

A comprehensive study of an empiricist philosophy in Regional Geography

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Abstract: Geography essentially studies man-environment relationship as developed in different locations on the surface of the form of an assemblage of interrelated phenomena. The Earth's nature itself plays a great part in determining the type of life which develops in a particular area. Theocratic geography is to understand various phenomena, which observable in the earth relation to their underlying purposes. Spatial distribution describes objects that categories objects in statistical information of particular areas. Each spatial distribution is made up of objects that are similar to each made up of objects that are similar to each other. Earth's phenomena analyses and rationally described in relation to place, localization and distribution. Geographical patterns of many phenomena compared one with another to bring the characteristic features of the place, serve to establish its geographical unity and individuality. Man has greater freedom of choice among the opportunities that the environment offers to him and this has made the study of the problem of location more different because it is more complex. Present study carried empiricist philosophy by using different conceptual views.

Key Words: Man- environment relationship, Theocratic geography, Spatial distribution, Geographical patterns, Gaseous masses.

1. INTRODUCTION:

In the 1950s, geographers describe an empiricist philosophy, which places emphasis on depiction of the observed world. The analysis studied from the 18th century geographers in Germany, leading ultimately to a revolution as regards thinking on regions the end of the 19th Century by the works of Paul Vidal de la Blache and the French school of geography. The map makes the work of the geographer easier, since it shows them the earth as composed of a set of more or less homogeneous areas. Describing regions requires precise aerial data.

When such information is lacking, geographers try to establish systematic correspondence between the points and lines they know, and the areas in which they are located. The aim of thematic cartography is to offer a synthetic image of various data (Palsky, 1996). Topographical forms, the nature of vegetation, climate or soils, and more generally, the environment; a geological outcrop, historical territorial constructs, forms of sociability, economic activities are grown up. Paul Vidal De La Blache concentrates the true regional revolution that occurred during the first of the 20th century. He developed more research both physical and human geography, and relied on their results. The regional revolution was mainly achieved in France. In Germany, the focus on 'Landschaft' gave rise to confusion stemming from the fact that the term meant a landscape and a small regional unit at one and the same time (Hard, 1970). The Geographer, having learnt about the facts, applies his knowledge to his own investigation. Various geographical patterns emerge to study the distribution of geographical fact.

The geographer in contrast is concerned with all the inter-relationships tangible and intangible which have material expressions in the place. In studies of historical geography, the first stage of study, the establishment of the geographical facts receives more attention than in many other geographical works. It is necessary to determine the facts of distribution before discussing the problems of location. This study discussed that, conceptual analysis on uniform and nodal region, spatial distribution with interaction, synthesis, empiricist philosophy of regional geography and trends towards new synthesis. This research paper will helpful to the researcher and academician.

2. HYPOTHESIS

Geography is concerned with the development of knowledge of the Earth as the home of humankind, focusing on the physical environment, on the interaction between physical environment and human society, and on the spatial organization of that society. The following are certain hypothesis, which have been formulated for present study –

1. Regions are not singular, but they are unique.
2. Region is the 'ecological emphases on society-land relation'.
3. Geography discipline is able to testing theories which is explain and predict the spatial distribution and location of various characteristics on the surface of the earth.

3. OBJECTIVES:

- i. To describe uniform and nodal or functional regions.
- ii. To know Areal Differentiation concepts.
- iii. To know spatial distribution as on spatial interaction.
- iv. To know synthesis through new forms of analysis.

4. METHODOLOGY:

For this research paper, secondary data has been used including journals, magazines and reference books. In order to assess education performance to effective planning and designing for decision makers were collected and processed to summarize succeeding pages.

5. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Taylor (1967), he states that, man – environment relationship with the interrelated phenomena, occurring on the surface of the Earth, has been approached in three different ways, as providing three types of geography- Geocratic, Theocratic, We-ocratic type of geography.

R. Johnston (1990), the book on ‘Regional Geography: Current Developments and future prospects’ describes the reinstating of regional geography as a contemporary and relevant methodology. He assesses traditional regional geography and its relevance to the study of contemporary situations. This book concludes by considering the potential of regional geography.

Jean- Bernard Racine and Antoine S. Bailly (1993), his article on ‘Geography and geographical space: towards an epistemology’ concentrates ‘Space as a social product’. Terrestrial space has two facets. First objectives, ecological space (which exists with terrain), resulting from the long evolution of life. The second facet justified the use of the term ‘geographical space’ that has human activity freed from evolution to integrate it into history. The author studies the ‘Geo- system’ a geographical concept which developed an ecosystem into geographical space.

Roger Minshull (2007), in his book on ‘Regional Geography: Theory and Practice’ he described that, the surface of the earth is the only region on which every mankind finds their home. The various geographers studied a diversified environment as a whole. His studies concentrate on ‘aespecial’ or ‘aeregional’ geography. The critics on region in geographic thought how the region is developed and how it is applied. Roger Minshull analysed in detail the concepts of formal and functional city regions in an attempt to clarify it. Regions size, shapes, boundaries and organization that usually form the content of regions are delineated in an attempt to define the nature of regional geography.

6. DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY:

Geography regarded as a science, concerned with the rational development, and testing, of theories that explain and predict the spatial distribution and location of various characteristics on the surface of the earth (Yeates, 1968). It seeks to understand the Earth as the world of man, with particular reference to the differentiation and integration of place.

a) Difference between uniform region and nodal or functional region :

Uniform region consider as an all the features of the physical and societal environment are functionally associated with the human occupance of the Earth. The ‘nodal or functional region’ has the contact relationship between a center and its tributary surrounding the regions; or is an area that is tied functionally to a node or several nodes.

b) Difference between Areal Differentiation and spatial distribution :

Areal differentiation concept is that the phenomena occurring on the Earth’s surface are variable in character, so on the Earth’s surface are variable character, so there are ‘difference in different areas on the surface of the Earth’. ‘Spatial’ describes a particular type of distribution –one that is spread out over a surface, rather than categories objects, such as population distribution. Spatial distribution seeks to formulate empirical generalization or law to treat the spatial distribution of the object or phenomena.

c) Spatial distribution as on spatial interaction :

Spatial distributions are collection of objects in which the objects are of a similar type, with each object having a particular location, a surface. Spatial interaction refers to interdependence between geographic areas. It appears

complementary society environment interdependence within a single area, and it is a major focus of geographic situations. It is also used to interpret the movement of people and ideas between two regions.

d) Synthesis through new forms of analysis :

Geography deals with natural and human sciences. It integrates the materials, which other sciences studied separately, in terms of the areal integrations, which other sciences study separately, in terms of the areal integrations which the heterogeneous phenomena form in different parts of the world. Modern quantitative given up the idea of synthesis, and research workers are specifically concerned in a search for synthesis through new forms of analyses.

I. Empiricist philosophy of Regional Geography

- In the 1950s, geographers adopted an empiricist philosophy, which place emphasis on depiction of the observed world. This discipline provided description of places. By an idea of synthesis implied singular assemblage phenomena into a whole which was not repeated whole.
- Systematic geography and regional geography were to be seen as complementary, with the former providing the general understanding that could be synthesized in the specific unique places.
- Regional geographers are those who synthesized the findings of geomorphologist, climatologist, urban geographers, and so on into an explanation of the nature of a place.
- 1960s, focused on the testing, on the empirical validation of hypothesis. The emphasis was on measurement of the phenomena under consideration and of their empirical coincidences, and on the use of statistical inference to establish the veracity of the hypothesis.

Harvey (1969), attempts to identify six recognisable forms of scientific explanation in geography in the form of general and empirical principles.

1. **Cognitive explanation:** No theory is involved explicitly but, the classification usually follows some pre-determined ideas.
2. **Morphometric explanation:** It leads to predictive and stimulation models. Which studies landscape morphology usually takes the form of cognitive description.
3. **Cause and effect analysis:** It used for developed the assumption that previous causes can explain by observed phenomena. Cause- effect explanation is useful for the analysis of geographical problems.
4. **Temporal modes of explanation:** It is a distinct type of causal analysis. It is better for historical analysis. Temporal modes of explanation are very common in studies of geomorphology and historical geography.
5. **Functionalism and functional explanation:** It is a perspective views the world as a set of differentiated and independent systems. Empirical work in geography construed as functionalism in form, its precepts tended to remain geographical thinking. Functional mode of explanation useful point of departure for the formulation of individual theories and, research into alternative methods for the study of complicated systems and the structures of organizations.
6. **Systems analysis:** It is a methodological framework for investigating the structure and function of systems. It provides a convenient calculus for examining geographical problems in multivariate nature. System analysis used as a methodological tool to build a new form of 'geographical syntheses'.

II. Trends towards 'A new synthesis'

Hagett (1972), attempted to develop 'a new form of synthesis' which proceeds from the traditional division of the subject. He divided the discipline in relation with attempting analyse regional problems into three main groups of analysis:

1. **Spatial analysis:** It deals with the variation in the localization and distribution of a significant phenomena or group phenomena.
2. **Ecological analysis:** It concern with the study of connection between human and environmental variables. It is close with chorology and regional geography which seeks to understand the region as an entity.
3. **Regional complex analysis:** It attempts to combine results of spatial and ecological analysis.

7. CONCLUSION:

A regional geography based on functional regions which appropriate regional units are identified by real regional differences. Complex regional analysis concerns itself with functional regions. Regional geographers are those who synthesised the findings of geomorphologist, climatologist, urban geographers, and so on into an explanation of

the nature of a place. Describing regions requires precise areal data. The systematic and regional geography seen as complementary, with the specific and unique places. Central regionalising principles that lies behind the spatial structure of society. The physical and human geography are clearly differentiated branches of the discipline with separate concepts and methods. A region manifests an intimate relationship between man and nature which has developed an area through the time. Much geographical works in the 1960s focused on the testing, on the empirical validation of hypothesis under consideration and of their empirical statistical inference to establish the veracity of the hypotheses.

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