

## CLASS 8 SOCIAL SCIENCE GEOGRAPHY

### LESSON 2 LAND, SOIL, WATER, NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILD LIFE RESOURCES(MODULE:2)

Now we will move to the second natural resource, that is ,soil.

#### **SOIL**

What is soil? -The thin layer of grainy substance covering the surface of the earth is called soil. The soil formation depends up on 5 factors.

- 1) parent rock: means the rock from which the soil is formed it decides colour, texture ,chemical property ,mineral, permeability.
- 2) Relief: relief means topography height of land; slope determine accumulation of soil.
- 3) Flora fauna and microorganism affect the rate of humus formation.
- 4) Climate; temperature, rainfall influence the rate of weathering and humus formation
- 5) Time: Determines thickness of soil profile.

Just like land, soil is also degrading. The reasons are

1. deforestation
2. overgrazing
3. overuse of chemical fertilizers or pesticides
4. rain wash

5. landslides and floods.

There are **various methods to conserve soil**. They are

1. Mulching: The bare ground between plant is covered with a layer of organic matter like straw

2. Contour barriers: Stones grass and soil are used to build barriers

3. Rockdams; Rocks are piled up to slow down the flow of water

4. Terrace farming: Broad flat steps or terraces are made on the steep slopes so that flat surfaces available to grow crops.

5. Intercropping: Different crops are grown in alternate rows and sown at different times to protect the soil from rain wash.

6. Contour ploughing: Ploughing parallel to the contours of a hill slope to form a natural barrier for water to flow down the slope.

7. Shelter belts: In coastal areas, rows of trees are planted to check wind movement to protect soil cover.

Next natural resource is water.

## **WATER**

We know that 70 percentage of earth's surface is covered with water. It is therefore appropriately called the **water planet or blue planet**. The ocean covers two third of the earth surface. But ocean water is saline or salty, which cannot be used for human consumption. Freshwater accounts only 2.7 %. Nearly

70% of this freshwater occurs as ice sheets and glaciers. Due to their location they are inaccessible. Only one percentage of freshwater is available for human use.

Now we will see **the uses of water**.

Water is used for various purposes like agriculture, industry, generating electricity. But now it is due to increase in population and rising demand for food and cash crops, increasing urbanization we face a shortage of freshwater. Many countries are facing the problem of water scarcity. We have to think various ways to conserve water since it is a very important resource. There are various ways to conserve water.

**Important methods of water conservation are**

1. increase the forest and other vegetation cover
2. rainwater harvesting
3. lining canals used for irrigating field.
4. sprinkler system and
5. drip irrigation or trickle irrigation.