



PERIYAR ARTS COLLEGE, CUDDALORE -1
PG & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
AFFILIATED TO THIRUVALLUVAR UNIVERSITY

STUDY MATERIAL

COURSE:	II B.Sc ZOOLOGY	YEAR:2020-2021	SEMESTER- III
SUBJECT PAPER	Public health and Hygiene (SBS-1)		PAPER CODE BSZO32A
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UNIT -II	Environmental degradation – pollution and associated health Hazards – Health problems due to industrializations – Hospital waste management.
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UNIT- II

Environmental Degradation

(Causes, Types and Conservations)!

Environmental degradation refers to the deterioration of physical components of the environment brought in by human activities to such an extent that it cannot be set right by self regulatory mechanism of environment.

Causes:

It is the result of developmental processes of economic and technological activities of man. It is caused by several forms of pollution, depletion of natural resources; increasing dependence on energy consuming and ecologically damaging technologies, depletion of forest cover has become a global concern.

The environmental crisis is ascribed to exponential growth in human population, fast expanding industries and philosophical religious outlook of society. Man's cruel behaviour with environments accelerated the pace of scientific and technological advancement.

Types:

Environmental degradation is divided into two categories on the basis of factors responsible for lowering of environmental quality. They are Extreme Events or Hazards and Pollution.

Conservation:

Resources are meant not only for utilisation of present but for future generation also. So it is very necessary to maintain a balance between growth of population and utilisation of resources which will ensure the continuity of the human race.

Any imbalance in either of the two may disrupt the continuity of our economic, social and cultural environment. To consume natural resources, renewable sources must be enhanced and used and non renewable sources must be used as

economically as possible. Various environmental programmes have been set up to conserve the environment:

CLIMAP:

Climatic Applications Project (WMO)

COADS:

Comprehensive Ocean Air Data Set

GAW:

Global Atmospheric Watch

ERBE:

Earth Radiation Budget Experiment

ERS:

Earth Resources Satellite

GEWEX:

UNIT- II

Hospital waste management.

Wastes in Hospitals Waste created in hospitals and health-care centers is large in quantities. When a person goes to the hospital to get a blood test, that itself creates waste from the needle, its packaging, tape and possible disinfection items. When thinking about hospital waste, most of it is your everyday waste, cardboard from the packages, plastic etc. Waste created in the health-care area is not only your everyday waste, but also the special and hazardous waste, which causes a risk throughout the waste management process. This is why hospitals in Finland are constantly reminded to take care of their waste management processes, to ensure their safe handling, transportation and landfill, as well as proper marking of hazardous waste.

The need for proper waste management in hospitals can be listed down to several points, when focusing on the health point of view. The U.S Health-care system creates around 5,9 million tons of waste from health-care facilities annually.

Injuries from sharp wastes, such as needles can lead to infection for both hospital personnel and waste handlers. Risk of infection for people that come across waste from hospitals. • Possibility for this is higher in third world countries, where scavenging for valuable wastes is also a thing. Risks associated

with hazardous chemicals; drugs to persons handling wastes at all levels. • Air, water and soil pollution directly due to waste or defective incineration. •

To prevent waste from being created To enhance material recycling and biological reuse of wastes • To increase incineration or unrecyclable waste •

To ensure safe handling and landfill management • To decrease the emitting of greenhouse gases associated with waste and • its management. It is to be mentioned that incineration of waste in Finland can be more difficult than thought to be. As a great amount of hospital waste are handled as hazardous waste