

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

(Class IX)

Common to All Sectors



PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education

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UNIT 5 : GREEN SKILLS

Session 2: Conserving Natural Resources

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Session Objectives

The students will be able to:

- ❑ Describe the importance of conservation of natural resources;
- ❑ Explain the purpose and benefits of soil and water conservation;
- ❑ Describe the methods used for saving energy by an individual; and
- ❑ Describe the meaning of food and forest conservation.

Introduction

Conservation is the proper management of a natural resource to prevent its exploitation, destruction or degradation. It is the sum total of activities, which can derive benefits from natural resources but at the same time prevent excessive use, which may lead to destruction or degradation. We can plan energy saving measures, such as cleaning the dust from the tube lights to get more light, regular servicing and maintenance of home appliances and switching off lights and devices when not in use, etc. to conserve energy. Energy conservation also help in saving fossil fuel and money.

Soil Conservation

Soil conservation means checking soil erosion and improving soil fertility by adopting various methods. Soil conservation can be useful for the following:

- 1. Maintenance of Soil Fertility:** The fertility can be maintained by adding manure and fertilizers regularly as well as by rotation of crop.
- 2. Control on Grazing:** Grazing should be allowed only on specified areas.

Soil Conservation

- 3. Reforestation:** Planting of trees and vegetation reduces soil erosion.
- 4. Terracing:** Dividing a slope into several flat fields to control rapid run of water. It is practiced mostly in hilly areas.
- 5. Contour Ploughing:** Ploughing at right angles to the slope allows the furrows to trap water and check soil erosion by rain water.

Water Conservation

Conservation and management of water are essential for the survival of mankind, plants and animals. This can be achieved by adopting the following methods:

1. Growing vegetation in the catchment areas, which will hold water in the soil and allow it to percolate into deeper layers and contribute to formation of ground water.
2. Constructing dams and reservoirs to regulate supply of water to the fields, as well as to enable generation of hydroelectricity.
3. Sewage should be treated and only the clear water should be released into the rivers.

Water Conservation

4. Industrial wastes (effluents) should be treated to prevent chemical and thermal pollution of fresh water.
5. Judicious use of water in our day-to-day life.
6. Rainwater harvesting should be done by storing rainwater and recharging groundwater.
7. Watershed, which is a single unit of land with its water drainage system includes soil and water management for developing vegetative cover in the area.

Saving Energy

Conservation of energy means saving them and using them efficiently. You can contribute to saving energy in the following ways:

- Switch off lights, fans, TV and other electrical items, when not in use
- Use tube lights and energy efficient bulbs that save energy rather than bulbs.
- Keep the bulbs and tubes clean.
- Remove dust on the tubes and bulbs to improve lighting levels by 10 to 20%.
- Use pressure cooker to save energy required for cooking.
- Keep vessels covered with a lid during cooking. It is useful in cooking the food faster and saving energy.
- Electric items like air conditioners geysers, heaters and dryers use a lot of electrical power. Use them when necessary.
- Do not keep the door of a refrigerator open for a long time.
- Cool hot food before putting in the refrigerator.
- Use methods of cooking that use less energy, like use a pressure cooker or solar cooker to cook food.
- Travelling in a bus or travelling in a group in a carpool is better than going alone in a car.

Food Conservation

Food conservation and storage have been practiced to feed mankind in times of shortage. To conserve food, means to use it responsibly now so that enough remains later. Food is stored in warehouses on large scale and in refrigerators at home. Food is processed and preserved to prevent food spoilage until it can be consumed. It is preserved through various methods, including physical and chemical methods to prevent the spoilage due to harmful bacteria and other microorganisms.

Forest Conservation

Forest conservation means the retention of existing forest or the creation of new forest at the levels prescribed by the State or local authority. It is the practice of planning and maintaining forested areas for the benefit and sustainability of future generations. Participation of the community living in and around the forest is important for the success of the forest conservation programme. The various ways in which we can conserve forests include restricted cutting of forest for wood, reforestation and afforestation, training people on conservation of forest and proper utilization of forest and forest produce.

Summary

In this session, you have learnt about the methods of conservation of natural resources, including soil, water, energy, food and forest.

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