

patterns exert pressure on the natural environment; second, sociology can assist us in understanding how environmental problems are distributed. Finally, sociology can assist us in evaluating policies and plans targeted at resolving environmental issues.

### **Scope of Environmental Sociology**

Many sociologists became interested in environmental issues as a result of their interest in classic sociological topics like applied sociology, and social movements. Environmental sociology is still a developing field of study; it includes a wide range of research interests, with little overlap in personnel and insufficient cross-fertilization of ideas. Because there isn't a long history of empirical study on the topic, much of what's already out there is conceptual or theoretical, and most empirical investigations haven't been duplicated. Nonetheless, sociologists who specialize in environmental sociology have produced a surprising quantity of work.

Numerous sociological studies have been conducted on the environmental movement. Some sociologists emphasized the movement's connection with the earlier "Preservationist Movement," while others emphasized the relevance of the high degree of political mobilization arising from the Civil Rights and Anti-War campaigns. Increased recreational contact with nature, prosperity allowing Americans to focus on aesthetic things, and the publication of literature warning of ecological dangers are among the other factors identified. An interest in the problems encountered by resource management agencies drew some sociologists to environmental issues.

Empirical studies have looked at the socioeconomic situation of environmental group members, as well as their motives for joining and participating, organizational dedication,

and attitudes about environmental issues and solutions. Many early studies simply measured public levels of "environmental concern," but research into the correlates of environmental views has exploded in recent years.

Knight, K W, in his book, *Environmental sociology*, points out four major areas of environmental research. That is;

First, Environmental sociologists look into the social factors that contribute to environmental issues. Many theoretical frameworks have been established by academics to understand how social elements such as demographic, political, cultural, and economic issues cause environmental concerns. Much empirical research has been carried out to back up the hypotheses drawn from such theoretical frameworks.

Second, the impact of the natural environment on society is the subject of environmental sociology. Early sociologists emphasized the need of studying both how society shapes its environment and how society impacts its environment. In this topic, researchers look into the effects of natural disasters, particularly in terms of environmental justice.

Third, Environmental sociology studies how people react to environmental problems. Researchers are concentrating their efforts on detecting patterns and trends in environmental attitudes, such as differing perspectives on global climate change.

Fourth, Environmental sociologists are particularly interested in gaining a better understanding of social processes that can aid in environmental sustainability. Scholarly work in this area focuses on finding solutions to environmental crises and evaluating environmental reform theories.

In general, environmental sociology has tended to focus on describing how society generates environmental problems rather than potential remedies, but this has shifted in recent decades. Environmental sociology has focused on the development, discussion, and empirical examination of ideas of environmental reform, studies of potential solutions to environmental crises, and the drafting of conceptual frameworks for sustainability. The human dimensions of global climate change, which has become one of the key substantive topics researched by environmental sociologists, is another major area of inquiry that goes across the prior four.

### **1.1. c) Significance of Environmental Sociology**

Environmental sociology is a branch of sociology that studies the numerous ways in which humans interact with their surroundings. The link between societal well-being and environmental quality is becoming more and more of a sociological focus. Environmental sociology is a branch of sociology concerned with the relationships between the physical environment, social organization, and social behaviour. Environmental sociologists focus on the social causes that generate environmental problems, as well as the societal consequences of such problems and efforts to overcome them. They also look at the social processes that lead to specific environmental conditions being labeled as issues in society.

Environmental sociology in the 1970s focused on the study of the green movement, energy issues, disaster risks, public attitudes toward environmental issues, environmental policies, and environmental quality as a social problem. Environmental sociology is also interested in the human causes and social determinants of environmental contamination, as well as the social consequences of this pollution and the depletion of natural