

Paper-18 (M.A.)

GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT

Preamble: This paper focuses on gender differences in human relationships with the environment and the differential impact of environmental change on men and women. In particular, it explores how the gendered division of labour and gender inequalities in access to economic resources can make for differences in the ways women and men depend on the environment, their knowledge of the environment, how they are affected by environmental degradation and their responses to environmental change. It focuses both on conceptual issues and on empirical case studies in the Indian context. The course will encourage students to examine all environmental issues from a gender perspective.

Gender Differences, Hierarchies and inequalities: The historical construction of Gender, including the gendered division of labour; Cultural, social and economic perspectives; Evolution of gender hierarchies in a materialist perspective; Nature, Culture, Gender debates.

Conceptual and theoretical perspectives: Ecofeminism, Feminist environmentalism, feminist ecology.

Natural Resources, Sustainable Development and Women: Gender differences in dependence on environmental resources and the gender division of labour in use of forests and water; gender and knowledge about the environment; gender, environment and globalization

Gender implications of environmental degradation and poverty: gender/class/poverty links with the environment, the domestic energy crisis, the crisis of water and sustainability

Women and Environmental movements: Women's perspectives of environmentalism; Women's participation in environmental movements and conservation.