

Approaches to the Study of Social Geography

Introduction: It is to be remembered that the subject deals with people in society. The theories related to human societies can be divided into broad categories: namely Holistic and Action Oriented. The Holistic group of theories considers society as a whole, while the action oriented ones examine the role of individuals or groups who constitute society.

There are three approaches of social geography. They are -

① Holistic approaches, ② Action approaches and ③ Group approaches.

1. Holistic approaches :- It is of -

course, found that the social geographers in the past relied more on holistic deterministic and Holistic possibilistic approaches. In the holistic approach the whole society of an area is taken as a unit. A common example of the holistic approach the deterministic approach is to consider the society of a monsoon land

②

as a society of subsistent cultiva-
 -tors. In the holistic possibilistic
 approach we refer to the actions of
 the society of an area and their
 influence on environment. The
 deliberations here are especially
 on those actions which have contribu-
 -ted to creating congenial conditions
 for human life.

② Action Research: Oriented
Approach :- This type of approach
 is concerned with the action and
 interaction of the groups and indivi-
 -duals with such an approach how-
 -ever we have to be careful of
 psychologism. An example of psycho-
 -logism is to consider that the desire
 to own house is product of mental
 insecurity. Here, the truth is not as
 ascertained but only assumed. Thus,
 we must be aware of the dangers of
 attributing action to psychological
 factors. It is essentially a problem of
 behavioural geography. In anycase,
 however interesting the study of some
 groups or individuals attributed and
 activities may be such an approach
 provides us with an assemblage of huge
 amount of behavioural and social data
 which it would be different to analyse
 and structures.

(3)

(3) Group Approach : Emrys

Jones, prof. of Geog., London School of Economics and John Eyles of Queen Mary college, London have put forward a new approach which they named group approach. This produces a social framework. That is a meaningful categorisation of a population at and at the same time it provides sufficient detail to form the basis of a useful analysis.

There are two types of group approaches. They are —

- ① Primary group approach
- ② Secondary group approach

Secondary group approaches also sub divided into two three groups. They are —

- ① Ascribed Group Approach
- ② Expressive Group Approach
- ③ Materialist Group Approach

Approaches of Social Geog. has been shown diagrammatically in below —

(4)

Approaches of Social Geography

