

Man's Relation to Climate and Landform

2nd and 4th sem both

Landform

CBCS : Human Geography Paper - 2016 : Chapter No 4
Man environment relationship .



4th Sem Major : Human Geography Paper : 402
Man environment relationship .

MAN'S RELATION TO LANDFORM :

Landforms of the earth are primary concern to the human geographer because they exert far-reaching and fundamental influence on the patterns of human activity .

Relief exercises a lasting effect on the economic life of man . Indirectly , the relief of the land affects the economic life , because the production of raw material is dependent on the soil . It also directly limits the industrial progress of any country . In the hilly tracts , agriculture and industries generally do not flourish . The result is that the production of wealth in these tracts is less and therefore only sparse population can be supported .

Major Landforms

All the visible landforms can be grouped into three major types : Mountains , Plains and Plateaus . These are discussed below :

① Ecology of Mountains

of the several types of landforms , mountains are the least hospitable to human culture . The main occupations of people in mountainous tracts are grazing of domestic animals , digging minerals and lumbering .

The mountain ranges are a hindrance of ^{transport &} communication for which these tracts are backward in Trade and commerce . So the



mountains are least attractive for human occupation. Of course, they are a source of valuable mineral products e.g. Chotanagpur Plateau. They are also the source of great Rivers. During the Indo-Chinese war in 1962, The Himalayas played positive role to protect our mother land.

Relation of Mountains Ecology to Man

The ecology of mountains have a very important influence on the human life. The nature of mountain ecology will be considered under the following headings:

1. Sparsely Populated: Meagre and scattered resources are responsible for tiny, scattered settlements in mountains. Food supply controls the distribution of population in hilly regions. Mountain therefore repel (restrict) population by their inaccessibility and also by their harsh condition of life. Mountain regions are as a rule ^{more} sparsely settled than plains. In both the ^{old and} new world ~~the~~ mountain regions are sparsely populated.

2. Importance of Lumbering: The forest belts covers extensive areas of mountains ranges all over the world. The inhabitants of these areas are mostly poor, uneducated and have no option to follow modern economic activity except lumbering, pastoral nomadism etc.



③ Chief sources of forest product:

For a long time the mountains of Himalayas, Chota Nagpur plateau, including peninsular India were our chief source of forest product. Forest based industries like plywood, furniture, Ayurvedic medicine etc. depend on it.

④ Diminishing floods: The mountains as a natural forest reserve have been of high importance to man. To maintain and protect the forest means not merely a continuation of the supply of forest products, but also regulation of the streams that drain the mountain and thereby control flood.

⑤ Mountains as a source of mineral resources:

Through-out the world there is a close relation between mountains and some sorts of minerals wealth. Some kind of valuable mineral may be found away from mountains, such as coal, clays and certain building stones; but with few exceptions, the great mining regions of the world are in mountain areas.

As for example, the USA, Germany shows the relationship of mining to mountains. Iron, coal, petroleum and lesser quantities of other mineral products are found in the Appalachian mountain and the Adirondack (UK). The eroded mountains like Lake Superior, Deccan plateau are the great mining areas.

⑥ Permanent source of power: Mountains are the source of perennial rivers which are source of water power. In the manufacturing, water power is of basic importance.

⑦ Mountains as Natural Boundary: The frequent

use of mountains as natural boundary lines between nations, as in the case of the Himalayas between China and India, Pyrenees between France and Spain and the Andes between Chile and Argentina etc. They are perfect boundaries.

⑧ Effect of mountains on climate: Mountains rising above the ground level have a cooler climate than the surrounding lowlands. The decrease in temperature with increasing altitude cause variation in climate. The effects of mountains on climate are:

a) the influence of precipitation

b) the development of snow fields & glaciers.

and c) the supply of water necessary for forest growth.

So, these are some of the important relations to man and mountain environment. Mountains are unfavourable to agriculture, poor in productivity, mountains as resorts etc. also not less important relations to mountain ecology to man.

Climate

◦ MAN'S RELATION TO CLIMATE ◦



NO factor of his environment exercises a wider influence on human life than climate. Its influence is largely indirect in its relation to vegetation and crops, ultimately it is the dominant control on human activity. Perhaps it is needless to say the fact that moisture and heat, two climatic factors are essential to human life.

Climate is a factor of the environment which makes itself felt through the primitive want of food and shelter at every step. It is a condition which cannot be modified. Man can cut through an isthmus (or river) or bridge a river, but he cannot affect the rainfall or change the winds. The best he can do is to remedy the deficiency of rainfall in a desert by borrowing surplus rainfall from elsewhere with which to irrigate the ground. But this can be done only on a small scale. The great deserts remain deserts and will do so unless man discover new means of technology.

Climate affects not only the agriculture, but all other aspects of human life. Our clothing, our houses, our roads and railways, our food and our very health and capacity to work depend upon climate. Climate is also the controlling factor in trade, except the ~~trade~~ ^{trade} in minerals, because climate localizes the growth of plant and animal products. After all the human civilization in warm, temperate, subtropical regions are all due to the influence of climate.



The Ecological Relations of Climate to Man

Climate occupies the fundamental position in the study of human geography. On the other hand, it determines, to a large extent, the production of commodities, and on other, it controls and creates markets for them by determining the wants of men.

The ecological relationships between man and climate are not a "one-way street". Climate, of course, is only one of many factors conditioning man's working and thinking aptitude.

1. Invaluable Natural Resource: climate is an invaluable natural resource. It has innumerable applications to every human activity. For strategic and technical planning during emergency and war, weather history and climatological studies become eminent.

A very important aspect of climatology is the Agro-meteorological requirement for study of crop relations, optimum land utilization, crop protection from diseases etc. For future planning, economists, planners, and administrators need advance information, especially on the deficiencies in rainfall, droughts and their impact on food production.

2. Climate and daily life: Human activities are so intimately related to the climatic conditions that it is an advantage to know the forecaste of next 24 hours weather, so that one may be ready for it. Weather forecasting has, therefore, come to occupy an important place in the

world's affairs today.

The weather forecasting service in the world has been organised to meet the requirements of aviation, mariners and the general public. With the growth of aviation, aeronautical, meteorology has become the major activity, now a days farmers weather bulletins are issued stressing weather affecting agricultural operations and indicating onset of monsoon etc. with which farmers will have to coordinate their activities.

3. Climate makes the Man: Climate is the most fundamental factor in the development of man on the face of the earth. According to Mathew all the groups of mammals arose within and dispersed progressively in process of time and man primarily evolved.

According to anthropologists that climatic conditions probably account indirectly for the character of hair, Man's nasal index, skin colour etc. Even life style is also influenced by climate. For example, the lazy easygoing life of the Tropics, Hard and troublesome life of Deserts & polar areas etc.

4. Effects of climate on Houses: Climate influences the type of architecture, the plan of buildings, and the materials employed in construction. Stone, concrete, fire-bricks and sloping roofs covered with thatch are a necessary protection against low temperature and heavy rainfall in India. House types of Hills, plains, plateaus and deserts are not same.



P-8

⑤ Effect of climate on vegetation:

The growth of vegetation is controlled by climate. Temperature, rainfall and sunshine are elementary requirements for its growth. Man can draw upon only particular types of vegetation for his food. These are generally grasses, certain trees for fruits and beverage trees like mango, apple, cocoa, walnut etc.

⑥ The influence of climate on Human Migration:

Whenever there have been changes in the climate of an area so as affects adversely the production of food, migration of people on a large scale to more favourable adjoining areas have taken place. Such migrations from central Asia in the past have brought about political changes in Europe and Asia. Climatic Hazard is the main cause of such migration.

⑦ Effect of climate on Industries: climatic factors frequently influence the localization of manufactures.

A more striking instance of climatic control of industry is to be found in the film industry. In order to get the best effects in photography a clear climate with abundant sunshine and few cloudy days are required. Hollywood in California is said to be the best centre for this industry, and next come Italy, Southern France and Bombay.

Climate and Population control, climate and Racial characteristics, climate and civilization, climate and Agriculture etc. are also very important to be noted.