

FIELDS AND SUB-FIELDS OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Human geography attempts to explain the relationship between all elements of human life and the space they occur. Thus, human geography assumes a highly inter-disciplinary nature. It develops close connection with other sister disciplines in social sciences in order to understand and explain human elements on the surface of the earth.

FIELDS OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

1. **POPULATION GEOGRAPHY**- It is the study of the ways in which spatial variations in the distribution, composition, migration and growth of population are related to the nature of places.
2. **ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY** - It refers to the field of study focused on the location of economic activity at the local, national and world scale.
 - (a) Resource geography: the study of the resources, their distribution, production, utilization and conservation.
 - (b) Agricultural geography: the study of spatial variations in agricultural activity.
 - (c) Industrial geography: the study of the spatial arrangement of industrial activity.
 - (d) Transport geography: the study of the role of transport in geography, including patterns and modes of transport, movement of goods and people and relationships between transport and other geographic factors.
3. **POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY** – It is the study of political phenomena in their areal or spatial context. Friedrich Ratzel is called ‘father of modern political geography’.
4. **SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY** – It is the analysis of social phenomena in space. Social geography was developed in Germany. Interest in the studies of social wellbeing and social problems, and their spatial variations, root cause of social problems has given rise to ‘Radical geography’ and ‘Welfare

geography'. Study of new spatial determinism of capitalist society led to the rise of 'Marxist geography'.

5. **URBAN GEOGRAPHY** – It is the geographical study of urban areas, their spatial patterns and functions, origin and hierarchies.

RELATIONS WITH SOCIAL SCIENCES

1. *Economics and geography*: Economics and geography are long related to each other and should be regarded united and inseparable because both study 'concrete phenomena which have a known situation and time', focusing on man.

Economics is basically concerned with man's economic activities, and the principles governing the location of units of production, division of labour, capital investment etc. Economics is concerned with how human needs and wants are satisfied in a world of limited resources.

2. *Sociology and geography*: Sociology is mainly concerned with the institutional aspects of the society which broadly include social organization of communities, family structure and system, rituals, culture, customs, social system and overall the entire way of living.

Each spatial section of the Earth surface is identified by its distinct way of living which results into social phenomena and when one studies the variable character of its phenomena on the Earth's surface, he seeks to integrate sociology with geography.

Geography has drawn some of its concepts from modern sociology which are associated with the formulation of empirical generalizations or laws through mathematical methods and statistical procedures. A number of studies of relation between social behavior, of movement of people between urban centres, of spatial interactions between social groups, of the relations between innovation and tradition in rural and urban areas, have been made both in sociology and geography with the aid of models.

3. *Anthropology and geography* : Anthropology attempts to study human races, their physical characteristics, biological traits, cultural traits and organizations and seeks to classify them accordingly. Races have been identified on the basis of various indices, such as head index, nasal index and skin colour, hair texture and are accordingly categorized as Negrito, Negro, Australoid, Mediterranean and Mongolic. Each of them has distinct biological traits and habitat. Both anthropology and geography seek to identify and classify them on the basis of their habitat and cultural traits.
4. *History and geography* : History and geography fill up the entire circumference of our perception: history that of time, and geography that of space. History provides the framework into which the multiplicity of historical facts are ordered, the area provides the skeleton for geography, and both the fields are concerned with integrating different kinds of phenomena.

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY THROUGH THE CORRIDORS OF TIME

Table : Broad Stages and Thrust of Human Geography

Period	Approaches	Broad Features
Early Colonial	Exploration and description	Imperial and trade interests prompted the discovery and exploration of new areas
Later Colonial	Regional Analysis	Elaborate descriptions of all aspects of a region were undertaken. The idea was that all the regions were part of a whole (the earth), so, understanding the parts in totality would lead to an understanding of the whole.
1930s through the Inter-War period	Areal Differentiation	The focus was on identifying the uniqueness of any region and understanding how and why it was different from others.
Late 1950s to the late 1960s	Spatial Organisation	Marked by the use of computers and sophisticated statistical tools. Law of physics were often applied to map and analyse human phenomena. This phase was called quantitative revolution. The main objective was to identify mappable patterns for

		different human activities.
1970s	Emergence of humanistic ,radical and behavioural schools	Discontentment with the quantitative revolution and its dehumanized manner of doing geography led to the emergence of 3 new schools of thought of human geography in 1970.
1990s	Post modernization in geography	The grand generalisations and the applicability of universal theories to explain the human conditions were questioned. The importance of understanding each local context in its own right was emphasized.

1. **Welfare or humanistic school of thought** was mainly concerned with the different aspects of social well-being of the people. These included aspects such as housing, health and education, poverty, hunger, crime, distribution of assets, income and access to social services. The main feature of this approach is that it gives central and active role to human awareness and human agency, human consciousness and human creativity.
2. **Radical school of thought** employed Marxian Theory to explain the basic cause of poverty, deprivation and social inequality. Contemporary social problems were related to the development of capitalism.
3. **Behavioural school of thought** laid great emphasis on lived experience and also on the perception of space by social categories based on ethnicity, race and religion, etc.