

# HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

## NATURE AND SCOPE

GEOGRAPHY AS A FIELD OF STUDY IS  
INTIGRATIVE, EMPIRICAL AND PRACTICAL

THE REACH OF GEOGRAPHY IS EXTENSIVE AND  
EACH AND EVERY EVENT WHICH VARIES OVER  
SPACE AND TIME CAN BE STUDIED  
GEOGRAPHICALLY

# WHAT IS HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

- Human Geography is a synthetic study of relationship between human societies and earth's surface- Ratzel
- Human Geography is the study of the changing relationship between the unresting man and unstable earth- Semple
- It studies the inter-relationship between the physical environment and socio-cultural environment created by human beings through mutual interaction with each other.

While physical environment has been greatly modified by human beings, it has also, in turn, impacted human lives.

# NATURALISATION OF HUMANS OR ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINISM

- Human beings interact with their physical environment with the help of technology.
- Technology indicates the level of cultural development of society.
- Technology is developed after the better understanding of natural laws.
- Technology loosens the shackles of environment on human beings.
- In the early stage humans were greatly influenced by environment because the level of technology was very low.
- This type of interaction between primitive human society and strong forces of nature was termed as environmental determinism.

# HUMANISATION OF NATURE OR POSSIBILISM

- With social and cultural development, humans develop better and more efficient technology.
- They move from a state of necessity to a state of freedom.
- They create possibilities with the resources obtained from the environment.
- The human activities create cultural landscape.
- This is termed as possibilism.
- Nature provide opportunities and human beings make use of these and slowly nature get humanized and starts bearing the imprints of human endeavour.

# NEODETERMINISM OR STOP AND GO DETERMINISM

- Griffith Taylor introduced the concept which reflects a middle path between the two ideas of determinism and possibilism.
- He termed it as neodeterminism or stop and go determinism.
- This is like traffic lights. Red means 'stop', amber light provides a gap between red and green lights 'to get set' and green light means 'go'.
- The concept shows that neither is there a situation of absolute necessity nor there is a condition of absolute freedom.
- It means that human beings can conquer nature by obeying it.
- Possibilities can be created within the limits which do not damage the environment.
- This concept is an attempt to bring a balance between the dichotomy.

## SUB-FIELD OF GEOGRAPHY

- Welfare or humanistic school of thought- mainly concerned with the different aspects of social well-being of the people. These include aspects such as housing health and education.
- Radical school of thought- employed marxian theory to explain the basic cause of poverty, deprivation and social inequality.
- Behavioural school of thought laid great emphasis on lived experience and also on the perception of space by social categories based on ethnicity, race and religion, etc.

# BROAD STAGES AND THRUST OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

- Early period- Exploration and description- Age of discovery and exploration of new areas for trade interest. An encyclopedic description of the area was the most important aspect of geographic knowledge.
- Later colonial period- Regional analysis- Elaborate description of all aspects of a region.
- Inter war period- Areal differentiation- Identifying the uniqueness of any region and understanding how and why it is different from others.
- 1950-1960- Spatial organisation- Time of quantitative revolution, use of computers and sophisticated statistical tools. Main objective was to identify mappable patterns for different human activities.
- 1970- Emergence of humanistic, radical and behavioral schools- Human geog was made more relevant to the socio-political reality by the emergence of these school of thought.
- 1990- Post-modernism- The grand generalizations and applicability of universal theories to explain the human conditions were questioned.

# HUMAN GEOGRAPHY AND SISTER DISCIPLINES

- Social Geography- 1. Behavioural geog-Psychology, 2. Geog. Of social well-being- Welfare Economics, 3. Geog. of leisure- Sociology, 4. Cultural Geog.- Anthropology, 5. Gender Geog.- Sociology, Anthropology, Women's Studies, 6. Historical Geog.- History, Medical Geog.- Epidemiology.
- Urban Geography- Urban studies and planning.
- Political Geography- Political science, 1. Electoral Geog.- Psephology, Military Geog.- Military science.
- Population Geography- Demography
- Settlement Geography- Urban/ Rural planning
- Economic Geography- Economics, 1. Geog. of resources- Resource economics, 2. Agricultural Geog.- Agricultural science, 3. Industrial Geog.- Industrial economics, 4. Geog. Of marketing- Commerce, 5. Geog of Tourism- Tourism and travel management, Geog. of International trade- International trade.