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## UNIT 5 ENVIRONMENTALISM

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### 5.0 INTRODUCTION

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The term “environmentalism” refers to an ideology, broad philosophy, and social movement which considers the concerns of environmental protection and environmental health improvement, particularly the measures which integrate the effect on animals, plants, humans and abiotic factors due to environmental changes. It is a “political and ethical movement that seeks to improve and Environmentalism, political and ethical movement that seeks to improve and protect the quality of the natural environment through changes to environmentally harmful human activities; through the adoption of forms of political, economic, and social organization that are thought to be necessary for, or at least conducive to, the benign treatment of the environment by humans; and through a reassessment of humanity’s relationship with nature. protect the quality of the natural environment through changes to environmentally harmful human activities; through the adoption of forms of political, economic, and social organization that are thought to be necessary for, or at least conducive to, the benign treatment of the environment by humans; and through a reassessment of humanity’s relationship with nature” (Brittanica online encyclopedia).

Environmentalism is basically a step to maintain equilibrium and the primary relation of humans and nature and their systems on which they are dependent to achieve sustainability. It advocates the preservation, restoration and improvement of the natural environment and critical earth system elements or processes such as the climate, control pollution or protect biodiversity. It is concerned about creating awareness regarding the importance of the environment to humans and other organisms. Continental European languages use the term “ecology” while “environmentalism” is generally used in English, having slightly different meanings (Harrison and Boy,

2018). There are many non-profit organizations which along with some legislative and corporate bodies play a role in fulfilling environmental sustainability goals.

In this unit, environmentalism is discussed with a focus on its history, objectives, ideology, and theories. We will discuss environmental inequality, social ecology, deep ecology, and radical ecology along with practice exercises which will help to attain a better understanding of the topic.

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## 5.1 OBJECTIVES

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After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- define the term environmentalism;
- discuss the ideology of environmentalism;
- explain environmental inequality and
- discuss perspectives such as like deep ecology, social and radical ecology.

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## 5.2 HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTALISM

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Concern for the environment has very much been a part of human history and is reflected in many religious systems which consider Nature to be sacred. The impact of air and water pollution on human life and health was noted even in the Roman times. Between the late 14th century and the mid-16th century AD, pollution was seen to be associated with the spread of epidemics. Soil conservation was practiced in China, India, and Peru as early as 2,000 years ago. However, these concerns did not lead to social movements and activism like the contemporary environmental movements. The Industrial Revolution and its impact upon the natural environment and on human health, can be considered as the key factor in the emergence of the contemporary environmental movement in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe and America.

*The American environmental movement* began in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century with the consideration of preservationist issues. Nature was considered as something to be enjoyed and valued and not merely a factor of production. Some of the notable figures were Gifford Pinchot (1865–1946), the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service, who considered conservation as wise and efficient use of resources. John Muir (1838–1914), founder of the Sierra Club, and Aldo Leopold (1887–1948), a Professor of wildlife management played a key role in the establishment of America's first national wilderness area in 1924—the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. John Muir, an inventor, geologist, botanist, wanderer and one of the earliest and well-known environmentalists, got into political battles to conserve the Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia areas as national parks. These efforts contributed to the early environmental movement in North America. Because of the preservationists' agenda in 1960s and the Land and the Wilderness Act and the Water Conservation Fund of 1964 and the National Trails System Acts and the Wild

and Scenic Rivers Acts of 1968, the first wave of national environmental legislation started.

### KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTS

Environmental movements prompted people to conserve and protect the earth's precious natural resources. Some key environmental acts enacted in the United States are listed below.

- 1) **1963 Clean Air Act:** provided funds for federal government research. This Act was the first environmental law enacted in the United States which included citizen suits and was designed to control air pollution.
- 2) **1964 Wilderness Act:** Conserved nine million acres of wilderness in national forest areas in US. The current number of areas designated as wilderness areas is 757.
- 3) **1965 Water Quality Act:** Objectives included maintaining and restoring the biological, chemical and physical quality of water; governing the states to address pollution and providing assistance to do so in the US.
- 4) **1968: National Scenic Trails Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:** This Act designated 8 rivers for immediate introduction and other 27 to be evaluated. Pacific Crest and Appalachian trails were designated as first two national scenic trails.
- 5) **1970: National Environmental Policy Act:** NEPA was important to require Federal agencies for evaluating the environmental effects; all executive federal agencies are required to prepare environmental assessments (EAs) and environmental impact statements (EISSs).
- 6) **1970: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act:** controls the disposal of solid as well as hazardous waste in the US.
- 7) **1972: Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act:** Started in United States which was set up to regulate pesticide and to control its applicators, consumers, and thereby environment.
- 8) **1973: Endangered Species Act:** approved to protect critically endangered species. "Consequence of economic growth and development untended by adequate concern and conservation".
- 9) **1976: Toxic Substances Control Act:** ensures that manufacturers test their products for risk to human health and the environment.
- 10) **1980: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act:** Formed to regulate and clean up sites which are contaminated with hazardous substances; these are called as "Superfund" sites. There are total 40,000 federal Superfund sites across the country, and 1,600 of them have been listed on the NPL list.
- 11) **1980: Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act:** Preserved 104 million acres of wilderness in Alaska.
- 12) **1990: Clean Air Act:** strengthened regulation of air pollution.

The modern-day multifaceted environmental movement in the United States began in 1970s. This movement originally considered few important environmental issues of that time. The best-seller “*Silent Spring*” by Rachel Carson, who came to be known as the “mother of the environmental movement” was published in 1962 and drew attention to pesticides and their noxious effects on nature. As we have seen earlier, in the first decades of the twentieth century, environmentalism was commonly called as conservationism and differed from the modern environmental movement. Therefore, the conservationists of that era put more focus on the effective use of natural resources. Consumer activity is regarded as the origin of modern environmentalism that demanded safe, healthy and attractive environment as part of a higher living standard for managing natural resources.

**Indian Environmental movements:** Environmental movements also took place in the developing countries like India. The history of environmentalism in India is believed to have started in 1900's, during the British colonial period. The protests in rural communities have initiated environmentalism in India whereas in the West it was started by scientists. On the 27th of March 1973, a group of peasants in a remote Himalayan village stopped a group of loggers from felling trees. Thus was born the Chipko movement, and through it the modern Indian environmental movement was born. In the West, the desire to keep places unpolluted and beautiful initiated the green movement while in India environmentalism was necessary for survival not only for leisure. Local communities are dependent on the resources for their survival but are also used for urban and industrial interests which use them for profit. The policies incline towards the latter, which then leads to the protests for sustainability of nature. The Chipko movement in the Kumaon, the struggles of tribals of Chhotanagpur, protests by tribals of Gandhamardan (Orissa) due to damage caused to their local environment because of bauxite mining all point out to environmental degradation. When Indira Gandhi returned to power, in 1980, a Department of Environment was established at the Centre. This became full-fledged Ministry of Environment and Forests and is presently the Ministry of Environment and Forests and climate change. New laws were enacted to control pollution and to protect natural forests. In 1986, The Environment Protection Act was enacted.

At the same time, journalists had begun to analyse studying the impact of environmental degradation on social life across India. The pioneering reports were from Anil Agarwal, Darryl D' Monte, Kalpana Sharma, Usha Rai, and Nagesh Hegde. They played an important role in making the citizens aware of environmental problems. Thus, environmentalism of the poor entered educational institutions. Courses were offered on environmental sociology and environmental history. In this way, elements of an environmental consciousness had, finally, begun to take an important place in the Indian society.

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## 5.3 IDEOLOGY OF ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS

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The environmental movements also have a distinct ideology like any other social movement. An ideology can be defined as 'a group of ideas which give authenticity to an existing or proposed system of relationships, and correspondingly support an action programme to sustain the prevailing system'. It is an essential element of a social movement and is action-driven and provides inspiration to the social movement. It also provides a framework for the movement. There are diverse actors and issues of the environmental movements and its ideologies. The environmental movements have two different ideological orientations. The first is 'ecocentric ideology' and the second is 'technocratic ideology'. The former is more radical than the latter, puts the environment first and also argues for a fundamental change in already existing social and economic uses of nature. On the other hand, the technology centric ideology is orthodox and considers that the environment can be rationally treated within the existing structure. But this ideology is not accepted universally.

An *ecocentric viewpoint* integrates social, spiritual and environmental dimensions into a holistic ideal. It puts ecology and nature as central to humanity and emphasizes a less materialistic approach to life with greater self-sufficiency of societies. An ecocentric viewpoint prioritizes bio-rights, emphasizes the importance of education and encourages self-restraint in human behavior.

An *anthropocentric viewpoint* argues that humans must sustainably manage the global system. This might be using taxes, environmental regulation and legislation.

A *technocentric viewpoint* argues that technological developments can provide solutions to environmental problems. This is a consequence of a largely optimistic view of the role humans can play in improving the lot of humanity. Scientific research is encouraged to form policies and to understand how systems can be controlled, manipulated or changed to solve resource depletion.

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## 5.4 SOCIAL ECOLOGY

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Social ecology is a school of thought which lays emphasis on small-scale economic structures and the social dimensions of the ecological crisis. Its major proponent was Murray Bookchin. "Social ecologists trace the causes of environmental degradation to the existence of unjust, hierarchical relationships in human society, which they see as endemic to the social structures of modern capitalist states. Accordingly, they argue, the most environmentally sympathetic form of political and social organization is one based on decentralized small-scale communities and systems of production" (Britannica Online Encyclopedia). The followers of social ecology consider that social relationships shape the western ideology of influencing nature. Murray Bookchin says: "The domination of nature by man

stems from the very real domination of human by human". The most serious ecological dislocations include economic, ethnic, cultural and gender conflicts and many others. Social ecology believes in the interdependence of the socio-cultural domains and biophysical domains. The roots of social ecology lie in the interconnections it forms between society and ecology. Most of the present ecological issues arise from deep-seated social problems and these cannot be understood and explained without understanding of reality of our society and the impracticality within it.

Social ecology stresses direct relation of the human and non-human world, the society which is based on ecological principles; has unity in diversity, is free from hierarchical organisation and respects mutual interrelationship in every aspect of life as a suitable alternative.

It is an appeal for social reformation and moral regeneration among ecological lines. According to Murray Bookchin "Social ecologists believe that things like racism, sexism, third world exploitation are a product of the same mechanisms that cause rainforest devastation". Bookchin has a strong opinion about the transformation of human-nature relationship if there could be change in human society. The basis of social ecology is that "ecological problems arise from deep-seated social problems and ecological problems cannot be understood, much less resolved, without facing social issues."

According to Bookchin, the root causes of environmental problems are the market economy and the capitalist system which include trade for profit, industrial expansion, and the identification of progress with corporate self-interest

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## 5.5 DEEP ECOLOGY

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*Deep ecology* is defined as environmental and ecological philosophy that promotes inherent value of living beings disregarding of their utility to human requirements and also reconstruction of modern human societies in accordance with these ideas. Like the social ecologists, deep ecology distrusts capitalism and industrial technology and favours decentralized forms of social organization.

The phrase "deep ecology" was given by Arne Naess, a Norwegian philosopher, in 1972 on an isolated region of Hallingskarvet Mountain in central Norway where he thought, meditated and wrote.

Deep ecology is an environmental philosophy and social movement based in the belief that humans must radically change the way they relate to nature. Rather than valuing nature only because it is useful to human beings, deep ecology believes in the inherent value of nature. It considers humans no more important than other species and suggests readjustment of the relation of humans and nature.

**Deep ecology is based on the following principles:**

- **Inherent value-** The flourishing life on the earth has value in itself.

- **Diversity-** Diversity of life forms contribute to the understanding of these values.
- **Vital Needs-**Humans can fulfil their vital needs but have no right to deplete this diversity.
- **Population-**The flourishing of human life and cultures is compatible with a substantial decrease of the human population. The flourishing of nonhuman life requires such a decrease.
- **Human Interference-** The situation is rapidly worsening due to huge human interference with the nonhuman world.
- **Policy Change-** The basic economic, ideological and technological and structural policies are required to be changed.
- **Quality of Life-** The direction of change should be towards increasing life quality instead of increasing higher standards of living.
- **Obligation of Action-** There is an obligation to implement the essential changes.

Deep ecology has been criticised for not giving due importance to human life. According to Bookchin, deep ecology wrongly identifies human beings and their activities as the major cause of environmental problems. He compared deep ecologists to radical environmentalists who favour anti-human population controls.

#### **Difference between Shallow and Deep Ecology**

The core belief of deep ecology is that all the life present has the equal right to live on the earth. This refers to the consideration that the interests of other living beings should also be valued as that of humans. For example, a rainforest can no longer be treated as a valueless source of wood only instead, a collection of living creatures who all have equal right to live and flourish. Nature is said to have intrinsic value. It is valuable even if humans can't find use from it. From a deep ecologist's point, protecting humans from climate change will have effect on other living beings and they would suffer. Deep ecology says that we should expand our view of who we are so that it also considers the natural world. This is sometimes regarded as the expanded self. We are harming ourselves, if we harm nature. Deep ecology favours ecocentrism or biocentrism and rejects anthropocentrism. On the other hand, Shallow ecology rejects ecocentrism and biocentrism. They consider that there is nothing wrong with the anthropocentric view. Nature is there to serve human interests. This is sometimes called as instrumental value. Also, climate change is bad because human interests will suffer from this. It is humans that will ultimately suffer if climate change is allowed to occur. Protecting humans from the effects of climate change is still considered a bad thing as the damage caused to other life forms would also affect humans. It will lead to difficulty in obtaining natural resources. It treats richness and diversity of species as intrinsic values are based on respect for nonhuman life forms. Humans are considered part of nature instead its ruler. On the other hand, shallow ecology fights resource depletion and the pollution for the sake of the health and wealth of people in the developed countries. It is more dependent on the efficient use of the environment rather than to work for the

environment. Naess refers to it as management ethics instead of environmental ethics and thus highlights its selfish and exploitative nature and social injustice. The short term policies of shallow ecology are not fair because they ignore the underdeveloped countries. Shallow Ecology is supported by Anthony Weston, an American writer, teacher, and philosopher. Weston's philosophical project as a whole advances an expansive "toolbox" for critical, creative, and constructive thinking, especially for purposes of social and environmental re-imagination and pragmatic ethical practice.

In India environmental movements are characterized by free-floating, eclectic brands of ideologies. Ramachandra Guha is an Indian scholar who has contributed to the understanding of 'environmentalism in India' and discussed the various strands of environmental thinking which are detailed below. Control over natural resources, socioeconomic reasons, environmental destruction and wide spread awareness and media can be regarded as the reasons of the origination of environmental movements in India.

### **'The Crusading Gandhians'**

The Crusading Gandhians found strong adherents in England and Germany because industrialization brought a comeback of agrarian sentiment. India during Pre-industrialized time contributed a more practical agrarian thinker in Mahatma Gandhi, who read Ruskin and Carpenter while studying in England. Scientific conservation with a concern for environmental degradation, also took root in Germany and Britain. Different environmental movements across the globe areas and different environmental philosophers use the ideas of Gandhi like green and deep ecology etc. Petra Kelly, founder of German green party was influenced by Gandhi and wrote "a lifestyle and a method of production which rely on an endless supply of raw materials and a lavish use of these raw materials generate the motive for the violent appropriation of raw materials from other countries". Arne Naess known as father of deep ecology was influenced by Mahatma's metaphysics. He accepted his work on ecology which was developed from the work of Spinoza and Gandhi. Naess defines bio-spherical egalitarianism as the internal relation between self-realization and non-violence given by Gandhi. He gives credit to Gandhi for his work on Deep Ecology which helped him to become champion of environmentalism.

### **The Ecological Marxists**

They follow Gandhian tradition as a mode of action like padayatras, fasts and poojas. Guha says that the social and ecological harmony is the result of the pre-capitalist and pre-colonial community according to crusading Gandhians. The believers of appropriate technologies tried for agriculture and industry and technological methods. While the ecological Marxists do not believe in traditions and focus only on the scientific facts. *Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad* (KSSP) is an example of ecological Marxism, according to Guha.

A study of the Silent Valley movement shows the practices of Mahatma. Gandhian practices were adopted in the movement against the environmental injustice. The followers belong to the different areas of society like



journalists, social workers, intellectuals, students, and teachers etc. They raised the awareness to the people about the role of the Silent Valley Forest to the southern monsoon. Modern industrialization is considered the root cause of environmental deterioration according to Gandhi whereas Marxists believe capitalism as its major cause making both the ideologies different. According to Gandhi, human needs are to be limited for the sake of nature while Marx considers every man's needs. Marx considers science and technology as a tool for regulating nature, on the other hand, Gandhi sees it as an obstacle to nature conservation.

### **Scientific Conservationists**

Scientific conservationists focus on the efficiency and management whereas wilderness enthusiasts are concerned for their commitment about the protection of biodiversity. Here is the notable work of Scientific Conservationists B.B. Vohra. He was one of the first scientific conservationists to draw public attention to land and water degradation. In 1973 he documented water erosion, water-logging and other types of land degradation. In 1973 he documented the extent of water erosion, water-logging and other types of land degradation. No coordination between concerned departments of the government was there and national organisation or policies were formed to combat with these problems. Formation of new ministries and departments were the only solution for him at that time.

### **The Appropriate Technologists**

Appropriate Technology is the most practice oriented among all other ideologies which focuses to develop and apply technical and institutional options to the centralizing and environmentally destructive process of development in India. The appropriate technologists think in the amalgamation of between eastern and western traditions and decentralized planning and adherence to small scale non-destructive economic activities.

Thus, appropriate technologists have worked for the generation and diffusion of resource conservation, socially liberating technologies and labour intensive. Demonstration of the practices as a set of socio-technical options to the presently operating technologies, but, not so much on challenging the 'system'.

Sarvodayee Chandi Prasad Bhatt guided the Chipko Movement which is basically Gandhian in its ideology, but this movement has also accepted the principles of appropriate technology as commended by Bahuguna. Narmada campaign is the interaction of Gandhian ideas, appropriate technology, and politico economic frame in the Marxian ideology.

### **Wilderness Enthusiasts**

All the three Crusading Gandhians, appropriate technologists and ecological Marxists represent the three most powerful ideologies in the Indian environmental movement but the other two ideologies i.e. scientific conservationists and the Wilderness Enthusiasts also have a significant support. Indian naturalists have provided huge evidence for the decline of

natural forests and the flora and the fauna species, appealing the government to take restorative action. Both scientific conservation and wilderness ideologies have considerable influence on government policies rather to commanda popular following.

Two more ideologies were talked about by Baviskar in 1995 - the Ideology of Conservation and the ideology of Indigenous Ecological Management. Ecofeminism is also one of the ideologies of Indian environmental movements. Baviskar emphasizes on the 'environmentalism of the poor' and says the poor people are mostly dependent on natural resources or on environment to support their livelihood and existence; any form of environmental degradation will majorly affect their life and survival. She verified the argument of 'full-stomach' environmentalism and 'empty belly' environmentalism. She connects the link of environmentalism between Southern movements and the Northern practices. Northern practices have strengthened the Southern movements and helped them to develop the idea of 'red' and 'green' nature of Indian environmentalism. Study on Industrial Pollution in Delhi and Fisheries in Kerala by Kavita Philip, AmitaBaviskar and Subir Sinha developed the interrelationship between two types of environmentalism i.e. environmentalism of politically powerful class and the poor working class of factories and fish workers. These two groups focus on the equal distribution of resources and safe working conditions. They have raised anti-pollution movement and fish workers movement.

The ideologies are different and often do not overlap. A single environmental organization or group may follow more than one ideology. On the other hand, a single ideology may motivate many environmental movements at a given time. The procedure of formation and denial of the ideologies of such movements in the past have slowly given rise to a new ideological form that is 'Ecologism' which is its budding stage.

### Check Your Progress 1

**Notes:** a) Check your progress with possible answers given at the end of the unit.

1) What do you understand by environmentalism?

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2) What are the objectives of Environmentalism?

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## 5.6 ENVIRONMENTAL INEQUALITY

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This refers to how environmental quality differs between different communities of the country in several features like air pollution, availability of green space and exposure to flood risk. Environmental inequality has detrimental effects on individuals as well as communities. The following important aspects must be kept in mind to ensure equity:

- i) *Intrinsic value of environmental equity*: The fundamentals of legal documents and constitutions consider that everyone has a right to safe and clean environment. These values do not apply for individuals but also distributed across communities. A more equal distribution of the effects of the exposure to pollution can be considered as ethically correct and preferable to unequal distribution.
- ii) *Equality of opportunities*: Equality of opportunity is the second concern. According to the World Bank's Human Opportunity Index, "Much more important than inequality of outcomes among adults is inequality of opportunity among children". The important point of the discussion should not be about equality but about equity which means equal chances for all but not equal rewards for all.
- iii) *Economic impacts*: Pollution also affects in terms of economic impacts on property, work loss and health issues. According to the EPA (2014) effects are "especially important to minority and low-income populations who are disproportionately impacted by asthma and other debilitating health conditions." Environmental justice takes care of enactment of environmental policies and laws so that no group or community shares a disproportionate ratio of harmful impacts of environmental hazards and pollution, eg. air and water pollution, inadequate access to healthy food, unsafe homes, and inadequate transportation etc. Some communities or human groups have a disproportionate share of higher levels of environmental risk than other sections of society and this has initiated the concept of environmental injustice and inequality.

To give an example from India, we may consider how a small but increasing number of people drive a car. In Delhi, 15 percent of the people drive. Their driving cost is high in terms of air pollution. The question arises, how to mitigate air pollution because more and more people in Delhi and other car-clogged cities drive. Is it possible for the remaining 85 per cent to plan? Is there enough space on the road or in the already polluted 'air shed' for the cars of the many? The answer is clearly, no. Unless we restart urban mobility on an uncommon scale, we cannot achieve clean air. Understanding this, the Delhi High Court considering 'equity of use' in 2010 ruled that Delhi roads need to be planned. Today, the bulk of Delhi citizens walk, cycle, or take a public transport bus or metro train. Most of the poor people do this. The question here is whether these cities having poor-rich gradation of the evolving world can be restarted upgraded and be improved so that the urban public transport systems is used more, and the majority won't need to use private vehicles any more. This will help cities to not become car-clogged and then try to accommodate public vehicles. The approach to make policy to

mitigate air pollution must move from cleaning the tailpipe to planning for affordable and overall mobility solutions. The solutions must work for the poor and for the rich.

To overcome the issue of the environmental injustice solutions should be given rather than just posing problems. The technologies and approaches for the management of environmental problems will have to be recognised differently so that sustainable growth is achieved. At present, a development that ensures the sustainable future for upcoming generations is the only way that will work on ground level to combat all sorts of environmental issues and inequalities. This puts a new way towards environmentalism to adopt ideas only with idealism and purpose.

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## 5.7 RADICAL ECOLOGY

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Radical ecology focuses on the solutions to environmental crisis which are more beneficial than market incentives or technological fixes. Radical ecology is an evaluative approach that works through thought and praxis, and focuses on how we can really resist the destructive process of industrial growth and socio-economic system so as to bring the changes which helps to achieve new strategy for living which follows the natural world. It involves the work and experiments in new economics, fixed ideological position, process-oriented science, revitalised spirituality and hierarchical social forms.

It is thus not a unified stream of thought that works from or towards a fixed ideology. It is a way of thinking that searches within a certain 'bandwidth' how a radical transformation of human 'being in the world' can be brought about, that would allow humans and non-human beings both to flourish. From the perspective of Radical Ecology such flourishing can only happen if we focus on the ecological or interrelated nature of life, without losing sight of the particular needs of all species. In that sense it is a form of Deep Ecology that is not satisfied with finding (shallow) legal, technical and institutional solutions to the ecological crisis. Radical Ecology stresses the need for a change in consciousness, but, also for the need of a transformation of humanity's concrete ways of acting and understanding itself. It is here that the concept of ahimsa as it is understood in nonviolence thinking might have something to offer.

### Check your progress 2

**Notes:** a) Check your progress with possible answers given at the end of the unit.

1) What is Environmental inequality?

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## 5.8 LET US SUM UP

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In this unit we have described the term environmentalism and its history, ideologies, and theories. We know that the environment of the Earth is changing due to various anthropogenic activities which lead to unsustainability. This unit focuses on environmental aspect of green ideology and politics and social ecology. The requirement of environmentalism is basically a step to equilibrium to maintain the primary relation of humans and nature and their systems on which they are dependent to achieve sustainability. It is mainly concerned about creating awareness regarding the importance of the environment to humans and other organisms.

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## 5.9 KEY WORDS

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**Environmentalism:** The term “environmentalism” is considered as an ideology, broad philosophy, and social movement which takes into account the concerns of environmental protection and environmental health improvement, particularly the measures which integrate the effect on animals, plants, humans and abiotic factors due to environmental changes.

**Ideology:** An ideology can be defined as a group of ideas which give authenticity to an existing or proposed system of relationships, and correspondingly support an action programme to sustain the prevailing system.

**Deep ecology:** *Deep ecology* is define as environmental and ecological philosophy that promotes inherent value of living beings and also reconstruction of modern human societies in accordance with these ideas.

**Social ecology:** Social ecology is the hierarchical arrangement of authoritarian mentality and power that has been planted in the society.

**Shallow ecology:** It rejects ecocentrism and biocentrism. They consider that there is nothing wrong with the anthropocentric view. Nature is there to serve human interests.

**Environmental Scholars:** Ramachandra Guha, AmitaBaviskar, Murray Bookchin.

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## **5.11 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**

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### **Check Your Progress 1**

- 1) The term “environmentalism” is considered as an ideology, broad philosophy, and social movement which takes into account the concerns of environmental protection and environmental health improvement, particularly the measures which integrate the effect on animals, plants, humans and abiotic factors due to environmental changes. It is a theory which focuses on environment first than heredity as a crucial factor of the evolution, especially cultural and intellectual development of an individual or group.
- 2) Objectives of Environmentalism are:
  - To change how people interact with the environment and natural resources
  - Form public policies to protect the environment.
  - Create awareness about how people affect the environment through different ways.

### **Check Your Progress 2**

- 1) The environmental quality which differs between different communities of the country in a number of features like air pollution, availability of green space and exposure to flood risk.
- 2) The main objective of deep ecology is the protection of non-industrial cultures from the invasion of industrial societies. Deep ecology focuses on the biological richness and diversity of life forms.