Human Geography Nature and Scope

Introduction:

Human geography studies the inter-relationship between the physical environment and sociocultural environment created by human beings through mutual interaction with each other. The elements like Houses, villages, cities, road-rail networks, industries, farms, ports, and items of our daily use and all other elements of material culture have been created by human beings using the resources provided by the physical environment.

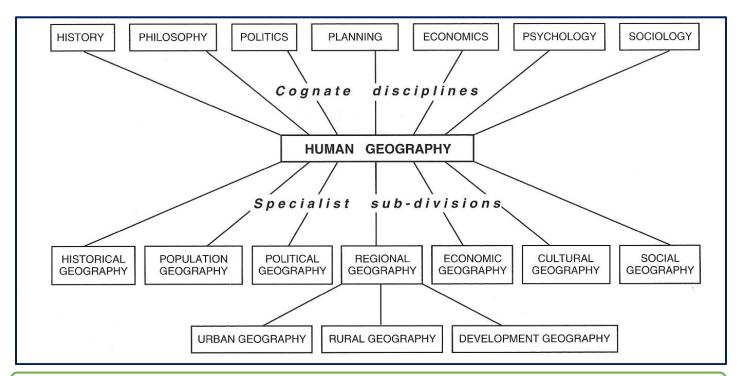
1. Human Geography:

"Human geography is the synthetic study of the relationship between human societies and earth's surface". In other words, Human geography is a branch of geography. It studies how people and the environment





have an effect on each other. The study of people includes their communities, cultures, economies. The environment studied is mostly about locations.

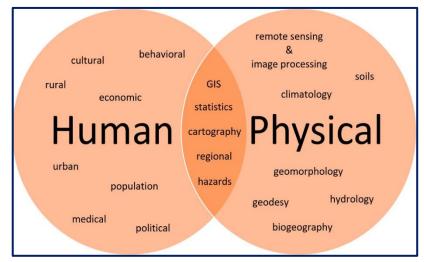


DO YOU KNOW?

Behavioral 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.

2. Nature of Human Geography:

Human geography studies the inter-relationship between the physical environment and sociocultural environment created by human beings through mutual interaction with each other. The elements like Houses, villages, cities, road-rail networks, industries, farms, ports, and items of our daily use and all other elements of material culture have been created by human beings using the resources provided by the physical environment. Human geography offers a new conception of the interrelationships between earth and human beings. We often talk of the 'face' of the earth, 'eye' of the storm, 'mouth' of the river, 'snout' (nose) of the



glacier, 'neck' of the isthmus and 'profile' of the soil. Similarly, regions, villages, towns have been described as 'organisms. German geographers describe the 'state/country' as a 'living organism'. Networks of road, railways and waterways have often been described as "arteries of circulation".

DO YOU KNOW?

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.

3. Naturalization of Humans and Humanisation of Nature:

1. Human beings interact with their physical environment with the help of technology. This indicates the level of culture development and Human beings were able to develop technology after they developed better understanding of natural laws.





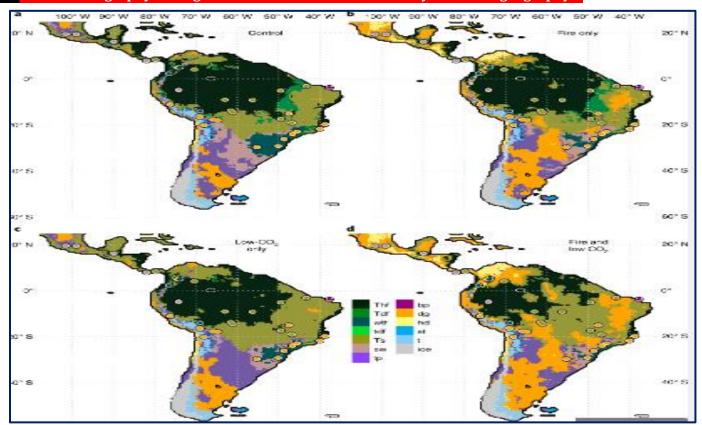
- 2. Nature is a powerful force, worshiped, revered and conserved. There is direct dependence of human beings on nature for resources which sustain them. The physical environment for such societies becomes "Mother Nature".
- 3. The interaction between primitive human society and strong forces of nature was termed as environmental determinism which is naturalization of humans.
- 4. Human activities create a cultural landscape. The imprints of human activities are created everywhere; health resorts on highlands, huge urban sprawls, fields, orchards and pastures in plains and rolling hills, ports on the coasts, oceanic routes on the oceanic surface and satellites in space. The earlier scholars termed this as possibilism.
- 5. A geographer, Griffith Taylor introduced another concept which reflects a middle path (Madhyam Marg) between the two ideas of "environmental determinism" and "possibilism". He did not term it as "Neo Determinism" or "stops and go

determinism" which means that is there a situation of absolute necessity (environmental determinism) nor is there a condition of absolute freedom (possibilism).

Activity

- Q1. Make a short note on the Human Geography?
- Q2. Make a short note on the Nature of Human Geography?
- Q3. Make a short note on the Naturalization of Humans and Humanisation of Nature?

4. Human Geography through the Corridors of Time or History of human geography:



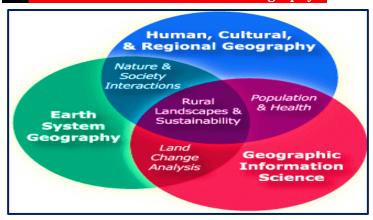
The process of adaptation, adjustment with and modification of the environment started with the appearance of human beings

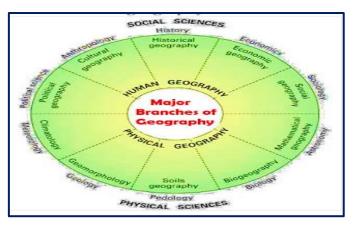
over the surface of the earth in different ecological niches. Thus, the beginning of human geography with the interaction of environment and human beings. Before the age of discovery, there was very little interaction between different societies but in the late 15th Century information about the unknown societies were made available now. Exploration by travellers expanded the area of human geography and interacted with different societies. With this, new approaches can cross like welfare or humanistic school of thought, radical school of thought and behavioral school of thought.

DO YOU KNOW?

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'.

5. Fields and Subfields of Human Geography:

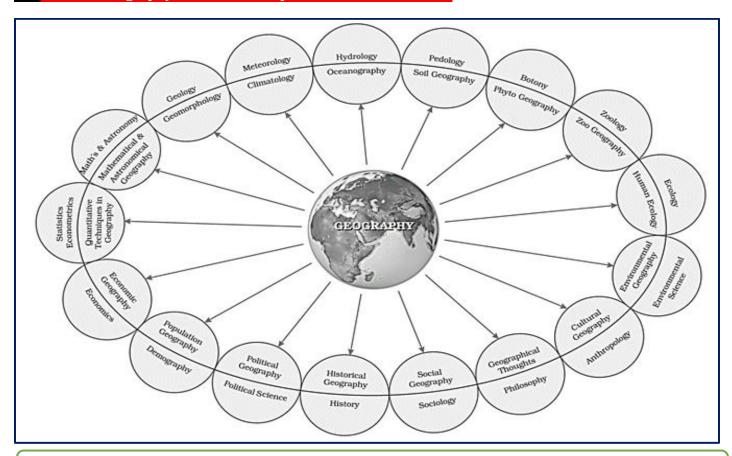




Human geography is interdisciplinary in nature and develops vast linkages with other sister disciplines in social sciences. The fields and subfields of human geography explain every aspect of all elements of human life on the surface of the earth.

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-	aerial differentiation	Find the reasons for the uniqueness of a
interwar		region
1950-1960	spatial organization	Apply technology to study geography
1970	emergence of humanistic,	Emergence of sociopolitical reality with the
	radical and behavioral	help of schools
	school	
1990	post modernism	Generalization and apply of universal laws
		to understand geography

6. Human Geography and Sister Disciplines of Social Sciences:



Activity

- Q1. Make a short note on the Human Geography through the Corridors of Time?
- Q2. Make a short note on the Fields and Subfields of Human Geography?
- Q3. Make a short note on the Human Geography and Sister Disciplines of Social Sciences?

Fields of Human Geography	Sub-fields	Interface with Sister Disciplines of Social Sciences			
Social	<u> </u>	Social Sciences – Sociology			
Geography	Behavioural Geography	Psychology			
	Geography of Social Well-being	Welfare Economics			
	Geography of Leisure	Sociology			
	Cultural Geography	Anthropology			
	Gender Geography	Sociology, Anthropology, Women's Studie			
	Historical Geography	History			
	Medical Geography	Epidemology			
Urban Geography	2 	Urban Studies and Planning			
Political	8_3	Political Science			
Geography	Electoral Geography	Psephology			
	Military Geography	Military Science			
Population Geography	4 1	Demography			
Settlement Geography	\$ 	Urban/Rural Planning			
Economic	8 7 e	Economics			
Geography	Geography of Resources	Resource Economics			
	Geography of Agriculture	Agricultural Sciences			
	Geography of Industries	Industrial Economics			
	Geography of Marketing	Business Studies, Economics, Commerce			
	Geography of Tourism	Tourism and Travel Management			
	Geography of International Trade	International Trade			

Questions For Practice

- **1.** Which of the following is not a subfield of Social Geography?
 - (a) Medical Geography
 - (b) Historical Geography
 - (c) Military Geography
 - (d) Cultural Geography
- **2.** Which concept helped to discover fire?
 - (a) Gravity
- (b) Friction
- (c) DNA
- (d) Dynamics
- **3.** Which of these factors is the most important consideration for the relationship between humans and environment?
 - (a) People's perception
 - (b) Technology
 - (c) Human intelligence
 - (d) Human brotherhood
- **4.** Which element is not a part of the cultural environment?
 - (a) Villages
- (b) Towns
- (c) Ports
- (d) Climate
- **5.** Who first used the term Geography?
 - (a) Hipparchus
- (b) Hecataeus
- (c) Herodotus
- (d) Eratosthenes
- **6.** Which subject is called mother discipline?
 - (a) Geography
- (b) Economics
- (c) History Science.
- (d) Political
- **7.** Which branch of geography does not belong to Human Geography?
 - (a) Population Geography
 - (b) Economic Geography
 - (c) Physical Geography
 - (d) Social Geography
- **8.** To which country does Ellen C. Sample belong?
 - (a) U.S
- (b) France
- (c) Germany
- (d) England.
- 9. Which one of the following statements does not describe Geography?
 - (a) An integrative discipline
 - (b) study of the interrelationship between humans and environment
 - (c) subjected to dualism
 - (d) not relevant in the present time due to the development of technology

- **10.** Which one of the following is the most important factor in the interaction between people and the environment?
 - (a) Human intelligence
 - (b) people's perception
 - (c) technology
 - (d) Human brotherhood.
- **11.** Which subject is called a mother's discipline?
 - (a) Geography
 - (b) Economics
 - (c) History
 - (d) Political Science.
- **12.** What method did Vidal de la Blanche support?
 - (a) Willingness
 - (b) Opportunities
 - (c) Humanity
 - (d) Social approach.
- **13.** Who suggested the concept of Neo determinism?
 - (a) Griffith Taylor (b) Blanche
 - (c) Huntington
 - (d) Ritter
- **14.** What idea helped in finding the fire?
 - (a) Gravity
- (b) Friction
- (c) DNA
- (d) Power
- **15.** What is the segment called 'Mother Nature'?
 - (a) Natural Area
 - (b) Cultural Environment
 - (c) The political environment
 - (d) Industrial Environment
- **16.** Which of the following is not a source of geographical information?
 - (a) Traveler's accounts
 - (b) Old maps
 - (c) Samples of stone objects from the moon
 - (d) Ancient Pottery.
- **17.** To which country is Ellen C. Semple belong?
 - (a) U.S. A
- (b) France
- (c) Germany
- (d) in England.
- **18.** Name a school of Human Geography that uses Marxian theory?
 - (a) School of thought
 - (b) School of behavioral thinking
 - (c) Strong school of thought
 - (d) School of human thought

- **19.** The main features of the First Colonial era are?
 - (a) The discovery and testing of new sites
 - (b) Identifying the diversity of any region
 - (c) The volume change phase
 - (d) Major generalizations and application of universal ideas
- **20.** Who first used the word Geography?
 - (a) Hipparchus (b) Hecate
 - (c) Herodotus (d) Eratosthenes
- **21.** Which of these scholars defined Human Geography as 'the synthetic study of relationship between human societies and earth's surface'?
 - (a) Paul Vidal de la Blache
 - (b) Ellen C. Semple
 - (c) Ratzel
 - (d) Karl Marx
- **22.** Which one of the following is the most important factor in the interaction between people and the environment?
 - (a) Human intelligence
 - (b) People's perception
 - (c) Technology
 - (d) Human brotherhood.
- **23.** Which one of the following is not a source of geographical information?
 - (a) Traveller's accounts
 - (b) Old maps
 - (c) Samples of rock materials from the moon
 - (d) Ancient epics.
- **24.** Which geographer out of the following belongs to France?
 - (a) Huntington
 - (b) Vidal de la Blache
 - (c) Semple
 - (d) Trewartha
- **25.** Who was the father of modern human geography?
 - (a) Humboldt (b) Ritter
 - (c) Ratzel
- (d) None of these
- **26.** "Human geography is the study of mutually changeable relations of

active human and unstable earth." Who gave this definition?

- (a) Ratzel
- (b) Ellen Semple
- (c) Paul Vidal de la Blache
- (d) Carl Sauer
- **27.** Which of these is not a characteristic of the study o Geography?
 - (a) Integrative
 - (b) Practical
 - (c) Idealistic
 - (d) Empirical
- 28. Who coined determinism?
 - (a) Ratzel
 - (b) Griffith Taylor
 - (c) Ellen C. Semple
 - (d) Paul Vidal de la Blache
- **29.** Which approach was supported by Vidal de la Blache?
 - (a) Determinism
 - (b) Possibilism
 - (c) Humanism
 - (d) Welfare approach.
- **30.** Which subject is called mother discipline?
 - (a) Geography
 - (b) Economics

- (c) History
- (d) Political Science.
- **31.** What idea helped in finding the fire?
 - (a) Gravity
- (b) Conflict
- (c) DNA
- (d) Power
- **32.** Which of the following is not the way to a person's place?
 - (a) Actual separation
 - (b) Spatial order
 - (c) Value change
 - (d) Assessment and interpretation.
- **33.** Who invented neo-determinism?
 - (a) Griffith Taylor (b) PV de la Blache
 - (c) Mackinder
- (d) Herbertson
- **34.** Two major branches of geography
 - (a) Economic and Social
 - (b) Physical and urban
 - (c) Politics and History
 - (d) Physical and Human
- **35.** Which of the following is not a source of local knowledge?
 - (a) Traveller's accounts
 - (b) Old maps
 - (c) Samples of stone objects from the moon

- (d) Ancient poetry.
- **36.** Who was the father of the modern human race?
 - (a) Humboldt (b) (c) Ratzel (d)
 - (b) Ritter
 - el (d) None of this
- 37. Who invented determinism?
 - (a) Ratzel
 - (b) Griffith Taylor
 - (c) Ellen C. Semple
 - (d) Paul Vidal de la Blache
- **38.** What method did Vidal de la Blache support?
 - (a) Determination
 - (b) Opportunities
 - (c) Ubuntu
 - (d) Social approach.
- **39.** Who first used the word Geography?
 - (a) Hipparchus (b) Hecate's
 - (c) Herodotus (d) Eratosthenes
- **40.** Name the School of Human Geography that uses Marxian theory.
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 - (b) School of behavioral thinking
 - (c) Strong school of thought
 - (d) School of human thought

Solutions										
1. (c)	5. (d)	9. (d)	13. (a)	17. (a)	21. (c)	25. (c)	29. (b)	33. (a)	37. (b)	
2. (b)	6. (a)	10. (d)	14. (b)	18. (c)	22. (d)	26. (b)	30. (a)	34. (d)	38. (b)	
3. (b)	7. (c)	11. (a)	15. (a)	19. (a)	23. (d)	27. (c)	31. (b)	35. (d)	39. (d)	
4. (d)	8. (a)	12. (b)	16. (d)	20. (d)	24. (b)	28. (b)	32. (d)	36. (c)	40. (c)	

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