Encl-14 (1)

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ISBN : 978-81-89495-38-1

Role of Education in Environment Protection and Conservation

Editor and Convener :
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Organized & Published by
Km. Mayawati Govt. Girls Post Graduate College Badalpur
(Gautambudh Nagar) U.P.-203204

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Printer
Sahitya Sansthan, Ghaziabad

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(13)

Rainwater Harvesting for Conservation of Water Resource

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An old technology is gaining popularity in a new way. Rain water harvesting is enjoying a renaissance of sorts in the world, but it traces its history to biblical times. Extensive rain water harvesting apparatus existed 4000 years ago in the Palestine and Greece. In ancient Rome, residences were built with individual cisterns and paved courtyards to capture rain water to augment water from city's aqueducts. As early as the third millennium BC, farming communities in Baluchistan and Kutch impounded rain water and used it for irrigation dams. Artificial recharge to ground water is a process by which the ground water reservoir is augmented at a rate exceeding that obtaining under natural conditions or replenishment. Any man-made scheme or facility that adds water to an aquifer may be considered to be an artificial recharge system. In this study the methods and techniques for Rain water harvesting for conservation of Water resource have been taken into account.

Introduction

Though man began to interfere with the natural processes right from the beginning of sedentary life but the impact of man on the environment and its processes assumed greater proportion after industrial revolution (1860)

(Monkhouse, F.J. and small J.A. Dictionary of Natural Environment, p. 38)

Man equipped with modern technologies and advanced scientific knowledge has become a very important factor in changing the environmental processes. The realisation of the impacts of man on environmental processes began even in the beginning of the nineteenth century but G.P. Marsh's book 'Man and Nature' (1864) may be taken as the pioneer work which demonstrates the effects of human activity upon environmental processes and caution the society against the magnitude of changes brought by man.

With scientific growth and technological development since 1860 in general and after Second World War in particular man has emerged as a significant geomorphic agent/process and is capable of changing the earth's surface many times faster than natural geomorphological processes. Thus now geomorphological processes fall in two broad categories viz. (i) natural geomorphological or physical environmental processes and (ii) anthropogenous geomorphological processes. Thus the study of mode of changes brought in physical natural systems by man through his economic activities and several developmental works may be called anthropogenic geomorphology and the modified natural processes by human activities and the mechanism through which natural geomorphological processes and physical landscapes are change and modified may be termed as anthropogenous geomorphological processes. This aspect of geomorphology comes under broad branch of applied geomorphology wherein the main focus of study rests on man as a geomorphic agent and inadvertent and planned effects of his economic activities on geomorphic processes and forms (land forms).

The human impact on natural environment is one of the most pressing issues of contemporary times and a subject of discussion in geographical literature. The ways in which human beings have changed and are changing the face of the earth and the human role in the natural processes and systems, have drawn the attention not only of natural scientists but also of social scientists as well as of planners and policy makers.