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**ROLE OF PANCHAYATIRAJ IN CURBING INCREASING  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO  
BARMER DISTRICT OF RAJASTHAN)**

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**ABSTRACT**

Environment is the gift of nature for the maintenance of life on earth. Every element that we use to survive comes under the environment such as air, water, light, land, trees, forests and other natural elements. Our environment plays an important role for the existence of healthy life on earth. Environment includes all the natural resources that help us in many ways and surround us. It gives us a better medium to grow and develop, it provides us with everything that is needed to survive on this planet. Our environment also expects some help from us so that we can be brought up, sustain our life and never get destroyed. Day by day we are rejecting the natural element because of the technological calamity. Barmer district of Rajasthan state has always been battling with difficult geographical conditions, adverse economic and social environment and natural calamities, so it has become very important to save the environment in the present scenario.

**Keywords: Panchayati Raj, Environment, Social Forestry, Green Rajasthan, Biodiversity, Combating Desertification Programme and Environmental forestry**

**INTRODUCTION**

Environment is the aggregate unit of all those physical, chemical and biological factors that affect an organism or an ecosystem's

population and determine their form, life and survival. Declared by the United Nations, this day is celebrated to bring political and social awareness towards the environment at the

global level. It began in 1972 with the World Environment Conference organized by the United Nations General Assembly from June 5 to June 16. The first World Environment Day was celebrated on 5 June 1973. The natural cover around us which helps us to live easily is called environment. From the environment, we get all the resources which are necessary for any living being to live. Environment has gifted us air, water, food items, favorable environment etc. All of us have always made full use of the resources of the environment and today the environment has been a major contributor to our development.

Rajasthan is the largest state of the country and special ecosystems have developed here. It consists of arid and semi-arid regions, where natural vegetation is relatively less due to extreme temperatures and scanty rainfall. On the other hand there are mountainous regions of Aravalli. Plains formed by rivers like Banas Basin, Mahi Basin, Banganga Basin, Savi Basin, Gambhir Basin, Bedch Basin where agriculture is predominant. Similarly, in the south-east Rajasthan, there is an agricultural and industrial-dominated Chambal basin, as well as the region of Chambal's ravine. It means that there is a lot of diversity in the environment of the state and there is a continuous increase in the manipulation of this environment by

human activities. Due to this and due to many natural reasons, many environmental problems in the state are emerging as challenges.

Oran is a unique example of protecting livestock by planting millions of trees in the desert city Barmer. For centuries, cutting trees is a crime, reserved in the name of goddesses, this oran has kept humans, livestock and birds alive in the desert. Livestock has been the mainstay of life in Thar for centuries. At present there are 55 lakh cattle in the district and centuries ago this number was three times more than this. Each house had fifty-hundred cattle sheds. The provision of fodder and water was a big problem for them. When it rained, water would come in the ponds, but where was the pasture made? On this, the community and the villagers together gave the name of Oran to a whole area, where only the land was kept for the grazing and rest of the animals. There should be no other activity on this Oran, so that the name of the favored deity was given to Oran, due to which people are unable to lift even a straw from here. Apart from the village's normal pond, other ponds were excavated in Oran's land. These are for the livestock of the pond only. Their water is not used for any other purpose. Livestock come here to drink water and in many places the water does not end for a year. Animals found in oran Hundreds including Godavan,

partridge, quail, deer, rabbit, mongoose, partridge, pigeon, sparrow, peacock, patepadi, goh, sandalwood goh, hawk, kurjan, nilgai, fox, eagle, gugararaja, titoli, son, tilor, jackal in Oran Animals and birds roam here. District's biggest. There are 18 thousand 936.06 bighas of Oran in Dhok Panchayat of Chauhtan Tehsil. It is the biggest Oran in the district. About ten gram panchayats lie in the border of this Oran. Millions of trees and fog vegetation are the specialty of this Oran. It is believed that this oran was preserved in the 56th century BC.

Current status of Oran in the district Barmer (in bigha of land)

1. Chauhtan - 23405.11
2. Siwana - 16603.05
3. Gudamalani- 7436.59
4. Sindhri- 5871.08
5. Sedwa- 5556.15
6. Baytu- 8534.15
7. Pachpadra - 17417.8
8. Barmer - 18981.19

Land acquisition in Barmer district in the last one and a half decade has disturbed the environmental balance here. 55 thousand bighaland has been acquired for lignite power project in Bhadres area. Millions of trees were planted on this land. The company concerned was supposed to plant trees back here but this number was not planted. For oil and gas also

companies cut trees from unclaimed land but did not plant trees. A network of roads has been laid under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana and other schemes. The concerned contractors have not planted trees here as well.

It is said that- "A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people. "

Our environment plays an important role for the existence of healthy life on earth. Yet our environment is getting destroyed day by day due to man-made technology and modernization of modern era. So today we are facing the biggest problem like environmental pollution.

The following efforts are being made at the Panchayati Raj level in the state of Rajasthan to check the increasing environmental pollution :-

1. Aravalli Plantation Project- In collaboration with Japan's OECF (Oversease Economic Co-operation Fund) with the aim of making the Aravalli ranges, one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world, the Aravalli plantation project in 10 districts of the state. was introduced with effect from 1st April, 1992. The main objective of this scheme is to

- regenerate the decomposed ecosystem by covering the entire Aravalli range and to stop the spread of desert.
2. Combating Desertification Program CDP: - Scheme: There is a 75:25 partnership between the Central and State Governments in 10 districts of the desert.
  3. Biodiversity : - Conservation With the objective of conserving natural biodiversity and increasing the number of fauna of the species, the development work of Nahargarh Biological Park, Jaipur and Sajjargarh Biological Park, Udaipur is going on under the project.
  4. National Afforestation Program:- The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has created a National Afforestation Program by merging four centrally sponsored schemes in the Tenth Five Year Plan with the objective of facilitating forestry activities and increasing public participation in their implementation. has done. These forest development agencies were given a target of plantation in an area of 6800 hectares for the financial year 2012-13.
  5. Green Rajasthan Scheme 2009: - The state government started a five year plan 'Green Rajasthan' for the year 2009-10 to 2013-14. The objective of the scheme is to plant trees with the cooperation of people to make Rajasthan state green. This is a very ambitious plan. This scheme is being implemented in collaboration with NREGA.
  6. State's first Forest and Environment Policy-2010: Wildlife and natural biodiversity are integral parts of forest wealth. In this context, the Government of Rajasthan has announced its first State Forest Policy on February 18, 2010. With this, Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to declare a forest and environment policy. Under this policy, a target has been set to develop forests in an additional area of 45 thousand square km. Rajasthan is the largest state in the country in terms of area, but only 9.59 percent of the state's land area is forest area, out of which only 4.70 percent is completely forested. In the Forest Policy of the State of Rajasthan 2010, a target has been set to cover 20 percent of the entire land area of the state, so that along with maintaining the ecological and environmental balance, it is also

possible to achieve the goals of social, economic upliftment of the people of the state.

7. Honors and Awards Amrita Devi Award: - The state government has decided the awards for 2014 and 2015. By issuing a mandate, it has doubled the amount of Amrita Devi Award given to a person/institution who has done excellent work in the field of tree plantation, forest protection and wildlife conservation. As per the order, Forest Protection and Management Committee/Panchayat/Village level institutions for doing excellent work will now be given one lakh rupees in cash and citation and fifty thousand rupees cash and citation will be given to the persons doing forest development and wildlife conservation and protection.

## CONCLUSION

World Environment Day is celebrated all over the world on 5th June. The main objective of this day is to protect the environment and keep the whole world free from pollution. It is our responsibility as a citizen of a country and as a resident of this earth to make this earth clean, beautiful and free from pollution. We should start ourselves to save the environment and keep the place

around us clean. If every person starts making the place around him clean, then this world will be free from dirt and we will be able to create a better environment. Due to all these reasons, due to urbanization, industrialization and our behavior towards nature, environmental pollution is the main problem of the world and its solution is possible only with the continuous efforts of each. We should actively participate in the campaign of World Environment Day.

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