

LECTURE-03

GEOGRAPHICAL THOUGHT & 3 SOUTHERN CONTINENT

(SECTION-A)

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GEOGRAPHICAL THOUGHT

UNIT-ONE

Topic → Geography & Its Relation to other sciences

⇒ The Concept of Geography → After Eratosthenese, the perspective of Geography was continuously changed. Later, scholars defined geography as, "The description of the Earth as the abode (habitat) of Human beings". We know the "Earth is Multi-Dimensional", that is why many disciplines from Natural sciences (Geology, Pedology, Oceanography, Botany, zoology & Meteorology^{etc.}) and a number of sister disciplines in Social sciences (Economics, History, Sociology, Political Science, Anthropology etc.) study different aspects of the Earth surface. Thus, Geography is different from other sciences in its subject matter & methodology but at the same time, it is closely related to other disciplines. Geography derives its data base from all the Natural & Social sciences and attempts their synthesis.

Multi-dimensional

Areal Differentiation

→ Geography exist on variations over the surface of the earth in its Physical as well as cultural Environment in which many phenomena ^{can} similar or dissimilar. It was therefore its logical to perceive "Geography as the Study of Areal Differentiation". Thus Geography was perceived to study all those phenomena ~~over the Earth's Surface~~ which vary over space (Earth's Surface) and also study the association with the other factors which causes these variations. So, the Geography explains the phenomena in a frame of "Cause and effect relationship" between any two or more phenomena, as it doesnot only help in Interpretation but also foresees the phenomena in Futuse. eg → "cropping patterns" differ from region to region due to variations in soils, climates, demands in the market, capacity of farmers to invest & technological inputs.

Physical & Human Interaction

→ The Geographical phenomena, both the Physical & Human, are not static but highly dynamic. They change overtime as a result of the Interactive Processes between ever changing Earth & untising and ever-active human beings. Geography, thus, is concerned with the "Study of Nature & Human Interactions as an integrated whole". Human is an integral part of nature and have to come to terms with nature through Adaptation & Modification. Nature has influenced different aspects of Human life. Its imprints can be noticed on Food, clothing, Shelter & occupation. Primitive Human Societies were directly dependent on their immediate environment, but Present societies

have modified their Natural environment by inventing & using technology and expand the horizon of their operation by utilizing the resources provided by Nature. Thus, they moved from the "Stage of Necessity" to a "Stage of Freedom".

They have put their imprints everywhere and created New possibilities in collaboration with Nature. Thus, we now find "Humanised Nature & Naturalised Human beings" and Geography Studies this interactive relationship.

Spatial organisation & Spatial Integration

→ As a social science discipline, Geography Studies the "Spatial organisation" & "Spatial Integration". The Geographical space got organised with the help of the means of Transportation & Communication network. The links (routes) and nodes (settlements) integrated the space and gradually, it organised. Geography as a discipline is concerned with ③ sets of questions →

1st set of question

2nd set of question

Some questions are related to the identification of the patterns of Natural & cultural features as found over the surface of the earth. These are the Questions about WHAT?

Some questions are related to the distribution of the Natural & Human/cultural features over the surface of the Earth. These are the Questions about WHERE?

Taken together, both these questions take care of the Distributional & Locational aspects of the Natural and cultural features. It was very popular approach during the colonial period. But these two questions did not make geography a scientific discipline till the 3rd question was added →

3rd Set of question ⇒ It is related to the explanation of the causal relationships between features and the processes and phenomena. This aspect of Geography is related to the questions about WHY?

Thus Geography as a discipline is related to space & takes notes of Spatial Characteristics and attributes. It studies the patterns of distribution, location and concentration of phenomena over space and interprets them providing explanations of these patterns. It also takes note of the associations and inter-relationships between the phenomena ~~resulting from the~~ over space and interprets them providing explanations of these patterns. It also takes note of the associations and inter-relationships between the phenomena ~~resulting from the~~ Dynamic Interaction between Human beings and their physical environment.