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The paper discusses the induced changes in land use and other causative factors of fast degradation of the forest ecosystem brought about by man's interference with the Nature's way for short-term gains for meeting the requirements of food, fuel, timber, fruit, etc. by deforestation and extending the cultivation to very steep slopes in the Nilgiri hills. The importance of natural as well as man-made forests in mitigating the ill-effects and maintaining the eco-system in this region has been highlighted.

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