



CLASS X
BIOLOGY
CHAPTER 19
THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT

NOTES

- Human activities such as constructions of big dams, deforestation, urbanization or industrialization etc. change the regional environment.

BIG DAMS

- Big dams create a reservoir or lake and regulate the flow of water.
- Such dams are constructed with a view to play big role in the development of a nation but are not free from disadvantages.

ADVANTAGES

- Can generate hydroelectricity and reduce power shortage.
- Can provide irrigation and drinking water.
- Can check flood and famines
- Promote navigation, fishery etc.

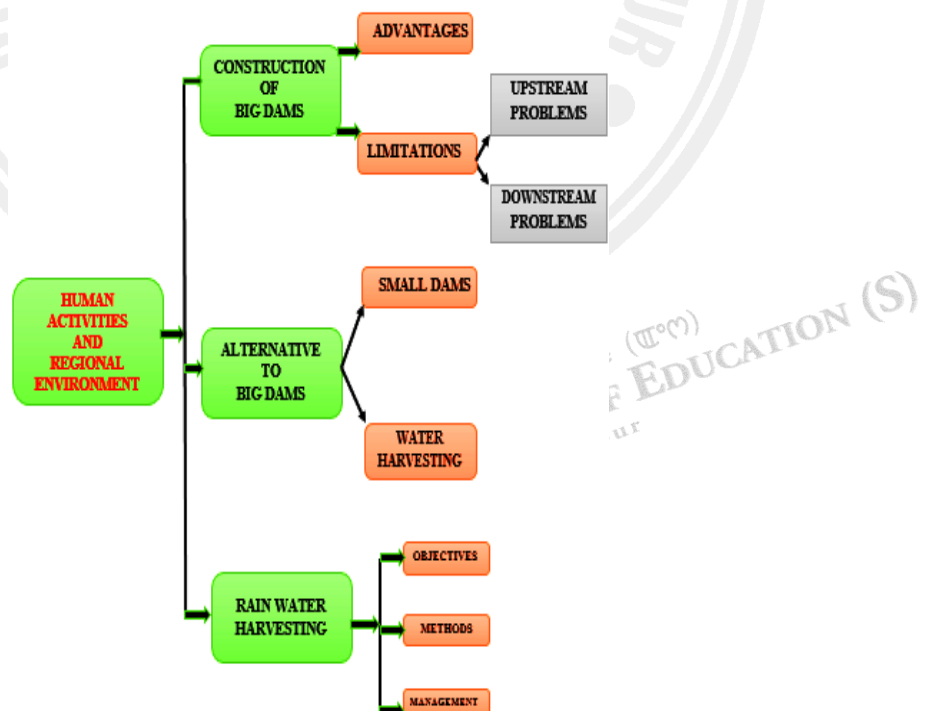


Fig. Flowchart of Human activities and Regional Environment



DISADVANTAGES

- It includes **upstream** as well as **downstream** problems:

UPSTREAM PROBLEMS:

- Displacement of nearby inhabitants.
- Loss of forest, non-forest, agricultural land, plants and animals.
- Changes in the fishery and breeding grounds of the fishes.
- Siltation and sedimentation, water logging in the reservoir increase vector-borne diseases.
- Earthquakes and microclimatic change.

DOWNSTREAM PROBLEMS:

- Microclimatic change.
- Siltation in the water flow.
- Intrusion of salt water at river mouth.
- Reduced fertility of the land.
- Outbreak of vector borne diseases like malaria.

WATER HARVESTING

- We cannot live without water.
- Water helps in digestion, removal of waste, maintaining blood pressure, and growth of plant etc.
- Collection of rainwater for use in future by storing it in storage reservoirs is called rainwater harvesting.

ADVANTAGES:

- It provides future supply of water, free from contamination.
- There is scarcity of water even in areas with harvesting and management.

OBJECTIVES OF RAIN WATER HARVESTING

- To check the surface runoff loss of water, and avoid flooding of roads.
- To meet the increasing demands of water.
- To recharge the ground water for future supply

METHODS OF RAINWATER HARVESTING

- By storing in special storage tanks or reservoir.
- By constructing pits, dug-wells, lagoons or check-dams on small streams.
- By recharging the ground water.



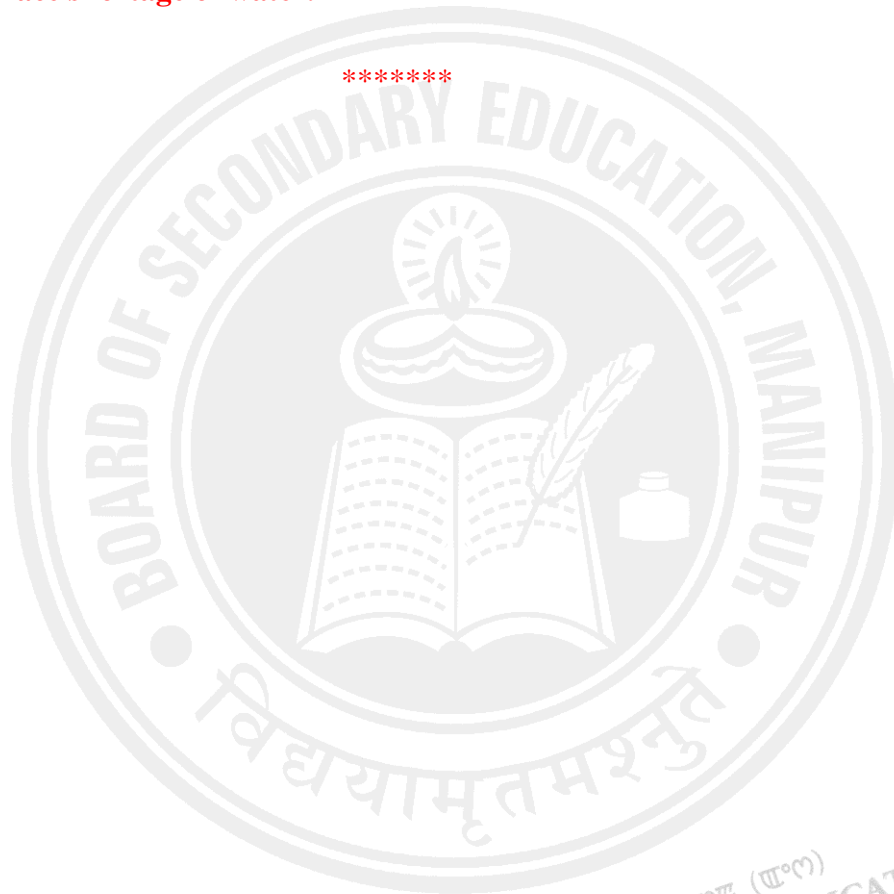
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TRADITIONAL PRACTICE OF RAINWATER HARVESTING IN INDIA

- Storage tanks.
- Embankment types of water storage.
- People in Rajasthan use 'Tankas' and 'Khadins'
- **Lack of proper harvesting and poor management (to prevent from contamination) of rainwater, we face shortage of water.**



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