**BORO SIR, PAPER-602 UNIT-1-DOC-4**

**Concept of environment/social space/**

**The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates. synonyms: habitat, territory, domain, home, abode; More the natural world, as a whole or in a particular geographical area, especially as affected by human activity.**

**The term environment has been derived from a French word “Environia” means to surround. It refers to both abiotic (physical or non-living) and biotic (living) environment. The word environment means surroundings, in which organisms live. Environment and the organisms are two dynamic and complex component of nature. Environment regulates the life of the organisms including human beings. Human beings interact with the environment more vigorously than other living beings. Ordinarily environment refers to the materials and forces that surrounds the living organism. Environment is the sum total of conditions that surrounds us at a given point of time and space. It is comprised of the interacting systems of physical, biological and cultural elements which are interlinked both individually and collectively. Environment is the sum total of conditions in which an organism has to survive or maintain its life process. It influences the growth and development of living forms.**

**In other words environment refers to those surroundings that surrounds living beings from all sides and affect their lives. It consists of atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere. It’s chief components are soil, water, air, organisms and solar energy. It has provided us all the resources for leading a comfortable life. According to P. Gisbert “Environment is anything immediately surrounding an object and exerting a direct influence on it.” According to E. J. Ross “Environment is an external force which influences us.” Thus, environment refers to anything that is immediately surrounding an object and exerting a direct influence on it. Our environment refers to those thing or agencies which though distinct from us, affect our life or activity. The environment by which man is surrounded and affected by factors which may be natural, artificial, social, biological and psychological.**

**Components of Environment: Environment mainly consists of atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere. But it can be roughly divided into two types such as**

**(a) Micro environment refers to the immediate local surrounding of the organism.**

**(b) Macro environment refers to all the physical and biotic conditions that surround the organism externally.**

**It can also be divided as:**

**(c) Physical environment refers to all abiotic factors or conditions like temperature, light, rainfall, soil, minerals etc. It comprises of atmosphere, lithosphere and hydrosphere.**

**(d) Biotic environment includes all biotic factors or living forms like plants, animals, Micro-organisms.**

**CONCEPT OF ECOSYSTEM**

**Ecosystem a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment. (in general use) a complex network or interconnected system. An ecosystem is a community of living organisms in conjunction with the non- living components of their environment (things like air, water and mineral soil), interacting as a system. These biotic and abiotic components are regarded as linked together through nutrient cycles and energy flows. As ecosystems are defined by the network of interactions among organisms, and between organisms and their environment, they can be of any size but usually encompass specific, limited spaces (although some scientists say that the entire planet is an ecosystem).**

**-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**CONCEPT OF SOCIAL SPACE**

[**Space**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTjSY07M0oo&t=149s) is the boundless three-dimensional extent in which objects and events have relative position and direction. Physical space is often conceived in three linear dimensions, although modern physicists usually consider it, with time, to be part of a boundless four-dimensional continuum known as spacetime. The concept of space is considered to be of fundamental importance to an understanding of the physical universe. However, disagreement continues between philosophers over whether it is itself an entity, a relationship between entities, or part of a conceptual framework.

**Geographical space** is the action space of individuals, households and firms. Location and allocation are two sides of the same coin. This seemingly simple observation leads to a wealth of spatial – economic phenomena that are well covered in the recent literature ( Fischer and Nijkamp, 2013). Examples are housing and labor markets, regional growth disparities, spatial innovation and entrepreneurship conditions, urban agglomerations, industrial clusters, or energy and environmental resource scarcity. All such phenomena are critically determined by the location of human and industrial activity. There is an abundance of both conceptual and applied studies that address the above-mentioned spatial mapping of activities. The present contribution aims to highlight the essential elements of standard location theory.

**A social space** is physical or virtual space such as a social center, online social media, or other gathering place where people gather and interact. Some social spaces such as town squares or parks are public places; others such as pubs, websites, or shopping malls are privately owned and regulated.

**Henri Lefebvre emphasized that in human society all ‘space is social: it involves assigning more or less appropriated places to social relations….social space has thus always been a social product’. Social space becomes thereby a metaphor for the very experience of social life – ‘society experienced alternatively as a deterministic environment or force (milieu) and as our very element or beneficent shell (ambience)’. In this sense ‘social space spans the dichotomy between “public” and “private” space…is also linked to subjective and phenomenological space’.**

**As metaphor, ‘social space contributes a relational rather than an abstract dimension…has received a large variety of attributes, interpretations, and metaphors’.Such ‘social space…i[s] an intricate space of obligations, duties, entitlements, prohibitions, debts, affections, insults, allies, contracts, enemies, infatuations, compromises, mutual love, legitimate expectations, and collective ideals’.**

**For Lefebvre, ‘the family, the school, the workplace, the church, and so on – each possesses an “appropriate” space…for a use specified within the social division of labor’. Within such social spaces ‘a system of “adapted” expectations and responses – rarely articulated as such because they seem obvious – acquire a quasi-natural self-evidence in everyday life and common sense’: thus everybody consensually ‘knows what he is talking about when he refers to the town hall, the post office, the police station, the grocery store, the bus and the train, train stations, and bistros’ – all underlying aspects of ‘a social space as such. an (artificial) edifice of hierarchically ordered institutions, of laws and conventions’**

**Pre/postmodern space**

**‘In premodern societies, space and place largely coincided….Modernity increasingly tears space away from place’. Whereas in the premodern ‘every thing has its assigned place in social space’, postmodernists would proudly proclaim that ‘we need to substitute for the magisterial space of the past…a less upright, less Euclidean space where no one would ever be in his final place ‘.**

**The way ‘migration, seen as a metaphor, is everywhere’ in postmodernity – ‘we are migrants and perhaps hybrids, in but not of any situation in which we find ourselves’ – is rooted in the postmodern forms of production of social space.**

**Lefebvre considered globalization as the creation, and superimposition on nature, of ‘worldwide-social space…with strong points (the centers) and weaker and dominated bases (the peripheries)’.**