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MED-8

Globalisation and Environment

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Sample Preview of the Solved Sample Question Papers

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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2024

(Solved)

GLOBALISATION AND ENVIRONMENT

MED-8

Time: 2 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 50

Note: Attempt *all* questions. Marks for each question are indicated against it.

Q. 1. Answer the following questions:

(a) Explain 'Greenhouse Effect'. How do greenhouse gases affect the environment?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 21, Q. No. 6.

(b) Explain the purpose of TRIPS. What are the two main categories of TRIPS? Briefly explain them.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 32, 'TRIPS'.

(c) Explain briefly the environmental concerns of South Asian countries.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 63, 'Environmental Concerns of South Asia'.

(d) Explain the need of biodiversity conservation. Which convention is related to it? Give the thrust areas of this convention.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 92, 'Meaning of Biodiversity: Need for Conservation and Protection' and Page No. 96, Q. No. 4.

(e) What is a Volcano? Explain briefly its various types.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 11, 'Volcanoes'.

Add: The main types of volcanoes are:

Shield volcanoes – broad, gently sloping, formed by basaltic lava flows.

Stratovolcanoes (composite) – steep, layered with lava and ash.

Cinder cones – small, steep, built from volcanic debris.

Lava domes – formed by viscous lava.

Calderas – collapsed craters.

Q. 2. Answer the following questions:

(a) Discuss briefly the role of any two main organs of the United Nations.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 35, Q. No. 1.

(b) Explain briefly any five principles of International Environmental Law.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 39, 'General Principles of International Environmental Law'.

(c) Define NGOs and explain their origin.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 70, 'Origin, Structure and Ideology of NGOs'.

(d) Discuss how 'seed suicides' committed by farmers in India were related to globalization.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 89, 'Seed Suicides (India)'.

(e) What are toxic wastes? Give examples. Mention any one convention related to toxic or hazardous wastes. How are such wastes disposed off?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 15, 'Toxic Wastes' and Chapter-6, Page No. 41, 'Basel Convention, 1989'.

(f) List the important issues related to industrial processes and production techniques involved in cases of industrial accidents.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 17, 'Industrial Accidents' and Page No. 19, Q. No. 3.

Q. 3. Answer the following questions:

(a) What is the contribution of Indian Judiciary towards environmental protection? Explain giving any two examples.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-16, Page No. 121, Q. No. 3.

(b) Discuss the important aspects of Narmada Bachao Andolan.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 80, 'Narmada Bachao Andolan' and Page No. 84, Q. No. 3 (Narmada Bachao Andolan).

(c) Name any five multilateral agreements related to transnational air pollution.

Ans. Five multilateral agreements related to transnational air pollution are:

Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), 1979: CLRTAP, under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), is one of the earliest agreements addressing transboundary air pollution. It focuses on reducing air pollution across borders, particularly in Europe and North America.

Gothenburg Protocol, 1999: This protocol, part of CLRTAP, targets acidification, eutrophication, and ground-level ozone. It sets emission reduction commitments for Sulfur Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxide, volatile organic compounds, and ammonia. The protocol was amended in 2012 to include fine Particulate Matter.

Kyoto Protocol, 1997: Though primarily focused on climate change, the Kyoto Protocol indirectly impacts air pollution by addressing greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to global pollution levels. The protocol emphasizes reducing Carbon Dioxide, methane, and other gases.

Paris Agreement, 2015: A global agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement aims to limit global warming, reducing pollutants such as CO₂, methane, and black carbon, which contribute to both climate change and air pollution.

ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, 2002: This agreement, among ASEAN countries, seeks to control transboundary haze pollution from land and forest fires, primarily in Southeast Asia. It promotes cooperation in monitoring and managing fires to reduce air pollution impacts.

(d) How do globalisation increased the gap between developed and developing countries? Explain.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 25, Q. No. 1.

(e) What are micronutrients? Give their examples and importance. Describe the problems associated with iron deficiency.

Ans. Ref.: Chapter-14, Page No. 100, 'Micro-Nutrient Deficiencies'.



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Sample Preview of The Chapter

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GLOBALIZATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Dimensions of Globalization



INTRODUCTION

The globalization has integrated environment dimensions which have gained prominence in the past few decades. Globalization has given a new direction to the social, cultural, technological and financial definitions. It signifies an approach to environment and development issues in which the requirement to satisfy human needs is balanced with the capacity of the environment to cope with the consequences of economic development.

The relationship between environment and development is an integral part of the social environment. The environmental impact has been assuming global proposition in biodiversity degradation. The globalization has also defines the sustainable development over a period of time. The concept of sustainable development implies a fusion of two imperatives: the right to develop, and the need to sustain the environment. This concept denotes a balance that brings environmental concepts into the developmental process, and developmental matters are placed in the ambit of environmental protection efforts. In this chapter, we will study about the globalization and its changing scenario, global environment and intervention and the role of sustainable development.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

CHANGING NATURE OF THE GLOBALIZATION

Globalization has changed the definition of trade, technology and financial system of economy. Globalization can be defined as a policy that leads to the opening up of economy to ensure unrestricted flow of goods and services, capital, technology, natural and human resources while transcending the boundaries. The economic phase of globalization has begun in 1980, and it removes all the barriers and rapidly increases the flow of trade, investment, services and real estate across the borders. There is a great impact of technology, trade and financial capital on globalization today.

Role of Technology

Technological changes are the principal drivers of globalization. Before, globalization, the trade and technology were surrounding in limited area and thus, the price of goods and services were very high. On the contrary, the technology has resulted in facilitating structural changes in industry. It brings transformation of nature of goods and services provided to the customer. For example, in 1930 the cost of three minute telephone call was costed

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245 dollar from New York to London, whereas it fell up to 3 dollar in 1990s.

Role of Trade

Since 1980s the world trade had accelerated in many folds. The growth of capital and funds flows has been faster than the growth of world trade. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy featured the growth of investment which was substantial in big bulk of investment flows among the developed countries; the developing countries are increasingly becoming the receipts of FDI. China recorded more than 12 times higher FDI than India in 2004. India is receiving the FDI from USA, Mauritius, Germany, Japan, South Korea and others.

Role of Financial Capital

The globalization is characterized by the rapid growth and development in financial market. Many developed countries like USA, UK etc. are keen to invest in developing countries like India, and China. Therefore, in 1991, the Indian FDI policy was liberalized and since 1980, the foreign collaboration and investment is constantly increasing.

Global Climatic Change

It is essential to understand the relationship between economic globalization with environment. The global change is a long-term change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns over periods of time that range from decades to millions of years. It may be a change in the average weather conditions or a change in the distribution of weather events with respect to an average, for example, greater or fewer extreme weather events. Various gases affect the weather and climate of earth and create changes in the atmosphere which create stress mortality and diseases could increase as the tropical habitat.

GLOBALIZATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Globalization brought about internationalization of economic activities, especially with US and UK taking to greater interest in market coordination during 1980s. Globalization has increased the demand and supply of products across the globe which resulted fast production and using intensive techniques to meet the demand. They perceive globalization as harmful to the

environment in many ways. In fact it kills the natural resources and neglects the environment in the same way.

Free Trade and Environment

Globalization emphasis on free trade across the globe and hence, with increasing pressure from world monetary and trade organizations many countries succumbed to the pressure to liberalize their economies. But there are many factors which directly or indirectly perceive harmful effect on the environment. The investment and globalization of production has been emphasizing on fast growing technology which leads to reduce the environment-friendly technologies in many countries.

Terms of Trade and Environment

From environmental perspective, trade liberalization can have a negative or a positive effect on the environment. But the direct effects of trade on the environment are very harmful, it is very harmful for trade. In 1987, the Brundtland Report, formally the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), alerted the world to the urgency of making progress toward economic development without depleting natural resources or harming the environment. The commission was created to address growing concern about the accelerating deterioration of the human environment and natural resources and the consequences of that deterioration for economic and social development. The Brundtland Report was primarily concerned with securing a global equity, redistributing resources towards poorer nations while encouraging their economic growth. The report also suggested that equity, growth and environmental maintenance are simultaneously possible and that each country is capable of achieving its full economic potential while at the same time enhancing its resource base. There are instances of extensive environmental destruction unleashed by the corporate culture.

Environmental Standards

The WTO (World Trade Organization) provides the platform on which trade relations, among members, evolve through collective debate,

negotiation and adjudication. The principal focus of the WTO's work on trade and environment is contained in the Uruguay Round Final Act, under which ministers adopted a decision on trade and environment that called for the establishment of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) and outlined its work programme. There is a need to review both international trade and global environmental laws and agreements in the interests of both developing countries and advanced countries.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTIONS

Globalization and Sustainable Development

Globalization is focusing on the economic and social development. Sustainable development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Under this definition development is not just limited to economic growth but is made to encompass environmental protection, and an equitable distribution of wealth and resources with the goal of improving and raising the standards and quality of living for everyone. The concept of sustainable development was advanced for the first time in the Brundtland Report of 1987. It emphasizes the links between development and environmental problems, and promotes the need for political and economic changes locally, regionally and globally to tackle these problems. Sustainable development implies a concern about the (a) relationship between resources use, population growth and technological development; (b) production and distribution of resources of food, energy, and industry amongst the developing and developed countries; (c) uneven development and imbalances between the rich and the poor nations and (d) environmental degradation and ecological disaster.

The development practices followed the world over during the globalization era marked by a high level of market competitiveness often seemed to follow unsustainable development practices. The most important dimensions of the current phase of economic globalization are the breaking down of national economic barriers; international spread of

ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS OF GLOBALIZATION / 3

trade, financial and production activities and the growing power of transnational corporations and international financial institutions. On the other hand, the social dimension of globalization refers to the impact of globalization on the life and work of people, on their families and their societies.

Globalization and Large Scale Disruption of Ecosystems

Anything around an organism is its environment. Environment includes light, temperature, water, soil and other organisms. An interacting system is formed by the physical environment and living organisms. The study of the inter-relationships of organisms with one another and with the environment is called 'Ecology'. The inter-relationships and interactions result in an output. Thus a natural system, which exhibits input-output mechanism, is formed. This is referred to as an eco-system.

The cause of large scale disruption of eco-system is climate change and damage of eco-system. We have already studied in this chapter that how the climate changes can damage the eco-system of our plants. The present phase of globalization shows that large scale agriculture which causes deforestation of forests or degradation of land.

Some Global Environmental Initiatives

The current process of globalization is said to aim to achieve economic efficiency through competitiveness, while seeking the broader objectives of economic and social development. It touches all spheres of human life; economic, social, cultural, political and environmental.

Globalization has resulted environmental devastation, social displacement, wiping out of cultural and biological diversity.

In 1992, the UNCED had taken remarkable decisions for evolving a blueprint for the 21st century. Recognizing the importance of bio-diversity for the survival of life, including humans life on earth, the convention on biological diversity was convened in 1992, and among other things, it reaffirmed sovereign rights of status over their natural resources and agreed to establish a fund through Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

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In context of globalization, WTO (World Trade Organization) was also formulated. The stated aim of WTO is to provide a global decision-making structure of setting and enforcing rules in relation to international trade. The main functions of WTO include administering trade agreements; maintaining a forum for trade negotiations; handling trade disputes; monitoring national trade policies; technical assistance and training for developing countries; and cooperation with other international organizations. WTO became an important player in regulating global trade. The emergence and effectiveness of World Environment Organization would depend upon the power of public mobilization against the adverse environment impact of the present globalization.

SELF-ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Q. 1. What is globalization? What are the effects of globalization on environment?

Ans. Globalization is altering the global environment. Globalization has given a new direction to the social, cultural, technological and financial definitions. The globalization has impacts on the environment and sustainable development in a wide variety of ways. It fosters economic growth and cooperative institutions, both necessary in the long run to manage the global environment. Globalization involves multiple and complex sets of overlapping processes. It is accelerating the destructive process of too many people consuming too many natural resources without any concern for equality or justice.

Global warming and ozone level depletion are examples of global environmental degradation; acid rain and the state of oceans in several countries are of international concern and the more local impacts are due to air and water pollution, soil degradation, deforestation etc. On the one side, globalization creates an impact on the environment, on the other side, an environment impacts the pace, direction and quality of globalization. This happens because environmental resources provide the fuel for economic globalization, but also because our social and policy responses to global environmental

challenges constrain and influence the context in which globalization happens.

The externalities associated with globalization have also had a global impact on the environment, a new set of global 'bads' have been produced, e.g., global warming, depletion of ozone layer, etc. Environmental degradation threatens the very existence of human beings. The link between the environment and economic development may be more complex than that, however. In fact, in many ways, protecting the environment and promoting economic growth are complementary goals. This happens because environmental resources provide the fuel for economic globalization, but also because our social and policy responses to global environmental challenges constrain and influence the context in which globalization happens.

Globalization has signified approach to the environment and development issues in which the requirement to satisfy human needs is balanced with the capacity of the environment to cope with the consequences of economic development. There is a great impact of technology, trade and financial capital on environment because of globalization

Role of Technology: The technology brings transformation in nature of goods and services provided to the customer. In other words, it is the principal driver of globalization. The technology has resulted in facilitating structural changes in industry. Whereas, prior to globalization, the trade and technology were surrounding in limited area and thus the price of goods and services were very high.

Role of Trade: The growth of capital and funds flow has been faster than the growth of world trade. Since 1980s the developing countries are increasingly becoming the receipts of foreign direct investment. Similarly, the world trade had accelerated in many folds because of globalization. The foreign direct investment policy featured the growth of investment which was substantial in big bulk of investment flows among the developed countries.

Global Change: The global change is a long-term change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns over period of time that range from decades to millions of years. It is essential to understand the