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COURSE: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

DESCRIBE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ENVIRONMENT GIVING EXAMPLES

 TYPES OF ENVIRONMENT

1. Natural environment
2. Man-made environment
* Natural environment: it is an environment which an organism lives naturally on the earth. The organism lives and interacts with natural atmosphere such as rocks, earth and air etc. The components of natural environment are air, water, soil, land radiations, forests, wildlife, flora, fauna, etc. It is also known as habitat.

 COMPOSITION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1). The Lithosphere: the lithosphere is the rigid outermost shell of a rocky planet defined on the basis of mechanical properties.

2). The Hydrosphere: it refers to combined mass of water found on, under and over the surface of the planet. Oceans, rivers, lakes, ponds and as a whole all the water bodies of the earth.

3). The Atmosphere: it is a layer of gases surrounding the planet earth that is retained by earth’s gravity. The atmosphere protects life on earth by absorbing UV-rays, warming the surface through green-house effect, and reducing temperature extreme between day and night.

4). The Biosphere: is the global sum of all ecosystems. It can also be termed the zone of life on earth, a closed system and largely self-regulating. The biosphere is the global ecological system integrating all living beings and their relationships.

\* Man-made environment: it includes transportation, housing, agricultural and livestock farms, aquatic farms, industries, dams, energy such as hydrothermal and nuclear plants etc. Man-made environments can be divided into: I. Social environment II. Industrial environment.

I). Social environment: is the immediate physical and social setting in which people live or which something happens or develops. It includes the culture that the individual was educated or lives in, and the people and institution with whom they interact. The interaction may be in person or through communication media, even anonymous or one way and may not imply quality social status. Examples include: culture language, social condition, health, profession, living condition, economic capability of the people living in certain areas.

II). Industrial environment: it refers to the human-made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity. The industrial environment encompasses places and spaces created or modified by people including buildings, parks or green spaces, and supporting infrastructures, such as water supply, or energy networks, transportation systems etc. Built environment is shaped by:

* Climate and geology
* Economy
* Government
* Culture and fashion
* Technology
* Customers