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**17/MHS01/289**

**Nursing Science**

**Community Health Nursing**

1. The term environment is widely used and has a broad range of definitions, meanings and interpretations. What does the term environment mean? In popular usage, for some people, the term environment means, simply, nature: in other words, the natural landscape together with all of its non-human features, characteristics and processes. To those people, the environment is often closely related to notions of wilderness and of pristine landscapes that have not been influenced or, at least, that have been imperceptibly influenced by human activities. However, for other people, the term 'environment' includes human elements to some extent. Many people would regard agricultural and pastoral landscapes as being part of the environment, whilst others are yet more inclusive and regard all elements of the earth's surface including urban areas as constituting the environment. Thus, in popular usage, the notion of the 'environment' is associated with diverse images and is bound up with various assumptions and beliefs that are often unspoken yet may be strongly held. All of these usages, however, have a central underlying assumption: that the 'environment' exists in some kind of relation to humans. Hence the environment is, variously, the backdrop to the unfolding narrative of human history, the habitats and resources that humans exploit, the hinterland that surrounds human settlements, or the wilderness that humans have not yet domesticated or dominated.
2. **Types of Environment**:

Physical Enviroment: A physical environment can be described as anything we can physically experience through our senses—touch, smell, sight, hearing, and/or taste. The physical environment includes both the natural environment and the human-made environment. For example, the physical environment of a house can include the human-made structures such as the walls, the pipes, and the appliances, as well as the natural environment, such as the air circulating in the house, the water flowing through the pipes, and the trees, plants, and animals that exist in the yard.

Biological Environment: A biological environment is a physical environment that has living things in it. Which on Earth, is pretty much any environment. There are living things under crushing pressure at the bottom of the oceans. In boiling hot springs and ocean vents. Flying and floating in the air. Tunneling under the ground. Slithering through swamps. Burrowing against the heat in the parched deserts.

Social Enviroment: Social environments encompass the immediate physical surroundings, social relationships, and cultural milieus within which defined groups of people function and interact. Components of the social environment include built infrastructure; industrial and occupational structure; labor markets; social and economic processes; wealth; social, human, and health services; power relations; government; race relations; social inequality; cultural practices; the arts; religious institutions and practices; and beliefs about place and community.The social environment subsumes many aspects of the physical environment, given that contemporary landscapes, water resources, and other natural resources have been at least partially configured by human social processes. Embedded within contemporary social environments are historical social and power relations that have become institutionalized over time. Social environments can be experienced at multiple scales, often simultaneously, including households, kin networks, neighborhoods, towns and cities, and regions