

Unit 1: Concept and Issues of Environment and Development\* Concept of Environment

→ Everything that surrounds or affects an organism during its life time is collectively known as its environment.

→ The word environment has been derived from a French word 'environner' meaning to encircle or to surround.

→ In the beginning, environment of early man consisted of only physical aspects of the planet earth such as land (lithosphere), air (atmosphere) and water (hydrosphere) along with biotic components but, with the passage of time and advancement of society, man extended his environment to include his social, economic and ~~pot~~ political functions too.

→ Therefore, it can be stated that environment is the sum total of conditions that surrounds us at a given point of time and space. It has provided us all the resources for leading a comfortable life.

1. According to P. Glisbert "Environment is anything immediately surrounding an object and exerting a direct influence on it."

2. According to E. J. Ross "Environment is an external force which influences us."

## Components of Environment

(2)

Environment mainly consists of atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere. But it can roughly be divided into two types such as (a) Micro environment (b) Macro environment. It can also be divided into two other types such as (c) Physical and (d) biotic environment.

(a) Micro environment refers to the immediate local surroundings of the organism.

(b) Macro environment refers to all the physical and biotic conditions that surround the organism externally.

(c) Physical environment refers to all abiotic factors or conditions like temperature, light, rainfall, soil, minerals etc. It comprises of atmosphere, lithosphere and hydrosphere.

(d) Biotic environment included all biotic factors or living forms like plants, animals, Micro-organisms.