

Social Geography

Pre Ph.d Course

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Social Geography : Definitions

Problem of all encompassing definition

1. The identification of different regions of earth surface according to associations of social phenomenon related to total environment. (Watson, 1957)
2. The study of the patterns and processes (required) in understanding socially defined populations in a spatial setting (Pahl, 1965)
3. The study of the areal (spatial) patterns and functional relations of social groups in the context of their social environment; the internal structure and external relations of the nodes of social activity , and the articulation of various channels of social communication (Buttimer, 1968)

4. The analysis of the social patterns and processes arising from the distribution of and access to scarce resources and examination of societal causes of and suggested solutions to social and environmental problems (Jones, 1974).

The understanding of the patterns which arise from the use social groups make of space as they see it, and of the processes involved in making and changing such patterns. (Jones, 1975).

5. Stressed structure relations in the analysis of social problems .. Analysis based on interrelated material reality and social contradictions this produces which are seen as the motive force for change , and thus responsible for the development of problems like different level of living conditions (Asheim, 1979)

the study of consumption whether by or by groups (Johnston, 1981)

- It is an interactionist perspective which aims to uncover how social structure is defined and maintained through social interaction , and which studies how social life is constituted geographically through the spatial structure of social relations (Jackson and Smith, 1984)

Social Geography – Nature and Growth

- The sub-discipline that examines the social contexts, social processes and group relations that shape space, place, nature and landscape. (Derek Gregory, et al 2009)
- The generality of this definition indicates both the breadth of social geography and changing emphases through time, across various paradigms and also in different national traditions.
- In France, for example, social geography has sometimes been regarded as having the range of human geography itself, while in Germany it was often associated more narrowly with the landscape indicators school.

Social Geography

- Three abiding theoretical concerns in the sub-discipline have been the
- Relationship between spatial pattern and social process;
- Question of determinism and human agency; and
- Engagement with a range of geographical scales

Early Emphasis

- Following the practice of human geography itself, early work in social geography was dominated by an emphasis on landscape form and spatial pattern. Innovative voices urging that
- intellectual labour should move beyond descriptive pattern studies to explanatory process included Wreford Watson's seminal chapter (1957), Max Sorre's (1957) productive engagement with French sociology, and Emrys Jones' impressive monograph (1960) on the development of social areas in Belfast.

Early Emphasis

Ironically, the new paradigm of spatial analysis in the 1960s did not significantly advance the explanatory ambitions of social geography but, rather, reinforced the emphasis on pattern by borrowing from human ecology to establish more rigorous quantitative descriptions of segregation patterns and classifications of social areas.

While often sophisticated, only rarely did this work move into issues of explanation – as, for example, in Peach's (1996) important research on ethnicity and immigration, as he considered economic and discriminatory explanations of segregation and, in earlier work, the restricted social interaction that was associated with maps of social segregation.

Shift in 1970s

Akin to geomorphology's transition from form to process, social geography moved decisively into process studies in the 1970s with two significant developments. The first was David Harvey's (1973) paradigm-shaking discovery of Marxist theory, leading to his claim that capitalism was the root cause of social-spatial distributions, and the two-class system was the fundamental expression of social groups, a research programme that has helped to shape a continuing and vital critical tradition in social geography.

In contrast to such a political economy, the second development was a humanism that emphasized the experience and construction of place, seeking inspiration from a range of theoretical and philosophical sources (Jackson and Smith, 1984).

- Humanism was not incompatible with some forms of Marxism, as work in historical geography made clear, but contemporary humanistic approaches were much more attentive to issues of experience, identity and human agency in placemaking (Buttimer and Seamon, 1980)

They also continued earlier resistance to environmental determinism, though by the 1970s the economic environment had replaced the physical environment as the privileged context of human action.

By the 1990s, social constructionism had become a dominant position, and several important monographs used it to good effect (e.g. Anderson, 1991b), though sometimes risking a newer social determinism.

Humanistic and qualitative research were much more attuned to ethnographic and micro-scale studies, and attempts were made to effect a theoretical convergence between agency and structure and the micro- and macro-scale, notably in the short-lived structuration perspective.

While that scaffolding has largely fallen away, the best work today continues to attempt to marry agency and structure, and micro- and macro-scale processes (e.g. Duncan and Duncan, 2004b; Mitchell, 2004a).

A number of authors have associated the explosive growth of social geography following the social movements of the 1965–75 period with the newly awakened desire for relevance in human geography. Aside from the theoretical issues noted above, what was at stake was also a liberal impulse towards social welfare and, for some, social activism wide range of research topics came under scrutiny, beneath the initial rubric of geographies of social problems (Herbert and Smith, 1989).

Some of these, including the geography of crime and policing (e.g. Herbert, 1997), and especially health geography (Gatrell, 2002), are becoming sub-disciplines in their own right.

Other significant research topics include poverty and deprivation, social polarization and social exclusion, education, housing and, in the consumer age of neoliberalism, geographies of leisure, tourism, sport and consumption.

In David Smith's work, a challenging progression has taken place from a consideration of welfare and social justice to a more philosophical, but still activist, examination of moral geographies and an ethic of care (Smith, 2000a).

The stratification of society in contemporary social geography follows topical as well as theoretical categories. Class, variously defined, remains a major line of demarcation, but it is far from alone. race and ethnicity have been a significant focus of attention, particularly with the growing cultural diversity in gateway cities in the global north accompanying migration and refugee streams from the global south.

Geographers have completed research on such topics as segregation and integration, immigrant reception and racism, transnationalism and multiculturalism as a governance policy (e.g. Anderson, 1991b; Peach, 1996a).

Feminist geographers have affected the field as a whole (Pratt, 2004), engaging structures of patriarchy and diverse expressions of gender and sexuality, among other topics. But class, race and gender are not the only divisions recognized in society by social geographers.

The life-cycle offers its own distinctive groupings, with studies of childhood, youth and the elderly, as well as varied family configurations (e.g. Aitken, 2001)

Among cultural attributes, both religious status and aboriginal status are experiencing revived emphasis as sources of group formation (see aboriginality; religion).

Disability studies have attracted a small but active scholarship on the spatial experience of differently abled groups (Park, Radford and Vickers, 1998). In short, the range of the social is substantial, and the postmodern attention to multiple and decentred identities in cities of difference ensures continuing multiplication of the social groups of interest to social geographers (Fincher and Jacobs, 1998).

- Institutions, too, are social formations with particular rules, hierarchies and cultures, and the return of institutional approaches in the social sciences has encouraged more systematic study of the involvement of public and private corporations in shaping people and place (e.g. Herbert, 1997; Ley, 2003b), reinvigorating the managerial or gatekeeper approach to place-making of the 1970s.

Social geography experienced a second period of expansion in the 1990s, benefiting from the renewal and expansion of cultural geography. Indeed, the boundaries of the two sub-disciplines are blurred, and strict demarcation neither possible nor necessary.

Today, social geography ranges widely – indeed, some might say, too widely. Like geomorphology, the preoccupation with process has sometimes led some distance from recognizable geographies of space, place, landscape or nature.

Another trend has been the remarkable diffusion of qualitative methods as the primary and often exclusive methodology of social geography.

There would seem to be advantages to more methodological diversity to make use of large national surveys and databases that require modest quantitative skills, thereby offering a triangulation of methods that extends the range of research outcomes.

These qualifications aside, social geography as a sub-discipline has entered the new millennium with considerable energy and momentum, if perhaps a less coherent subject matter.

Social Geography: Unique Geographical Settings of India

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ORIGINS

- India has glaring diversities – social, cultural
- Roots in past – South Asian sub continent passed through stages of evolution
- Communities passed through stages of distribution and redistribution within broader physical framework
- Different ecologies – some invited incursions , some repulsed
- Open River valleys faced repeated incursions

Origins

- Bordering Rimlands – *Hilly Terrain/ Deserts/Forests "Refuge Zones/Cul de Sac"*
- Historical/Archeological Evidences of Tiered Pattern in the Spatial arrangement of cultures
- Social Geographical Interpretation of this phenomenon reveal relation of physical and cultural regions.
- Archeologists/Historians – F J Richards, M Wheeler, Subbarao , Tonybee , O H K Spate
- India – Mosaic of Regions
- Geographical Factors help in understanding social cultural diversity

- Some Areas Like River Valleys – Areas of Social Perennial Attraction"
- Inviting Alluvial plains
- Spatial Segments of Typology of Regions
- (i) Areas of attraction or Perennial Nuclear Regions
- (ii) Areas of Isolation or *Cul de Sac*
- (iii) Areas of Relative Isolation
- Concepts of Perennial Nuclear Regions and Cul de sac / Refuge Zones

***Tribes of India -
Social Formations, Definition &
Spatial Distribution***

Social Geography Pre Ph.d. Course batch 2019-2020

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Tribes of India

- *Indian society displays a very high degree of social and ethnic diversity. Contemporary Indian Society may be seen as comprising two mutually exclusive and differentiated social categories – a caste based social order with an implicit social hierarchy and a tribal segment. Centuries of shared history have facilitated and promoted interaction between the caste based peasant society and in the tribes. However the two groups have retained their intrinsic characteristics in terms of social organisation and modes of production.*

Tribes of India – Facets

- *The word tribe in Indian context have multiple facets. Broadly two groups of facets can be discussed – (i) first is ethnic (social- cultural , (ii) second is constitutional (administrative and political , which is related to definitional or constitutional status as Scheduled tribes).*
- *A certain number of ethnically differentiated communities have been brought under the purview of particular schedule of the Indian Constitution. However, academicians question the definitional aspects of tribes. Do the Indian Jan- Jatis or the scheduled tribes conform to a set of scientifically defined criteria recognised by the anthropologists all over the world as the distinctive traits of a tribal social formation*

- *Most of the tribal groups have moved up from the state of primordial tribalism in the course of centuries of social evolution, punctuated by cultural contacts with the peasant communities, themselves former tribes, who were gradually assimilated into the agrarian mode of production.*
- *Academicians argue that on the theoretical plane it may be necessary to distinguish between the tribes as a category perceived on the basis of a classical tribal paradigm and the scheduled tribes of the modern Indian state. Developing the definition of a tribe according to the classical paradigm may also be necessary to remove some of the misgivings which are likely to exist on the subject.*

Scheduled Tribes

- Article 366 (25) of the Constitution of India refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities,
- who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. This Article says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be considered to be Scheduled Tribes.
- The list of Scheduled Tribes is State/ UT specific and a community declared as a Scheduled

- Tribe in a State need not be so in another State. The inclusion of a community as a Scheduled Tribe is an ongoing process. The essential characteristics, first laid down by the Lokur Committee, for a community to be identified as Scheduled Tribes are –
- a) indications of primitive traits; b) distinctive culture; c) shyness of contact with the community at large; d) geographical isolation; and e) backwardness.

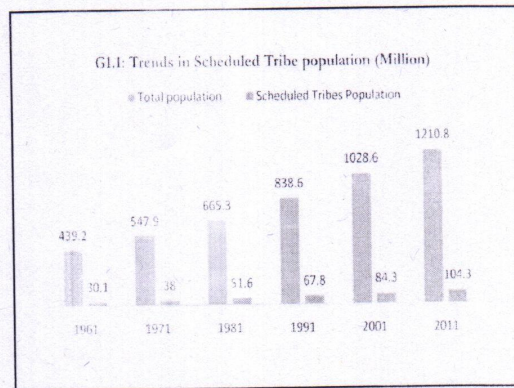
Tribal society - characteristics

- Tribal communities live, in various ecological and climatic conditions ranging from plains and forests to hills and inaccessible areas. Tribal groups are at different stages of social, economic and educational development. While some tribal communities have adopted a mainstream way of life, at the other end of the spectrum, there are certain Scheduled Tribes, 75 in number known as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), who are characterised by:- a) pre-agriculture level of technology; b) stagnant or declining population; c) extremely low literacy; and d) subsistence level of economy.

Distribution of Tribes

- The Scheduled Tribes are notified in 30 States/UTs and the number of individual ethnic groups, etc. notified as Scheduled Tribes is 705. The tribal population of the country, as per 2011 census, is 10.43 crore, constituting 8.6% of the total population. 89.97% of them live in rural areas and 10.03% in urban areas. The decadal population growth of the tribal's from Census 2001 to 2011 has been 23.66% against the 17.69% of the entire population. The sex ratio for the overall population is 940 females per 1000 males and that of Scheduled Tribes 990 females per thousand males.

- Table 1.1 in the detailed section shows a comparative picture of the populations of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and All Categories for Male, Female and Total for Census Years 2001 and 2011. As per 2011 Census Scheduled Caste population in the country is nearly double of the Scheduled Tribe population.

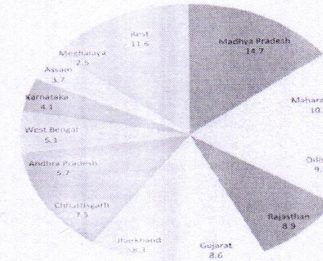


Tribal Population Distribution

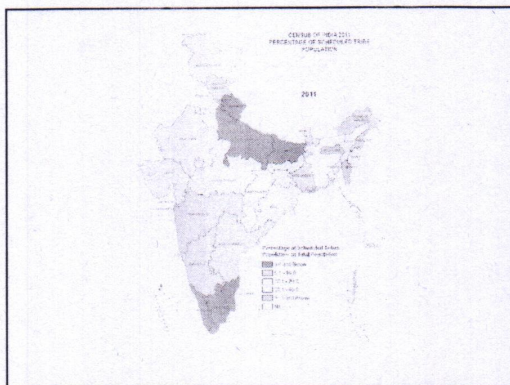
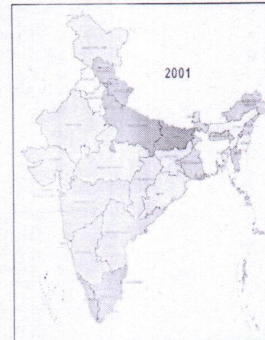
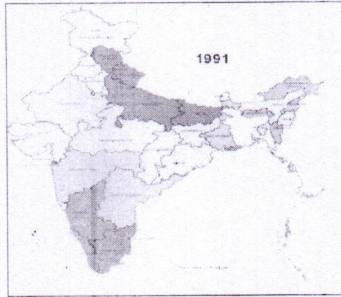
- Broadly the STs inhabit two distinct geographical area – the Central India and the North- Eastern Area. More than half of the Scheduled Tribe population is concentrated in Central India, i.e., Madhya Pradesh (14.69%), Chhattisgarh (7.5%), Jharkhand (8.29%), Andhra Pradesh (5.7%), Maharashtra (10.08%), Orissa (9.2%), Gujarat (8.55%) and Rajasthan (8.86%). The other distinct area is the North East (Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh).

The Graph below shows the states' share of ST population out of India's ST population:

G1.2: Distribution of Scheduled Tribe Population by States - 2011 (In %)



The Maps below (released by Registrar General of India in May 2013), show the State-wise Percentage of the Scheduled Tribe Population in Census 1991, 2001 and 2011.

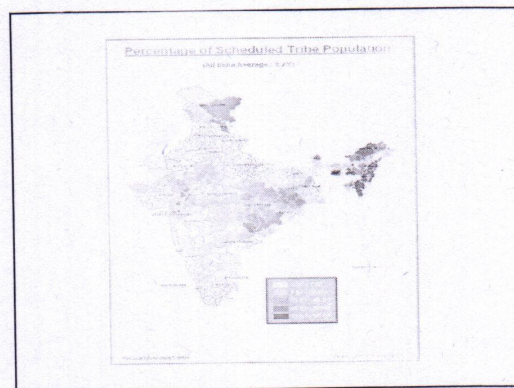


Spatial Distribution

- It can be seen from the Graphs and the Maps that more than two-third of the ST population is concentrated only in the seven States of the country, viz. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. There is no ST population in 3 States (Delhi NCR, Punjab and Haryana) and 2 UTs (Puducherry and Chandigarh), as no Scheduled Tribe is notified.
- Among States, Mizoram has the highest proportion of Scheduled Tribes(94.43) and Uttar Pradesh has the lowest proportion of Scheduled Tribes (0.57). 17 States and 2 UTs have higher percentage of ST population than country's average of 8.6%.

District level population of Scheduled Tribes:

- At the district level, there are 75 districts where ST population is 50 per cent or more as per the 2001 Census. Out of these 75 districts, 41 districts are in 8 North Eastern States. All the districts in Mizoram, Meghalaya and Nagaland have more than 60% of ST Population.
- Out of 13 districts in Arunachal Pradesh, 9 districts have more than 50 % of ST population. 25 districts in the country have more than 90% of ST population. • Out of 6380 CD blocks, 716 blocks have more than 50% of ST population.



- As per Census 2011, 49 districts in the country have more than 75% of ST population. At the district level, 2011 Census reveals that there are 90 districts where ST population is 50 per cent or more. As per Census 2001, this number was 75 districts. Out of these 90 districts, 48 districts are in 8 North Eastern States. All the districts in Mizoram, Meghalaya and Nagaland have more than 60% of ST Population.
- States/UTs and the Districts with highest and lowest %age of Scheduled Tribes: Among States Mizoram (94.43) has highest proportion of STs and Uttar Pradesh the lowest (0.57). Among UTs, Lakshadweep with 94.8 percent of ST Population ranks first and Daman & Diu has the lowest proportion of STs (6.32). With respect to districts, Kurung Komey district of Arunachal Pradesh has the highest proportion of Scheduled Tribes (98.58) and Kannauj in Uttar Pradesh has the lowest proportion of Scheduled Tribes (0.0009).

References

- Statistical Profile of India 2013, Ministry of Tribal Affairs; Government of India.

EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY IN ANGLO-SAXON SCHOOL

- the discipline of social geography has received interest since 1945 when the world's different nations were trying to ensure their presence whether economically, politically or socially.
- Although social Geography is quite recent in its evolution however the idea can be seen having a great reflection of possibilist paradigm.
- It is observed that up to 1945 social Geography was confined within identifying regions with spatial patterns in association with social phenomena.
- up to 20s and 30s of 20th century the agenda was only up to study of population as organised in settlements specially in urban areas. The reason can be attributed to the most of anglo-saxon population concentrated in urban areas.

Cont..

- It was the time when the focus was on the study of social Geography related to the study of population distribution and ethnic composition in urban areas as a major trend.
- when we look at the trend in 50s it was the study social phenomena created and generated by human and the complex patterns arising out of them.
- Later availability of area specific data and quantification made social Geography to employ new techniques. Also during this phase the trend of studying and focusing cities as the area of interest was continuing.
- "social area analysis" was the main focus during this period.

Cont..

- As far as the social geography of Western world is concerned it was in great influence with the political happening of contemporary world e.g Vietnam War, poverty and social inequality within the United States.
- Now since 1960 the progress of Social Science acquired three main parts
- 1. a welfare humanistic School whose major emphasis was on social well-being as expressed in terms of indicators like housing, health and other issues coming under welfare economics.
- 2. A radical school which tried to implement Marxian theory which could explain the basic causes of poverty and social inequality.
- 3. a phenomenological school which pays special attention to the lived experience and the perception of the heterogeneous population in terms of ethnicity race and religion.

Cont...

- further in the development of Anglo Saxon American school a new term "social physics" gets a face which implies that analogies can be drawn between human behaviour and physical world.
- August Comte adopted an approach that principles of physics for mechanics can be applied on human societies as well.
- Stewart and William Wamitz developed field of macro Geography based on social physics.
- apart from all the issues discussed, the concept of social well-being has been an important part of Western social Geography especially those schools who pursued social welfare approach.

Growth and pathways of Social Geography in India

- There has been a late arrival of social Geography on the Indian academic platform and reason can be attributed to lesser exchange of the subject across the other disciplines.
- Although the involvement of great Scholars time to time in terms of touching the interdisciplinary side of subject has been great contribution.
- Since independence the first generation of Indian geographers to be named are:
 - George Kurian
 - SP Chatterjee assembly
 - S M Ali
 - CD Deshpande
 - V L S Prakasarao
 - V S Ganannathan.

Cont...

- In the 70s of 20th century the centre for the study of regional development at JNU came up as a new centre where open discussion could be spotted of interdisciplinary nature.
- S M Ali's reconstruction of *Janpadas* is a great example of interdisciplinary research.
- The series of ethnographic studies of the people of India for difficult parts of the country form the substantial base for the cross-country comparisons in a social Geographical context.
- Later Munish Raza with associates in 1961 and 1971 published an "Atlas of tribal India".
- Another treatise in social Geography by A B Mukherjee's "chamars of Uttar Pradesh" is remarkable.
- The branch of sociology which was known as political sociology was a critical interest of socio-geographical interests of India.

CONT...

- The major centres in India which provided a platform to flourish social geography and its equated other disciplines are
 - "Centre for the study of regional development, JNU"
 - department of Geography at several universities such as Punjab, Pune, Mysore, and Bhu.
- There has been also studies related to linguistic diversity and also special aspects of language distribution have attracted many scholars

NUCLEAR PERENNIAL REGION
(as explained by O H K SPATE)

- The emergence of some nuclear regions or bases of power which are perennially significant in Indian historical geography.
- Gandhar in the Vale of Peshawar and Potwar.
- Sapta Sindhu narrowed down to the Punjab, i.e. 7 rivers to 5, Kurukshetra, Delhi or satluj- Yamuna doab Panchal in the Yamuna Ganga doab and Rohilkhand, Saurashtra and Gujarat four great kingdoms already apparent in Magadhan times.
- In the Dravidian South the pattern is more confused but not without some relatively permanent pieces in the dynastic kaleidoscope
- The Kalinga country or Odisha, Andhra- the Telugu country, the Chola and Pandya Kingdom in Tamil country, Kerala or Malabar the isolated Southwest littoral.

CONT...

- there are course many smaller areas which have reserved a historic individuality for example Bundelkhand Chhattisgarh Konkan and Canara.
- some areas again have been debatable marches such as Khandesh between Narmada and Tapi or the Raichur doab between Tungabhadra and Krishna

NUCLEAR PERENNIAL REGION (as explained by B.Subbarao)

- we can easily define the regions and their foci.
- bounded by the Aravallis in the desert of Rajputana in the East and the Sulaiman and Kirthar ranges in the west is the Indus basin draining the central Himalayas.
- this can be roughly subdivided at the point where the hills from the west and the desert in the east converge near Buguti country, into the lower and the upper, corresponding to Sindh and Punjab respectively.
- beginning with Delta where the aravallis converge towards Himalayas, the gangetic basin runs east from the narrow divide.
- on its southern flank lies the vindhyan complex.
- the lower Delta region of Ganges, as it leaves the wind in complex, is Bengal.

Cont...

- The lower basins of these two great rivers constitutes Andhra, the southern part of Krishna basin more or less constituting the rocky triangle formed by the eastern and the Western Ghats viz. the Mysore plateau is Karnataka.
- At its southern end, it is drained by river Kaveri.
- Beginning from the construction of Nagar Hills and Pulicat Lake, and running wide along the east coast of Taminadu.
- The narrow coastal plain on either side of Palghat gap in the Western Ghats is Kerala.
- The valley of the Mahanadi surrounded by Hills and plateau constitutes Orissa.
- The northern part of the West Coast and the peninsular of Saurashtra abutting on the desert of Rajputana is Gujarat.

Cul-de-sac or Refuge Zones (in terms of India)

11/10/2020

- The region which can be considered as the "Melting Pot" of different cultures which provides an ideal condition for the same by the presence of wide inviting:
 - Alluvial Plains
 - the tropical monsoon forests
 - Southern Peninsular plateau studded with Hills.
- some eminent examples can be listed as:
 - Rajputana Gondwana (west of Aravalli hills)
 - Bastar plateau
 - Sub Himalayan rivers valleys of Chenab, Sutlej and Beas
 - Kashmir
 - Ladakh
 - Uplands of Arunachal Pradesh to Lucia
 - Chittagong Hills.