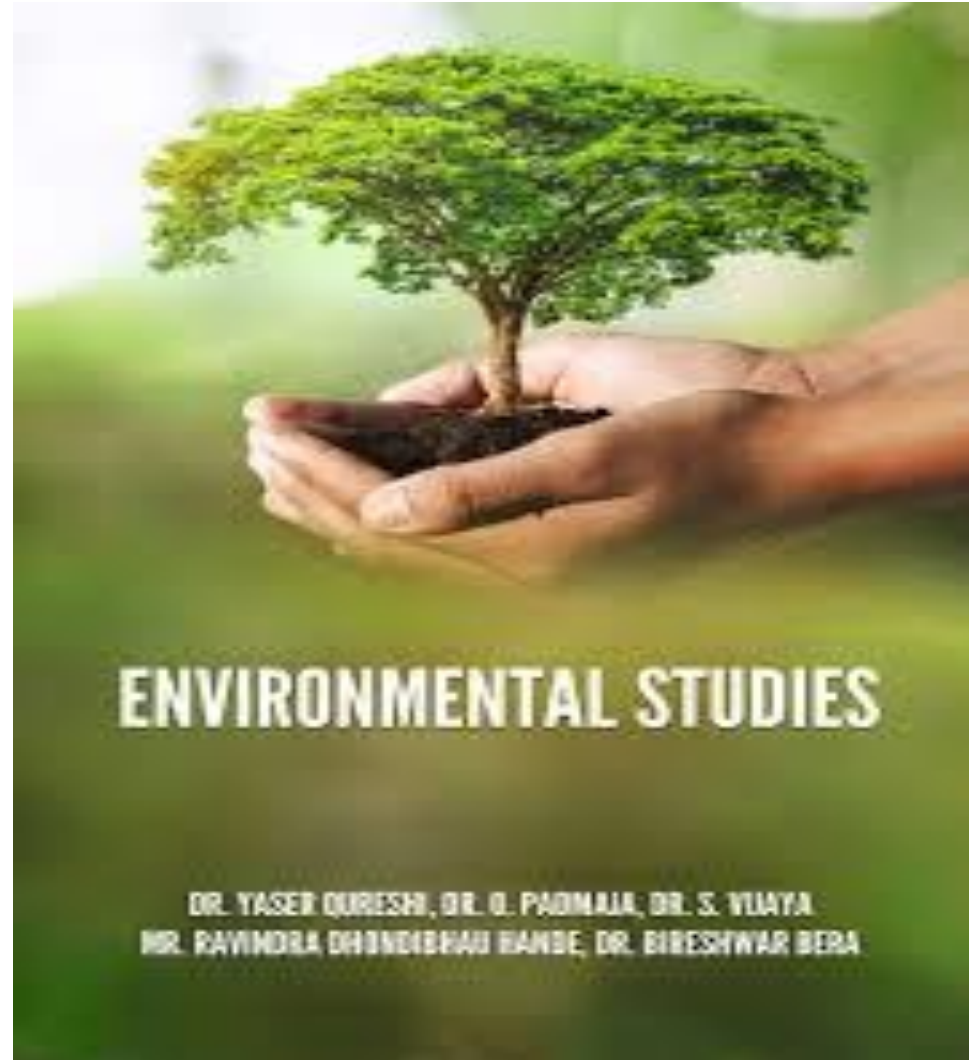


# SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



# WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES?

- ▶ The multidisciplinary nature of the environmental study itself defines the wide scope of the subject. The need of environmental studies is becoming increasingly important in a world faced with complex environmental problems. We are today looking towards a future in which non-renewable natural resources will be depleted and waste products accumulate. As the human population on earth continues to grow and as environmental changes such as global warming continue, the pressure to produce sufficient food, clothing and shelter, to provide sufficient water, and a habitable environment will grow. Solutions to such complex problems can only be tackled by individuals who have a broad-based knowledge in the natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities as well as strength in a specific discipline.

Environmental studies in its scope permeate into each and every aspect of safeguarding the environment. It deals with:

- ▶ Conservation and management of natural resources (like forest resources, water resources, etc.)
- ▶ Conservation of biodiversity (like conservation of genetic diversity, species diversity, ecosystem diversity, landscape diversity, etc.)
- ▶ Control of environmental pollutions (like air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, solid waste pollution, noise pollution, electronic waste pollution, etc.)
- ▶ Control of human population
- ▶ Replacement of unsustainable development (like green revolution, urbanization, industrialization, etc.) with sustainable development

- ▶ Recent estimates show a growing demand in governmental, commercial, and industrial employment for professionals whose qualifications include environmental analytical skills Environmental studies help in creating the required manpower for fields like ecology and biodiversity, natural resource conservation and management, environmental pollution and control, natural disaster management etc. A person who is employed in the environmental sectors of the economy is called a green collar worker
- ▶ According to UNEP (2008) Green Jobs hold the promise that humankind will be able face up to the following two defining challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century:
- ▶ Averting dangerous and potentially unmanageable climate change and protecting the natural environment which supports life on earth
- ▶ Providing decent work and thus the prospect of well-being and dignity for all in the face of rapid population growth worldwide and the current exclusion of over billion people from economic and social development

- ▶ The career opportunities that have emerged in this field are broadly categorized as follows:
- ▶ **1. Research & Development:** Various universities and governmental organizations offer a scope for such research. Skilled environment scientists have an important role in examining various environmental problems in a scientific manner. They can carry out research and development activities for pollution prevention and sustainable development.
- ▶ **2. Technical Sector:** Skilled environmental personals are today in great demand in the engineering and health sector. Openings include positions like environmental engineer, in environmental design, waste recycling etc.
- ▶ **3. Green Advocacy:** Since the pollution control laws are becoming more stringent, the need for lawyers has emerged, who should be able to plead the cases related to pollution problems
- ▶ **4. Green Marketing:** While ensuring the quality products with ISO mark, there is an increasing emphasis on marketing goods that are eco-friendly. So environmental auditors and managers would be in great demand in the coming years

- ▶ **5. Green Media:** Environmental awareness among public can be spread through mass media like newspaper, television, radio, magazines etc. for which environmentally educated persons are required.
- ▶ **6. Environmental management:** This includes jobs in risk assessment; impact assessment, environmental compliance officers, environmental health officers natural resource management regulators etc.
- ▶ **7. Education Sector:** Teachers at elementary, secondary, and college level nature centers, science museums or centers, outdoor education etc.
- ▶ **8. Policy Analysis:** This requires environmental economists, consulting firms, lobbyists, environmental groups etc.
- ▶ **9. Environmental Consultancy:** Many nongovernmental organizations (NGO's), industries, policy making committees and government bodies are engaging environmental consultants for systematically studying and tackling environment related problem