

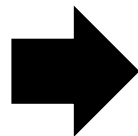
GEOGRAPHY

MODULE 1 – CONCEPTS AND TRENDS IN GEOGRAPHY

PART 2

I. FOUR TRADITIONS IN GEOGRAPHY

- 1963 – concept was introduced by William D Pattinson.
- Development of geography through various traditions.



Spatial Tradition
Area Studies Tradition
Man - Land Tradition
Earth Science Tradition

1. Spatial Tradition/ locational Traditional

- Geographical growth based on mapping, spatial analysis, boundaries and densities, movements and transportation.
- Studies are followed by quantitative tools & techniques such as computerized mapping, GIS central place theory, areal distribution, spatial patterns.
- After 1950s quantitative tools & techniques such as computerized mapping, GIS central place theory.
- Many theories have been introduced with the introduction of spatial technologies especially, in urban geography, agricultural geography.
- Chris Diar – Central Prize Theory. the influence of this tradition can be seen in his theories.

2. Man – land Tradition / Culture – Environment Tradition.

- Connection between nature & human.
- Human environment.
- How the environment impact on human life.
- Natural hazards influence human life.
- Civilizations formed on the river basins in which fertility of land was given importance. Now, river basins are being avoided for the settlement patters. Road network is more influenced.
- Perception of environment & environmentalism.
- Cultural, political, & population.

3. Area Tradition

- Determines as much it is possible to gather about a particular place in order to define, describe, differentiate it from other regions or areas.

- Area based tradition.

4. Earth Science Tradition

- Study on planet earth as the home of humans & its system.
- Branches of earth science traditions of geography are:

Geology (earth's interior)	Mineralogy (mineral formation)
Paleontology (fossil remains)	Geo morphology (landforms)
Meteorology (climatic matters)	

II. FIVE THEMES IN GEOGRAPHY

1. LOCATION

- Most of the geographic studies begin by learning location of places.
- Location can be absolute / relative.
 - a. Absolute Location
 - Describes the location of an area based on coordinate system like attitude / longitude.
 - Accurate location.
 - Having a places absolute location allows us to determine the location from anywhere regardless of the surrounding area.
 - b. Relative Location
 - It describes the location of an area based on its connection to other places.
 - Like landmarks, knowing a places relative location allows it to be located easily once its relative area is known.
 - Depend on landmark to locate an area.

2. PLACE

- Place describes the human & physical characteristics of a location.
 - a. Physical Characteristics
 - Includes rivers, mountains, climate, flora, fauna, life of a place.
 - The place id described as hot, sandy, fertile, forested, etc.
 - b. Human Characteristics
 - Includes the human designed cultural features of a place.
 - These features include – land use, forms of livelihood, religious practices (religious homogeneity, heterogeneity), means of transportation and methods of communication.

3. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

- Illustrates how human adapt to & change their environment to fulfill their needs.
- Practices such as irrigation, farming & mining.
- The early cultures tended to settle along rivers or deltas or surrounding to a fertile land.

- Possibilistic point of view.

4. MIGRATION AND MOVEMENT

- Humans define migration and movement as the way people travel from place to place, circulate information, trade goods and services, share ideas.
- Initially, migration was practiced for trading activities & movement by Arabs was to share ideologies of various countries.
- Collaboration of culture occurred only through migrations and movements.

5. REGION

- On the basis of different characteristics, region can be divided into three.
 - a. **Formal Region**
 - These are designed by official boundaries such as cities, states and countries.
 - For the most part they are clearly indicated and publicly known.
 - **Awareness on exact locations.**
 - b. **Functional Region**
 - They are defined by their connective basis.
 - i.e., the circulation area for a major city area is the functional region of that paper.
 - Function such as **for military purposes, recreational purposes.**
 - c. **Vernacular Region**
 - These includes the perceived region such as ‘The South’, ‘The Mid-West’ or ‘The Middle East’.
 - They have no formal boundaries but are understood in mental maps of the world.
 - Example: **the south Indians, the regional division based on vernacular matters.**

III. DUALISM & DICHOTOMIES IN GEOGRAPHY

- Dualistic & dichotomy thinking in geography become more conspicuous during the post – renaissance period.
- The two ideologies existed since ancient period.
- Dichotomy - a division or contrast between two things that are different.

1. **General Geography (systematic) Vs Regional Geography**

- Most probably introduced by Varenus in the 17th century.
- This period is often termed as the classical period of the modern geographical thought.
- Bernhard Varenus- ‘*Geographia Generalis*’ - points two division of geography:
- General / Universal Geography – formation of general laws, principles, generic concept. Geography in whole is concerned here.

- Special / Particular Geography – geographical study related to particular idea.

2. Environmental Determinism Vs Possibilism

- Environmental Determinism Approach- focusing on the effects of the physical environment on man, in which man was seen as a passive creature moulded by natural forces.
- “Man is a product of earth’s surface”. – broad concept.
- Aristotle, Herodotus, Strabo are considered as determinants.
- Possibilism - Man is rather than nature in which man has an active role.
- “Natural environment offers opportunities the number of which increases as the knowledge and technology of a cultural group develop”.
- Possibilism is a part of postmodern approach.
- Both the viewpoints are relatable to a great extent.
- Neo determinists opinions to consider two ideologies in same side.

3. Physical Geography Vs Human Geography

- Ancient Greek scholars gave prime importance to physical geography.
- Hecateus - physical geography.
- Herodotus & Strabo emphasized human geography.
- Modern phase – Ritter, Ratzel – human as active agent – importance to human geography.
- Cultural landscape.

4. Historical Geography Vs Contemporary Geography

- Historical Geography deals with the geography of an area, region & world.
- Contemporary Geography deals with the existing patterns of spatial differentiation of phenomena.
- Contemporary geography will become historical geography with the passage of time.