



## Study of Human Geography and its Elements

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### Abstract

There are several sub-disciplines within the discipline of human geography. As the second most important area of geography, human geography is concerned with the study of human beings and their many social and cultural groupings, cultures, economies, and relationships with their surroundings from a spatiotemporal viewpoint. People who study human geography define and explain the human patterns of social interaction and interdependencies, as well as their effects on the Earth's environment. The study of the geographical and temporal variations in the interrelationships between people, place, and environment is known as human geography. Human geographers study how people's daily activities and interactions with the physical environment are shaped by the spatial structure and processes that take place in their daily lives.

**Key Words:** Human, Geography, Environment, Social Cultural etc.

### Introduction

As the second most important area of geography, human geography is concerned with the study of human beings and their many social and cultural groupings, cultures, economies, and relationships with their surroundings from a spatiotemporal viewpoint. People who study human geography define and explain the human patterns of social interaction and interdependencies, as well as their effects on the Earth's environment. The study of the geographical and temporal variations in the interrelationships between people, place, and environment is known as human geography. Human geographers study how people's daily activities and interactions with the physical environment are shaped by the spatial structure and processes that take place in their daily lives.

### Definition

**Some of the well known definitions of human geography are following:**

*“Human geography is the synthetic study of relationships between human societies and earth’s surface. - F. Ratzel (1882).*



*Human geography is the study of changing relationship between the unresting man and the unstable earth. - E.C. Semple (1911).*

*Human geography offers a new conception of the inter-relationships between earth and man .... a more synthetic knowledge of physical laws governing our earth and of the relations between the living beings which inhabit it. - Vidal de la Blache (1926)".*

### **Nature of Human Geography**

It is a branch of geography that studies the interrelationships between human beings, their environment, and their position in the world. “Whereas physical geography focuses on the geographical and environmental processes that create the natural world, human geography focuses on the spatial organisation and processes determining the lives and activities of people, as well as their relationships with places and nature. As a result, human geography is more closely associated with the humanities and social sciences. Many sub-disciplines of human geography focus on different facets of human activity and organisation. Some of these sub-disciplines include: cultural geography; economic geography; health geography; history of geography; political geography; population geography; rural geography; social geography; transportation geography; and urban geography. These notions are what separate human geography from other related disciplines, such as economic development, politics, and sociology; they are applied to the phenomena under consideration using a set of basic geographical concepts that include spatial and temporal dimensions”. Concepts like as spatial and temporal organisation, as well as social ties founded in location and environment, are at the forefront of these theories.

### **Scope of Human Geography**

Geographers such as Hecataeus, Herodotus, Aristotle, Eratosthenes, and Strabo understood and stressed the tight connection between man and his physical surroundings from the beginning. For example, in the works of Arab thinkers like Ibn Khaldun and Al Masudi there were clear links drawn between the physical environment and cultural traits. Humboldt and Ritter, two German geographers of the classical age of modern geography, focused on the link between social groupings and their physical surroundings. Ritter's work 'Erdkunde' demonstrated his man-centric worldview. Ritter came to the conclusion that the world and its people are inseparably linked, and that one cannot be fully understood without the other. According to Ratzel's work, Human Geography is a



distinct field of study. As part of the first systematic study of the complicated interaction between human people and their surrounding physical world, his two-volume book 'Anthropogeographie' offered a wide perspective on man and his activities. It was shown by Ratzel that cultural phenomena may be categorised in the same way as natural ones. Human geography before to his time was mostly focused on regional studies. Systematic human geography was established by Ratzel. On migration and cultural geography, he concentrated. With his book 'Anthropogeography II,' he aimed to cover such topics as population density and distribution, human settlement patterns, human migration, and the spread of culture via these factors. It was in Volume 2 that Ratzel emphasised the importance of population history and culture as well as environmental factors in his study of human geography. Ratzel's book 'Politische Geographie' (Political Geography), published in 1897, is considered a seminal work in contemporary political geography since it introduced concepts like 'Lebensraum,' or dwelling space, and 'State as an Organism.' Ratzel adopted a deterministic view of environmental control on man and his behaviours as a result of Darwin's impact. For anthropologists and human geographers alike, Ratzel's three-volume History of Mankind is a landmark work.

### **Elements of Human Geography**

“Human geography is the study of man and his actions on the surface of the globe. In human geography”, the primary emphasis is on the human occupation and use of the physical environment. Human geography also includes the study of human-nature interactions and the outcomes of such interactions.

#### **1. Sociology Geographical**

Geographical Sociology It is the study of human society and social phenomena in relation to their location. Sociological phenomena are studied in connection to their broader context by a social geographer. Both radical and pro-poor Geography, as an offshoot of social geography, is concerned with such topics as social-being, social issues, and their core causes and geographical variations. Additional sub-branches of social geography include:

- Geography of People's Places In social geography, human settlements are studied in terms of their geographical distribution, patterns and sizes as well as their development. Additionally, this study focuses on the impact of numerous geographic conditions on the location of human settlements. Settlement geographers are



increasingly searching for order in the spacing of settlements and in their internal structure, as well as improved knowledge “of the processes that help form settlements, including cultural influences and elements of perception.

- **Geography of the Population** The study of human population, including its growth, dispersion, density, composition, and other” characteristics, is known as population geography. Geographical differences in population dynamics, population composition, and variables influencing population increase are all examined in this research. Additionally, variables impacting population growth, dispersion, density, and diversity are all a part of the research.
- **Geography of Politics** States and countries are studied in relation to their geographic contexts in political geography. A political division known as a country may be used to accomplish this goal. Political geography studies geopolitics and geostrategy as well nowadays. Geographers of political geography focus on the link between these nations and their physical surroundings. It is widely accepted that F. Ratzel, a German Geographer, is the founder of contemporary Political Geography.

## **2. Economic Geography**

This area of human geography examines how and where wealth is created, distributed, traded, and consumed across various geographic regions. Economic activity in connection to the physical environment is at the heart of this field's primary focus. In this field, a wide range of human activities, including agriculture, industry, and transportation, are examined. Among the many subfields of economic geography are the following:-

- **Geography of Agriculture** The study of human agricultural activity is at the heart of agricultural geography. It examines the spatial variation of agricultural activities throughout the Earth's surface and the effect of geographic variables on agriculture. In addition, a comparative research is carried out in order to better understand how agricultural systems vary throughout the globe.
- **Geopolitics of Resources** Geopolitics of resources deals with the distribution, availability, production, and exploitation of resources over space and time.
- **Geography of Industry** Geographical differences in industrial activity may be studied using a method known as industrial geography. Geographical influences in



industrialization are also examined. To put it simply, the term "industry" refers to the production of things, which is defined as manufacturing. A more broad definition of "services" includes tourism, banking, and transportation.

### **3. Cultural Geography**

The term "culture" refers to the civilization's artistic and intellectual accomplishments. Human attire, housing, tools, language, religion, and dietary habits are only some of the cultural components that are studied in cultural geography. Another major focus is on human culture's interaction with a given area's natural landscapes, which is explored in great detail. It is generally agreed that Herodotus is the father of ethnography since he is often regarded as the first person to begin systematically examining the cultural characteristics of people other than the Greeks (Cultural Geography). There are several subfields of cultural geography such as religious geography, language geography, and tool and skill geography.

#### **Contemporary Relevance of Human Geography**

It is still important to understand the connections between people and their environment and the fundamental concepts of human geography such as "place," "space," "region," "movement," and "diffusion" today. People and activities on the Earth's surface, as well as the factors that contribute to their distribution, are the subject of contemporary human geography. Human geography analyses the patterns and trends of population increase, as well as the densities and distributions of people within a given geographical and cultural setting. Fertility, death, and migration are all important factors in population dynamics. Relations between population growth and resource depletion as well as population concerns can inform population policy ideas. Understanding human geography begins with studying populations, which can be applied to many other topics. Today's human geographers study quantitative and qualitative elements of issues including food security, poverty alleviation, economic development with distributive justice, ecological balance, and pollution reduction in order to better comprehend the challenges these issues provide. They chronicle where individuals travel from and to, as well as why. Most people migrate for three reasons: better job prospects, a more diverse culture, and a more pleasant climate. Migrant and refugee-related power struggles have acquired prominence in modern human geography because of this.

#### **Conclusion:**



Human geography, the field's second-largest subfield, studies “people and their social groupings, cultures, economies, and relationships with the environment from a spatio-temporal viewpoint. Human geography is the study of how human activity affects Earth's surface characteristics and how those aspects change through time. Geographical subfields include population, settlement and economic geography; socio-cultural; political; health; behavioural; and environmental geographies”. It is through the study of human geography that we may cultivate better citizens and human beings who are more equipped to grasp today's global difficulties, and who can then assist to find solutions to these problems.

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