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HUMAN GEOGRAPHY -AN OUTLINE
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Introduction:

Geography is an interesting subject for all. It deals with location, space, patterns and distribution of life, landforms, resources, environment and development.

The subject of geography involves, five themes as

1. Location
2. Place
3. Human-environment interaction
4. Movement and
5. Region.

In addition to these, geography also includes six "essential elements" as:

1. The World in spatial terms
2. Places and regions
3. Physical systems
4. Human systems
5. Society & Environment and lastly
6. the uses of geography.

Geography basically bridges the human and physical sciences.

- Because of this linkage, the subject of geography is divided into two main branches as physical geography and human geography.
- Human geography is the study of human use and understanding of the whole world and the processes which have affected it.
- Human geography broadly differs from physical geography in that it focuses on the built environment and how the space is created, viewed, used and managed by the humans as well as the influence humans on the space they occupy.

The Fields of human geography includes several aspects of human life support systems. It includes culture, economy, language, population, politics, religion, transport, health, marketing, tourism and urbanization related issues.

In this episode, the following aspects of Human geography are highlighted:

1. Human Evolution & population
2. Mosaic of Human activities in space
3. Patterns of human development
4. Human settlements and urbanization
5. Impact of humans on the environment.

1. HUMAN EVOLUTION & POPULATION

The basic aspect related to Human Geography versus Human Ecology are discussed first.

Human Geography as the Study of Man and His Adjustment to Natural Environment are very essential aspects. There are so many theories and concepts in geography like Determinism or Environmental Determinism/Possibilism and Neo-determinism.

All these are analysed with reference to human related activities.

The Cultural or Social Determinism and Behavioural Environment are also studied.

Human geography also deals with the Evolution and Races of Man , Racism and Ethnic Groups and their distribution in different parts of the world.

The First People of the world are studied under this subject.

It includes:

Food Gatherers

The Pygmies (Pigmees) of Congo Basin

Semangs

Sakais

The Andamanese

The San Bushmen of Kalahari Desert

The Blackfoots

Paiutes

Inuits (Eskimos): the Hunters of Maritime

Mammals

Aborigines of Australia

Yukaghirs

Pastoral Nomads

The Bedovins (Badawins) of the Arabian Desert

The Kirghizs of Central Asia

Tungus: The Reindeer Herders of Siberia

Yakuts: The Reindeer and Horse Herders

Chuckchis and Koryaks

Samoyeds

The Masais (Mah-Sy) of East Africa

Boro: The Cultivators of the Western Amazon
Basin

The Oceanians: Agriculturists of the Islands

The Cultivators of the Eastern Solomons

Yoruba (Yoh-roo-bah): The Hoe Cultivators of
African Forests

The Bhils of India

Gonds

The Gujjars and Bakarwals of Jammu and Kashmir

The Nagas of Northeast India

Population geography is the study of the ways in which spatial variations in the distribution, composition, migration, and growth of populations are related to the nature of places.

Historical geography deals with the study of the human, physical, fictional, theoretical, and "real" geographies of the past.

It aims to understand how the cultural features of various societies across the globe got emerged and evolved, by understanding how a place or region changes through time.

POPULATION and its WORLD PATTERNS are analysed.

Population Prior to Agricultural Revolution
History of Population Growth
Factors Influencing the Distribution of World
Population.

Density of Population

Densely Populated Regions

Sparsely Populated Regions

Future Distribution of Regions

Age and Sex Structure among populations

Age-Groups of populations are also studied.

The Literacy is an important parameter of assessment of a population.

The Determinants of Literacy / Spatial Pattern of Literacy are also studied under this subject.

There are several theories put forward about Population studies. The Malthusian Theory/Marxian Theory/Demographic Transition Theory are the major theories studied in this subject.

Optimum Population, Population Problems, especially Problems of Developing Countries/Developed Countries are also studied.

Population Policies, especially, the Policies Discouraging Population Growth/One Child Policy of China/Policies Encouraging Population Growth, India's Population Scenario are the very essential aspects.

The Density of Population / Growth pattern / Sex Ratio / Fertility Rate / Life Expectancy are also important under the context of human geographic studies.

Population Policy of India, National Population Policy 2000, Population and Human Well-being are some more aspects included in this subject.

Migration of population is yet another major area of study.

It deals with the Causes of Migration

Consequences of Migration

International Migration,

Population Redistribution through International

Migration

Recent International Migration

Emigration from India
Theories of Migration
Lee's Model of Migration and
Zelinskys' Mobility Transition Model are all
studied in this subject.

Children's geographies is related to the study of places and spaces of children's lives, characterised experientially, politically and ethically. It is a new concept which got emerged recently.

2. MOSAIC OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES IN SPACE

This division mainly deals with THE MOSAIC OF CULTURE, LANGUAGE, RELIGION AND CUSTOMS.

It includes the study the distribution of

Language

Dialect

Spatial Distribution of Major languages

Linguistic classification

Diffusion and pattern of languages

Ancestry f Indo-European Languages

Germanic Family
The Latin Linguistic Family
Balto-Slavic Languages
Indo-Iranian Languages
Iranian Languages
Sino-Tibetan Languages
Semitic Languages and
Africa Languages.

- Language geography is related to the study of geographic distribution of language or its constituent elements. There are two principal fields of study within the geography of language:
1. Geography of languages which mainly deals with the distribution through history and space of languages and
 2. Linguistic geography which deals with the regional linguistic variations within the languages.

RELIGION is apart of the human social systems.
Classification of Religion

Universalizing Religions / Ethnic Religions /
Tribal or Traditional Religions.

Religion and Natural Features are all studied in
this subject.

World's major religions like

Christianity

Islam

Buddhism

Hinduism

Judaism are all discussed.

In addition, The Tribal Religions, Chinese and
Japanese Religions are also analysed.

Religion geography is another study dealing with the impact of geography, i.e. place and space, on various religious belief.

Concepts like Confucianism / Taoism / Shintoism are also studied in this branch of geography.

Cultural Patterns and Processes include the following areas;

A. Concepts of culture

1. Traits
2. Diffusion
3. Acculturation

- 4. Cultural regions
- B. Cultural differences
 - 1. Language
 - 2. Religion
 - 3. Ethnicity
 - 4. Gender
 - 5. Popular and folk culture
- C. Environmental impact of cultural attitudes and practices
- D. Cultural landscapes and cultural identity
 - 1. Values and preferences
 - 2. Symbolic landscapes and sense of place

CUSTOMS of people like Food, Clothing and Other Wearing , Folk Medicines and The Oral Folk Traditions are also included.

Cultural geography is the study of cultural products and norms and their variations across the spaces and places. It also focuses on analyzing the ways the language, religion, economy, government and other cultural phenomena vary or remain constant, from one place to another.

Political geography is the study of the spatially uneven outcomes of political processes and the ways in which the political processes are themselves affected by the spatial structures. Basically, the inter-relationships between people, state, and territory are discussed in political geography.

The Electoral geography deals with the relationship between election results and the regions they affect , and of the effects of regional factors upon voting behavior.

Aspects like Geopolitics , and Strategic geography are included in it.

Military geography deals with the application of geographic tools, information, and techniques to solve military problems in peacetime or war.

Sexuality and space is another dimension which encompasses all the relationships and interactions between human sexuality, space, and place.

The geographies of prostitution and adult entertainment, use of sexualised locations in the arts, and sexual citizenship are all coming under this branch.

3. PATTERNS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Human geography deals with the patterns and Approaches to Development. It includes, the study of Growth versus Distribution / Agricultural versus Industrial Development / Urban versus Rural Development / Capital versus Labour Intensive aspects.

It also deals with Centralization versus
Decentralization /
Modern versus Traditional /
Socio-economic versus Physical Planning

The other areas of study are

Iniquitous International Order

Traits of Development in Developing Countries

Measures of Development

Composite Measures of Development and

Uneven Development.

There are some models of development like Core-Periphery Model, Rostows' Model, and Balanced Growth Model which are also studied.

Development Regions of the World, like

Anglo-America

Western Europe

Eastern Europe and the Erstwhile Soviet Union

Japan

The South Pacific Countries of Australia and

New Zealand

The Middle East

Latin America
Tropical Africa
East Asia
Southeast Asia and
South Asia are all analysed in detail.

Human Development is a major aspect of geographic studies.

Wealth and Human Development and Human Development Index are the two major aspects included.

The parameters of human development index like
Life Expectancy at Birth /
Senile Population /
Juvenile Population /
Literacy /
GNP and GDP are all included.

The reasons for Unequal Human Development
and their Spatial Patterns, Salient Features of
Human Development Index, issues like Poverty in
Developing Countries,
Salient Features of Human Poverty Index for
Developing countries,
Human Poverty in Industrial Countries, Income
Disparities,
The Ultra-Rich and the Rural-Urban and Gender
Disparities,
Ethnic and Racial Disparities,

Consumption Pattern and the methods of Computing the Human Development Index are included.

Development geography is the study of the Earth's geography with reference to the standard of living and quality of life. It handles the aspects like economic, political and social factors, and seeks to understand both the geographical causes and consequences of varying development.

Analysis pertaining to More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) and Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) are studied in this subject.

It also includes, the Political Organization of Space .

A. Territorial dimensions of politics

1. The concept of territoriality
2. The nature and meaning of boundaries
3. Influences of boundaries on identity, interaction, and exchange

B. Evolution of the contemporary political pattern

1. The nation-state concept
2. Colonialism and imperialism
3. Federal and unitary states
- C. Challenges to inherited political-territorial arrangements
 1. Changing nature of sovereignty
 2. Fragmentation, unification, alliance
 3. Spatial relationships between political patterns and patterns of ethnicity, economy, and environment
 4. Electoral geography, including gerrymandering

4. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBANIZATION

Origin of Settlements , Religious / Cultural /
Political Military / Economic aspects of
settlement,

Site of Settlements-Unstable settlements / Stable
Rural Settlements

Classification of settlements-Compact or
Nucleated / Semi-Compact or Semi-Nucleated
Settlements / Dispersed Settlements

Functions of Rural Settlements

Patterns of Rural Settlements

Planned Rural Settlements
Rural-Urban Settlements
Urban Settlements - Origin of Towns /
Functional Classification of Towns / Definitions of
Urban Places / Zoning of Towns / The Urban
Hierarchy, Social Areas of Cities are discussed.

Settlement Geography is an effective tool.
Knowing where, why and how people choose to
live in a particular area helps to develop business
plans and to locate new franchises.

Such studies can also help in focusing the developments of municipalities with fixed economy and targets. If an area has high unemployment and low job availability, people need public transport and work places adjacent to it.

Regional Planning make use of the theories of settlement Geography and also the data to balance the growth dimension of a region.

If a housing development starts adjacent to an old town, the sewage treatment and water supply become essential requirements. It has been observed in some places, during some seasons that water supply is done once in two days and also for an hour or two. The dwellers are also supplied water using water tankers.

Human geography also deals with various aspects of urban settlement.

Urban geography is a major field of study in geography. It deals with the origin and growth of urban areas, in terms of their concentration, infrastructure, economy, and other environmental impacts. Urban design and town planning, urban architecture are also included in this subject.

Urbanization studies deal with

Basis of Urban Settlement

Origin and Growth of Urbanization

Recent Urban Growth

Mega cities

Urbanization of India
Urbanization in India After Independence
Level and Trend of Urbanization in India
Metropolitan Areas
Indian Mega Cities
National Capital Region
Slum Population and
Salient Features of Indian Urbanization.

The Growth and diffusion of industrialization also comes under this subject.

1. The changing roles of energy and technology
2. Industrial Revolution
3. Evolution of economic cores and peripheries
4. Geographic critiques of models of economic localization (i.e., land rent, comparative costs of transportation), industrial location, economic development, and world systems, Contemporary patterns and impacts of industrialization and development.
5. Spatial organization of the world economy

6. Variations in levels of development
7. Deindustrialization and economic restructuring
8. Pollution, health, and quality of life
9. Industrialization, environmental change, and sustainability are also studied.

Economic geography is a major aspect of study. It deals with the location, distribution and spatial organization of economic activities across the world.

Aspects included in this branch are the location of industries, economies of agglomeration (also known as "linkages"), transportation, international trade and development, real estate, gentrification, ethnic economies, gendered economies, core-periphery theory, the economics of urban form, the relationship between the environment and the economy and globalization.

Marketing geography is yet another promising discipline deals with marketing analysis which uses geolocation (geographic information) in the process of planning and implementation of marketing activities. It can also be used in any aspect of the marketing mix – the product, price, promotion, or place (geo targeting).

5. IMPACT OF HUMANS ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

Geography deals with the life and its environment. The role of life on the environment is also an essential part of this study.

Environment is the total set of circumstances surrounding any life. Geography is the location and pattern of distribution of living things on earth.

Hence, Environmental Geography deals with the spatial distribution of various ecosystems, habitat, plants, animal and human life. Man-made changes and developments are many. They have profound effects on the environment.

Hence,
Environmental Geography includes the study of location and the impact of industries, urbanization and deforestation on human settlements.

Pollution, and environmental issues of municipal/industrial and agricultural wastes, soil and coastal erosion, are also studied under this branch. Emphasis is given to analyze the relationship between people and nature in environmental Geography.

IMPACT OF MAN ON ENVIRONMENT

Causes of Climatic Change

Environmental Change in the Historic Period

Increase in Greenhouse Gases

Early Spring, Late Winter

Acidification

Ozone Depletion

Environment Change Caused by the Disposal of
Waste Material

Impact of Chemical Fertilizers on Environment

Soil Erosion

Salinization

Desertification

Deforestation

Tourism and Recreation as the Agents of
Environmental Change

Bio-genetic Engineering and Environment

It is under this concept biogeography, environmental geography, animal geography came in.

The world we live in has diversified species of plants and animals. Biogeography is yet another branch of geography dealing with the study of physical factors influencing the world distribution of plants and animals, forms and functions of ecosystems like forests, grassland, plains and mountains.

Biodiversity and its depletion through natural and man-made causes, conservation and management of Ecosystems and the migration of animals over the regions and different climatic zones, are all the topics studied under biogeography.

Animal geographies are studies related to the spaces and places occupied by animals in human culture.

It is mainly concerning with heavily populated animals of many differing kinds and in many differing ways like the farm animals, pets, wild animals located in different places.

Another impetus that has influenced the development of this subject is the nature-society relations, including animal welfare and their rights.

Earth is a dynamic planet. Natural hazards are happening every few minutes. Disasters are dangerous to all life. It is under these issues the subject Hazards Geography got evolved.

Hazards Geography is a modern branch of geography mainly dealing with natural and man-made hazards, locations of disasters, impacts and disaster management initiatives. This subject also includes the topics like landslides, earthquakes, Tsunamis, floods and droughts and epidemics. Hazards geography concentrates on various ecological issues and remedies, zonation mapping and mitigation methods.

Tourism geography is the study of travel and tourism. It is also concerning with tourism as an industry and as a social and cultural activity, and their impact on places, including the environmental impact of tourism, the geographies of tourism and leisure economies, answering tourism industry and management concerns and the sociology of tourism and locations of tourism. Transportation geography is also a branch of economic geography. It investigates the spatial interactions between people, freight and information.

It aims to study the humans and their use of transport systems including vehicles or other modes of travelling as well as how the markets are serviced by the flows of finished goods and raw materials over a geographic region.

Health geography deals with the application of geographical information, its perspectives, and methods to the study of the distribution of health, disease, and health care.

It aims to provide a spatial understanding of a population's health, the distribution of disease in an area, and the environment's effect on health and diseases. It also deals with accessibility to health care and the spatial distribution of health care providers.

Human Geography is the study of human use and understanding of the world and the processes which have affected it.

It focuses on the built environment and also on how the space is created, viewed and managed by humans as well as the influence of humans on the space they occupy.

Human beings invariably need food, clothes and shelter for normal living.

These three are the basic necessities. Shelter is the place for a safe rest and comfortable stay.

Shelter is also a place for human cultural activities and social linkages.

The word “shelter” may denote houses, dwellings, group of dwellings and habitations.

The word hamlet was also used for a small groups of shelters, in the rural areas.

Geographers analysed the landuse, identified the merits and demerits of settlements during early civilizations and their functional relationships with other geographic factors.