

TITLE: Environment, population and resources: critical challenges.

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ABSTRACT: This book provides a comprehensive view of the links between population and environmental degradation in India. Chapters are devoted to a description of the decreasing natural resources, attitudes about population growth, deforestation and wasteland development in India, forest policies in India, poverty and the link with environmental degradation, urbanization and economic development, and energy and water management. Other chapters focus on the food supply, technology, the causes and consequences of environmental pollution, and environmental legislation. The author reports that the present rate of population increase is threatening the existence of humans. Although developed nations have only 25% of world population, their consumption uses 82% of the world's resources. Human society has made progress in technical, industrial, and health spheres. However, society produces primary and secondary pollutants, which combine primary pollutants with atmospheric gases and moisture. Secondary pollutants include ozone, peroxyacyl nitrates, aldehyde, sulfuric acid, and nitric acid. The level of air pollution has been increasing since the early 1900s. The energy supply, which is required for progress and economic development, increases the levels of air pollutants. The government of India instituted a number of laws to control environmental destruction. Air pollution is controlled by Acts in 1905 and 1912. Water pollution in rivers is regulated by Acts established in 1956 and 1974. A separate department of the environment was set up in 1980. Controls on industrial pollution have been regulated since 1988. The Air Act and the Environmental Protection Act were set up in 1981 and 1986, respectively. Rules on hazardous chemicals, public liability, and automobiles were adopted in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

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