## **DEFINITION OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

- The reach of **geography** is extensive and each and every event or phenomenon, which varies over space and time, can be studied geographically.
- According to Livingstone, David and Rogers, Human Geography studies "The relationship between the physical/natural and the human worlds, the spatial distributions of human phenomena and how they come about, the social and economic differences between different parts of the world".
- The core concern of geography is to understand the earth as home of human beings and to study all those elements which have sustained them.

## **DUALISM / DIACHOTOMY in HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

The three dualism in the discipline of geography:

- a. Whether geography as a discipline should be a law making/theorising (nomothetic) or descriptive (idiographic).
- b. Whether approach of the study should be regional or systematic?
- c. Whether geographical phenomena be interpreted **theoretically** or through **historic-institutional** approach?

#### **METAPHORS – NATURE AND HUMAN ARE INSEPARABLE**

Nature and human are inseparable elements and is described in metaphors using symbols from the human anatomy.

- i. 'face' of the earth, 'eye' of the storm, 'mouth' of the river, 'snout' (nose) of the glacier, 'neck' of the isthmus, 'profile' of the soil.
- ii. Regions, villages, towns have been described as 'organisms'.
- iii. Networks of road, railways and water ways are described as "arteries of circulation".

### **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATURE AND HUMAN**

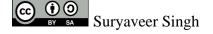
The elements of <u>physical environment</u> are landforms, soils, climate, water, natural vegetation and diverse flora and fauna.

The elements of <u>socio-cultural environment</u> are Houses, villages, cities, road-rail networks, industries, farms, ports and items of our daily use which are created by human beings using the resources provided by the physical environment.

- Q.1 While physical environment has been greatly modified by human beings, it has also, in turn, impacted human lives. Justify the statement.
- Ans. i. Human beings interact with their physical environment with the help of technology.
  - ii. Technology indicates the level of cultural development of society.
  - iii. Human beings were able to develop technology after they developed better understanding of natural laws. Technology loosens the shackles of environment on human beings.
  - iv. There is direct dependence of human beings on nature for resources which sustain them. Nature provides opportunities and human being make use of these and slowly nature gets humanized.
- Q.2 "Human beings were able to develop technology after they developed better understanding of natural laws." Justify the statement

Ans.

- a. The understanding of concepts of friction and heat helped us discover fire.
- b. Similarly, understanding of the secrets of DNA and genetics enabled us to conquer many diseases.
- c. We use the laws of aerodynamics to develop faster planes.



- d. In the early stages humans were greatly influenced by nature and adapted to its dictates. This is so because the level of technology was very low.
- e. With social and cultural development, humans develop better and more efficient technology. They move from a state of necessity to a state of freedom.

### **Naturalization of Humans or Environmental determinism**

- Q.3 "Primitive societies lived in complete harmony with their natural environment." Justify Ans. Environmental deterministic approach states that:
  - a. Environment controls human actions and activities. Humans were directly dependent on the natural environment.
  - b. Humans were not free and they adapted according to the nature. Humans were naturalized they were afraid of natural forces.
  - c. It states that human history, culture, life style, and stages of development are influenced by the physical environment like climate, soil, relief, etc.
  - d. It considers human as passive agents, whose attitude, decision making is influenced by physical environment. Example: the life of nomads or tribal people living in mountains or forests.

### **Humanisation of Nature or Possibilism**

Q.4 Describe important features of the concept of Humanisation of Nature.

Ans. Possibilistic approach states that:

- a. Humans were free to choose/decide. Nature did not control him.
- b. The nature provided/offered opportunities/possibilities for humans to exploit it for their benefits.
- c. It considered humans as active agents rather than a passive one.
- d. It's the technology, attitude, habits, values of humans which influenced its action not the nature. The nature got humanized.

# Neodeterminism or Stop and Go determinism.

- Q.5 Which approach in the study of human geography was followed by Griffith Taylor?
- Ans. Griffith Taylor introduced the concept of neodeterminism of stop and go determinism.
  - a. Neither is there a situation of absolute necessity (environmental determinism) nor is there a condition of absolute freedom (possibilism).
  - b. It states that nature has provided possibilities and scope for development but also put limits on it.
  - c. Human beings can conquer nature by obeying it. They can continue in their pursuit of development when nature permits.
  - d. Possibilities can be created within the limits which do not damage the environment and there is no free run without accidents.
  - e. The free run has already resulted in the greenhouse effect, ozone layer depletion, global warming, receding glaciers and degrading lands.
  - f. The neo-determinism conceptually attempts to bring a balance nullifying the 'either' 'or' dichotomy.
- Q.11 Describe the Thrust of Human Geography through broad stages of time.
- Ans. Dynamism in human geography approaches are:
  - i. An encyclopedic description of the area during early colonial period.
  - ii. Regional analysis: Elaborate description of all aspects of a region.
  - iii. **Areal differentiation**: identifying the uniqueness of any region and understanding how and why is it different from others.
  - iv. **Spatial organization**: use of computers, statistics, Laws of physics were often applied to map and analyse human phenomena. It was called the quantitative revolution.
  - v. **Humanistic, Radical and Behavioural approach**: Sudy of relevant socio-political reality
  - vi. Post-modernism: understanding each local context in its own right was emphasized.

