

Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials

Programme: Bachelor of Science (First year)

Subject: Botany-Generic elective

Course Code: BOG-101

Course Title: Environmental Biotechnology

Unit: 6 – Sustainable Development

Module Name: Environmental Ethics

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Notes

Definition of Environmental Ethics

Environmental Ethics is the discipline that studies the moral relationship of human beings to, and also the value and moral status of, the Environment and its non human contents.

Branches of Environmental Ethics

1. Anthropocentrism: It is the idea that the earth and its resources exists for human consumption.
2. Bioentrism: It views animals as important beings. It states that all living organisms persue their own “good” in their own ways. Human being is not inherently superior to other living things.
3. Ecocentrism: A term used to denote a nature-centred, as opposed to human-centred, system of values.

Objectives of Environmental Ethics

- Understand the concept of basic and non-basic rights, morals and ethical perspective.
- Understand the impact of different cultural value systems on relationship of humans with Environment.
- Objectively analyse Environmental problems and compare it with different contrast of 'world's view'.
- Develop perspective and judgement on Environmental issues.
- Distinguish and apply the concept of Anthropocentrism, Biocentrism and Ecocentrism towards the solution of Environmental issues.

Importance of Environmental Ethics

- Makes us aware of the indiscriminate and destructive human activities.
- Inculcate moral values towards nature and learn to respect various life forms through Environmental ethics.
- Concerned with the issues of responsible personal conduct with respect to natural landscape, resources, species and non human organisms.

Issues related to Environmental Ethics

1. Resource consumption and the need for equitable resources

- Our human Environment in the urban, rural and wilderness sectors use natural resources that shift from the wilderness to the rural sector and from there to the urban sector.
- An equitable sharing of resources forms the basis of sustainable development for urban, rural and wilderness-dwelling communities.

2. Urban-rural equity issues

- **The common property of rural communities has increasingly been used to supply the needs of the urban sector.**
- **Land resources of villages are being taken over by the urban and industrial sectors as they expand.**
- **As a result, the common lands of the rural sector are being depleted of their resources.**

3. Preserving resources for future generations

- **Ethical issues must be considered must be considered when the resources are being used in an unsustainable manner.**
- **Overuse and misuse of resources and energy from fossil fuels will lead to their depletion.**
- **A critical concern is to preserve species and natural undistributed ecosystems that are linked with bio resources must be protected for the use of future generation.**

4. The rights of animals

- **The plants and animals that share the earth have a right to live and share the earth's resources and living space.**
- **Human beings do not have right to push a species towards extinction that has taken millions of years to evolve.**
- **Cruelty to animals is a crime that must be regarded seriously and action must be taken against offenders.**