

Standard VI

Action Research Project

Topic for 2019–20

Study of remarkable local efforts for environmental conservation

Introduction:

Environmental conservation is the protection, preservation, management or restoration of natural environments and the ecological communities that inhabit them. Conservation includes the management of human use of natural resources and sustainable social and economic utilization.

Conservation of nature is essential for various purposes. With the increase in levels of pollution, degradation in quality and quantity of resources, conservation is the only possible way for better living through generations.

Why conserve?

Conservation of biodiversity is essential to safeguard the web of life. The loss of a species or the diminishment of an ecosystem has the potential to threaten the rest of life, including humans. For example, if honeybees are lost, pollination will be affected.

Conservation of waterbodies is essential in terms of quality as well as quantity of water. The alarming rate of decreasing watertable, loss of wetlands, pollution of waterbodies necessitates conservation. The protection of rivers, streams, lakes and adjacent lands can create jobs, protect fisheries, protect food and drinking water sources, protect and create tourism opportunities etc.

Exposure to nature in parks, gardens, and natural areas can improve psychological and social health. It acts as stress buster. Trails, treks and

similar activities keep the person healthy.

Conservation expands local businesses and attracts new, increases local tax revenues, decreases local government expenditures through provision of ecosystem services, decreases the cost of recreation and promotes a sense of belongingness.

Conservation activities are carried out at various levels. Government sets policies, laws and regulation in order to protect natural wealth. Also, various government establishments like zoos, sanctuaries and research laboratories and several schemes and projects contribute to conservation.

Various private as well as Non-Government Organisations also contribute towards conservation and protection of environment.

We are also aware of great contributions towards conservation by individuals like, Jadav Payeng- ‘The Forest Man of India’, Chewang Norphel- ‘The Ice Man of India’ and A M Timakka, who planted banyan trees.

Even around us, several such activities are carried out by motivated individuals and groups. Many of them sacrifice their leisure time and help for the noble cause. These small efforts over a period of time bring in radical change in the local environment which is directly or indirectly associated with global scenario.

We have to find out about such activities and study how they work.

Few remarkable local efforts:

- Clean up of Versova beach, Mumbai by Afroz Shah.
- Butterfly garden by Sameer Athalye at Goregaon, Mumbai and at Ovekarwadi, Thane.
- Smrutivan, plantation of indigenous varieties at Chatushrungi, Pune.
- Popularisation of sustainable living by Dilip Kulkarni.
- Nakshatravan and garden of medicinal plants at Mahim nature park.
- Clean up of Rankala lake, Kolhapur.
- Activities of FERN, Thane like nature walks, environment lecture series etc.
- Seed bank for 80 native species by Rahibai Popere, Kombhalane village, Ahmadnagar.
- Conservation of native rice varieties at Saguna Baug, Neral.
- Save turtles drive at Velas.
- Godrej Mangrove park, Vikhroli, Mumbai.
- Collection of Dry leaves by Aditi Deodhar, Pune through 'Brown Leaf'.
- Conservation of blue toordal, varieties of corn, several local fish varieties in several parts of Maharashtra (Ref.: www.gotul.org.in)
- 'Galmukt dharan, Galyukt shivar' by Anulom, NGO in Maharashtra.
- Activities of 'Pani Foundation'.
- Revival of Rachenhalli lake by 'Jalamitra' at Bengaluru.
- Activities of wild life photographer Mayur Kamat.
- Malvan Marine Sanctuary for corals and related organisms

What students have to do?

- Select any ONE activity that aims at conservation of nature in your area. (Residence or native place)
- Find out about the journey of the activity: how and why it started.
- Study their basic plan for conservation of environment.
- How it is being implemented.

- How capacity building of manpower is being done.
- Find out about area covered under the activity.
- Discuss problems in implementation and the solutions.
- Results till date from the beginning of the activity.
- Participate if possible, note down your experiences.
- Suggest improvements/new ways if possible.
- Now enlist ANY 3 incidences/places/actions from your area you feel are harmful to ecosystem and need immediate attention. E.g. Heavy wastage of water at carwash or road cleaning, reclamation of wetlands, dry ponds or lakes or riverbeds, tree-cutting etc.
- Write report.

Few examples of various types of conservation activities taken up by various conservation activists and organisations:

Butterfly garden, Sarpmitra/Pranimitra (For rescue of snakes/animals), Rain water harvesting and water recycling in a housing society or business establishment, Animal shelters for injured or orphaned or stray animals, conservation of rare varieties of animals like olive ridley turtles, Seed banks for local variety of food grains, Protection and conservation of sacred grove in the locality, awareness about local heritage of natural wealth and its protection, Saving wetlands and natural waterbodies like lakes in the vicinity, Cleaning weeds and alluvium from local ponds and lakes, cleanliness drive for local beaches, clean ups of trekking and mountaineering sites etc.

These are a few examples. Students can select any ONE topic that fits into the main theme.

(Ref.: www.google.com)

