

# FUNDAMENTALS OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

## CHAPTER -1

### HUMAN GEOGRAPHY NATURE AND SCOPE

#### GIST OF THE LESSON:

Geography is a field - study, an integrative, empirical, scientific and practical discipline, it studies each and every event on the surface of the earth over the time and space, human geography studies the relationship between human and nature.

Geography can be studied through law making or descriptive. There are two approaches used in the study of geography – 1. Systematic approach 2. Regional Approach

#### DEFINITION OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

“Human geography is the synthetic study of relationship between human societies & earth's surface”. -**Ratzel**

Synthesis has been emphasized in the above definition.

“Human geography is the study of “the changing relationship between the un-resting 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**

#### NATURE OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Human geography studies the inter relationship between the physical environment and socio-cultural environment created by man. Elements of physical are land, water, soil, climate, flora & fauna etc. Elements of cultural are transport and communication, settlements, crops etc.

#### NATURALISATION OF HUMANS

Man interacts with nature with the help of technology. It is not important that what he creates but with what tools he used to create. Technology indicates the level of cultural development of society. Understanding the nature helps to create technology. Understanding of friction and heat helped to discover fire. Understanding DNA helped to eradicate diseases. Laws of thermodynamics helped to develop fast planes. Knowledge about nature is extremely important to develop technology and technology loosens the shackles of environment on human being.

The interaction between primitive society and strong forces of nature is called “**Environmental Determinism**”.

#### HUMANISATION 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 landscapes, so it is called as **possibilism**.

### **NEO-DETERMINISM/ STOP AND GO DETERMINISM**

1. Introduced by Griffith Taylor in 1920, an Australian Scholar.
2. It is a middle path (madhyam marg) between environmental determinism and possibilism. The concept shows that neither is there a situation of absolute necessity nor is there a condition of absolute freedom. Sustainable development is the main aim. The Neo determinism maintains balance between development and nature.

### **HUMAN GEOGRAPHY THROUGH THE CORRIDORS OF TIME**

#### **SCHOOLS OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

➤ **WELFARE SCHOOL**

Concerned with social well-being of the people a. housing b. Health c. Education

➤ **RADICAL SCHOOL**

Concerned with causes of poverty, deprivation and social and gender inequality

➤ **BEHAVIOURAL SCHOOL**

Given importance to lived experience, perception of space by Social categories

#### **STAGES THROUGH CORRIDORIES OF TIME**

<b>PERIOD</b>	<b>APPROACHES</b>	<b>BROAD FEATURES</b>
Early colonial period	exploration & description	Imperialism and trade lead to discover many lands
colonial Period	regional analysis	Understanding of parts In totality would lead to understand the whole
1930- interwar Inter war period	aerial differentiation	Find the reasons for the uniqueness of a region
Late 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

#### **One Mark Questions**

1. Who proposed the concept of Neo –determinism?

Ans. Griffith Taylor

2. Which sub field of Geography is called Demography?

Ans. Population geography.

3. Which subject is called the mother of all branches of knowledge?

Ans. Geography.

**Three Marks Questions**

1. What is Naturalization of Humans?

- Ans. 1. Human activities are controlled and governed by Environment.  
2. Man is treated as a passive agent .  
3. Human adjustment in the environment with the help of available technology.  
4. Example of Benda life in Abujhamaad area of central India.

2. What is humanization of Nature?

Ans. Man is treated as an independent and active agent.

Everywhere there are possibilities and man is the master of these possibilities.

Man can transform nature by culture and technological knowledge.

Example of Cari residing in Trondheim (Norway)

3. Distinguish between regional approach and systematic approach of Geography.

Systematic Approach

1. Based on political units
2. Single element is taken for studies

Such as climate

Regional Approach

1. Based on geographical units
2. Based on similarities

**Five Marks Question**

1. Mention three Characteristics of Neo –Determinism.

Ans. Introduced by Griffith Taylor

Reflects the middle path between the ideas of Environmental determinism and possibilism.

Emphasizes in solving the problems without damaging the environment

It believes in the concept of stop and Go Determinism.