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Conservation of Natural Resources

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Introduction:

Conservation is the proper management of a natural resource to prevent its exploitation, destruction or degradation. Natural resources are the resources which exist without any actions of mankind.

Conservation is generally held to include the management of human use of natural resources for current public benefit and sustainable social and economic utilization. The protection, preservation, management, or restoration of natural environments and the ecological communities that inhabit them. Conservation is the careful maintenance and upkeep of a natural resource to prevent it from disappearing. A natural resource is the physical supply of something that exists in nature, such as soil, water, air, plants, animals, and energy.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service recognizes that we don't want these things to diminish or disappear altogether, and that we must make an effort to protect and maintain natural resources. The purpose of conservation in agriculture is to maintain or improve the land with a long-term vision for the future, which we call sustainability. The goal of the Natural Resources Conservation Service is to help you care for and manage the soil, water, air, plants, animals, and energy on your farmland and forestland. We can provide technical assistance and financial assistance, as well as a variety of tools to learn more about the opportunities we have to conserve natural resources on our land. We work together to cultivate productive lands and healthy ecosystems. No matter the size of your farm, conservation fits your operation.

Reducing humanity's collective carbon footprint and conserving our natural resources to fight climate change will help leave our planet habitable for future generations. Natural resources are resources that occur in nature without any manmade assistance. Any naturally occurring substance qualifies as a natural resource, including animals, plants, water, oil, coal, minerals, timber, land, light, soil, and energy.

Objectives:

1. To study the concept and importance of Natural Resources
2. To study various types of natural Resources
3. To study the way of conservation of Natural Resources
4. To study of conservation of natural resources and tradition in India.

Research methodology:

The present study based on secondary data, collected through various online resources and report related to this study.

Natural Resources:

Natural resources can be classified as renewable or nonrenewable.

Renewable resources refer to undiminishing substances, such as solar and wind energy, biomass energy, and hydropower.

Nonrenewable resources refer to resources that cannot be naturally replenished at an adequate pace to meet growing demands. Nonrenewable resources include water, fossil fuels, natural gases, minerals, and nuclear energy.

Why important to conservation of natural Resources:

Humans depend on natural resources for survival, but not all natural resources are renewable. The food and water we consume, the air we breathe, and the shelter we make all derive from natural resources, so we must take steps to conserve what we have to encourage the health and longevity of both the planet and humankind. Human activity, mainly the use of nonrenewable resources like fossil fuels, is responsible for the massive spike in climate change. By conserving our natural resources, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and have a more positive impact on our natural environment.

Consumption of natural resources is increasing with growing population. With the increasing industrialization and urbanization, we need to conserve natural resources for their destruction will also upset the ecological balance.

Conservation is the sum totals of activities, which can derive benefits from natural resources but at the same time, prevent excessive use leading to destruction or degradation.

Need for Conservation of Natural Resources

We well known that nature provides us with all our basic needs but we tend to over exploit. If we go on exploiting nature, there will be no more resources available in future. Hence there is an urgent need to conserve nature for to maintain ecological balance for supporting life ,preserve different kinds of species (biodiversity), make the resources available for present and future generations and an ensure survival of human race.

Conservation of Natural Resources and Traditions of India

The need for conservation of natural resources was felt by our predecessors and in India; there was a tradition of respecting and preserving nature and natural resources. Natural resources were conserved in the form of sacred groves/forests, sacred pools and lakes, sacred species etc e.g. the river ganges. In our country the conservation of natural forests is known from the time of Lord Ashoka. Sacred forests are forest patches of different dimensions dedicated by the tribal's to their deities and ancestral spirits. Cutting down trees, hunting and other human interferences were strictly prohibited in these forests. This practice is widespread particularly in peninsular, central and eastern India and has resulted in the protection of a large number of plants and animals. Similarly, several water bodies, e.g., Khecheopalrilake in Sikkim was declared sacred by people, thus, protecting aquatic flora and fauna. Worshipping certain plants like banyan, peepal, tulsi etc. has not only preserved them but also encouraged their plantation. History recalls numerous instances where people have laid down their lives for protecting trees. Recent Chipko movement in India is one of the best examples. This movement was started by women in Gopeshwar village in Garhwal in the Himalayas. They stopped the felling of trees by hugging them when the lumbermen arrived to cut them. This saved about 12000 square kilometers of sensitive water catchment area. Similar movements also occurred in some other parts of the country.

Ways to Conserve Natural Resources at Home

Efficient Use water. Taking shorter showers or turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth will help water waste in your home. Only use your dishwasher or washing machine when there is a full load, and switch to energy-saving appliances if possible.

Turn off the lights. Turn off any lights or televisions after you leave a room. Unplug appliances like portable air conditioners, toasters, and coffeemakers when not in use, as they can continue to use small amounts of electricity. Additionally, LED light bulbs require far less wattage than standard bulbs, so switching to this alternative lighting method can also help conserve resources.

Use renewable energy. Although renewable energy consumption has been in practice for centuries, recent years of climate change and global warming have pushed many scientists and researchers to look for ways to incorporate more green practices into our everyday lives. Renewable energy replenishes itself, cutting down on our need to harvest new resources. Using solar panels or wind energy can significantly reduce our reliance on natural gas and cut back on resource depletion over time.

Recycle. Making new products requires the use of resources, but recycling helps reuse the materials we already have. Manufacturing fewer new materials reduce waste, which helping decrease groundwater and air pollution. Find a center that accepts items like plastic bottles, cardboard, or aluminum for recycling. Switch to paperless billing and buy recycled paper to limit the need for logging and deforestation.

Compost. The Composting is a great way to convert your food scraps into useful materials for your home garden. Composting enriches your soil and reduces the need for watering by improving runoff, which reduces soil erosion. Composting also attracts beneficial organisms that cut down on the need for pesticides or harmful chemicals. Composting encourages sustainability and can lessen the amount of waste and pollution produced by food waste.

Use of Reusable Goods. To conserve resources avoiding single-use plastics is another way. Instead of buying water bottles, plastic cups, or paper plates, opt for ceramic, metal, or glassware. Use your own fabric grocery bags rather than plastic bags. Reusing items is a great way to reduce waste and keep excess trash out of landfills.

Thermostat Management. Heating and air conditioning make up approximately half of your energy bill, but lowering the heat by just two degrees in the winter can help conserve energy in your home. Raising the thermostat two degrees in the summer will also have energy-saving effects and help reduce your monthly bill.

Thrift shop. Thrift shopping increases the amount of time between the use and disposal phase of a garment's lifecycle, giving us more out of our used clothing, which can decrease the need for overproduction and manufacturing .It can take over 600 gallons of water to make a single cotton t-shirt.

Buying secondhand clothing can reduce the amount of reusable clothing that ends up in landfills by extending its lifecycle.

Conclusion

The present day global concerns for sustainable development and conservation of natural resources are of recent origin as compared to the long tradition and culture of nature conservation in our country. Principles of conservation and sustainable management were well established in the pre-historic India. Our ancient literature is full of such examples where values and sensitivity of humans towards nature was glorified and the principle of sustainability was established at its best.

Natural resources are a present for the creation. These help in satisfying the human needs to its fullest. Furthermore, the rational use of natural resources maintains the earth's atmosphere. Also, the wise use leads to protection of bio-diversity. Humans cannot imagine their lives without natural resources. Thus, the conservation of the natural resources is essential.

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