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Introduction of Geography

INTRODUCTION

Geography is first used by Greek scholar → Erastosthenes in 234 B.C.

Geography is derived from the Greek words → Ge + graphē
 Ge = The earth graphē = to write.

So that geography as a discipline is focused on the description of the earth surface as the world of man. According to Hartshorne (1959), as a discipline, "geography is concerned to provide accurate, orderly and rational description and interpretation of the variable character of the Earth Surface".

The former is more important and refers to "the zone of contact of the solid, liquid and gaseous masses that make up the planet", while the latter refers to the description of those phenomena in relation to "place, localization and distribution".

A combination of physical and human phenomena, occurring on the earth's surface as mutually interrelated and interacting, appears to be the 'core' of geography. The word 'geography' could be well explained and understood by the sentence "where do the people live"? The word 'where' refers to "place and localization" on the surface of the earth that the people choose, and the word 'live' refers to "distribution and concentration of the people".

According to Erastosthenes, geography is the study of earth Surface as the home of man. So Erastosthenes said that it is the study of that place on the surface of earth where human population lives.

In 234 B.C Said by Erastosthenes is still acceptable.

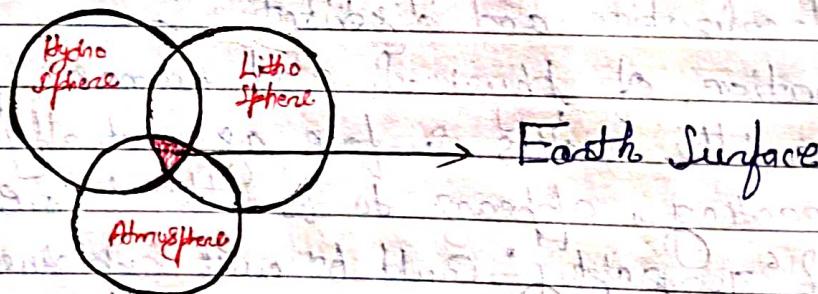
by modern geographers because another scholar Haggett defined it in this way → Geography is the study of that part of the earth where human population lives.

From these two definition we can see that geography is the study of earth surface and living space for the human beings.

(Q) Where do human population lives?

Human population lives in the contact zone of these three spheres

- ① Hydrosphere → water
- ② Atmosphere → Air
- ③ Lithosphere → Earth Crust (land forms)



ANOMALOUS STATUS OF GEOGRAPHY AS A DISCIPLINE

The focus of geography on "the earth surface as the world of man" as its special field of inquiry had put it in a somewhat anomalous position within the traditional organization of knowledge into distinct disciplines, since one of the basic premises of the principle of this organization was the fundamental separation between man and nature. Geography's difficulty arises from the fact that focus on the study of the surface of the earth simultaneously

required focus on man as well as nature since the earth's surface comprises both man-made as well as natural activities.

① Natural activities → Natural activities occur without any interferences. All the activities related to nature.

e.g. → Mountains, rivers, valleys etc.

Nature always try to make changes on earth's surface by changing the characteristics of human beings or animals. In other words we can say that nature try to influence human beings.

② Man-made activities → Man-made activities means directly or indirectly made by man,

e.g. → Agricultural activities, industrial activities, extraction of minerals etc.

Man also try to influence to change the nature for their requirements. He try to do all those things which may or may not be for the betterment of nature.

So these two types of relationship influence each other i.e. there is relationship in between man and nature.

To understand man-nature relationship

Griffith Taylor in 1967 gave three types of studies to know man-nature relationship

① Geocentric Study

② Theocentric Study

③ Cenocentric Study

④ Geocentric Study → This says that nature is powerful and it decides about the type of human beings which would be found in a particular region on the surface of earth. This type of

Study give more weightage to nature and try to give superiority of nature because it is capable to decide the character of human beings found in particular region in the surface of earth.

Alexander Von Humboldt attempted to demonstrate man's dependence upon his environment. The growth of Darwinism in the late 1850s placed greatest emphasis on environment and environmental changes. Friedrich Ratzel nourished the Geocentric geography in a more scientific way i.e. through a hypothetic-deductive method.

2) Theocratic study → This study is of the view that whatever present in the surface of earth and all the activities going on the surface of earth is according to a definite plan of god and nature and man is nothing do those activities. So this study is same that all the things present on the surface of earth is due to mercy of god. This thought is in accordance with great German philosopher N.F. Hegel.

3) Anthropic study → In this study importance is given to man and study says that man is capable enough to make changes on the earth surface or the betterment. So this study is all about the achievements and wisdom of human beings. First of all the great modern geographer Carl Ritter try to prove the role of human beings in all activities of the earth. So Carl Ritter and Paul Vidal de la Blache other great philosopher, they are the supporters of this study.

These approaches, therefore, attempt to provideational description and interpretation of the

Variable character of man-nature relationship.

Geography studied Variations in phenomena from place to place, and its value as an academic discipline depends on the extent to which it can clarify the connections between different features of same area.

SOME SPECIFIC DEFINITIONS RELATED TO GEOGRAPHY

1) Hartshorne (1969)

Geography is concerned to provide accurate, orderly and national description and interpretation of the variable character of the Earth Surface.

2) Schaefer (1953)

Geography has to be conceived as the science concerned with the formulation of the laws governing the spatial distribution of certain features on the surface of the earth.

3) Ackerman et al. (1965)

It is the study of spatial distributions and space relations on the earth's Surface.

4) Bueroek (1965)

It seeks to understand the Earth as the world of man, with particular reference to the differentiation and integration of place.

5) Yeates (1968)

Geography can be regarded as a science, concerned with the national development, and testing, of theories

that explain and predict the spatial distribution and location of various characteristics on the surface of the Earth.

⑦ Taaffe (1970)

Geography is the study of spatial organisation, expressed as patterns and processes.

⑧ Smith (1977)

Geography offers a broad synoptic (^{general} survey) view of spatial relationships in human affairs.

⑨ Peet (1977)

Marxist Geography is that part of a whole Science which deals with the interrelationships between social processes on the one hand and spatial processes on the other hand.

⑩ Jones (1984)

The focus of all geographical enquiry is place. This implies locations on the Earth's Surface, the relationship between it and other locations and the processes affecting changes in those relationships.

⑪ Ancient Roman Scholar Strabo

Geography acquaints (जात करता) us with the occupants of the land and ocean and the particularities of the various qualities of the earth.

⑫ Varius (17th Century Scholar)

Geography focuses attention on the earth where it examines such things as climate, surface features, forests, deserts, minerals, animals and human inhabitation.

(1) Immanuel Kant (18th Century)

Geography is the study of earth surface in so far as it causes differences in different parts with unfailing attention on the intricate (सन्तान) relationship between all phenomena.

(2) Vidal-de-Ja-Blache (18th Century)

Geography is the science of places.

(3) American College Dictionary

Geography is the study of aerial differentiations of the earth surface as shown in the character arrangement, inter-relation over the earth of elements such as climate, relief, vegetation, population, land use, industries and of the unit areas as formed by the complicity of these individual elements.

MAJOR SCHOOLS OF GEOGRAPHICAL THOUGHT

The theoretical development of geography took place during 1750 to 1950. The geographical thought is, therefore, made up of German, French, British, Russian, American Schools. The year 1859 is a "watershed" because it saw the death of the founders of modern classical geography. Alexander Von Humboldt and Carl Ritter on the one hand, and the publication of Charles Darwin's 'origin of species'

on the other, replaced the existing philosophy of geography by a materialistic scientific philosophy which emphasized natural laws and causality. However, the philosophy of modern geography is based on the following schools of thought:-

German School of Ganzheit, chorology and Landschaftskunde.

Concept of Ganzheit and chorology were earlier developed by Immanuel Kant. He described the relationships between all the phenomena found in Earth's Surface. Within any particular area, the combination of all interrelated phenomena is not a aggregate but an interrelated 'whole'. Later this idea of Ganzheit or whole was adopted by Carl Ritter. It is from the concept of Ganzheit that has developed the concept of chorology.

Alfred Hettner defined geography as a chorological Science i.e. the study of the areal differentiations.

The Concept of geography as Landschaftskunde came into being in the beginning of the present century mainly due to Otto Schlüter's address at Munich in 1906. In fact, the concepts of 'chorology' and 'Landschaftskunde' are concerned about the variations in the character of the face of the Earth which is the interpretation of 'the areal differentiation'.

French School of 'La Geographie Humaine'

French geographical thought is focused on Paul Vidal de la Blache, who is credited to have developed weocratic tradition in geography.

According to him, the natural and human phenomena should be regarded as united and inseparable. In an area of human settlement, nature changes significantly because of the presence of man, but these changes are greatest where the level of human creativity is highest, where the people are more aware and conscious and proud of their culture. Vidal emphasized the study of region which was a manifestation of an intimate relationship between man and nature developed through centuries over an area.

British School of Regional Studies.

British School of regional studies has at least three different meanings in Great Britain.

- (1) There are regional studies which amount to descriptions of segments of the Earth's Surface broadly synonymous () with the German regional geography.
- (2) There are regional studies which attempt to divide the Earth's Surface into either homogenous or functional areas of varying size which may be called regionalization.
- (3) Regional studies denote regional specialization to study different aspects of some parts of the world.

It was L. Dudley Stamp who pioneered landuse in Great Britain. British regional studies were largely influenced by the French geographer, Jules Vidal de la Blache, and to a greater extent by the French Sociologist Frederic Le Play.

Russian School of Landscape Science (Landscapevednie)

Russian geography is focused on applied geography as landscape science which appears to have developed as a result of V. V. Dokuchaiev's 'law of Zonality'. Landscape in the Russian School is defined as a dynamic system in which matter and energy are circulating and in which there are seasonal changes of heat and water balance and biological productivity. A landscape is a combination of interrelated environmental components (local climate, landforms, soils, plants and animals) occupying a discrete unit of territory. It exists objectively in the natural environment. The Russian landscape science is synonymous with regional science, which attempts to link economics, geography and planning and is concerned with theoretical and quantitative analysis of regional economic problems.

American School of Spatial Science

The American School of geography has passed through several concepts, and not confined to a particular concept as those of German, French, the Russian, and the British Schools. The American School of geography was initially confined to Instography, a term coined by C. M. Davis. The concept of Instography, with the logical inclination towards environmental determinism, continued for several decades of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The concept of Instography was replaced by human ecology, chorology, historical geography, and functional organization of space. The regional paradigm () in the American geography has been replaced by topical specialism with emphasis on spatial science and relations.