Book Review

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Written by: Prof. Dr. Syed Sabir Ali
Ex-Chairman, Department of Freshwater Biology & Fisheries, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan.

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Dr. Syed Sabir Ali's latest book on Environmental Science describes diverse topics of environment in lucid style. The book would be of interest not only for the students and teachers, but would also be interesting and informative for specialists of other fields and the common man. The book comprises 23 chapters which deal with different aspects of environment *e.g.,* ecosystem, biogeochemical cycles, organisms interactions, population growth, pest and pest control, kinds of pollution, solid waste management and a brief history of Government Environmental Policies.

The first chapter simply introduces the terms *i.e.,* environment, population, and pollution. This is followed by three chapters on concept of ecology, energy and laws of thermodynamics, and flow of energy in a simple easily understandable way. Chapter 5 describes the biogeochemical cycles including Carbon, Nitrogen and Phosphorus in a precise manner. Chapter 6 explains the types of interactions found in organisms in an ecosystem. Chapter 7 throws a light on major ecosystem of the world. Different aspects of population dynamics and growth have been lucidly explained with the help of easily comprehensible figures in chapters 8 and 9. Urbanization, food and agricultural related informations are given in chapters 10 and 11.

Chapters 12, 13 and 14 give detail of another important aspect of environment, pest and control methods, wild biological resources and forests. Chapters 15, 16 and 17 give an account of hazardous waste and its generation during the extraction of minerals and non-renewable and renewable sources and their impacts on environment. The impacts of air, noise and water pollution on biological systems are described in chapters 18, 19 and 20. Soil texture and structure, soil erosion, water logging and a brief history of environmental policies are given in chapters 21, 22 and 23.

This book basically deals with different aspects of environment, population, ecosystem and pollution and presents some insufficient information for readers (students and teachers). The author needs to seriously consider the extent to which it is essential for a student of Environmental Science/ Biology to give the details of the topic. It is enough for the common man to know the term or process but students/teachers need more details of that particular process.

A community of organisms does not spring into existence full-bloom but develops gradually, through a series of stages, until it reaches a state of maturity and the process of community development over time is called succession and this part is not covered. Another point which is worthwhile to mention here is that figures are the most effective means of understanding the processes or phenomena but unfortunately the quality of figures is not up to the mark. It is therefore important to incorporate more quality figures in the next edition.

Abdul Rehman
Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, University of the Punjab, Lahore.