comes into force in such State or Union territory.

2. Definitions: In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) "Board" means the Central Board or a State Board',
- (b) "Central Board" means the Central Pollution Control Board constituted under section 3;]
- (c) "member" means a member of a Board and includes the chairman thereof;
- (d) "occupier", in relation to any factory or premises, means the person who has control over the affairs of the factory or the premises, and includes, in relation to any substance, the person in possession of the substance;]
- (e) "outlet" includes any conduit pipe or channel, open or closed, carrying sewage or trade effluent or any other holding arrangement which causes or is likely to cause, pollution;]
- (f) "pollution" means such contamination of water or such alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of water or such discharge of any sewage or trade effluent or of any other liquid, gaseous or solid substance into water (whether directly or indirectly) as may, or is likely to, create a nuisance or render such water harmful or injurious to public health or safety, or to domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural or other legitimate uses, or to the life and health of animals or plants or of aquatic organisms;

Functions of CPCB: Functions of CPCB comes under both national level and as State Boards for the Union Territories. CPCB, under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, aims to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution, and to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country.

- **Air quality/ pollution:** CPCB runs nation-wide programs of ambient air quality monitoring known as National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The network consists of 342 operating stations covering 127 cities/towns in 26 states and 4 Union Territories of the country. Under N.A.M.P., four air pollutants viz., Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Oxides of Nitrogen as NO₂, Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM/ PM₁₀) have been identified for regular monitoring at all the locations. The monitoring of meteorological parameters such as wind speed and wind direction, relative humidity (RH) and temperature were also integrated with the monitoring of air quality. This information on Air Quality at ITO is updated every week.
- **Water quality/ pollution:** Fresh water is a finite resource essential for use in agriculture, industry, propagation of wildlife & fisheries and for human existence. India is a riverine country. It has 14 major rivers, 44 medium rivers and 55 minor rivers besides numerous lakes, ponds and wells which are used as primary source of drinking water even without treatment. Most of the rivers being fed by monsoon rains, which is limited to only three months of the year, run dry throughout

the rest of the year often carrying wastewater discharges from industries or cities or towns endangering the quality of our scarce water resources. CPCB in collaboration with concerned SPCBs/PCCs established a nationwide network of water quality monitoring, which has running 1019 stations in 27 States and 6 Union Territories. The monitoring process is done on quarterly basis in surface waters and on half yearly basis in case of ground water. It covers 200 Rivers, 60 Lakes, 5 Tanks, 3 Ponds, 3 Creeks, 13 Canals, 17 Drains and 321 Wells. Among the 1019 stations, 592 are on rivers, 65 on lakes, 17 on drains, 13 on canals, 5 on tanks, 3 on creeks, 3 on ponds and 321 are groundwater stations.

Q.5. Why was Ministry of New and Renewable energy formed?

Ans. MNRE: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy or MNRE is a ministry of the Government of India. The ministry is currently headed by Piyush Goyal, a cabinet minister. The ministry was established as the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in 1992. It adopted its current name in October 2006.

The Ministry is mainly responsible for research and development, intellectual property protection, and international cooperation, promotion, and coordination in renewable energy sources such as wind power, small hydro, biogas, and solar power. The broad aim of the ministry is to develop and deploy new and renewable energy for supplementing the energy requirements of India.

Q.6. Discuss Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 in short.

Ans. Wildlife Protection Act 1972: The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted for protection of plants and animal species. Before 1972, India only had five designated national parks. Among other reforms, the Act established schedules of protected plant and animal species; hunting or harvesting these species was largely outlawed.

The Act provides for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants; and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto. It extends to the whole of India, except the State of Jammu and Kashmir which has its own wildlife act. It has six schedules which give varying degrees of protection. Schedule I and part II of Schedule II provide absolute protection - offences under these are prescribed the highest penalties. Species listed in Schedule III and Schedule IV are also protected, but the penalties are much lower. Schedule V includes the animals which may be hunted. The plants in Schedule VI are prohibited from cultivation and planting. The hunting to the Enforcement authorities have the power to compound offences under this Schedule (i.e. they impose fines on the offenders). Up to April 2010 there have been 16 convictions under this act relating to the death of tigers.

Q.7. What is an environmental policy? Name some of the legislations present in India for Environmental Protection?

Ans. Environmental policy refers to the commitment of an organization to the laws, regulations, and other policy mechanisms concerning environmental issues and sustainability. These issues generally include air and water pollution, solid waste management, biodiversity, ecosystem management, maintenance of biodiversity, the protection of natural resources, wildlife and endangered species. Policies concerning energy or regulation of toxic substances including pesticides and many types of industrial waste are part of the topic of environmental policy. This policy can be deliberately taken to direct and oversee human activities and thereby prevent harmful effects on the biophysical environment and natural resources, as well as to make sure that changes in the environment do not have harmful effects on humans.

Some of the legislation present in India

Legislation	Year	Domain	Protected areas	Use of other natural resources
India Forest Act	1927	British India	Developed procedures for setting up and protection of reserved forests, protected forests, and village forests	Regulation of movement and transit of forest produce with duties on such produce. Special focus on timber
1 st Five Year Plan	1951			
2 nd Five Year Plan	1956			
3 rd Five Year Plan	1961	Almost the same but with extra deer saving acts		
4 th Five Year Plan	1969			
Wildlife Protection Act	1972	India except J & K	Formalization of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves and community reserves. Protection to habitat and wildlife within premises of such protected areas. Development of National Board for Wildlife and State Boards for Wildlife for identification of future protected areas.	Penal codes for animal poaching, and trade in products derived from protected animals

Q.8. Why do we refer Environmental Protection Act, 1986 as an Umbrella Act? Discuss the environmental protection rules, 1986.

Ans. The purpose of the Act is to act as an “umbrella” legislation designed to provide a frame work for Central government co-ordination of the activities of various central and state authorities established under previous laws, such as Water Act & Air Act.

The potential scope of the Act is broad, with “environment” defined to include water, air and land and the inter-relationships which exist among water, air and land, and human beings and other living creatures, plants, micro-organisms and property.

However the Delhi Pollution Control Committee has been vested with the powers under the provisions under Section 5 the Central Government may, in exercise of its powers and performance of its function under this act, issue directions in writing to any person, officer or any authority and such person, officer or authority shall be bound to comply with such directions which includes (a) the closure, prohibition or regulation of any industry, operation or process; or (b) stoppage or regulation of the supply of electricity or water or any other service (The Central Government has delegated the powers vested in it under Section 5 of the Act to DPCC) to be verified.

Rules: In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:-

1. Short title and commencement

- (i) These rules may be called the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986.
- (ii) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions: In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,-

- (a) "Act" means the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986);
- (b) "areas" means all areas where the hazardous substances are handled;
- (c) "Central Board" means the Central Pollution Control Board constituted under section 3 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (6 of 1974);
- (d) "Form" means a form set forth in Appendix A to these rules;
- (e) "Government Analyst" means a person appointed or recognized as such under section 13;
- (f) "person" in relation to any factory or premises means a person or occupier or his agent who has control over the affairs of the factory or premises and includes in relation to any substance, the person in possession of the substance.
- (g) "prohibited substance" means the substance prohibited for handling;
- (h) "recipient system" means the part of the environment such as soil, water, air or other which receives the pollutants;
- (i) "restricted substance" means the substance restricted for handling;
- (j) "section" means a section of the Act;
- (k) "Schedule" means a Schedule appended to these rules;
- (l) "Standards" means standards prescribed under these rules;
- (m) "State Board" means a State Pollution Control Board constituted under section 4 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (6 of 1974) or a State Pollution Control Board constituted under section 5 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (14 of 1981);

Q.9. How can we achieve sustainability in resource use?

Ans. To look at the importance of protecting natural resources further, the World Ethic of Sustainability, developed by the IUCN, WWF and the UNEP in 1990, set out eight values for sustainability, including the need to protect natural resources from depletion. Since the development of these documents, many measures have been taken to protect natural resources including establishment of the scientific field and practice of conservation biology and habitat conservation, respectively.

Conservation biology is the scientific study of the nature and status of Earth's biodiversity with the aim of protecting species, their habitats, and ecosystems from excessive rates of extinction. It is an interdisciplinary subject drawing on science, economics and the practice of natural resource management.

Q.10. How can we reduce the utility bills as a step to move towards sustainability?

Ans. Turn off the lights that you are not using.

- Buy compact fluorescent bulbs, which reduce energy use by up to 75 percent. Set a goal of at least replacing the bulbs that are most commonly on in your home.
- If your older children live with you, put them in charge of the electricity bill. They'll make sure all the lights are turned off if they are responsible to for paying for the electricity.
- Do not place lamps near a thermostat. The thermostat senses the heat produced from the lamp which can change how often your furnace or air conditioner will run.

SBC

- Consider safer, more efficient Energy Star torchiere lamps over popular halogen torchiere lamps. The halogen lamps can cause fires, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. While relatively inexpensive to purchase, halogen lamps are expensive to operate.
- Use dimmers, timers and motion detectors on indoor and outdoor lighting.

Q.11. Write a short note on sustainable development.

Ans. Sustainable development is a process for meeting human development goals while sustaining the ability of natural systems to continue to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend. While the modern concept of sustainable development is derived most strongly from the 1987 Brundtland Report, it is rooted in earlier ideas about sustainable forest management and twentieth century environmental concerns.

Sustainable development is the organizing principle for sustaining finite resources necessary to provide for the needs of future generations of life on the planet. It is a process that envisions a desirable future state for human societies in which living conditions and resource-use continue to meet human needs without undermining the "integrity, stability and beauty" of natural biotic systems.

Sustainable development (SD) is a pattern of economic growth in which resource use aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for generations to come (sometimes taught as ELF-Environment, Local people).

Q.12. Define sustainable development. Explain the equitable use of resources for sustainable lifecycle.

Ans. Sustainable development is an organizing principle for human life on a finite planet. It posits a desirable future state for human societies in which living conditions and resource-use meet human needs without undermining the sustainability of natural systems and the environment, so that future generations may also have their needs met.

Sustainable development ties together concern for the carrying capacity of natural systems with the social, political, and economic challenges faced by humanity. As early as the 1970s, 'sustainability' was employed to describe an economy "in equilibrium with basic ecological support systems." Scientists in many fields have highlighted *The Limits to Growth*, and economists have presented alternatives, for example a 'steady state economy', to address concerns over the impacts of expanding human development on the planet.

Equitable Use of Resources for Sustainable Lifestyles: Scarcity of resources is the burning problem of modern technology. The twenty-first century will see growing human needs for resources since many parts of the world are using natural resources at a rate faster than the natural processes can replenish it.

Natural resources are limited. For example, the existing water sources are being subjected to heavy pollution. Global climatic changes are altering the quality of fresh water sources as a consequence of unknown effects on the hydrological cycle.

Sustainable development is currently being discussed as a focal theme in the field of development, planning and other associated aspects. In the light of self-defeating current mode of development and recurrent natural calamities, people are urged to ponder over the faults, shortcomings, lacunae, discrepancies and limitations of the ongoing developmental process and production system.

