CP-CSR 02: Sustainable Development and Responsible Business Practices

Max.Marks:100
External: 70
Internal: 30
Pass: 40 %
credits: 6

Course Objectives

This course is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of key concepts, frameworks, and challenges associated with sustainable development. Analyse the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability. Critically assess the impact of human activities on the environment and natural resources. Identify and apply sustainable development strategies and practices within organizational and societal contexts.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will be able to:

CO1: Explain the principles and concepts of sustainable development and apply them to real-world contexts.

CO2: Critically evaluate the interconnections between social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainability.

CO3: Assess the impact of human activities on ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources.

CO4: Apply sustainable development practices and strategic approaches to address complex sustainability challenges.

Section A

Unit 1 – Introduction to Sustainable Development

Definition, history, and evolution of sustainable development, Brundtland Commission and "Our Common Future", Triple Bottom Line: People, Planet, Profit, Theories of sustainable development

Unit 2 – Environmental Dimension

Climate change, global warming, and environmental degradation, Biodiversity and ecosystem services, Natural resource management and conservation, Circular economy and sustainable production.

Unit 3 – Social and Economic Dimension

Social equity, inclusion, and human rights, Poverty alleviation, gender equality, and community development, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and responsible business practices, ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) frameworks.

Section B

Unit 4 – Policy, Governance, and International Frameworks

Role of governments, institutions, and policy in sustainability, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and global initiatives, Public-private partnerships and international cooperation

Unit 5 – Tools and Strategies for Sustainability

Sustainability reporting (GRI, Integrated Reporting), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Sustainability metrics and indicators, Innovation and green technologies.

Unit 6 – Contemporary Issues and Applications

Green-washing, ethical challenges, and responsible consumption, Sustainable supply chains and business models, Climate justice and social responsibility, Case studies: corporate best practices and policy interventions.

Suggested Readings

- Brundtland Commission. *Our Common Future*. Oxford University Press.
- Sachs, J. *The Age of Sustainable Development*. Columbia University Press.
- Elkington, J. *Cannibals with Forks: The Triple Bottom Line of 21st Century Business*. New Society Publishers.
- United Nations. *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.
- World Economic Forum. *ESG and Sustainable Finance Frameworks*.
- IPCC Reports on Climate Change.
- Dyllick, T. & Muff, K. *Clarifying the Meaning of Sustainable Business*.
- Lozano, R. *Sustainable Business Strategies and Practices*. Springer.

Instructions for the paper setter/examiner:

1. The syllabus prescribed should be strictly adhered to.
2. Question Paper will have 70 Multiple Choice questions (MCQs) and four choices of answers will be there covering the entire syllabus. Each question will carry 1 mark. All questions will be compulsory; hence candidates will attempt all the questions.
3. Paper-setters/Examiners are requested to distribute the questions from section A and Section B of the syllabus equally i.e., 35 questions from section A and 35 questions from Section B.
4. The examiner shall give clear instructions to the candidates to attempt questions.
5. The duration of each paper will be two hours.

Instructions for the students

The question paper shall consist of 70 Multiple Choice questions. All questions will be compulsory and each question will carry 1 mark. There will be no negative marking. Students are required to answering OMR (Optimal Mark Recognition) sheets.