



# **FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES**

**COURSE: LL.B.**

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# Lecture-1



## LECTURE 1: Meaning and Concept of Environment

### ❖ Introduction:-

The word Environment is derived from the French word “Environ” which means “surrounding”. Our surrounding includes biotic factors like human beings, plants, animals microbes, etc. and abiotic factors such as light, air, water, soil, etc.

Environment is a complex of many variables, which surrounds man as well as the living organisms. Environment includes water, air and land and the inter relationships which exists among and between water, air and land and human beings and other living creatures such as plants, animals and microorganisms.

### ❖ Meaning of Environment:-

In simple words, all the factors such as physical, geographical, chemical, biological and ecological which effects human life and its existence on this planet are called environment.

The environment includes earth, lakes, forests, farms, vegetations, and other biological life such as animals, plants, bacteria and microorganisms, etc.

### ❖ Concept of Environment:-

The word “Environment” is difficult to define. Its normal meaning relate to surroundings. The concept is relative to whatever object it is which is surrounded. Therefore, it includes anything. Indeed, Einstein once remarked : “ The Environment is everything that is not me.” However, a more specific meaning, although still very vague and general has now been assigned to the term “environment” which may be treated as covering the physical surroundings that are common to all of us, including air, space, waters, land, plants and wildlife.

The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in Section 2(a) defines environment as follows:

“Environment includes water, air and land and the interrelationship which exists among water, air, land and human beings, and other living creatures, plants, microorganisms and property.”

Environment is thus a very complex phenomenon. One can understand it when he understands ecosystem, ecology, biosphere.

According to International Court of Justice, Environment is not an abstraction but represents the living space, the quality of life and the very health of human beings, includes generous unborns.”

Primarily, the concern of all environmentalists is with the environment of man. But man cannot exist or be understood in isolation from other forms of life and from plant life and so environment of all biological population should be the concern of environment.” Environment refers to the sum total

of condition which surround man at a given point in space and time. In the beginning the environment to early man consisted of only physical aspects of the planet earth and biotic communities but with the march of time and advancement of society man extended his environment through his social, economic and political functions.”

#### ❖ **Scope of Environment:-**

In general sense, the environment is equated with nature wherein physical components of the planet earth viz, land, air, water, etc. support and affect life in the biosphere. A Gondie in his book “The Nature of Environment” has, in fact, taken environment as the representative of physical components of the earth wherein man is an important factor affecting the environment. Environment is defined more comprehensively by others “as a holistic view of the world as it functions at any point of time, with a multitude of spatial elemental and socio economic systems distinguished by quality and attributes of space and mode of behaviour abiotic and biotic forms. K.R. Dixit remarks “The definition and in turn the scope, could be govern by our concern and priorities. Our immediate concern is the quality of space we live in, the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink and the resources we draw from the environment to support our economy. He has also pleaded for the inclusion of only “air-land-water-plant” in the concept of environment, excluding man and human society from the scope of environment.

In fact environment is viewed in different ways with different angles by different groups of people but it may be safely argued that environment is an inseparable whole, is constituted by the interacting systems of physical, biological and cultural elements which are interlinked individually as well as collectively in myriad ways. Physical elements (space, landforms, water bodies, climate, soils, rocks, minerals) determine the variable character of human habitat, its opportunities as well as limitations. Biological elements (plants, animals, microorganisms and man) constitute biosphere. Cultural elements (economic, social and political) are essentially man made features which go into the making of cultural milieu.