

D.N.R.COLLEGE(AUTONOMOUS), BHIMAVARAM

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

HUMANT GEOGRAPHY

E- CONTENT

K.SOMAYYA

LECTURER IN GEOGRAPHY

UNIT I: Nature, Scope, and Historical Development of Human Geography

Nature and Scope of Human Geography:

- Human Geography is the study of the relationship between humans and their environments.
- It focuses on patterns and processes that shape human interaction with the natural environment and human spaces.

Scope:

- Includes cultural geography, economic geography, political geography, and urban geography.
- Examines spatial distribution of populations, human activities, and how these interact with the environment.

Historical Development:

- **Ancient Period:** Early Greek and Roman scholars like Herodotus and Strabo described the known world and its people.
- **Medieval Period:** Islamic scholars like Al-Idrisi and Ibn Khaldun made significant contributions.
- **Modern Period:** Emergence of systematic geography in the 19th century with scholars like Carl Ritter and Alexander von Humboldt.
- **Contemporary Period:** Emphasis on quantitative methods, spatial analysis, and the impact of globalization.

Division of Mankind:

- **Race:** Classification based on physical characteristics such as skin color, facial features, and genetic traits.
- **Tribes in India:**
 - **Major Tribes:** Bhils, Gonds, Santhals, Todas, Nagas, etc.

- **Distribution:** Tribes are primarily found in central, eastern, and northeastern India.
- **Characteristics:** Unique cultural practices, languages, and lifestyles.

UNIT II: Human Adaptation to the Environment

Adaptation in Different Regions:

- **Cold Region - Eskimos:**
 - **Location:** Arctic regions (Greenland, Canada, Alaska).
 - **Adaptation:** Igloos for shelter, hunting seals and whales, clothing made from animal skins.
- **Hot Region - Bushmen:**
 - **Location:** Kalahari Desert (Southern Africa).
 - **Adaptation:** Nomadic lifestyle, hunting and gathering, knowledge of desert plants and animals.
- **Plateau Region - Gonds:**
 - **Location:** Central India (Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh).
 - **Adaptation:** Shifting cultivation, dependence on forest resources, traditional tribal governance.
- **Mountain Region - Gujjars:**
 - **Location:** Himalayan region (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh).
 - **Adaptation:** Transhumance (seasonal migration), livestock rearing, living in temporary shelters.

UNIT III: Resources

Meaning, Nature, and Components of Resources:

- **Meaning:** Resources are materials or substances that can be used to produce goods and services.

- **Nature:** Resources can be natural (provided by nature) or human-made (created through human effort).
- **Components:** Include energy, raw materials, water, land, and human resources.

Classification of Resources:

- **Renewable Resources:** Can be replenished naturally (e.g., solar energy, wind energy, forests).
- **Non-renewable Resources:** Finite and cannot be replenished within a human timescale (e.g., fossil fuels, minerals).
- **Biotic Resources:** Derived from living organisms (e.g., forests, animals).
- **Abiotic Resources:** Non-living resources (e.g., minerals, water).
- **Recyclable Resources:** Can be reprocessed and reused (e.g., metals, paper).
- **Non-recyclable Resources:** Cannot be reused once consumed (e.g., fossil fuels).

UNIT IV: Population Geography

Distribution and Density of World Population:

- **Distribution:** Uneven, with high concentrations in Asia, Europe, and parts of Africa.
- **Density:** Number of people per unit area, varies widely across regions.

Population Growth:

- Influenced by birth rates, death rates, and migration.
- **Patterns:** Rapid growth in developing countries, stable or declining in developed countries.

Fertility and Mortality Patterns:

- **Fertility:** Average number of children born to a woman over her lifetime.
 - Influences: Cultural, economic, social factors.
- **Mortality:** Number of deaths in a population.
 - Influences: Healthcare, nutrition, living conditions.

Concepts of Population:

- **Overpopulation:** When the number of people exceeds the capacity of the environment to support life at a decent standard of living.
- **Underpopulation:** When there are too few people to fully utilize the resources of an area.
- **Optimum Population:** The ideal number of people that can sustainably use the resources of an area without depleting them.

Population Theories:

- **Malthusian Theory:** Proposed by Thomas Malthus, suggests that population growth is exponential while food production is linear, leading to inevitable shortages and famines unless controlled by moral restraint or disasters.

UNIT V: Settlements

Rural Settlements:

- **Meaning:** Communities located in non-urban areas.
- **Classification:**
 - **Clustered:** Homes and buildings are close together.
 - **Dispersed:** Homes and buildings are spread out.
 - **Linear:** Homes and buildings are arranged along a road, river, or valley.

Types of Rural Settlements:

- **Hamlets:** Small clusters of houses with a small population.
- **Villages:** Larger than hamlets, with more facilities and infrastructure.

Urban Settlements:

- **Origin:** Developed from trade, defense, and administrative centers.
- **Classification:**
 - **Metropolis:** Large city with extensive economic, political, and cultural activities.
 - **Towns:** Smaller than cities, serve as local economic and administrative centers.

Population Pressure, Resource Use, and Environmental Degradation:

- **Population Pressure:** High population density leading to overuse of resources.
- **Resource Use:** Efficient use vs. exploitation leading to depletion.
- **Environmental Degradation:** Pollution, deforestation, loss of biodiversity due to human activities.