

# Environmental Toxicology

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## INDEX - I

CHAPTER NAME	AUTHOR	PAGE
CHAPTER - 1 Environmental Toxicology	Dr. Jyotsna Jain	1
CHAPTER - 2 Role of Microbial Diversity in Dye Degradation: Exploring the unexplored	Dr. Sreemoyee Chatterjee Dr. Neha Sharma	30
✓ CHAPTER - 3 Heavy metals toxicity and its impact on environment and human health	<u>Dr. Reema Srivastava</u>	52
CHAPTER - 4 Role of Microorganisms in Degradation and Deterioration of Historical Monuments	Dr. Rajesh Yadav	61
✓ CHAPTER - 5 Phycotoxins : A Review	<u>Dr. Ritu Jain</u>	82
✓ CHAPTER - 6 Bio-Medical Waste Laws in India	<u>Dr. Sunita Shekhawat</u>	97
CHAPTER - 7 Teratogenicity	Dr. Reema Dheer	122
CHAPTER - 8 Toxic Environment Born Diseases	Rajani Chauhan	134

## INDEX - II

CHAPTER NAME	AUTHOR	PAGE
<b>CHAPTER - 9</b> <b>Toxicology</b>	<u>Dr. Chetna Sharma</u>	144
<b>CHAPTER - 10</b> Plastic and E-Waste Effect on Environment and Human Health on Management	Ajeet Kumar Sharma	153
<b>CHAPTER - 11</b> Pesticides: Boon or bane	Dr. Farah Syed	160
<b>CHAPTER - 12</b> Sustainable Development through Conservation Agriculture in India	Ms. Devina Shukla	167
<b>CHAPTER - 13</b> Management and impact of Solid Waste Effect on Ground water and Soil Quality in Town Deeg (Bharatpur) Rajasthan	Sunder Singh	170

  
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## CHAPTER - 6

### Bio-Medical Waste Laws in India

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Human beings have always caused some environmental pollution. Since vedic times, people have created waste. Like garbage today, this waste was either burned, tossed into water ways, buried or dumped above ground. However, the waste of early peoples was mostly food scraps and other substances that broke down easily by natural decay processes. Prehistoric population was also much small and spread out over large areas. As a result, pollution was less concentrated and caused few problems.

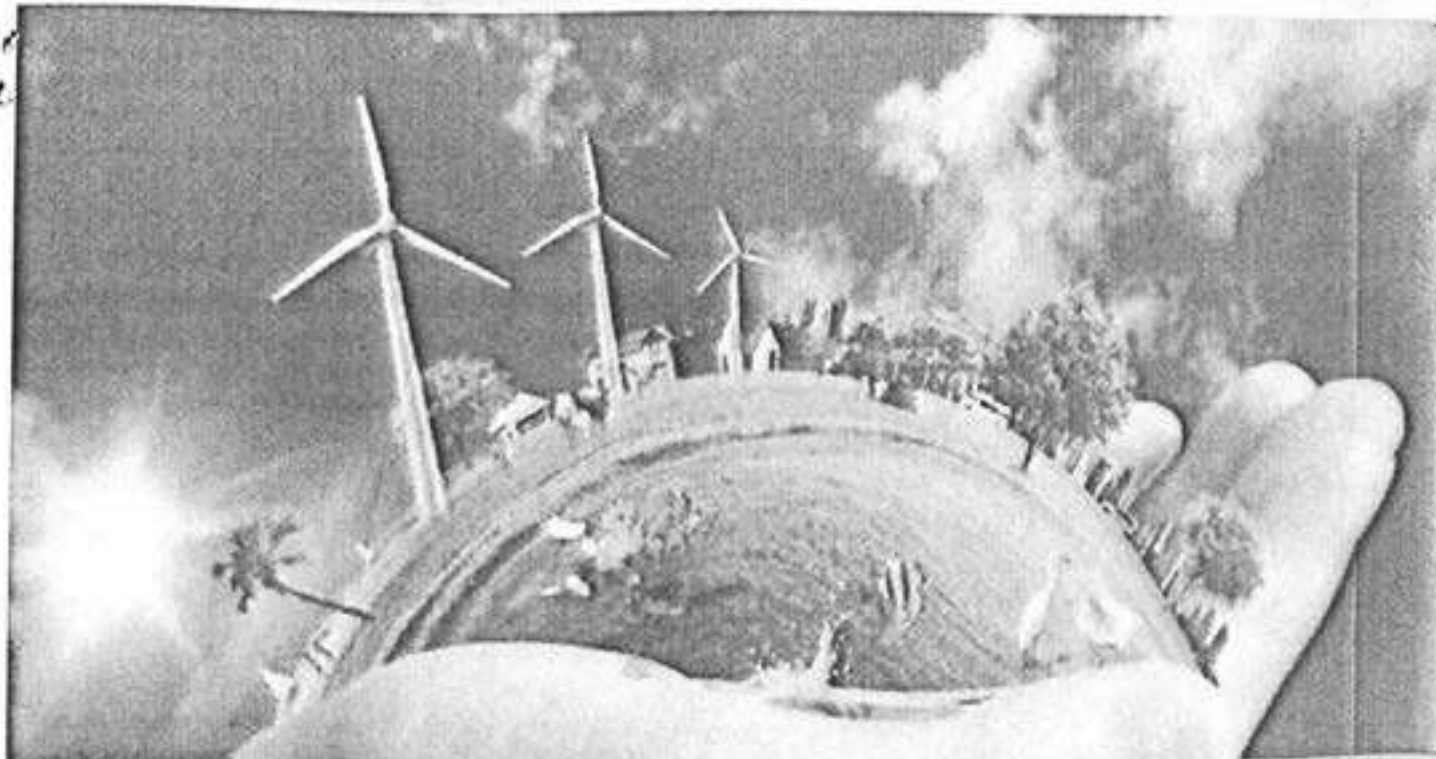
The growth of pollution started during ancient times when large numbers of people began living together in cities. As cities grew, pollution grew with them. Poor sanitation practices and contaminated water supplies unleashed massive epidemics in early cities. Environmental problems became even more serious and widespread in the 1800's, during a period called the Industrial Revolution. This period was characterized by the development of factories and the overcrowding of cities with factory workers. During the Industrial Revolution, coal powered most factories. Most city homes also relied on coal as a heating fuel. The burning of coal filled the air with smoke and soot. Poor sanitation facilities also facilitated raw sewage to get into water supplies in some cities. The polluted water caused typhoid fever and other illnesses.

Air pollution problems became particularly serious in the early 1900's. By the 1930's, smoke and soot from steel mills, power plants, railroad and heating plants filled the air over many Eastern and Midwestern cities. In some industrial cities, such as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, St. Louis, Missouri, pollution frequently became so thick that drivers needed streetlights and headlights to see during the day.

#### Problem of Bio-Medical Waste

In 1989, the Government of India in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 6, 8 and 25 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 (EP,

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# Environmental Toxicology

*"What can be measured can be managed"*  
Peter Drucker

**Toxicology is a Burning Issue....needs  
Realization, Education, Measurement, Control and  
Contribution by Society at Large.**



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