

Points to study

- 17.1 Meaning of Environment
- 17.2 Types of Environment
- 17.3 Environmental Pollution
- 17.4 Environment conservation
- 17.5 Environment and Indian perspective

You might have visited nearby forest areas during rainy season. You might have also seen green trees, plants, animals, waterfalls, rivers and ponds. The rain water coming from the hills which along with it also brings soil and stone pieces on the road is also seen. Try to complete the following table with the observed objects, plants, animals and experiences with the help of your teacher.

S. No.	List		
	Name of observed things	Name of Observed plant & animal	Name of acts experience
1.	Soil, Stone,	Peepal, Dhatura	Air, Noise
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

17.1 Meaning of Environment

All those plants animals, water, air and other substances which we can see or feel, constitutes an environment.

Thus, we can say that the blanket that surrounds us is called an





Fig. 17.1 Environment

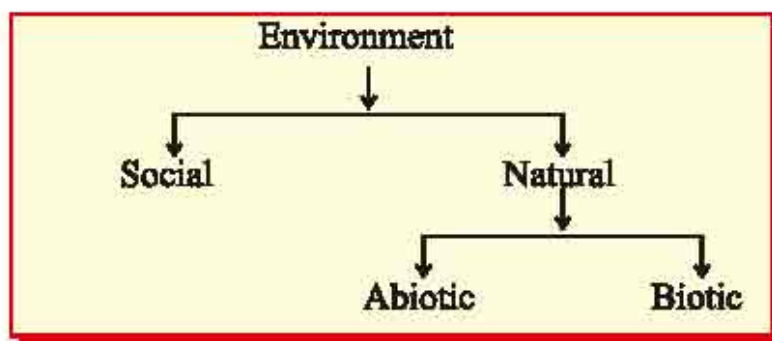
environment. Environment is the basis of existence of living organisms. Let us try to find out the types of environment.

17.2 Types of Environment

Environment can be classified mainly into two types :

1. Social environment.
2. Natural environment.

The main component of social environment is human society and other biotic and abiotic factors are components of natural environment which can be shown in the given chart below.



Social Environment : Social environment is expressed as the inter relationship of social relations. Mutual cooperation, brotherhood, coordination, duties of a good neighbour, to help in others good or bad time, patience, care of public property, respect to elders, affection for young ones, positive attitude etc. are the important factors necessary for a healthy social environment.

Natural Environment: All the plants, animals, air, water, soil etc that are found in our surroundings constitutes the natural environment, Natural environment is made up of two components.

1. Abiotic components
2. Biotic components

Abiotic components- It includes all the non living components like climatic (rain, frost, dew, humidity, wind, temperature, light) landforms and edaphic factor.

Biotic components- It includes all the vegetation (green plants), animals and micro organisms. Green plants are called Producers, animals are called consumers and micro organisms are called decomposers.

When ever you go to congested areas like traffic circle, bus stand, railway station, fair etc. wearing white clothes, then what is the effect on your white clothes? Some black Lamp deposition appears on white clothes. Why does this happens? Let us think.

This happens because the smoke emerging out from transport vehicles like scooter, motorcycle, car truck, jeep, bus etc. mixes with the air. Thus due to mixing of smoke in pure air, the air gets polluted. This has harm effect on the environment. And we come in contact with this polluted air a black deposition appears on our clothes. Similarly addition of undesirable substances, in water, soil and air makes them polluted.

This is called pollution. Pollution is the addition of undesirable substances in water, soil and air.

17.3 Environment Pollution.

Environment is unlimited. Clean environment is helpful in growth and development of organisms. One life gets affected by various components of environment and their various stages. At present, natural and social environments are affected by our materialistic approach.

The balanced form of all the components of an environment is called ideal condition of environment. Disturbance, even in our component of the environment affects the whole living world. These undesirable changes occurring in the various components of environment is called pollution.

In simple terms pollution means "contaminated environment."

Some types of natural pollutions are as follows:

- (1) Water pollution
- (2) Air pollution
- (3) Land/Soil pollution
- (4) Noise pollution
- (5) Thermal pollution
- (6) Radioactive pollution, nuclear pollution.
- (7) Social pollution

In previous chapters you have studied about noise, water and air pollution. You will study about heat and radioactive pollution in higher classes. Let us study about Soil pollution here :

Land pollution / soil pollution : Agriculture is a strong pillar of our economy. The livelihood of most of the people in an agriculture dominant country, is from agriculture and livestock. Storms, floods and unwise ways of agriculture, natural resources and pollution have lowered the fertility of soil and yielding capacity. Pesticides, insecticides, fungicides and chemical fertilizers have increased the crop yield but have lowered the soil fertility. If the use of chemical fertilizers and various harmful chemicals is not controlled then in no time our land will become barren.

To control the environment pollution, we should keep our approach positive, use natural resources wisely and inspire others for the same.

17.4 Environment Conservation -

The biotic and abiotic components of natural environment and social environment are inter dependent.. Thus inter dependence is the basis of cycle of nature. To maintain this cycle of nature is environment conservation.

Role of Rajasthan in Environment Conservation : The Environment play an important role not only for humans but also for lives of animals, birds and plants also. Following are the important examples of steps taken in Rajasthan for Environment conservation.

1. Sacrifice of Amrita Devi in Khejarli village of Jodhpur.
2. Functions of KiranNidhi Organization in Piplantri village of Rajsamand.

Example of Khejarli village in Jodhpur district - That time Jodhpur Maharaja required wood for his palace. For this the soldiers selected Khejarali



Fig. 17.2 Picture of Khejadhli village

village. Near Jodhapur King's soldiers starting axing Khejri trees. When this news reached to Smt. Amrita Devi and other villagers, they ran to save the trees. Smt. Amrita Devi requested the soldiers **Not to cut the green trees as it is not right** when the soldiers refused her, she along with her three daughters and villagers hugged the trees and said means she would rather give away her life to save the trees. In this remarkable effort to save trees 363 people including Amrita Devi, her daughters and villagers sacrificed their lives. Every year a fair is organized in Khejarli on Dashmi of Bhadrapad.

Piplantri village in Rajsamand : Kiran Nidhi organization of Piplantri village has started a Campaign Here the birth of a girl child is taken as a celebration. The villagers of Piplantri plant's 111 trees every time a girl child is born. For the protection of these trees, the villagers tie sacred thread on trees on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan and take oath for their protection. It is a successful and unique programme for environment conservation.



Fig. 17.3 Girls of Piplantri village tying the know on trees

Our life style and environment conservation -

Environment friendly - Our life style should be environment friendly. Our every activity should be such that it may not harm the environment. To save the environment we can apply following life style.

1. Use the natural resources in a controlled and wise manner so that they would be available for the coming generation.
2. Use the biodegradable products in maximum possible manner.
3. Conserve the environment by recycling the used substances.

Practical aspects of life style

1. Reduce the use of water and electricity - We have to reduce the use of both. It Constructing houses with high ceilings and ventilators and using electrical appliances marked with 5 star quality mark. Reducing the electrical billing using CFL and LED and tubelights. Treat the water after bathing or washing clothes and then use it in plants. Using water according to the need only.
2. As much as possible Prohibiting such things which harms the environment.
3. Regulated and complete use - There are some articles or resources which when used completely protects the environment. Paper; Cloth, Water and food served necessary should be used completely, Natural resources should be used in a regulated manner and only according to the requirement.
4. Bio-manure - It can be prepared by from vegetable peels, rotten fruits, dried leaves broken branches etc.
5. 5 June is celebrated as World Environment Day and 22 April in celebrated as earth day. Their main aim is to create public awareness for conduct following activities
 - Creating public awareness by rallies.
 - Conducting poster, slogan competition, dramas and seminar .
 - Organizing the community planting programme with public involvement in public areas with great enthusiasm and zeal.

Resolution for environment conservation - Environmental problems are due to a break in cycle of natures. We should give our contribution in environment conservation by taking a resolution to plant a tree on the special occasions of our life (Birthday festivals anniversary etc.)

Various levels for environment protection -We all Work together for environment protection at various levels. These levels are as follows-

Personal, family, public, working place, school, administrative level.

17.5 Environment and Indian perspective

The components the environment are always worshipped in our cultures and tradition. It is sin to cut down trees. After Bath, Plants and trees are watered, sun is worshipped which in the biggest source of energy.



Fig. 17.4 World Environment Day

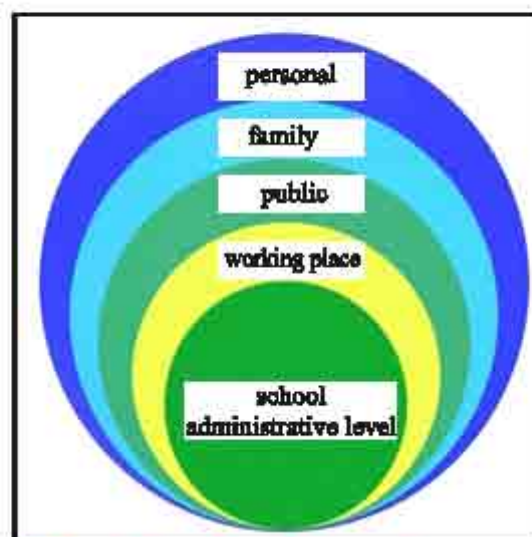


Fig 17.5 various levels for environment

Our lifestyle is helpful in environment conservation and environment conservation has been given importance in our Indian culture also. Human has unbreakable relation with the nature. Our ancient sages also have said that "yat pinde, tatt brahmande" "Sanskrit Slok" which means the elements of the body are same as the elements of nature.

Earth, water, air, fire and sky are the major components of the environment. Our body is also made up of these five elements. And our lives will be safe by protecting these five elements of the environment.

We think of earth as your mothers we conserve water rivers, mountains, trees, water bodies, air etc. as we consider them worshipping it is tradition to water plants.

Our grandmother, mother used homemade methods in place of chemicals to protect grains, spices and pulses etc. For example keeping dried neem leaves in wheat, a line of turmeric powder to keep ants away etc. These traditional methods are helpful in protection of the grains etc without harming the environment.

In our culture, the animals are treated as of God and Goddess. Snakes are worshipped on Nagpanchmi, Cows are worshipped on BachhBaras, Crows are served with kheer in Shradh, feeding ants with Til and flour, birds with grains, cows and dogs with chapati etc. These examples show that our culture has given importance to the organisms by having a mercy on them.

On different festivals, the tradition of preparing different dishes and vegetables curries is also an example of conserving vegetables and cereals so as to prevent their extinction.



Fig 17.6 Students taking resolution for planting.

Peepaltree, Banyan tree, Amla, Tulsi etc are worshipped. Many plants have medicinal importance which are used in our daily lives. The Mantras and Hawan ingredients used during Hawan and Yagya are also helpful in purifying the environment.

What have you learnt

- The blanket, surrounding us is called an environments.
- Natural environment is made up of biotic and abiotic components.
- Pollution - water pollution, air pollution, soil pollution noise pollution, heat pollution, atomic pollution social pollution.
- To protect the environment we should follow environment friendly lifestyle, wise regulates limited and just use of natural resources and their reuse and recycling.
- 5th June is celebrated as World Environment Day and 22nd April is celebrated as 'Earth Day'
- Efforts should be carried at various levels to save environment.
- We should plant trees on special occasions of our life and should take resolution to take care of them.

EXERCISES

Mark the correct option

- The biotic components of natural environment is-
(a) Plants (b) mountains
(b) Fields (d) water
- What does the pollution in simple terms means?
(a) Uncontaminated environment
(b) contaminated environment
(b) Uncontaminated and contaminated environment
(d) nice environment
- Which of the following is not included in the environmental friendly life style?
(a) Limited use (b) controlled use
(b) Wise use (d) unlimited use
- When is the world environment day?
(a) 21 June (b) 05 June
(b) 2 october (d) 14 november

Fill in the blanks

- The blanket covering us on all sides is called _____
- The five element mentioned in the Indian culture are _____
- Abiotic components include _____
- Soil pollution has resulted in the decrease in fertility and _____ of soil.

Short answer type questions:

- Write the types of environment.
- What is pollution? Mention its types.
- What resolution will you take to protect the environment? Write them.
- At what levels efforts can be made to protect the environment? Mention.

Long answer type questions:

- Explain the Indian perspective for environment and its conservation.
- Throw a light on the role of Rajasthan in environment conservation.

