

VAC-151(EVS)

Capsule Notes On

UNIT5: ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

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Environmental Ethics

1. Principles and Concept of Environmental Ethics

Environmental ethics is a branch of philosophy that studies the moral relationship between humans and the environment.

Core Questions:

- Do humans have the right to exploit nature?
- Does nature have intrinsic value?
- What are our duties toward future generations?

Key Principles:

- Intrinsic Value of Nature: Nature has value in itself.
- Interconnectedness: All components of nature are interdependent.
- Sustainability: Use resources responsibly for future generations.
- Stewardship: Humans are caretakers of Earth.
- Precautionary Principle: Avoid actions causing irreversible damage.

2. Animal Welfare vs Animal Rights

Animal Welfare:

- Focuses on humane treatment.
- Allows use of animals with minimal suffering.

Animal Rights:

- Animals have rights similar to humans.
- Opposes exploitation and killing.

3. Deep Ecology

Proposed by *Arne Naess*.

- All life forms have equal value.
- Humans are not superior to nature.
- Promote simple living and reduced consumption.

4. Ecofeminism

- Links environmental destruction with the oppression of women.
- Promotes equality and sustainability.

5. Putting Environmental Ethics into Practice

Individual:

- Reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Save water and energy.

Societal: Environmental laws and conservation programs.

Global: Climate agreements and biodiversity protection.

ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS

1. Chipko Movement

- Started in the 1970s.
- People hugged trees to prevent deforestation.
- Led by Gaura Devi.

2. Silent Valley Movement

- Opposed the hydroelectric project in Kerala.
- Protected rainforest ecosystem.

3. Bishnoi Community

- Protect trees and wildlife.
- Known for environmental conservation.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

1. Floods

Causes: Heavy rainfall, river overflow, deforestation.

Impacts: Loss of life, crop damage, and diseases.

Management: Dams, early warning systems, and afforestation.

2. Earthquakes

Causes: Tectonic plate movement.

Impacts: Building collapse, infrastructure damage.

Management: Earthquake-resistant structures, preparedness.

3. Cyclones

Causes: Warm ocean and low pressure.

Impacts: Flooding, destruction of homes and crops.

Management: Early warning, shelters, mangroves.

4. Landslides

Causes: Rainfall, earthquakes, deforestation.

Impacts: Loss of life, blocked roads.

Management: Land planning, afforestation, drainage systems.