**Definition**: Pollution is an undesirable change in the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of air, water and soil that may harmfully affect the life or create potential health hazard of any living organism.

Pollution is thus direct or indirect change in any component of the biosphere that is harmful to the living components and in particular undesirable for man, affecting adversely the industrial progress, cultural and natural assets or general environment of living society.

**What are pollutants?**

Any substance which causes pollution is called a pollutant. A Pollutant may thus include any chemical or geochemical (dust, sediment, grit etc.) substance, biotic component or its product, or physical factor (heat) that is released intentionally by man into the environment in such a concentration that may have adverse harmful or unpleasant effects.

A Pollutant has also been defined as “any solid, liquid or gaseous substance present in such concentration as may be or tend to be injurious to the environment.” Pollutants are the residues of things we use and throw away. There are many sources of such pollutants. The lakes and rivers are polluted by water from chemical and other factories, and the air by gases of automobile exhausts, industries, thermal power plants etc.

**Different types of pollutions are as follows:**

1. Air pollution

2. Water pollution

3. Terrestrial pollution

4. Noise pollution

5. Radiation pollution

6. Thermal pollution

7. Industrial pollution