

Human - Geography.

Approaches to the study of Human Geography;
Resource, Locational, Landscape, Environmental

With the passage of time the various sub-branches of geography has emerged. Though, the passage of time has lead to the growth in knowledge and advances in culture and thereby, the defination of the subject has also changed. Each of the physical, biological and social sciences has its own philosophy, methodology and scope. Similarly, geography examines numerous tangible and intangible natural and man-made phenomena. In human geography, the major thrust is on the study of human societies in their relation to the habitat or environment. It embraces the study of human races; the growth, distribution and density of populations of the various parts of the world. Human geography also takes into account the types and patterns of rural settlements, the site, size, growth and functions of urban settlement. Human geography deals with the world as it is and with the world as it might be made to be. Its emphasis is on people; what they are, what they are like, how they interact over space, and what kinds of landscapes of human use they erect upon the natural landscapes they occupy. It encompasses all those interests and topics of geography that are ^{not} directly concerned with the physical environment.

Resource utilisation has been main subject matter of study in economic geography, which deals with - the production, movement and consumption of goods and services. Human geography dealing the man - environment relationships and their impact are very much concerned with the study of resource management. Various approaches are there as to the study of resource management. Some are discussed below:-

1. Ecological Approach - It stresses the ecosystem concept of the good earth and emphasizes the limits of nature, though environment is complex, varied, dynamic and organic whole. This approach remained silent about the role of human.
2. Economic Approach - This approach takes into view the historical - structural stance incorporating within its framework its structural - institutional forces and individual or household responses to such factors in the wider political economy. It stresses restructuring of social relation can solve the problem of resource scarcity.
3. Behavioural Approach - This emphasizes on behaviour and on processes relating to the human actors of resource system. It considers three ~~base~~ basic aspects: environment - choices or

alternatives and goals each of which is imperfectly perceived by man and eventually leads to decision.

4. Community Based Approach - It challenges the assumption that conservation is only possible through the exclusion of human activities. It stresses participation and decentralization of resource management in contrast to top-down approach currently practiced.
5. Technological Approach - Information technology mainly Remote Sensing and GIS are methodological approach in natural resource management, and an important decision making tool.

The main aim of resource management is to ensure the renewability of resources.

- B. Landscape is used to denote the unit concept of geography which highlights the geographic association of facts, equivalent to region. It is an area made up of distinct association of forms both physical and cultural. The landscape is not merely a scenic experience, it is generic in nature having an individualistic identity, and has relation with other landscapes and it is true with forms that make it up. No two landscape are quite like each other. There are two types of landscape i) natural and (ii) cultural. Several

geographers distinguished the natural landscape from the cultural landscape. including P. Passarge who pointed out four 'spatial forces' responsible for the transformation of a natural landscape into a cultural one. These spatial forces according to Passarge are Raum (Area), Mensch (People), Kultur (Culture) and Geschichte (History).

- c. The Concept of Location is the rudimentary essential subject matter of study of geography. The location of any object on the surface of the earth helps determine the relative location of other objects. The mathematical location of an object gives the absolute location of the object. It can be determined by latitudes and longitudes. So, for every location we get two locations -
- i) Absolute Location - can be determined by latitudes and longitudes.
 - ii) Relative Location - can be determined in respect of other object.

But, if we have to get a detailed locational picture of an object we have to consider -

- a) Site - The location and the various regional forces operating to give us a distinct knowledge of the region and its individual characteristics. For example, Calcutta city is located on Hugli delta, Jaipur in

Thar desert.

b) Situation — It shows the linkages of an area with its surrounding area.
For example — we know about the adjacent region of Calcutta from its hinterland.

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