

Concept of Environment

The term environment has been derived from a French word “environner” means to surround. It refers to both Abiotic (physical or non-living) and Biotic (living) environment. The word environment means surroundings, in which organisms live. Environment and the organisms are two organised and complex component of nature.

According to Douglas and Holland: ‘The term environment is used to describe, in the aggregate, all the external forces, influences and conditions, which affect the life, nature, behaviour and the growth, development and maturity of living organisms.’

C.C. Park defines, ‘Environment refers to the sum total of all conditions which surround man at a given point in space and time’.

Encyclopedia Britannica defines, the entire range of external influence acting on an organism, both the physical and biological, and other organisms, i.e. forces of nature surrounding an individual.

According to US Council on Environmental quality, total environmental system including not only the biosphere, but also his interactions with his natural and manmade surroundings.

Thus, Environment is sum total of water, air and land inter-relationships among themselves and also with the human being, other living organisms and material goods. It is the grand total of conditions that surrounds us at a given point of time and space. It is comprised of the interacting systems of physical, biological and cultural elements which are interlinked both individually and collectively. Environment is the summation of conditions in which an organism has to survive or maintain its life process. It influences the growth and development of living organism.