



Social Geography: Concept and Scope: A Review

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Abstract

The term 'social geography' carries with it an inherent confusion. In the popular perception the distinction between social and cultural geography is not very clear. The idea which has gained popularity with the geographers is that social geography is an analysis of social phenomena expressed in space. When the term emerged within the Anglo-American tradition during the 1960s, it was basically applied as a synonym for the search for patterns in the distribution of social groups. Social geography is the branch of human geography that is most closely related to social theory in general and sociology in particular, dealing with the relation of social phenomena and its spatial components.

Key words: Social, structure, global, Cultural, Community etc.

Introduction

the term 'social phenomena' is in its developing stage and might be interpreted in a variety of ways keeping in view the specific context of the societies at different stages of social evolution in the occidental and the oriental worlds. The term 'social phenomena' encompasses the whole framework of human interaction with environment, leading to the articulation of social space by diverse human groups in different ways. The end-product of human activity may be perceived in the spatial patterns manifest in the personality of regions; each pattern acquiring its form under the overwhelming influence of social structure. Besides the patterns, the way the social phenomena are expressed in space may become a cause of concern as well. This has attracted scholarly attention, particularly since 1945 when all-embracing changes in the political and economic order of the world started influencing the global society.

Definition

Dudley Stamp in the Longman's Dictionary of Geography defines Cultural Geography as "*that which emphasizes human cultures and is commonly equated with human geography*".

Scope of Social Geography

Social Geography is primarily concerned with the ways in which social relations, identities and inequalities are created

- How these social creations vary over space and the role of space in their construction is the principle distinction between sociology and social geography.

Social Interaction and relations

- According to PANOPTIO,1997, Social interaction refers to the mutual inter stimulation and response between two or more persons and groups through symbols, language, gestures and expression of ideas.
- Social interaction is the foundation of society. Without interaction there would be no group life.



Social interaction has different form of interaction:

- Between individual to individual
- Between Individual to Groups
- Between groups to groups 4. Between individual and culture

Formation of Social Groups

- Unit of interacting personalities with interdependence of roles and statuses existing between and among themselves
- Collection of people where members interact on a regular basis, guide by structure and agreements, defined by roles and responsibilities.

Characteristics of Social groups

- Group members interact on a fairly regular basis through communication.
- Members should develop a structure where each member assumes a specific status and adopts a particular role.
- Certain orderly procedures and values are agreed upon.
- The members of the group feel a sense of identity.

Types of Social Groups

Below are the types of Social Groups:

1. Primary Group (Families, Play groups)
2. Secondary Group (industrial workers, Faculty Staff)
3. According Self-identification
4. According to purpose
5. According to geographic location

Community and Society

- The Primary difference between a community and Society is that a community is limited to a specific geographic location, but a society can be made up of people who live in different places. Another difference is that a society is made up of direct and indirect social connections between people, but a community is made up of individuals who are more closely connected. For example, people who live in town represent a community, whereas everyone who lives in the state the town is located in makes up a society. Several communities can be located within a society but each society is separate from another.
- Societies often include more diversity, with people from different backgrounds, social classes and races.

People in communities most often share similar characteristics.

Concept of Social Space

- A social space is physical or virtual space such as a social center, online social media, or other gathering place where people gather and interact.
- Some social spaces such as town squares or parks are public places and others such as pubs, websites or shopping malls are private places.
- Henri emphasized that in human society all “Space is social: It involves assigning more or less appropriated places to social relations.



Socio-cultural Region

Socio cultural regions helps us to understand the soul of the place. The well we know the socio cultural regions, it is easier to understand the people, agriculture, traditions seasons, and buying selling periods We can also plot them. For Example Cooking Medium .Some Socio Cultural regions are mustard oil users and some may be ground nut oil users. We can also map hard and soft water. A social planner have many maps. These maps helps us to know about the particular region.

Conclusion

Socio-geographical studies of population distribution and ethnic com-position in urban areas emerged as a major trend during this phase. The underlying idea was to examine the social content of the urban space which resulted from coming together of diverse ethnic groups within a city. The city with its specific functional specialization cast these social groups in its mould, resulting in the assimilation of diverse elements into a universal (Europeanized) urban ethos. However, certain ethno-cultural identities were so strongly defined that they continued to defy the forces of assimilation.

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