

PREFACE

Environmental pollution is a bio-social problem in the twenty-first century techno-savvy world. At present, environmental pollution is, by and large, an anthropogenic problem in front of the civilization. People are exploiting the natural resources to meet their greediness. As such air is polluted, water is contaminated and land is degraded. The pressure on wildlife is tremendous due to human encroachment on the wild habitat. So man-animal conflict is often heard. Deforestation and poaching are responsible for destruction of forest and wildlife. In order to control the environmental pollution, public awareness as well as enforcement of law are considered the most essential aspects all over the world. In the international arena, the United Nations Organizations along with other specialized organizations of the UNO, WWF-International, IUCN, ICIMOD etc. have made efforts to initiate the plan of global environmental protection.

In India, the environmental protection has been institutionalized after the Stockholm Conference (1972). After this, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) have been constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Both acts have been provided to set up such bodies for pollution control. In addition to these, the Ministry of Environment & Forest (MoEF), Government of India is the principal nodal authority to protect the environment of the whole of India. Being a federal country and environment and forest enlisted in Concurrent List of the Constitution of India, 1950 the different states have also set up the State Departments of Environment and Forest. In West Bengal, the Department of Environment (DoE) and the Department of Forest (DoF) which are the executive wings of the Government of West Bengal, are devoted to protect the environment including the forests. Both these departments keep co-ordination with the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to generate the awareness and enforce the relevant provisions of the enactments of the environmental law and the forest law respectively. These departments also co-

operate with other different societal organizations like schools, colleges, NGOs etc. for the promotion and development of the environmental awareness in the State of West Bengal.

*In the present research work entitled “**Enforcement of Law for the Protection of Environment of the Sub-Himalayan West Bengal : A Case Study of Kumargramduar Block of Jalpaiguri District (West Bengal)**”, the author has analyzed the role of different law enforcement agencies for the environmental protection. The present work is a case study of the Kumargramduar Block of the Sub-Himalayan tract of West Bengal keeping in view the policy of enforcement of law for the environmental protection at the local level. The author has also highlighted the relevant environmental issues closely related to the enforcement of the law for the environmental protection in the study area i.e., Kumargramduar Block.*

To save the mother earth from the pollution menace, a holistic approach for environmental protection is necessary incorporating all strata of population. Public involvement will be meaningful if the common people are given access to information regarding environmental issues. It is possible through public awareness only. People should know all the pros and cons of the environment; so that they would help the authorities for enforcement of law for the environmental protection. As such, to enforce the different provisions of the environmental enactments, public awareness is a necessary means to mould the behaviour of the people as environment-oriented. Congenial atmosphere of environmentalism enables to restore the carrying capacity of environment of the lush green mother earth from the impending disaster. To conclude, the author agrees with the language of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation as follows :

“The Earth provides enough to satisfy everyman's needs, but not for anybody's greed.”