**Environment: Concept and definition**

Environment is the source of life on Earth. It directs and determines the existence, growth and development of all the living beings and its different activities. The dictionary meaning of the term environment is a surrounding or external condition that influences the growth and development of people, animals or plats; living or working conditions and so on.

The word environment is originated from the French word ‘Environner’ which means to surround or to encircle. It implies a complex of many variables which surround man as well as all living organism. In its most literal sense, environment simply indicates surroundings, hence environment of an individual, object, element or system includes all the other entities with which it is surrounded. In wider sense, the word environment includes all the conditions that the lives required for living and it includes all the biotic and abiotic substances or things.

Environment has defined in a number of ways by the experts and those are as follows:

* According to Boring, ‘‘A person’s environment consists of the sum total of the stimulation which he receives from his conception until his death.’’
* Anastasi says, ‘‘ The environment is everything that affects the individual except his genes.’’
* P. Gisbert denotes, ‘‘ Environment is anything immediately surrounding an object and exerting a direct influence on it.’’
* Fitting has defined environment as, ‘‘ The totality of milieu factors of an organism.’’

Thus, from above discussion it can be said that environment is the sum total of all the external forces, influences and conditions which affect the life, nature, behaviour and the growth, development and maturity of living organisms. It is the situation created dependently or independently by the natural, biological and social elements which incorporates both natural and man-made surroundings. It consists of various types of forces like physical, intellectual, social, moral, economic, political, cultural, emotional forces etc.