

SCOPE OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY AND ITS RELATION WITH OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCES

Human geography has a huge scope with vast content. Broadly it can be dealt centering round spatio-temporal variation in terms of nature as well as human themselves either in systematic way or regional way.

Human geography is a vast subject, as it has its origins from Social, Physical, and Earth Sciences in different countries. In parallel with geography as a whole, Human geography is made up of *three* closely linked components.

1. The '*spatial analysis*' of the human population i.e. Its numbers, its characteristics and its activities as spread over the earth surface.
2. The '*ecological analysis*' of the relations between human populations and its environment i.e. Human-biosphere system.
3. The '*regional synthesis*', which combines the first two themes in an areal differentiation of earth's surface.

In human geography, the major thrust is on the study of human societies in their relation to the habitat or environment. Dealing with the spatial distribution of societies, human geography covers a very wide field or its scope is enormous.

It embraces the study of human races; the growth, distribution and density of populations of the various parts of the world, their demographic attributes and migration patterns; and physical and cultural differences between human groups and economic activities.

It also covers the relationship between man and his natural environment, and the way in which his activities are distributed.

Human geography also takes into account the mosaic of culture, language, religion, customs and traditions; types and patterns of rural settlements, the site, size, growth and functions of urban settlements, and the functional classification of towns.

The study of spatial distribution of economic activities, industries, trade, and modes of transportations and communications as influenced by the physical environment are also the important topics of human geography.

Human geography has a number of sub-branches.

1. Anthropogeography: It largely deals with racial phenomena in their spatial context.
2. Cultural geography: It focuses on the origin, components and impact of human cultures, both material and non-material.
3. Economic geography: It refers to the study of the location and distribution of economic activities at the local, regional, national and world scale. Economic geography can be studied under the following heads: Resource geography. Agricultural geography, Industrial and transport geography.
4. Political geography: It is the study of political phenomena in their spatial context. Main focus remains for creation and transformation of political and administrative region.
5. Historical geography: Spatial and temporal trends of geographical phenomena are studied in Historical geography. (vi) Social geography : It is the analysis of social phenomena in space. Poverty, health, education, livelihood are some important fields of study in social geography.
6. Population geography: It is the study of various dimensions of population like its population distribution density, composition, fertility, mortality, migration etc.
7. Settlement geography: It is the study of Rural/Urban settlements, their size, distribution, functions, hierarch, and off various other parameters of settlement system.