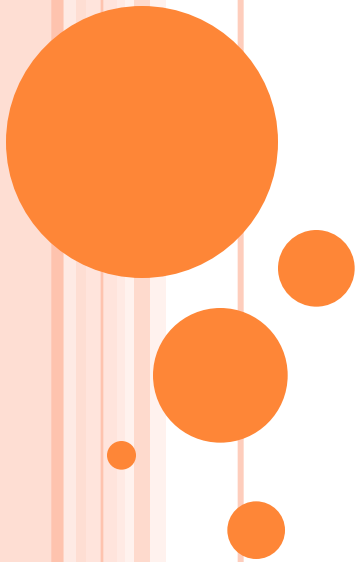


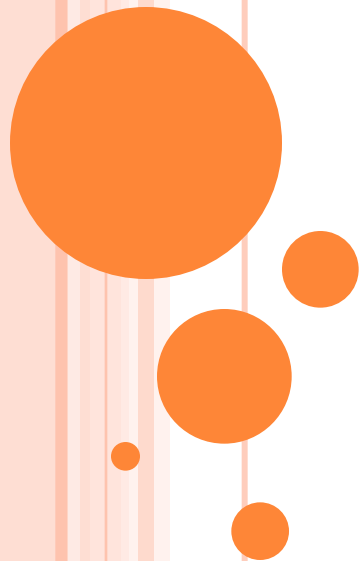
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CHAMELI DEVI SCHOOL OF ENGG.



FDP ON ENVIRONMENT AND RELIGION

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OBJECTIVES

After this presentation you will be able to:

- Know about environmental ethics as described in different religions.
- Observe environmental ethics in daily life to safe guard our environment.



The ENVIRONMENTAL Components

Word "environment" is most commonly used and means **all the living and non-living things that surround an organism, or group of organisms.**

- The non-living (abiotic) components are: earth , water, air, energy, climatic factors and the space occupying all these.
- The living (biotic) components are: all plants and animals including the micro-organisms that are invisible.
- The human beings are important component that affect the environment and are affected by the environment .



Impacts of environment

- The natural balance of the environment is disturbed due to various industries, developmental activities.
- Water and air are polluted by the fumes of diesel/petrol, effluents of industries. (due to not following the environmental regulations).
- The food items are polluted due to use of pesticides/insecticides etc. in agriculture.
- There are changes in climate such as deviation in the temperature patterns, rainfall, composition of atmospheric gases and the like.
- Various types of radiations are also affecting our health.
- All these are adversely affecting all forms of life on earth including human beings.

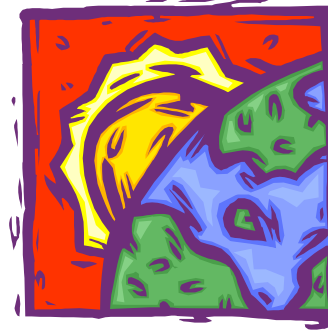


Impacts of developments on environment

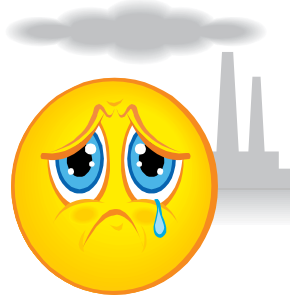
- Deforestation



- Ozone Depletion



- Pollution



- Acid Rain



- Global Warming



- And many more.....



Impacts of environment on health

- We respire 15-18 times per minute and take about 250 L of air per hour via breathing.
- Various pollutants , present in the air enter in our body through respiration and cause several breathing problems -particularly children.
- On average we drink about 5-6 liters of water per day.
- Drinking polluted water causes a number diseases.
- Our food items (fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy products) are getting polluted which affect our health.
- Abnormal climate conditions also adversely affect our day to day life.



ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

- In order to preserve our environment we need to strengthen our environmental compliance with our national policies which is by any means very difficult task to happen in practice.
- There are several laws in India related to environment protection and conservation. (Environmental Protection Act- covering air, water, land pollution and the like).
- It is not enough only to have these laws, but what is more important is to ensure compliance of these laws
- Environmental compliance as well as environmental laws needs constant revision, especially since our time carries so many different environmental problems
- However economic development is sometimes completely different and threatens our environment.



LAWS ,COMPLIANCE AND RELIGION:-

- If we observe our daily life, we follow a system:- like we perform pooja or go to temple.
- We celebrate our all festivals like Diwali, Eid, Rakhi.....
- There are no laws made by any government to do pooja or celebrate festivals, but we never forget these....why????
- Because we are religious people. We don't need any laws to follow our religious festivals.
- Then why there is need of laws to protect environment??
- Today I want to relate environment with various religions.



RELIGIONS AND ENVIRONMENT

- The Mahabharat, Ramayan, Vedas, Upnishads, Gita, Purans, Smriti contain important messages for the preservation of nature and maintenance of ecological balance.
- For centuries, while praying to Goddess Durga, Hindus had said "So long as the earth has mountains, forests and trees, human race will survive".
- The core of the concept of sustainable development, now being advocated at international level, is in the Vedic prayers to the earth. It says-
- "What of thee I dig out, let that quickly grow over,
- Let me not hit thy vitals, or thy heart.—*Atharva Ved*



HINDUISM & NATURE

- In the *Atharva Ved*, the prayer of peace emphasizes the links between human kind and all creation.

“Supreme Lord,
let there be peace in the sky and the atmosphere,
peace in the plant world and in the forests;
let the cosmic powers be peaceful;
let Brahma be peaceful,
let there be undiluted and fulfilling peace every where.”



SOME CITATIONS FROM THE VEDIC LITERATURE:

- The Vedas and the universal laws of Nature which control the universe and govern the cycles of creation and dissolution were made manifest by the All –Knowing One. Rigveda 10.190.1-3
- No person should kill animals helpful to all and by serving should obtain happiness. Yajurveda 14.47
- O King ! You should never kill animals like bullocks useful for agriculture or like cows which give us milk and all other helpful animals and must punish those who kill or do harm for such animals. Yajurved Bhashya 13.49
- One who think noxious about anybody can not find happiness. Manusmriti 5.45
- O wicked man! If you roasted a bird then your bathing in sacred rivers, pilgrimage, worship and *Yagnas* are useless. Narsinha Puran 13.44



JAINISM & NATURE

- Jainism flourished in B.C. 6th century laid great- stress on Ahimsa and pleaded for compassion towards all living creatures and to discard and avoid animal sacrifice at all cost.
- The five vows and twenty-two endurances that the followers of Jainism were called upon to practice were the bed rocks of Jainism and they are still relevant now-a-days for protecting nature and leading a life of service to humanity and nature- Anuvrata Garhastya Dharma
- The Jain philosophy revolves round the concept that all aspects of nature belong together and are bound in physical as well as metaphysical relations
- Jain ecological philosophy concentrates on the Jaina principle of 'ahimsa' which means avoidance of violence in any form through word or deed, not only to human beings but to all which requires in turn the compassion for all living beings on every step of life.



BUDDHISM & NATURE

- It is a religion of love, understanding and compassion.
- It too pays great importance to non-violence, which according to Buddhism does not only apply to human beings but to all living beings and to any living things that has a mind because wherever is a mind, there is the feeling of pain, pleasure and joy.
- Trees, flowers and animals etc. have mind and so they should be treated with equanimity and respect.



ISLAM & NATURE

- Holy Quran pointed out that man is only a part of the nature's web and he has no right to disturb that web.
- In case he does otherwise he will have to face harsh punishment on the Day of Judgment and lose the right of trusteeship of nature.
- A number of obligations have been imposed on him while dealing with nature.
- Trusteeship of 'Allah' and accountability to Allah and unity of nature are the three concepts of Islam and they form the pillars of environmental ethics of Islam.
- He loves not those who exceed the limits. Create not disorder in the earth after it had been set in order.
- There is not an animal that moves about in the earth, nor a bird flies on its wings but are communities like you.
Quran 6:39



SIKHISM & NATURE

- Believed that God is the only source of birth, life and death of all creatures and He is the basic cause of the creation.
- The creation and dissolution of the world is the soul domain of God.
- The bounties of nature(i.e. air, water, fruits, medicines etc.) draw sustenance only from Him.
- He alone is their master; without his 'Hukum' nothing exists, changes or develops and so men need not interfere with the creation of God as to destroy nature's beauty and invite displeasure of the Almighty.



CHRISTIANITY & NATURE

- Christianity declared that to attain a wholesome and prosperous life one need not do injury to other living creatures and live an intemperate life.



RELIGION & NATURE

- Einstein said "true religion is concerned with men's attitude towards nature at large, with the establishing ideals for the individual and communal life and with mutual human relations." Indeed, **as religion exists in nature and nature sustains human life.**
- Thus, if humanity has to survive it has to draw sustenance of spirituality from religions for assuring eco-friendly universe. This will be the most scintillating Ode or tribute to Vyas, Buddha" Mahabir, Confucius, Christ, Mohammad and Guru Nanak .



- Now, everyone is thinking that I am also religious and want to protect environment.
- Here are few and very little things which one can opt very easily.



Environmental ethics

- Trees are best environmental guards.
- It is recommended to have one tree per person in the cities to reduce pollution.
- Plant trees and take care for their growth and safety. Do not cut trees particularly in the cities.
- Minimize use of pesticides/insecticides.
- Consume minimum electricity, petrol/diesel.
- Avoid/minimize use of plastics.
- Ensure proper disposal of waste materials.



YOU CAN DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTE BY

1. By switching of lights when not required.
2. By using cloth/jute bags instead of plastic bags.
3. Using both side of paper.
4. Using refills instead of buying a new pen.
5. By growing plants.
6. By being vegetarian also you save energy
7. By not wasting food, water.
8. By using oil lamps instead of wax candles
9. By using copper bottomed utensils
10. By using recycled paper



WATER

- Water is precious.
- Water is life.
- 70% of our body is made of water.
- Save water.

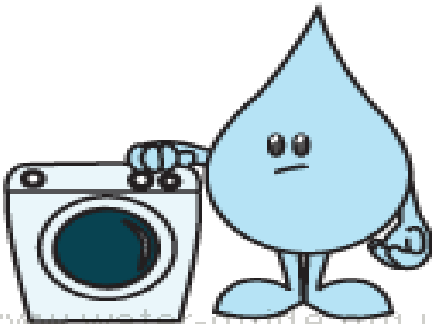




Turn off tap while cleaning your teeth, shaving or washing your face. You can waste can up to 9 litres a minute by just letting the water pour down the sink.



Take a short shower rather than a bath could save you up to 400 litres a week. If you do have baths, just half fill them.



Only use the washing machine and the dishwasher when you can put on a full load. It wastes both water and energy to run only a half full machine

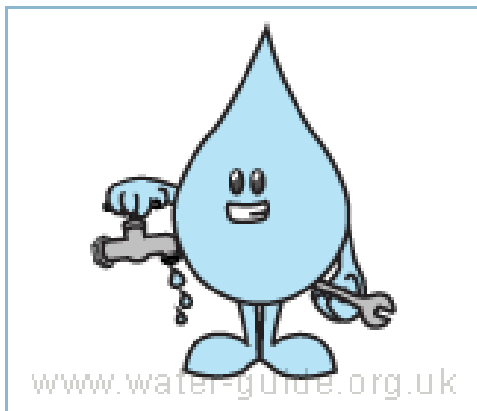




Use a broom and bucket of water for washing down the patio rather than a steady flow of water from the hose.



Use a sponge and bucket of water to clean your car or if you use the hose, ensure you use a shut off nozzle so the water is not constantly running.



Fix any dripping tap, you can waste 90 litres a week.

And many more....things we can do to save water.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I want to acknowledge different resources from where the information is taken to prepare this presentation.

Thanks.

