

UNIT - ONE

TOPIC

Meaning and Scope of Environmental Geography

⇒ Introduction "Geography" remains one of the few disciplines committed to bridging the divide between the Natural & Physical sciences, on the one side, and the Social sciences and Humanities on the other. In this sense the scale and richness of the geographers and their findings & ideas are what we are calling here is known as "Environmental Geography". Though the term is perhaps less familiar than are "Human" & "Physical" Geography, Environmental Geography deserves greater recognition both within & beyond the discipline due to its large, diverse and vibrant field of knowledge.

⇒ Meaning ~~and~~ ~~Definition~~ of Environmental Geography

Probably "K. Hewitt" and "F. K. Hare" first used the term of "Environmental Geography" in "Man and Environment":

~~Conceptual~~ Conceptual Frameworks (Commission on College Geography Resource Paper 20)". It was realized that Ecological Inputs in geographical studies of Environment would make the discipline of geography more focussed Subject. So, Environmental Geography occupies the Fertile 'Borderlands' where Geography's various traditions - not only Human and Physical, but also Regional and GIS - come together and connect with Each other and ^{also the} outside of ~~with~~ geography.

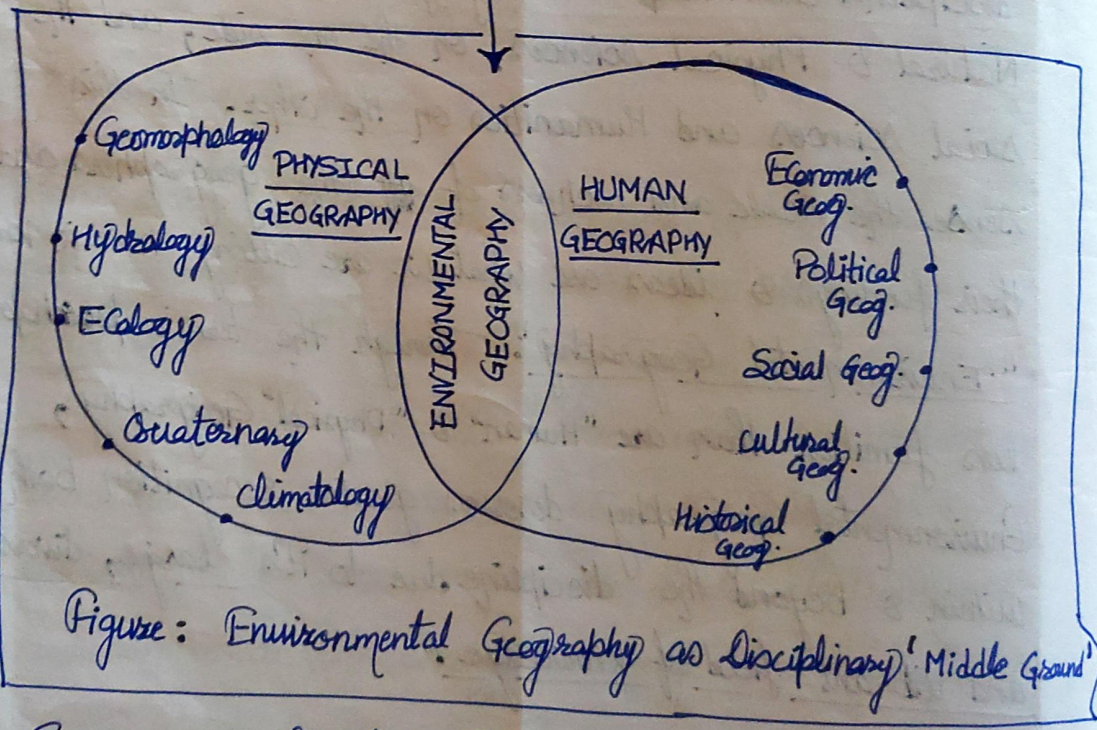


Figure: Environmental Geography as Disciplinary 'Middle Ground'

Emphasising the fact that the basic approach to the study of Man-Environment relationships, the core of Environmental Geography, is Ecological Analysis of Spatial attributes of interrelationships between technological advanced man and natural environment in terms of Ecosystem.

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⇒ Definition of Environmental Geography → The term

Environment has been derived from a French word "Environ" means to surround. It refers to both ABIOTIC (Physical or Non-living) and BIOTIC (living) environment.

→ According to ~~P. Gilbert~~ P. Gilbert, "Environment is anything immediately surrounding an object and exerting a direct influence on it."

"Environment Geography" is the study of Systematic ~~the~~ description of different components of Environment and interactions of Man with these components."

→ According to Sanindra Singh (1989) "Environmental Geography" may be (Broad Definition)

defined as the branch of Geography which studies the characteristics, composition and functions of different components of the natural environmental system, mutual interdependence of different components, various processes that link the components, the interactions of different components with each other and among themselves and consequent responses (environmental problems) in spatial and temporal context ~~in terms of~~ as well as interactions of Technologically advanced Economic Man with different components of natural 'Geocosystem' and resultant modifications in this system.

Thus, Environmental Geography is "Multi-Disciplinary" in nature,

- It is related to other disciplines like - Life science, physical science, ecology, economics, biology, chemistry, public administration etc.
- It concerned with the spatial attributes of all the phenomena related to the environment.
- Studies the various BIOMES and Human influences.
- Deals with the pattern of Biodiversity at the Global, National and Local level.
- Studies the spatial pattern of physical and anthropogenic degradation of environment.
- It studies cause-effect, severity, management & migration of various environmental issues like → climate change, Global Warming, ozone depletion, Habitat loss, Biodiversity loss, Pollution etc.
- It also includes the notion of Sustainable Development, Environmental Education (climate Justice), Planning - Conservation + Management (PCM) of the Environment and its components.