
TOWARDS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPT “MAN AND HIS ENVIRONMENT” THROUGH AN “INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENT” APPROACH

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ABSTRACT: *“Man and His Environment,” is a topical issue in all discussions on the environment, which itself has been recognized as an important issue in sustainable development. A companion paper to this one on the title “**Religion, Man and His Environment**” (Fatubarin and Alokun, 2013), discussed the interactions of man with the natural environment. However, in order to have a near comprehensive account of the concept of man in his environment, all the environments, natural, socio-economic, political/governmental, built and spiritual, are considered as components of an integrated environment, in this paper. The paper discusses the diverse environments, their interactions among themselves and the adverse interactions of man in the environments. The paper concludes by noting that the issue of “Man and His Environment,” is too all-embracing, to be given either a physical or socio-economic interpretation alone. It has to be approached comprehensively, as done in this paper, to have a deeper understanding of the concept.*

KEYWORDS: Man, natural environment, socio-economic environment, built environment, political/governmental environment, Spiritual environment, interactions

INTRODUCTION

Ever since the word environment entered the lexicon of the English Language, it has attained an omnibus status that makes users of the English Language apply it to as many deserving situations as possible. We therefore have it used for such things as Third World Environment (Akinrinade, 2012), enabling environment, business environment, among others. Though environment and a number of other terms have for long been recognized as important terms in ecology, as part of the active vocabularies of the subject (Fatubarin, 2009a), it is the recognition of the importance of environment in sustainable development and in particular, the phenomenon of climate change that have made the term environment, to move to the front burner among other ecological concepts. Climate change – a major environmental concept, has been recognized the world over as about “**the greatest crisis ever faced collectively by humankind**” (Foley, 1991). Of the wide array of uses for the term environment, it is its use in the concept of “**Man and His Environment,**” that is highlighted as the subject of this paper. This is not just because of the topical nature of this concept because of its all-time relevance, but more because in most cases where the subject has been discussed, it has been narrowed down to just one type of environment, the natural environment, which is also known by such other names as the ecological environment or the biological environment.

This has been the case with Adesiyun (2005) and Fatubarin (2009b), among several others. This has inadvertently denied readers the opportunity of appreciating the fact that the organism called man, has an all-pervading influence over other environments, as much as he has in the

natural environment. This approach has also denied readers the opportunity of appreciating the interactions that go on between the diverse environments, the culmination of which determines not only the extent of sustainability of the various environments, but also of development in the various localities where these environments are based.

The analysis done in this paper based on the integrated environment perspective, is to provide in-depth information on numerous issues pertaining to the role of humankind in the diverse environments with which he is associated. This is done to make people have a better understanding of the concept of **Man and His Environment**, through appreciating the fact that the influences of Man, extend beyond those of the natural environment. These influences also extend to other equally important environments, which hitherto, were never reckoned with by people, in their works on the environment.

The Nature of Man

What is generally known as “Man,” is also known by such other names as **Mankind**, **Humankind** and **Human being**. These are generic names that cover both sexes, male and female of the organism that goes by the biological name of *Homo sapiens*. This is a name that means the “perfect man” (Fatubarin, 2008). This is the form of human being that is also known as the “modern man”. This is a name that reminds people that the humankind of today, is scientifically, a product of organic evolution, which involved translating from lower forms of human beings, through less perfect, to the perfect human being we have today. This biological evolution involved the translation of human forms from *Dryopithecus*, through *Australopithecus*, *Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus* to *Homo sapiens* (Fatubarin, 2008).

It is this evolution of humankind that confers on him, the traits that makes him more highly developed than other animals. It is also this evolution that makes man to be more sophisticated than other living things, which he not only exerts dominance upon, but can also manipulate to suite his purpose. Humankind, who according to Pastor Adeboye (2012), is a special being, comprising of a three-fold-components of physical, social and spiritual being, acquired his special endowments during his evolution that involved thousands of years. Fatubarin (2009b), highlighted the special endowments of humankind, which make him to be unique among other creations of God. These special endowments are also highlighted in a companion paper to this one on the title “**Religion, Man and His Environment**,” by Fatubarin and Alokun (2013).

All the natural endowments of humankind, have no parallel in other living things. They are what have added together to confer supremacy of humankind over other living things. They are also what are contributing to making him not only to dominate over any environment he finds himself, but also manipulate such environment the way he chooses. It is the complex interplay of his interactions within each of the diverse environments, together with the complex interplay of the interactions between the diverse environments, that give rise to the title of this paper. While still on the nature of man, it must be appreciated that the three-fold nature of mankind, contributes to making him a complex being, whose actions and behaviours, are much influenced by each of these three components of him. It is the complex interplay of these three components of mankind, that contribute to determining the role of individual persons in the environment. However, whenever the concept of “*Man in his Environment*”, is being focused upon, it is the role of mankind in populations and communities that is actually being highlighted in the environment where such populations and communities live or reside. Cognizance must however be taken of the fact that the collective actions of human beings in these populations

and communities, may to some extent be reflecting an interplay of the actions of individual members of the populations or communities. The dominant role of some individuals in such actions, may not be ruled out, particularly so, if they occupy leadership positions or positions of responsibilities. This analysis of the nature of man is done to enable readers appreciate that it is the balanced interplay of the three components of humankind that make him a balanced personality. Where any of these three components is defective or more than one of the components are defective, such a defective personality, will be defective in his contributions in the population or community or better still, in the society. Where such people are in leadership positions, then the population or society is in for trouble and consequently the environment and by projection, development of the society. The converse is also true.

Fig 1: The three-fold components of Man

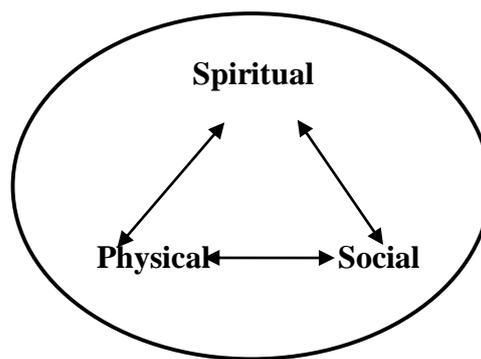
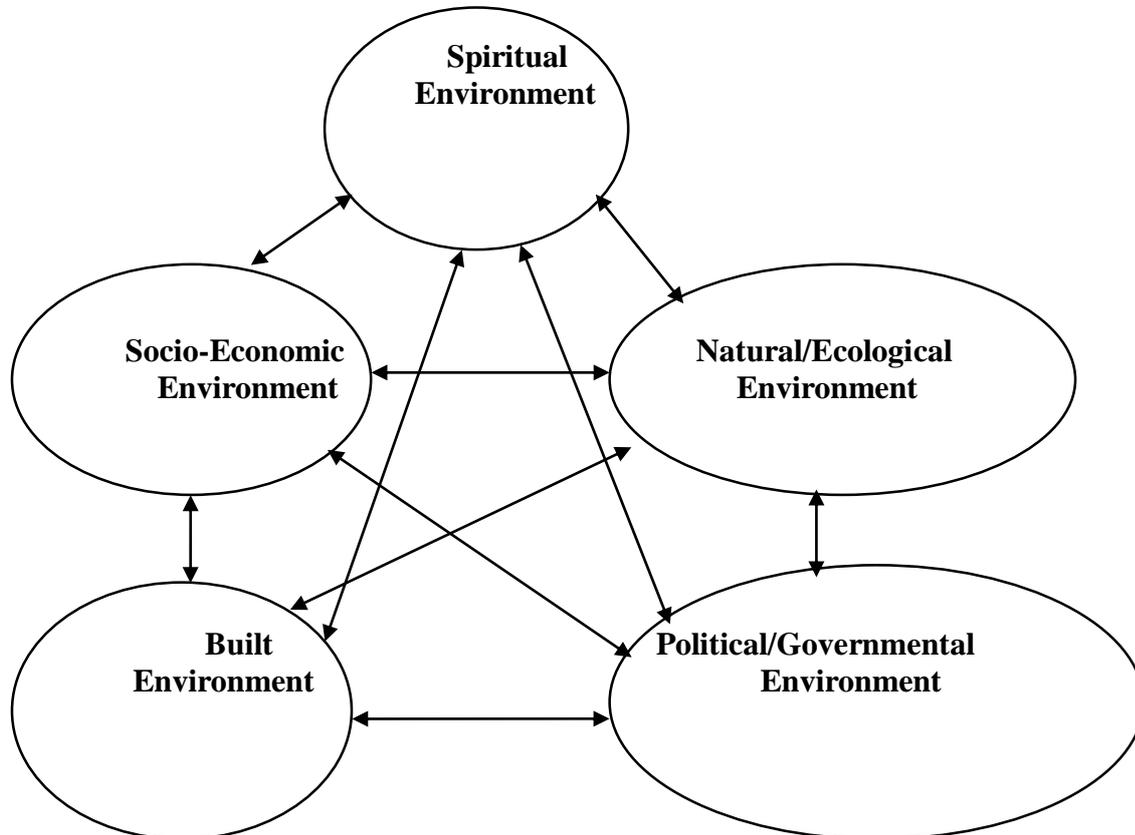


Fig 1 above, illustrates the fact that a wholesome individual is a person in which there is a balanced interplay in his 3-fold-components of physical, social and spiritual being.

The Diverse Environments

The environment is the surrounding of an organism in the place where it lives (Fatubarin, 2009a). Based on this definition, a number of environments are now recognized which differ from one another in some respects, which are explained later in the write-up on each environment. These environments are the natural or ecological environment, the social environment, the built environment, the political environment and the spiritual environment. While the natural environment is concerned with the surrounding of any living thing whatsoever in the place the organism lives, the other environments are concerned with the surrounding of human being in the place where he lives. Whereas the natural environment predates all living organisms in the planet earth, the other environments come into being either directly or indirectly with the emergence of human beings on the planet earth. However, all the environments, irrespective of their nature, have one thing in common. This is the pervading influence of man in all of them, an influence that has far-reaching implications on the sustainability of not only each of them, but also on the sustainability of overall development of all nations and continuing existence of the planet earth. As earlier alluded to in the introduction to this paper, it is this all-important issue of sustainability and particularly the importance of environment and the role of man in it, that have combined to contribute to making the issue of “**Man and His Environment**”, a topical issue of all time.

Fig 2 shows the diverse environments and their interactions



The circles in figure 2 above, show the five types of environments that are of relevance in the issue of “**Man and his Environment**”. The arrows indicate the interactions between the environments. Such interactions underscore the complex interplay of the diverse environments in determining the sustainability of each of the environments and the sustainability of development in the localities where these complex interplay of environments are manifesting. Since the term environment in the concept “**Man and His Environment**”, is not pluralized, the various environments recognized in this figure, can also be regarded as **different dimensions of the environment of man**. This is similar to the way different science subjects, notably, physics, chemistry and biology, make up the subject known in the school system in a country like Nigeria, as integrated science.

The figure below, illustrates the spatial relationship of the environments and their possible interactions in the planet earth

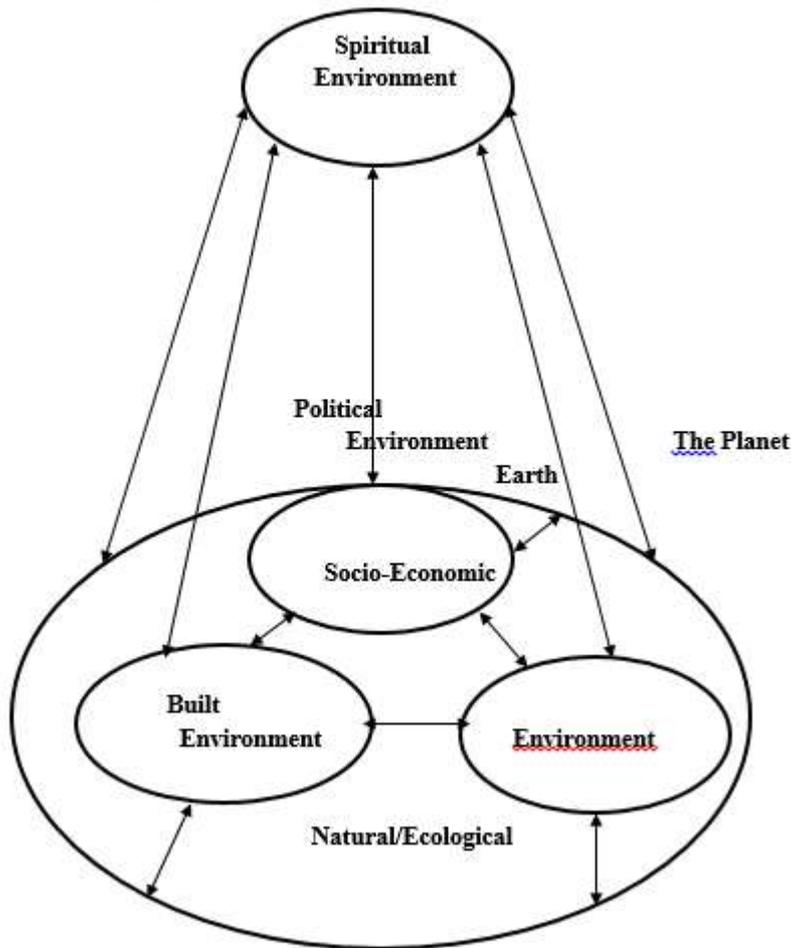


Figure 3 shows that the spiritual environment is up and over and above all other environments, which exist on the planet earth. The planet earth harbours all the other four environments. The natural environment exists all over the planet earth. It is the basic environment on which all the other three environments are built. The arrows indicate the complex nature of the interactions between the environments. It must be appreciated further that each of the diverse environments have in them certain components, that also have interactions between them and between these components and those of other environments.

The Natural Environment

The **natural environment** is the environment which is also known by such other names as **biological environment** (Adesiyani, 2005) and **ecological environment**. This is the

environment that has all living organisms, plants, animals, human beings and microorganisms as the reference organisms that have other components of the environment as their surrounding. These organisms are the **biota** of the ecological environment, with the plants being the flora or floristic component; the animals, the faunal or faunal component, human beings – the anthropogenic component and the micro organisms, the microbial component. The non living components of the environments, are grouped together as the abiotic components or simply as **abiota** of the ecological environment. These abiotic components include the climate or climatic component, the soils or edaphic component, the topography or topographic component and all such other components as geographical location, the air or atmosphere and the water of the environment (Gilpin, 1976 and Bellamy, 2007).

The three other environments existing on the planet earth, have the basic components of the ecological environment in them and most of the activities occurring in these other environments, have relationship with most of the components of the natural environment. Though human beings constitute just a group of living things within the natural environment, the activities of humankind in this environment, have large scale consequences on other environments where humankind also operates. So important are these consequences that they affect to a great extent the welfare of humankind in other environments. This to a large extent, also contributes to the emphasis placed by scientists on natural environment. This also contributes in part, to why most discussions on “**Man and his Environment**” in the past, dwells largely on the natural environment.

The Social Environment

This is an environment that is also known as the **socio-economic environment**. Bellamy (2007), defined the social environment as the interactions an individual or a species has with other individuals of the species. It is the accumulation of both the formal and informal business activities of people living in a place, that determine the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a territory. The socio-economic environment, is the environment in which all the diverse professionals ply their trades. This environment is however of special interest to the social and management scientists, examples of whom are sociologists, demographers, political scientists, psychologists, human resources managers and insurance and actuarial scientists. Others include business administrators, bankers, accountants and economists, among others. It is the environment with which human beings are most familiar. This is because it is the environment in which most people are involved, carrying out diverse interactions, in the process of making their living in the planet earth.

The Built Environment

This according to Bellamy (2007), is a well-planned area built providing congenial conditions. Oriye (2008), noted that the built environment is also seen by some people as the area on the earth's surface, modified by human activities. This thus results in human made surroundings, that provide the setting for human activities ranging in scale from buildings and parks or green space, to neighbourhoods and cities that also include their supporting infrastructure. The built environment is the environment that is of great interest to professionals such as town planners, land and quantity surveyors, architects, civil engineers, builders, horticulturists and estate managers, among others.

The Political Environment

The political environment comprises of government actions which affect the operations of a company, business or territory. Political environment embraces such things as politics,

governance, policies and such other human activities that are regulated by legislations, laws and directives emanating from the governments at all levels. This environment is also known as **political/governmental environment**.

The Spiritual Environment

This is a special environment that has hitherto either been completely neglected or glossed over by people. This is the environment that the spiritual component of human being interacts with at the sub-conscious level. It is the **extra-terrestrial environment** where the human spirit interacts with the super natural spirit – the spirit of a Supreme being, which is also known as God, as well as other spiritual beings, such as the devil and his cohorts. It is this environment that has given rise to the diverse religions, through which their believers interact with their gods, in ways that are special to them. In some religions, these gods are the intermediary between their adherents and the Supreme being, whose existence most religions recognize. It is also believed that it is the operation of some people in the spiritual environment, though wrongly, that has given rise to such issues as ritual murder and such evil actions as corruption, violence and other forms of deadly sins.

Believers of the Christian faith, affirm that there is a God – a Supreme being, who operates at the spiritual environment, to intervene in the affairs of human beings. They believe (rightly or wrongly), that it is this God operating in the spiritual environment, ever before the earth came into existence, that brought the earth into existence. This the bible recounts in Genesis 1. The creation of the earth and all it contains, was done by word of mouth and done over a period of 6 days. Human being was created last on the sixth day, through activities that involved God in the physical action of moulding man, before breathing the breadth of life into him.

Believers of the Christian faith attest to the existence of the spiritual environment, by citing the interaction of God with satan in the spiritual environment, before satan moved to the earth to effect the calamities he brought about in the life of Job (Job 6:1-6) Believers of the Christian faith believe in miracles-which are super natural occurrences that are only brought about through the intervention of the Supreme being, acting in the spiritual environment.

Later in this paper, it will be explained how the activities of human beings in the spiritual environment, have influenced modes of dressing, architectural designs, occurrence of “prayer mountains,” spiritual uses of the plants and animals, among others. Existence of the spiritual environment has also led to the formation of different religions, together with their diverse sects by man. It has given rise to diverse modes of prayers and diverse forms of sacrifices, aimed at seeking the face of the gods, to intervene on their behalf before the Almighty God.

The Interactions of Man in the Diverse Environments

Several interactions occur within and between the diverse environments. For example, within the ecological environment, we have this natural environment operating as an ecosystem, with three main groups of interactions within its components. These according to Clarke (1954), are described by the terms actions, reactions and coactions. The **actions** are the influences of the physical or non living or abiotic components on the organisms. The reciprocal effects of the organisms on the non living components are known as **reactions**, while the interactions between one group of organisms with another, are described as **coactions**. For each of these three groups of interactions within an natural environment, which is an ecosystem, several examples can be cited. However for the purpose of this part of this paper, only those

interactions involving human beings will be focused upon. These are positive interactions which bring benefits to man in one form or another.

a. Interactions involving man in the natural environment

In the natural environment, the non living components influence humankind in different ways. Prominent among which are the following:

- i. The components of climate such as sunlight, rainfall, temperature and humidity, among others, benefit humankind in different ways. Sunlight is the ultimate source of the energy in the planet earth. This energy is of benefit to mankind in diverse ways, prominent among which are thermal energy which provides warmth. Besides warmth, sunlight also provides illumination in the planet earth. It is this illumination that makes man to see by the day time. Rainfall together with other sources of water supply such as snow, ice and glaciers that make water available to man on earth. Temperature makes possible the diverse metabolic activities of man. Humidity provides a cool atmosphere conducive for human life, particularly, in the tropical environments.
- ii. The atmosphere provides human beings with the oxygen needed for respiration, while it also provides a number of other gases that are of use to man in industries.
- iii. The lands, soils, rocks, minerals and mineral ores, provide man with a large number of non renewable natural resources, around which several agricultural, commercial, industrial activities of man in the socio-economic environment and the built environment, are built. The human activities, are built around these abiotic components of the natural environment.

Similarly, the living components of the natural environment in the forms of plants, animals and microorganisms, known as the biota of the ecological environment, are not only important as renewable natural resources, they are also of other forms of importance. They are all of importance in a large number of activities of man. Such activities include those of the socio-economic environment, as well as the built environment. They also find use in the spiritual environment in a number of ways.

Man also reacts in different ways to the actions of the components of the natural environment on him. Such reactions may be of benefits to these environmental components. They may also be detrimental to them. It is such reactions that constitute the role of man as an anthropogenic factor in the ecological environment.

b. Interactions involving man in the socio-economic environment

The socio-economic environment has earlier on been described as the environment in which most of human activities relating to virtually all fields of human endeavour, that are come across in the social and management sciences operate. Mankind is involved in such issues as those involved in sociology, psychology, human resources management, insurance and demography. Mankind is involved in several businesses and in accounting and economic matters. All these formal and informal business activities, help in determining every country's gross domestic products (GDP). They also determine such other socio-economic indices as GDP per capita, growth rate, unemployment rate, inflation rate, net budgetary position, balance of payment contribution of various sectors to GDP, among other socio. Growth socio-economic indices, among other cocoa-economic indices. There are also the demographic indices of demographic growth, life expectancy, literacy rate and human development index, among others. All these too, are part of the socio-economic environment.

c. Interactions involving man in the built environment

Man is involved in several activities of the built environment in such exercises as land allocation for diverse uses, production of layouts, surveying of lands, architectural design of buildings and estimation of quantities of materials needed for building construction by quantity

surveyors. Others include land scapping of landed properties, evaluation of properties and their allocation to individuals, who live in such houses on rentage, by estate managers. Such property agents also collect rents on such properties and see to their maintenance. Man builds houses in the built environment in response to the needs of people, based on status, taste, spiritual disposition, climate and functions. Activities of man in the built environment, also include creating of greenbelts, disposal of waste in diverse forms, such as sewage, refuse and garbage and location of arbatours. Others include provision of roads, drainages, wind breaks and land-filling activities in water-logged places.

d. Interactions involving man in the political/governmental environment

Mankind is involved in political activities through which governments are brought into power and opposition groups result. Such governments also include the executives that seat at the helm of affairs in governments, the legislature and the judiciary. The legislature makes the laws and see to the implementation of these laws by agencies of governments, as part of their oversight functions. The judiciary supervises the compliance of people to the laws and pronounces judgments on cases brought before it that border on issues of law. Besides political activities, people involved in governance see to it that the needs of the people in terms of infrastructural development are met. They also represent the country in different levels both within the country and at the sub regional and global levels. Political/governmental environment also enables humankind in leadership position to provide enabling environment for other environments to thrive.

e. Interactions of man in the spiritual environment

These interactions involving the spiritual environment, are made possible by the spiritual bearing man acquires right at the time of his evolution. It is a trait that man has grown with, in the process of his organic evolution. Such interactions in the spiritual environment occur in dreams, prayers, meditations and other religious activities, through which humankind is relating with the Supreme being. It must also be appreciated that besides the Almighty God – the Supreme being, His holy angels and the devil and his cohorts also exist in the spiritual environment, for people to related with.

Interactions between the Diverse Environments

Besides the interactions that occur within the diverse environments, are those that occur between them. Examples of these interactions between environments are given in outline below. These interactions are also limited in this paper, to those involving active participation of man.

a. Interactions between the natural environment and other environments

- i. The natural environment provides for all other environments those things that are basic to life and which help in making existence of man possible in all the environments. These basic needs of life are oxygen, energy, adequate temperature, water and of course, food.
- ii. The natural environment provides for the socio-economic environment the renewable and non renewable resources, that make human activities in diverse businesses of both the formal and informal types, possible in this environment. Such activities include the businesses involved in buying and selling, agricultural activities, mining activities, production activities, transportation, among several others.
- iii. The natural environment provides for the built environment the materials needed for constructions works in such environment. Examples of these materials include inorganic

materials such as lands, soils, solid aggregates got from rocks, water and materials got from plants such as planks of different descriptions. Roofing materials such as iron sheets, asbestos and clay plates, are also got from the inorganic materials, that form part of the abiotic components of the ecological environments.

- iv. The natural environment is the main source of the resources that produce the funds through which governance and related activities are made possible in the political environment. Examples of such resources are petroleum products and natural gas. Others include solid minerals, forest resources and agricultural products.
- v. The natural environment provides as earlier noted, the basic needs of man that sustains his life in an appropriate state, that enables him to commune with the Supreme being and other spiritual beings in the spiritual environment. Only the living can serve any god, not the dead.

b. Interactions of the socio-economic environment with other environments

- i. The socio-economic environment enables mankind to optimize the benefits of the ecological environment through the formal and informal businesses that help in utilizing the products of the ecological environment.
- ii. The socio-economic environment enables mankind to invest in built environment as a business venture, thereby deriving economic benefits from it. It in addition, makes the built environment to provide appropriate clients for the special structures often put up in built environments.
- iii. The socio-economic environment provides some useful indices of the quality of the political environment. It provides a measure of the quality of leadership, quality of governance, infrastructural development, sensitivity of the leaders of the political environment and the quality of life made available to the citizens of a country.
- iv. The socio-economic environment provides some useful guides to the extent the people of a nation are in good standing in the spiritual environment. Such a good standing is reflected in such things as fear of God, love of one's neighbours, holiness, righteousness, among other virtues of believers.

c. Interactions of the built environment with other environments

- i. The built environment by making use of certain renewable and non renewable natural resources of the natural environment, helps mankind to fulfil one of the main purposes of environmental conservation. It assists in making mankind to show-case the quality of the products of the natural environment. It also assists in breaking the monotonous state of natural environment, by bringing in structures that can add beauty through diversity, into the natural environment.
- ii. The built environment enhances socio-economic activities of man in the socio-economic environment, by providing trade items in form of buildings. It also does this by engaging people in different jobs and by providing various grades of workers of the socio-economic environment.
- iii. The built environment taxes the ingenuity and sensitivity of the people prominent in the political environment, in providing affordable houses for the people.
- iv. The built environment through quality of the activities of people involved in them, help in extolling the name of God – the Supreme being in the spiritual environment.

d. Interactions of the spiritual environment with other environments

The spiritual environment is the environment that gives humankind in other environments, the appropriate direction for spiritual virtues that can make other environments contribute meaningfully to sustainable development. Examples of such virtues include fear of the Supreme being – the Almighty God, love, faith, peace, service, justice and fairness, among several other virtues. It is the spiritual environment that makes mankind to appreciate the

natural environment, accord due respect to its components and maintain stable relationship with it. All these are made possible by the justice and fairness that are the hall marks of the spiritual environment. It is the spiritual environment that makes mankind to display righteousness in the interactions that go on in the socio-economic environment. It is the spiritual environment that instructs leaders among the people, on the need to provide affordable homes for all citizens in the built environment, as a right of all citizens. It is the same spiritual environment that makes people in the political/government environment to have fear of the Almighty God in the act of governance.

It must be appreciated that some of the uses made of the components of the natural environment, have spiritual connotations. Such include creation of special grooves and shrines in forest lands, use of some plants and animals in special spiritual sacrifices and paraphernalia and shrines, masquerades and spiritual leaders of certain religious sects. Use of certain locations as “prayer mountains,” is also note worthy by certain sects of believers of the Christian faith. The special architectural designs of some places of worship in the Christian and Islamic faiths, are also note worthy in built environments, so also are sponsorship of people to pilgrimages by people of Christian and Islamic faiths, of notice in the political/governmental environment.

Adverse Interactions of Man in the Environments

Earlier on in the title on “**The interactions of man in the diverse environments**,” the interventions of man in the diverse environments that are of benefit to the whole of these environments and their components, are highlighted. Such interventions brings about positive developments in these environments, by improving on their state and the state of their components. If all human interventions achieve in the diverse environments are on the positive note, then there will not be any cause for concern about the diverse environments. With such interactions, sustainable development can be assured in all the diverse environments. But the truth is that this is never so with human interactions in all the diverse environments. What is common knowledge is that humankind is never in equilibrium in any of the environments. This is true of the natural environment, where man is an anthropogenic factor and the other environments such as the socio-economic, built environment and political/governmental environments, which are his creations. The spiritual environment is not the creation of man, yet he still does not maintain an equilibrium with this environment, in his interactions in this environment. Whereas the non equilibrium that humankind establishes with the environments, ecological, socio-economic, built and political/governmental are out of his greed that of his non equilibrium with the spiritual environment, is borne out of his sinful nature. In whatever environment mankind finds himself outside the spiritual environment, he is always tilting the equilibrium to himself at the expense of the welfare of such environments, the welfare of their components and the overall sustainability of such environments and the long term sustainability of the overall development of nations, where these selfish interactions of man exist with the environments.

In this portion of the paper, the adverse interactions of man with each of the environments are outlined.

i. Adverse interactions of man in the natural environment

The positive interventions man has on the natural environment in reaction to the benefits this environment confers on mankind, are relatively minimal in nature. They are limited to the efforts being made to conserve it through laws made to protect their components from illegal

exploitation and arbitrary fires and the attempts being made to upgrade the productivity of the low-grade plants and domestication of some of their wildlife. In contrast to this token gesture of mankind to conserve the natural environment, are the large-scale destruction being done to this environment by him. Such destruction which varies in magnitude from one locality to another, include the following: environmental pollution, burning, loss of biodiversity, greenhouse effect, ozone-layer depletion and global warming. Others include land degradation, deforestation, poaching of wildlife, dumping of toxic wastes, illegal mining, gas flaring and damage to aquatic life, among others.

These main adverse influences of man in the natural environment, are of a mixed nature, involving ecological as well as social challenges brought about by man. Of the diverse ecological challenges of man in the natural environment, environmental pollution, climate change, loss of biodiversity, are global in nature. Others such as burning, deforestation, poaching of wildlife, dumping of toxic wastes, illegal mining and damage to aquatic life, and other ways in which the natural environment is being mismanaged, are localized in nature, in being confined mainly to developing nations (Fatubarin, 2013).

ii. **Adverse interactions of man in the socio-economic environment**

Like it is for the natural environment, the adverse interactions of man with the socio-economic environment, are of a mixed grill, involving both ecological and sociological issues. Prominent among the ecological issues are environmental pollution, greenhouse effect, ozone-layer depletion, global warming, climate change, massive loss of biodiversity and gas flaring. The most prominent of the sociological issues that constitute the adverse interactions of man in the socio-economic environment, are economic meltdown of the present century, wars and upheavals, strange fires, strange diseases, pervasion of human culture in such things as same sex marriage, lesbianism, homosexuality and bestiality. Other cases of pervasion of human culture are sex with infants and rape. Other adverse interactions of man that have adverse consequences on the socio-economic environment, include militancy, robbery, kidnapping, pipeline vandalisation, ritual killings and bombings such as the type by certain religious sects that go by different names. There are also demographic problems relating over population, food insecurity, forced migration, refugee problems and injustices of diverse nature, among others.

iii. **Adverse interactions of man in the built environment**

Prominent among the ecological issues involved in man's adverse interaction in the built environment, are environmental pollution, greenhouse effect, ozone-layer depletion, global warming, climate change, massive loss of biodiversity, improper disposal of refuse, sewage and garbage, floods and erosions and release into the environment of land filled gases (LFGs). The prominent sociological issues involved in man's adverse interaction in the built environment, include strange fires, building collapse and illegal allocation of lands within green belt zones to people for building construction and diverse forms of violence that include bombing, shooting of human beings and slashing throats of human beings that are hunted and killed by violent people, as is being witnessed in the activities of some violent religious sects in Nigeria.

iv. **Adverse interactions of man in the political/governmental environment**

All actions of man within the political/governmental environment, that border on political corruption, impunity, nepotism, bad leadership, poor quality and insensitive governance, all have adverse consequences on this environment. The consequences also go beyond the political/governmental environment to affect all other environments.

v. **Adverse interactions of man in the spiritual environment**

Non recognition of a Supreme being, lack of fear of this Supreme being, non recognition of His awesome nature and lack of core spiritual values of love, faith, peace, service, holiness, among others, antagonize man against the Supreme being – the Almighty God. Indulgence in sins of whatever type, distances man from all benefits of believers and on the contrary, attracts punishments. Such punishments may include not attaining the purpose of this Supreme being for the individuals and communities involved. Where leaders plunder the resources of their nation, they are distancing not only themselves but also their nation from the benefits of the spiritual environment. The bible records that the world was destroyed with flood at the time of Noah, as a result of corruption and violence (Genesis 6 vs. 11). When calamities such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, erosions, drought and desertification and climate change, are devastating the natural environment as well as the man-made environment of built environment, they may not be mere natural disasters, as human beings call them. They may be punishments as a result of man unacceptable stance at the spiritual environment, with the Almighty God. When the socio-economic environment is being ravaged by such calamities as economic melt down, wars and upheavals, strange diseases and such others as the earlier-listed environmental calamities, these may also be God's punishments for the offences committed in the spiritual environment. When strange fires are consuming properties in the built environment and the structures and their inhabitants are becoming victims of frequent bouts of environmental disasters, they may not be unconnected with the diabolical stance of humankind in the spiritual environment.

When leaders are brought into positions of authority and they indulge in actions that are contrary to the will of the Supreme being and they do these with impunity, the consequences are better imagined. This is because the political/governmental environment is not in alignment with the proper spiritual environment. Similarly, when a spiritual being like man indulges in political, social and moral corruption and in violent actions such as ritual killings that are not in alignment with the right the spiritual environment, the consequences are also usually disastrous. Lucky enough for mankind, the spiritual environment has provision for repentance, second chance, acceptable sacrifices, prayers and miracles.

CONCLUSION

This paper is designed to make all people interested in the topical issue of “**Man and His Environment**” appreciate the complex nature of the environment. The environment has five main components to it all which man has his influences in. All these influences in all the components of the environment of man, have to be factored into reckoning, in assessing accurately the role of man in his environment. This is an important issue this paper has brought into the consciousness of all environmentalists and all people concerned with the management of the natural environments. It is actually true that the natural environment is a large environment, covering the entire planet earth. It is also by far the most widely discussed in terms of the activities of man in the environment. The paper however makes it clear that a number of other environments exist, whose complex interplay in their relationships, help in sharpening the activities of man in each of the diverse environments. It therefore stands to reason that any one desirous of a near comprehensive account on the concept of “**Man in His Environment**,” must take cognizance of the complex interplay of human activities in these diverse environments, as done in this paper. While all other environments are not strange to people, as have been much documented in the literature, only the spiritual environment, is being added to the list in this paper. Its addition stems partially from the fact that most occurrences

in the physical, have their origin in the spiritual, as attested to by the bible in the earlier mentioned interaction between the Almighty God and satan, before satan commenced his atrocities on Job 1 (**Job 6:1 – 6**). The issue of “**Man and His Environment**” is too all-embracing to be given either a physical or socio-economic interpretation alone. Hence, the addition of the spiritual, to have a deeper understanding of the concept and provide a more complete picture of the several dimensions of the environment of man, as well as the three-fold nature of man.

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Biblical References



Genesis 1



Genesis 6:11



Job 6:1 – 6

