

PEDAGOGY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE GEOGRAPHY SEM- 2

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LECTURE 2

NATURE AND SCOPE OF GEOGRAPHY

BY

DR. SANDHYA SINHA



NATURE OF GEOGRAPHY

- The term geography has been coined from two Greek words “Geo” means the ‘earth’ and “Graphin” means to ‘write’ or ‘describe’.
- Thus geography literally means the description of the earth.
- The word geographia was first used by a Greek scholar Erastotenes in 3rd century B.C.
- The literal meaning of the term ‘Geography’ is very general in nature and does not specify what is to written or described about the earth which is full of innumerable things of the diverse nature.

1 GEOGRAPHY AS THE DESCRIPTION OF EARTH- PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

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- The earliest records of mans interest in nature of the physical world around him contain observations and speculations of geographical type.
- Physical geography (or physiography) focuses on geography as an [Earth science](#). It aims to understand the physical problems and the issues of [lithosphere](#), [hydrosphere](#), [atmosphere](#), [pedosphere](#), and global [flora](#) and [fauna](#) patterns ([biosphere](#)). Physical Geography is the study of earth's seasons, climate, atmosphere, soil, streams, landforms, and oceans.

2 GEOGRAPHY AS THE SCIENCE OF DISTRIBUTION

- In the ancient period geography grow out of explorations, mapping of areas known and the speculation about the material collected.
- It is difficult to trace the development, diffusion and spread of geographical knowledge during the prehistoric periods.

3. HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

- Human geography is a branch of geography that focuses on the study of patterns and processes that shape the human society.
- It encompasses the [human](#), [political](#), [cultural](#), [social](#), and [economic](#) aspects.
- It looks at SOCIETY The way people organise themselves to live in a community.
- It CULTURE The beliefs, traditions and celebrations of a group of people._
- It looks at the ECONOMY How people use money, who has money and what people make to sell.
- _It looks at LEADERSHIP Who runs the country and how are these politicians allowed to govern
- It looks at how humans change environments
- It looks at SETTLEMENTS Where people decide to live and how they build their houses._
- It looks at INDUSTRY How people make or build items
- _It looks at AGRICULTURE How people grow the food they eat.
- **Various approaches to the study of human geography have also arisen through time and include:**
- [Behavioral geography](#) [Feminist geography](#)
- [Culture theory](#) [Geosophy](#)

4. GEOGRAPHY AS THE SCIENCE OF INTERACTION BETWEEN MAN AND ENVIRONMENT

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- FRANCIS GALTON – 1873- It is the configuration of every land, its soil, its vegetations covering, its rivers, its climate, its animals and human inhabitants reacts upon one-another. It is the highest problem of geography
- MACKINDER- The main function of geography is to trace the interaction of man and his environment.
- Sir Patrick Geddes- He called geography the “synthesis and mother of all sciences.”
- Since geography was the integrated study of both man and physical environment, under such scenario it faced a crisis of identity. The period after the passing away of great modern geographers (Ritter and Humboldt 1859) was a period of great disciplinary confusion. Many pleaded that geography should focus on study of man where as others maintained that geography should concentrate exclusively on study of physical earth.

5. GEOGRAPHY AS NATURAL SCIENCE

- • Natural science embraces both the
- biological and
- physical sciences.
- It deals with the study of nature-plants, animals, rocks, minerals, matter and energy. Geography belongs to the field of natural science because the physical earth is its central theme.

6 GEOGRAPHY AS SOCIAL SCIENCE

- • Social science deals with the
- organization and
- the development of
- human society and man as a member of social groups.
- Geography takes up the study of man as the architect of the earth's surface.

7. GEOGRAPHY AS HUMANITIES

- The cultural elements of geography include
- the study of man's institutions, such as
- language, religion, and fine arts, which are the domain of the humanities.
- • Man's ways of thinking and reacting to natural and social environment must take account of his language by which he communicates, and his religion by which his code of moral conduct.

8. GEOGRAPHY AS SPATIAL SCIENCE

Geography studies:

- Space
- Its characteristics
- Inhabitants
- Future prospects
- Historical aspects
- Cultural and political aspects

9. GEOGRAPHY AS SYSTEMATIC STUDY

- Study of natural resources
- Study of man-made resources
- Study of natural phenomena – earthquake, tsunami, volcano etc.
- Study of human activities – technological, political, war, missile etc.

10. GEOGRAPHY AS INTEGRATED STUDY

Known as Integrated geography

- Integrated geography is concerned with the description of the spatial interactions between humans and the natural world.
- It requires an understanding of the traditional aspects of physical and human geography, as well as the ways that human societies conceptualize the environment.
- Integrated geography has emerged as a bridge between human and physical geography, as a result of the increasing specialisation of the two sub-fields.
- Furthermore, as the human relationship with the environment has changed as a result of globalization and technological change, a new approach was needed to understand the changing and dynamic relationship. Examples of areas of research in environmental geography include: emergency management, environmental management, sustainability, and political ecology.

Approaches to Study Geography

- The major approaches to study geography are –
 - Systematic Approach and
 - Regional Approach.
- The systematic approach was introduced by a German geographer **Alexander Von Humboldt**.
- On the other hand, the regional approach was also developed by a German geographer namely **Karl Ritter**; he was a contemporary of Humboldt.
- In the systematic approach, first a phenomenon is studied world over as a whole, and then the identification of typologies or spatial patterns is done.
- On the other hand, in the regional approach, first the world is divided into regions at different hierarchical levels and then all the geographical phenomena in a particular region are studied.
- Because of the different approaches, geography is better known for its **dualistic** characteristics.

