

APPRECIATION COURSE ON ENVIRONMENT

(Course Code: ACE)

**Developed in collaboration with
The Ministry of Environment and Forests,
Government of India**

PROGRAMME GUIDE



School of Sciences

Indira Gandhi National Open University

Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110 068

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1. INTRODUCTION

The area of environment is increasingly catching the attention of people. It has been observed that many individuals who have the benefit of education and are actively engaged in their professions often have a strong desire to educate themselves on environmental matters. They also want to play a significant role in environmental management of their neighbourhood. Sometimes, due to misinformation or availability of excessive information on a subject these individuals despite their enlightened backgrounds are not able to make significant contributions. Owing to these reasons the Appreciation Course on Environment (ACE) has been developed by the University in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India as a non-credit awareness course.

The objectives of this course are to:

- disseminate information on national and international environmental issues;
- create environmental consciousness among professionals, academicians, members of society who can play an active part in opinion making within the society so that corrective environmental action could be encouraged; and
- facilitate development of environmental leadership among individuals who may organize/participate in environment upgradation programmes.

2. COURSE COMPONENTS

The course consists of:

- i) Print Material for self study; and
- ii) Contact Programme comprising:
 - Teleconferencing sessions,
 - Audio / Video and Counselling sessions, and
 - Project Assessment Workshop.

More details on these are given in Sections 5 and 6.

3. MODES OF COURSE COMPLETION

This course can be completed in two modes:

Mode - 1 Awareness mode

Mode - 2 Certification mode

Mode -1 Awareness mode

This mode gives you the flexibility to study the print material and perform the activities suggested therein as per your convenience. There is no formal assessment for this mode. A Contact Programme, the schedule of which is given in Section 6, must be attended to enrich and update your learning experience, even though it is optional.

Mode – 2 Certification mode

For this mode, besides pursuing the study of print material you have to successfully complete a Project Work for earning the **Certificate of Participation**. While the details pertaining to the Project Work are given in Section 7 some tips for pursuing this mode of study are as follows:

You may begin your study of the print material and perform the suggested activities in two month's time. This would equip you with the requisite knowledge and help you in choosing a topic for your Project Work. Knowing in advance the deadline for completion of the Project Work (see Section 7) and that it is to be presented in the Project Assessment Workshop, may help you to make the necessary preparations.

4. DURATION

The duration of the course is 3 months, and it is expected that all the activities outlined for the course be completed in the said period. If you are not able to complete your Project Work and present it in the Project Assessment Workshop of your cycle of registration, you may do so in the subsequent cycle **after obtaining the requisite permission from your Regional Director / Course In charge.**

5. PRINT MATERIAL

The print material consists of three blocks, each having a number of units. These have been developed and presented in a self study format after extensive deliberations and scrutiny by experts from the subject area, the language experts and the distance education technologists. The contents of these blocks can be gauged from their unit titles as mentioned below:

BLOCK – 1 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Unit 1 | Why is Environment Important? |
| Unit 2 | Natural Resources |
| Unit 3 | Development and Environment |
| Unit 4 | Development and Environmental Pollution |
| Unit 5 | Environment and Human Health |

BLOCK – 2 ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

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|--------|--|
| Unit 6 | Conservation and Management of Environment |
| Unit 7 | Resource Management |
| Unit 8 | Environmental Quality Management |

BLOCK – 3 IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT
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- | | |
|---------|----------------------------|
| Unit 9 | Eco-friendly Technologies |
| Unit 10 | Environmental Legislation |
| Unit 11 | Global Issues and Concerns |

It would be useful to get familiarized with the format of a block – **The first page of each block** lists the **numbers and titles of the units** comprising the block. This is followed by a **Credit Page**, the **Course Introduction** in the first block, and the **Block Introduction** in each block. These would give you an overview of the course and the block respectively. The **objectives** given in each unit outline as to what is expected to be accomplished after studying it. At the end of the unit there are some **suggested activities** to consolidate your learning, a **summary** of the main points covered in the unit and some **references for further reading** on the various topics dealt with in the unit. It is recommended that the latest editions of the books / references may be referred to for getting the updated facts and figures.

6. CONTACT PROGRAMME

A three-day Contact Programme as per the details given below will be held at the Regional Centre where you have registered for the course. This advance information would help you to schedule your time for the said period.

- For **January – March Cycle** the Contact Programme would be held in the third week of March (Days: Wednesday to Friday, Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.). If the number of students is more than 15, the time schedule of the Contact Programme may be extended on Friday
- For **July – September Cycle** the Contact Programme would be held in the third week of September (Days: Wednesday to Friday, Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.). If the number of students is more than 15, the time schedule of the Contact Programme may be extended on Friday.

Activity Schedule of the Contact Programme

Day	Activities
Day-1, Wednesday	<p>Teleconferencing sessions</p> <p>Session 1 From 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Session 2 From 12:00 noon to 12:45 p.m. Session 3 From 1:00 p.m. to 1: 45 p.m.</p> <p><i>(These would provide a forum for live interaction through one-way video and two-way audio transmission, amongst the Resource Persons at IGNOU Headquarters, and the invited Experts and the Students at the Regional Centres of the University.)</i></p>
Day-2, Thursday	<p>Audio-Video Programmes</p> <p><i>(Programmes can be chosen from the list given on p.7)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>Face-to-face Interaction with an Environmental Expert</p> <p><i>(This is an opportunity for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>clarification of concepts,</i> • <i>discussion on the latest issues and developments in the area of environmental management, and</i> • <i>sharing of ideas and experiences.)</i>
Day-3, Friday	<p>Project Assessment Workshop</p> <p><i>(Presentation of Project Reports by the students and the participative evaluation by the Environmental Expert, Course In charge at the Regional Centre and the Fellow-Students are envisaged in this session.)</i></p>

List of the Audio/Video Programmes*

Audio Programmes

1. Radiation: A fact of life
2. Renewable energy in action
3. Population pressure
4. The forest ecosystem
5. Environment: Our life support system

Video Programmes

1. The story of a river
2. Barren land – an ongoing concern
3. Cherrapunjee – the contradiction
4. Umiam Lake – the gem under threat
5. The healing herbs
6. Music of life
7. Biomagnification
8. Chilika – our natural heritage
9. Biosphere at a glance – terrestrial biome
10. We the people – Film 1: The environment and us
11. We the people – Film 2: The price we pay
12. We the people – Film 3: Towards a sustainable world
13. Where the tallest grass grow
14. The herbal medicine man of Meghalaya
15. A call from the horizon
16. Vanishing wilderness: Primates of Assam
17. Silent revolution in the Cardamom Hills

* These programmes can also be accessed from the following link at the University Website: www.ignou.ac.in > eGyanKosh > Video Archive (YouTube) > ignousos > Playlists > Appreciation Course on Environment (ACE)

7. PROJECT WORK

- **Preparation of a Project Report and its presentation in the Project Assessment Workshop is compulsory for anyone seeking certification.**
- Guidelines for doing the Project Work and its evaluation scheme are given below:

You are required to undertake a project on a theme connected with the environment **that interests you**. You may like to extend an activity amongst the list of activities given in each unit as your Project Work. In addition, some suggested topics for Project Work are given at the end of this section.

Allocate about 30 hours to the Project Work. In our experience, this duration is sufficient for completing the activities like choosing the topic, exploring and collecting data or facts, presenting the findings and concluding the project study in the form of a Project Report.

The Project Report may be in 20-25, A4-size pages, either handwritten or typed in double space. **One copy of the Project Report is to be submitted to the Regional Director / Course In charge at your Regional Centre before the Project Assessment Workshop.**

The Project Work would be evaluated in a participative manner in the Project Assessment Workshop in which the course In charge at the Regional Centre, the External Expert and the Peer Group would participate. You are required to make a short presentation about your Project Work during the Project Assessment Workshop as per the schedule given in Section 6. The Project Work Evaluation Scheme is given below.

On the successful completion of the Project Work a **Certificate of Participation** would be awarded to you by the Regional Director of your Regional Centre.

Project Work Evaluation Scheme

<i>Aspects of Project Work</i>	<i>Marks</i>
1. Topic..... (Clear, directional, focussed, feasible)	2
2. Objectives..... (achievable, detectable, measurable)	1
3. Procedure..... (Methods of data/facts collection)	3
4. Results and conclusions..... (Analysis and understanding of the problem/topic)	3
5. Suggestions and Action line..... (Specifying actions and the people who are to perform them)	2
6. Presentation..... (Both in the Project Report, and at the Project Assessment Workshop)	4
	<hr/>
Total Marks	15
	<hr/>

Successful Project Work..... 8 Marks and above

Some topics for Project Work

1. The best topic for your project work would be the one that interests you so that your attention may be engaged in its in-depth study and analysis.
2. A number of activities are given in each unit. One of them could be pursued as your Project Work.
3. If your inclination is towards painting, you could express your impressions about nature – its components like wind, water, energy, plant life, birds, animals, landscape and so on, through this medium. The sensitive nature of artists can perceive the details that are missed by many.
4. Writing poetry or making a collection of environment related poems is another area to reflect perceptions pertaining to different environmental issues and problems and even their solutions.
5. Photography – wildlife or any aspect of environment or nature provide countless opportunities for capture as photographs. A collection of such photographs with their brief write-ups can form a Project.
6. Review of a book on environment is another area. A book can be chosen from the list of the references given at the end of the units, or from the newspapers or journals that regularly apprise readers about the newly published books in the area of environment.
7. A topic involving field work could be studying the impact of Metro-train project related construction works on the local environment.
8. Recording from one's experience the climate change in a region since the last 25 years or so could be yet another area for Project Work. One may also discuss about it with the family members and the neighbours to form a broad picture of the situation.
9. Making a short film on an aspect of environment using a handy cam would be an adventurous project.
10. You could prepare a case-study involving the finding of a solution of an environmental problem /issue of which you have first hand experience.
11. You could study and review the National Environment Policy of India. This document can be downloaded from the following website address of the Ministry of Environment and Forests: <http://www.envfor.nic.in>
12. Or you could prepare a layout design for an Environment Newspaper, suggesting ways of sustaining its publication.
13. Alternatively, you could set up an environmental campaign for a sustainable lifestyle for a community.
14. Looking at ways of management of ecological conflicts with respect to particular cases, such as relocation of tribals from forests, setting up of production units by the Multinational Companies, and the effect of globalization on environment of a region, and so on could be a Project.
15. A blueprint of wildlife conservation measures in sustainable terms could also be prepared as a Project.

8. STUDENT FEEDBACK

Dear Student,

We look forward to your feedback regarding the **design, contents** and **delivery** of the course. Your feedback on any other aspect is also welcome. The mailing address is given at the back of this page.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely
Course Coordinator (ACE)

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Stamp

To

The Course Coordinator
Appreciation Course on Environment (ACE)
School of Sciences
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Sender's enrolment no. and address

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