

Chapter - 1

Human Geography: nature and scope

Structure

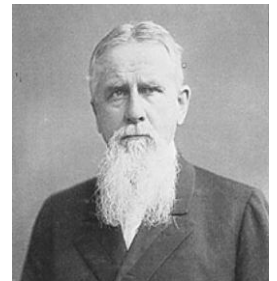
- ✓ Definition of human geography
- ✓ Differences between human geography and physical geography
- ✓ Nature of human geography
- ✓ Different school of thought
- ✓ Approaches to the study of geography
- ✓ Scope of human geography

Definition of human geography

- "Human geography is the synthetic study of relationship between human societies and earth's surface".

~ Ratzel

Synthesis has been emphasised in the above definition.



- "Human geography is the study of "the changing relationship between the unresting man and the unstable earth."

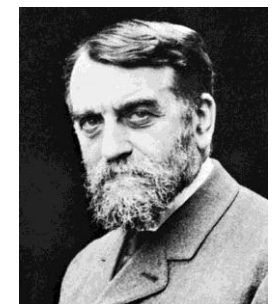
~ Ellen C. Semple

Dynamism in the relationship is the keyword in Semple's definition.



- "Conception resulting from a more synthetic knowledge of the physical laws governing our earth and of the relations between the living beings which inhabit it".

~ Paul Vidal de la Blache



Human geography offers a new conception of the interrelationships between earth and human.

Differences between The Physical Geography And Human Geography

Title	Human Geography	Physical Geography
Definition	It studies the relationship between the physical / natural and human world the spatial distribution of human phenomena and how they come about the social and economic differences between different parts Of the world	It studies the physical environment
Elements	House ,village, cities ,road, rail networks, industries, farms ,ports ETC	Landform ,soil, climate, water, natural vegetation, diverse flora And fauna

Nature Of Human Geography

Human geography studies the interrelationship between the physical and socio cultural environment created by human beings through mutual interaction with each other. Hence it is interdisciplinary in nature .

Naturalization of humans

- Knowledge about nature is extremely important to develop technology and technology loosens the shackles of environment on human beings
- In the early stages of interaction with natural environment humans were greatly influenced by it so they adapted the dictates of nature
- The level of technology was very low and the stage of human social development was also primitive.
- This type of interaction between primitive human society and strong factors of nature was termed as environmental determinism
- Naturalized humans listen to nature and was Afraid of its fury and worshiped it.

Humanization of nature

- With the development of technology people understood the nature well
- They move from state of necessity to state of possibilities
- Human activities created cultural landscape
- So it is called as possibilism

Neodeterminism or Stop and go determinism

- Developed by Griffith Taylor
- It is a middle path between environmental determinism and possibilism.
- The concept shows that neither is there a situation of absolute necessity nor there is a condition of absolute freedom.
- Sustainable development is the main aim.
- The Neo determinism maintains balance Between development and nature



Different schools of thought

Welfare or humanistic school

of thought in human geography was mainly concerned with the different aspects of social well-being of the people. These included aspects such as housing, health and education. Geographers have already introduced a paper as 'Geography of Social well-being in the Post Graduate curriculum'.

Radical school of thought

employed Marxian theory to explain the basic cause of poverty, deprivation and social inequality. Contemporary social problems were related to the development of capitalism.

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.

Approaches to the study of geography

Regional approach :- is otherwise called as ideographical approach.

The regions could be classified based on a single factor like relief, rainfall, vegetation, or there could also be multi-factor regions formed by the association of two or more factors.

Administrative units like states, districts and taluks can also be treated as regions.

Systematic approach:- The study of specific natural or human phenomenon that gives rise to certain spatial patterns and structures on the earth surface is called systematic study.

Scope of human geography

Human geography consists of a number of sub-disciplinary fields that focus on different elements of human activity and organization.

Stages Through Corridories of Time.

PERIOD	APPROACHES	BROAD FEATURES
Colonial	Exploration & description	Imperialism and trade lead to discover many lands
Colonial	Regional analysis	Understanding of parts in totality would lead to understand the whole
1930- interwar	aerial differentiation	Find the reasons for the uniqueness of a region
1950-1960	Spatial organization	Apply technology to study geography
1970	Emergence of humanistic, radical and behavioral school	Emergence of sociopolitical reality with the help of schools
1990	Post modernism	Generalization and apply of universal laws to understand geography

Fields of human geo	Sub field	Sister disciplines
Social geo	---	Social science-sociology
	Behavioral geo	Psychology
	Geo of social well being	Welfare economics
	Geo of leisure	Sociology
	Cultural geo	Anthropology
	Gender geo	Sociology, anthropology, women studies
	Historical geo	History
Medical geo	Epidemiology	
Urban geo	---	Urban studies and planning

Political geo	---	Political science
	Electoral geo	Psephology
	Military geo	Military science
Pop. geo	---	Demography
Settlement geo	---	Urban and rural planning
Eco. geo	---	Economics
	Geo. of resources	Resource economics
	Geo. of Agriculture	Agricultural science
	Geo. of industries	Industrial economics
	Geo. of marketing	Business studies, economics, commerce
	Geo. of tourism	Tourism and travel management
	Geo. of international trade	International trade

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