

Chapter-1

Geography as a Discipline

Geography: The word 'geography' is derived from two Greek words geo= earth, graphos=description. Some scholars defined geography as the description of the earth as the abode of human beings.

Geo-morphology: It is concerned with the study of landforms, their evolution and related processes.

Climatology: It is concerned with the study of structure of atmosphere and elements of weather and climates and climatic types and regions.

Hydrology: It studies the realm of water over the surface of the earth including oceans, lakes, rivers and other water bodies and its effect on different life forms including human life and their activities.

Soil Geography: It is concerned with the study the processes of soil formation, soil types, their fertility status, distribution and use.

Social/Cultural Geography: It is concerned with the study of society and its spatial dynamics as well as the cultural elements contributed by the society.

Bio-geography: It has emerged as a result of the interface between physical geography and human geography. It has three branches:

- Plant Geography,
- Zoo Geography and
- Ecology.

Plant Geography: It studies the spatial pattern of natural vegetation in their habitats.

Zoo Geography: It studies the spatial patterns and geographic characteristics of animals and their habitats.

Ecology: It is concerned with the scientific study of the habitats characteristic of species.

Environmental Geography: It is concerned with environmental problems such as land gradation, pollution and environment conservation.

Who was the first to coin the term 'Geography'?

ERATOSTHENES, A GREEK SCHOLAR (276-194 BC) in the third century. His famous book was called 'Geographia.'



What is the origin of the word 'Geography'?

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geo= earth,
graphos=description.

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How can we say that the earth is 'multidimensional'?

Many Sciences developed to describe the physical features of the earth such as Geology, Pedology, Oceanography Botany Zoology and Meteorology & Cultural features of the earth such as Economics, History, Sociology Political Science, Anthropology.

How does Geography differ from other subjects?

Geography differs from other subjects in terms of matter and methodology.

Geography derives its data from Social Sciences and Natural Sciences.

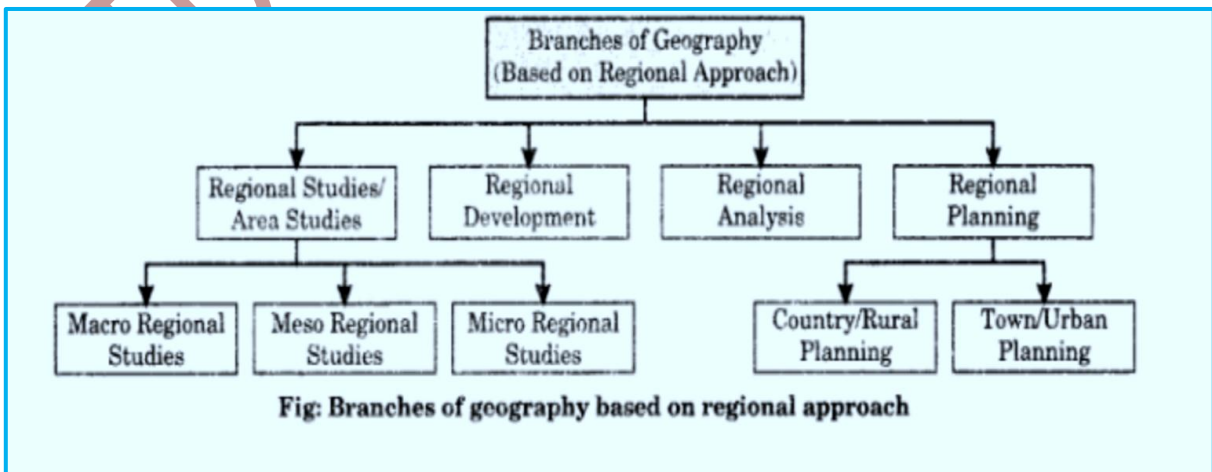
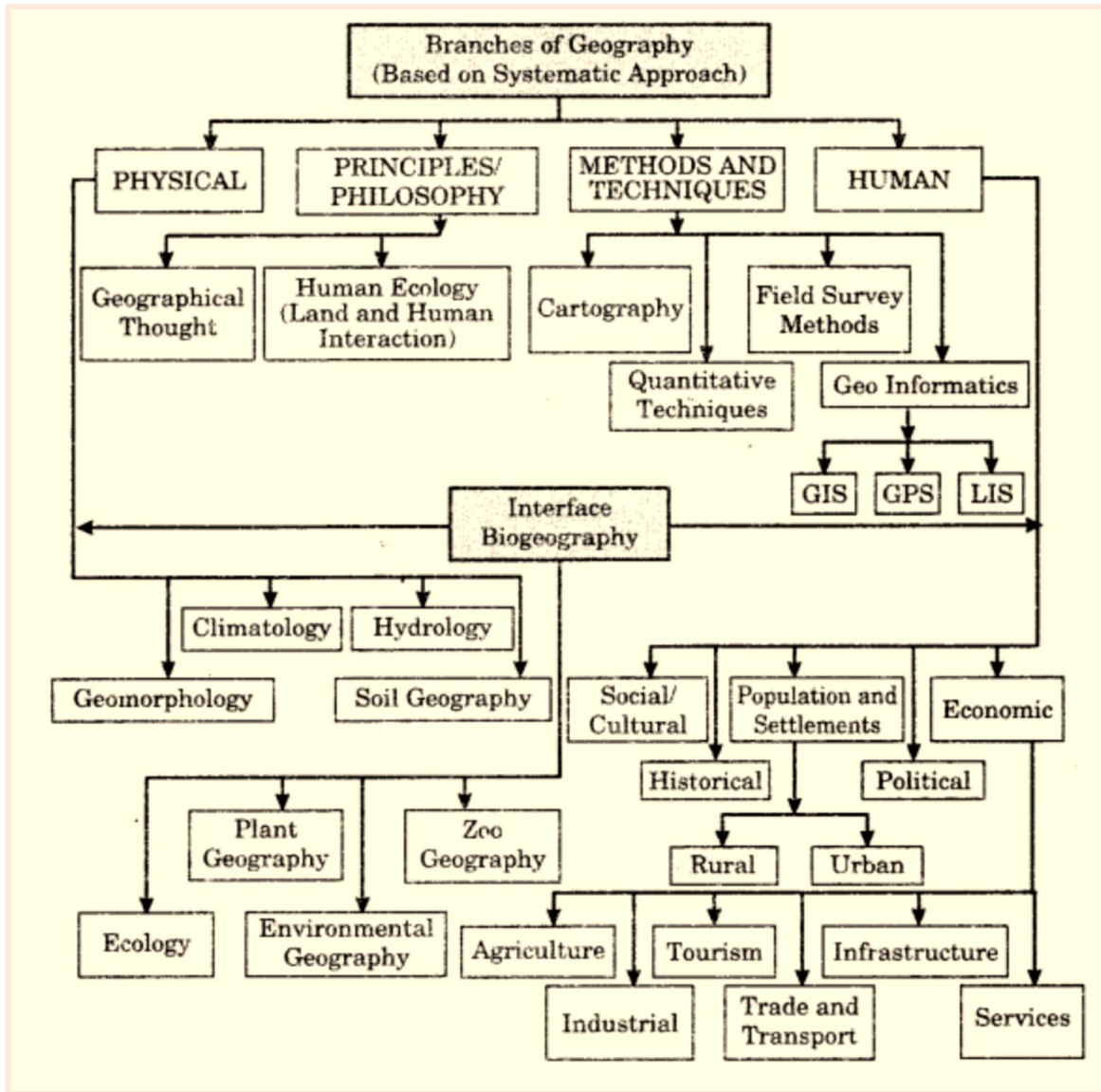


Fig: Branches of geography based on regional approach

What do you mean by 'areal differentiation'?

- Areal differentiation represents one of the classic philosophical approaches to geographic inquiry.
- A central concept of areal differentiation is that the surface of the earth may be divided into regions, which may be distinguished and categorised using various spatial criteria.
- Thus, areal differentiation provides the theoretical foundation for regional geography, by conceptualising space as consisting of identifiable units that may be distinguished from one another on the basis of a set of phenomena or criteria.
- When there is similarity and dissimilarity among the physical and cultural features on the earth surface, it is called aerial differentiation.

What do Geographers study?

- A geographer is a scholar whose area of study is geography, the study of Earth's natural environment and human society.
- They study the variations and association of the features on the earth surface e.g. Cropping pattern differs from place to place and it is due to difference in the climate, soil, demand, transport facility, capacity of the farmer.
- A geographer also studies the cause and effect relationships.

- The interaction between man and nature is highly dynamic and not static; so it is also called as the study of the relation between unstable earth and untrusting man.

What is the relation between man and nature?

- Humans are sophisticated and evolved animals who have modified the natural environment to make it suitable for living.
- While human dependency on nature has been decreased over the process of evolution, people still demonstrate many forms of nature contentedness.
- This includes emotional attachment to nature, perception of themselves as a part of nature, and activities aimed at nature protection.
- Human is an integral part of nature and nature has imprints of man.

What is the effect of nature on man?

- Being in nature, or even viewing scenes of nature, reduces anger, fear, and stress and increases pleasant feelings.
- Exposure to nature not only makes you feel better emotionally, it contributes to your physical well being, reducing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension, and the production of stress hormones.
- It may even reduce mortality. Food clothing, shelter and occupation of man are decided by the nature.

How does technology help man?

- to loosen the shackles of the physical conditions.
- to develop resources and utilise them.
- to reach the higher needs of the life. It increased the production of the crops& mobility of labor.

How can we say that Geography is an integrated discipline?

- It is a discipline of synthesis; it includes spatial and temporal synthesis.
- Its approach is holistic in nature.
- It recognizes the fact that the world is a system of interdependence.
- The present world is a global village.
- The efficient transport and communication helped the world to become unified village.
- The audiovisual media helped the data to be enriched. Technology provided better chances of monitoring natural phenomena as well as the economic and social parameters.
- Geography as an integrating discipline has interface with numerous natural and social sciences.

What is the basic objective of Sciences & Social Sciences?

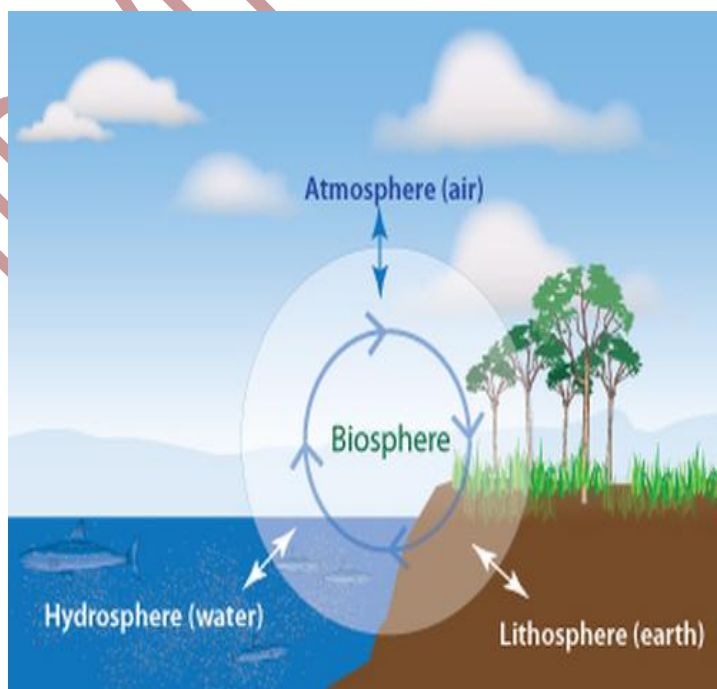
- The basic aim of Science and Social Science is to understand the reality of the nature.

How do other subjects help Geography as an integrated subject?

- History helps in knowing the man-made activities;
- Physics helps to calculate the effect of climate on man.
- Economics helps to understand the effect of human activities on the development of the country.
- The geographical factors modified the course of history.
- The change in the climate has influence on the occupation.

What is the importance of PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY?

- Physical geography includes study of Lithosphere, Atmosphere, Hydrosphere & Biosphere- each element is very important for human beings.



- Landforms provide base for agriculture, industries, transport and communication, and settlements. Mountains provide water to rivers,
- forests-center for tourist spots.

- -Climate influences on the cropping pattern, livestock, food and clothes of the people.
- Climate and precipitation influence the type of forests. Oceans provide food, water transport, and influence the climate; they are the source of hydrological cycle.

(i) Geomorphology is devoted to the study of land forms, their evolution and related processes.

(ii) Climatology encompasses the study of structure of atmosphere and elements of weather and climates and climatic types and regions.

(iii) Hydrology studies the realm of water over the surface of the earth including oceans, lakes, rivers and other water bodies and its effect on different life forms including human life and their activities.

(iv) Soil Geography is devoted to study the processes of soil formation, soil types, their fertility status, distribution and use.