

FAQ

1. What is political economy?

Ans. Political economy is an interdisciplinary and it draws upon related fields like the law and political science within micro economics. Political economy is an approach used to understand how political and legal institution influence the economic behavior of people, firms and markets. From the environmental economics point of view, it deals with different regulatory measures to control pollution and to achieve sustainable development through alternative and distribution patterns.

2. What does the model of Downing say about political economy of the process of implementing pollution control laws?

Ans. The model of Downing includes three groups:

- The polluter
- Those bearing the pollution costs
- The regulatory agency

Downing assumes that the managers of the regulatory agency have the objectives of maximizing agency budget and discretionary control and of improving environmental quality.

3. What was the argument of John Locke regarding distribution of gains from economics activities?

Ans. As argued by John Locke, distribution of gains from economic activities should be guided by justice. This would require voting by the people. Most of the issues under sustainable development are to be viewed from a unified perspective.

4. What is participation in the context of participatory institutions?

Ans. Participation is a process of initiation and continuation of an active process by which beneficiary or client groups influence the direction and execution of development activity with a view to enhancing their well being

in terms of personal income growth, self-reliance or the values they cherish, including quality.

5. What are possible reasons of failures of participatory development in natural resource management?

Ans. The various socio-political factors causing this failure are:

- Lack of leadership to hold the community together
- Difficulty in imposing 'Governance' of the system
- Growing consumerism and increasing market influence
- State retaining its eminent domain by holding technology, finance, administrative and legal powers

6. What is Joint forest management?

Ans. JFM (joint forest management) is a participatory development institution having a universal format. This was initiated in 1990 based on guidelines of National Forest policy document of 1988. This envisages involvement of people in development and protection of forests. The villagers and members of tribes living near forests will have first right on fuel wood, fodder and small timber of the nearby forests. Till 1996-97, about 16 states have implemented JFM with about ten to fifteen thousand participatory forest protection committees covering about 1.5 million hectares of forest lands.

7. What is role of government in environmental management?

Ans. For environmental management, the government can act as an eminent domain, but its actions may conflict with social justice. The government can also act as an enabling agent or benevolent state. It can also act as a protector security giver and as a benevolent social planner.

8. What is the relation between political equality and environment?

Ans. Greater equality helps in reducing environmental degradation. If equality is not there, there become two sections, winners who benefit from environmental destructive action and those who are hurt by such actions. Higher the inequality, higher are the chances of the winners getting their things done which promote environmental degradation.

9. What are the major goals of agenda 21 of (UNCED)?

Ans. Four major goals of Agenda 21 of UNCED are:

- Promoting sustainable development through trade liberalization
- Making trade and environment mutually supportive
- Providing adequate financial resources to developing countries and dealing with international debt
- Encouraging macroeconomic policies conducive to environment and development

10. What is 'Tragedy of the commons'?

Ans. Whenever any set rules and resolutions characterized for common property rights (CPR) are violated, this leads to dilemma which is termed as 'Tragedy of the commons'. In this situation, individual choice may prevail over the social choice and ultimately individuals escape from their responsibility or they do not see themselves as the ones causing damage to environment.