

Topic 7

Environmental Value Systems

What is an Environmental Value System?

- Particular world view that shapes the way that people perceive and evaluate environmental issues.
 - Influence by:
 - Culture (ex: Religion)
 - Economics
 - Politics

How is it a system?

- System – An assemblage of parts and the relationships between them, which together constitutes an entity or whole.
 - Ex: Body's temperature regulation system
 - Gulf of Mexico
 - Water Cycle
 - Biomes (Desert, forest, grassland)

Systems have inputs/outputs

- Inputs-education, cultural influences, religious doctrine, media.
- Outputs-Decisions, perspectives, courses of action.

ECOCENTRISM (nature centred)	ANTHROPOCENTRISM (people centred)	TECHNOCENTRISM (technology centred)
<p>Holistic world view. Minimum disturbance of natural processes. Integration of spiritual, social and environmental dimensions. Sustainability for the whole Earth. Self reliant communities within a framework of global citizenship. Self imposed restraint on resource use.</p> <p>Deep ecologists</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Intrinsic importance of nature for the humanity of man. 2 Ecological land value natural laws dictate human morality. 3 Thoughtful use of land and endangered species or unique landscapes to remain undisturbed. 4 Lack of faith in modern large scale technology and its associated demands on either expertise, central state authority and inherently anti-democratic institutions. 5 Implication that materialists for their own sake in caring and that economic growth can be spent expending for the basic needs of those below subsistence levels. 	<p>People as environmental managers of sustainable global systems. Population control. Open equal weight to resource use. Strong regulation by independent authorities required.</p> <p>Self reliance soft ecologists</p> <p>Environmental managers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Emphasis on smallness of scale and hence community identity in settlement, work and leisure. 2 Integration of concepts of work and leisure through a process of part time and communal involvement. 3 Importance of participation in community affairs and of guaranteeing the rights of minority interests. Participation seen as both a continuing education and a political function. 2 Acceptance of new people's agricultural techniques and decision making arrangements to allow for either discipline or genuine search for consensus among representative groups of interested parties. 	<p>Technology can keep pace with and provide solutions to environmental problems. Resource replacement solves resource depletion. Need for understanding processes in order to control them. Strong emphasis on scientific analysis and proofs done prior to policy making. Importance of market and economic growth.</p> <p>Consciousness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Belief that man can always find a way out of any difficulties, either political, scientific or technological. 2 Acceptance that progress goals define the rationality of project appraisal and policy formulation. 3 Optimism about the ability of man to improve the lot of the world's people. 4 Faith that scientific and technological expertise provides the basic foundation for advice on matters pertaining to economic growth, public health and safety. 5 Suspicion of attempts to widen basis for participation and legitimacy discussion in project appraisal and policy

- Get into three groups.
- Pick 5 most pressing environmental problems.
- How does your philosophy handle each of the five problems?