

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 12th



[aglasem.com](https://www.aglasem.com)

Class : 12th

Subject : Geography

Chapter : 12

Chapter Name : Geographical Perspective on Selected Issues and Problems

Q1 Choose the right answers of the following from the given options.

(i) Which one of the following rivers is highly polluted?

- (a) Brahmaputra
- (b) Satluj
- (c) Yamuna
- (d) Godavari

(ii) Which one of the following diseases is caused by water pollution?

- (a) Conjunctivitis
- (b) Diarrhoea
- (c) Respiratory infections
- (d) Bronchitis

(iii) Which one of the following is the cause of acid rain?

- (a) Water pollution
- (b) Land pollution
- (c) Noise pollution
- (d) Air pollution

(iv) Push and pull factors are responsible for–

- (a) Migration
- (b) Land degradation
- (c) Slums
- (d) Air pollution

Answer.

- (i) (c) Yamuna
- (ii) (b) Diarrhoea
- (iii) (d) Air pollution
- (iv) (a) Migration

Page : 143, Block Name : Multiple Choice Questions

Q2 Answer the following questions in about 30 words.

- (i) What is the difference between pollution and pollutants?
- (ii) Describe the major source of air pollution.
- (iii) Mention major problems associated with urban waste disposal in India.
- (iv) What are the effects of air pollution on human health.

Answer.

(i) Pollution: Contamination of air, water, environment due to increase in contaminants beyond permissible limits or deterioration of quality of land leading to a fall in its quality and purity is called pollution.

Pollutants: Those elements whose addition to environment in excess results in deterioration of the quality of land, air or water are called pollutants. Some examples of pollutants are radioactive elements, carbon monoxide, solid waste, acids, etc.

(ii) Air pollution is the addition of contaminants, like dust, smoke to the air beyond the permissible limit. Major source of air pollution include coal combustion, fly ash, soot production, vehicular pollution, factory pollution, discharge of untreated solid waste and sewage, unsustainable development, deforestation, natural sources include wildfires, volcanic eruptions, dust storms etc. Further combustion of fossil fuels, unsustainable mining and unchecked industrial development also lead to degradation in air quality. These processes release oxides of Sulphur and nitrogen, hydrocarbons, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, lead and asbestos which stay in the environment for long periods and cause disastrous impact health, wildlife and environment.

(iii) Urban areas are marked by overcrowding, congestion, inadequate facilities to support the fast growing population and consequent poor sanitary conditions and foul air. Solid waste refers to a variety of old and used articles, for example stained small pieces of metals, broken glassware, plastic containers, polythene bags, ash, floppies, CDs, etc., dumped at different places.

Major problems associated with urban waste disposal in India :-

Solid wastes cause health hazard through creation of obnoxious smell, and harbouring of flies and rodents, which act as carriers of diseases like typhoid, diphtheria, diarrhoea, malaria and cholera, etc.

The household wastes are disposed off either on public lands or on private contractors' sites, Smoky fog over cities called as urban smog is caused by atmospheric pollution. It proves very harmful to human health. Air pollution can also cause acid rain.

These wastes cause frequent nuisance as and when these are carelessly handled, spread by wind and splintered through rain water.

The dumping of industrial waste into rivers leads to water pollution. River pollution from city-based industries and untreated sewage leads to serious health problems downstream.

(iv) Air pollution causes various diseases related to the respiratory, nervous and circulatory systems. Immediate effects include watery eyes, coughing, inflammation and difficulty in breathing. Long term exposure could result in asthma, lung cancer, psychological complications, autism, fetal growth, and low birth weight. It is increasingly becoming a major threat to health and well-being.

Page : 143 , Block Name : Short Answer Question

Q3 Answer the following questions in about 150 words.

- (i) Describe the nature of water pollution in India.
- (ii) Describe the problem of slums in India.
- (iii) Suggest measures for reduction of land degradation.

Answer.

(i) Indiscriminate use of water by increasing population and industrial expansion has led degradation of the quality of water considerably leading to water pollution. Surface water available from rivers, canals, lakes, etc. is polluted as it contains small quantities of suspended particles, organic and inorganic substances. When the concentration of pollutants increases, the water becomes polluted, and hence becomes unfit for use. In this situation, the self-purifying capacity of water is unable to purify the water.

Sources of Water Pollution

- Natural sources :- erosion, landslides, decay and decomposition of plants and animals, etc.
- Human sources :- Human beings pollute the water through industrial, agricultural and cultural activities.
 - Industries produce several undesirable products including industrial wastes, polluted wastewater, poisonous gases, chemical residuals, numerous heavy metals, dust, smoke, etc. which are disposed off in running water or lakes. Consequently, poisonous elements reach the reservoirs, rivers and other water bodies, which destroy the bio-system of these waters. Major water polluting industries are leather, pulp and paper, textiles and chemicals.
 - Various types of chemicals used in agriculture such as inorganic fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides are also pollution generating components and these are washed down to rivers, lakes and tanks. These chemicals also infiltrate the soil to reach the groundwater. Fertiliser induces an increase in the nitrate content of surface waters.
 - Cultural activities such as pilgrimage, religious fairs, tourism, etc. also cause water pollution.

In India, almost all surface water sources are contaminated and unfit for human consumption.

(ii) Slums, jhuggi-jhopri clusters and colonies of shanty structures are inhabited by those people who were forced to migrate from rural areas to urban centres in search of livelihood but could not afford proper housing due to high rent and high costs of land. The problem of slums in India are :-

- Slums occupy environmentally incompatible and degraded areas.
- Slums are residential areas of the least choice, dilapidated houses, poor hygienic conditions, poor ventilation, lack of basic amenities, like drinking water, light and toilet facilities, etc.
- Open defecation, unregulated drainage system and overcrowded narrow street patterns are serious health and socio environmental hazards.
- Most of the slum population works in low-paid, high risk-prone, unorganised sectors of the urban economy. Consequently, they are undernourished, prone to different types of diseases and illness and can not afford to give proper education to their children.
- The poverty makes them vulnerable to drug abuse, alcoholism, crime, vandalism, escapism, apathy and ultimately social exclusion.

(iii) The pressure on agricultural land increases not only due to the limited availability but also by deterioration of quality of agricultural land. Soil erosion, waterlogging, salinisation and alkalinisation of land lead to land degradation.

Various measures for reduction of land degradation are :-

- Reduce all activities that cause land degradation such as deforestation, overgrazing, improper agricultural activities, mining, etc.
- Soil erosion can be prevented by Afforestation- Areas prone to soil erosion can be planted with trees that have high soil binding capacity. Degraded lands around you can be improved by creating lawns and planting small plants and Reforestation- This can help in reclaiming the land before it is completely lost.
- Agricultural contributes the largest share of losses of valuable land. Following agricultural practices can help in preventing degradation of land :-
- Terrace farming- This method of farming is done in areas of steep slopes. It acts as a break for flowing water, and consequently reduces the speed of flow. It helps in preventing rill and gully erosion.

- Mulching- This is effective for wind as well as water erosion. Mulch is a layer of crop stubble, that is added as a protective layer over soil. It covers the soil and prevents evaporation and improves the organic matter of the soil.
- Contours and strip farming- This involves planting of crops perpendicular to the direction of flow of water, to keep the flow in check.
- Wind breaks- Wind breaks are trees that are planted on the edges of agricultural land, that divert the direction of wind away from the fertile soil.
- Increased focus on non-wood products and non-wood substitutes to wood products will reduce pressure on deforestation practices.
- Advanced irrigation practices like sprinklers and drip irrigation can be employed to ensure the land is not over-irrigated.

Page : 143 , Block Name : Long Answer Question

aglasem.com