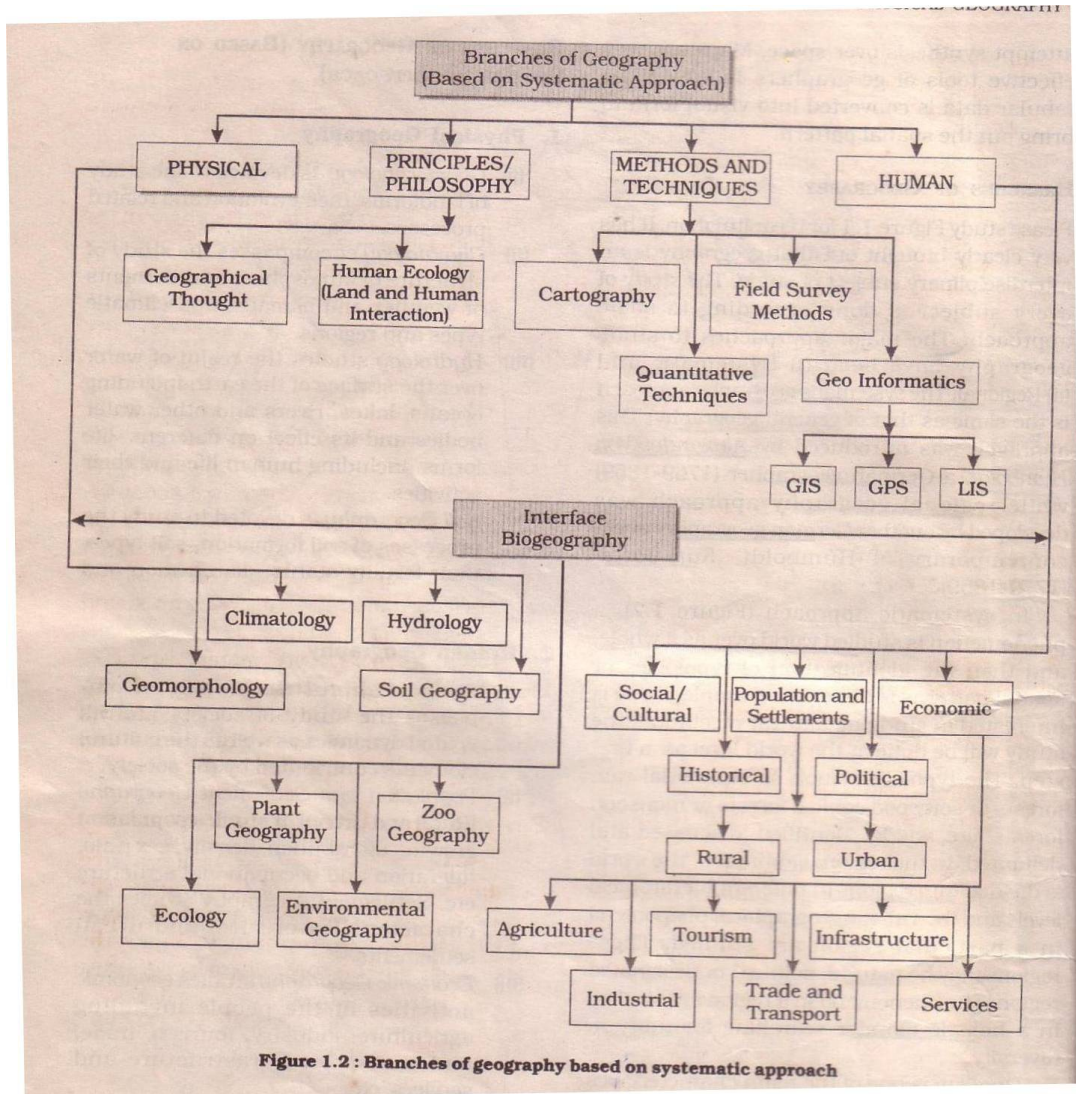


**Module (2/2)**

**Branches of Geography (Based on Systematic Approach)**



### 1. Physical Geography

- (i) *Geomorphology* is devoted to the study of landforms, their evolution and related processes
- (ii) *Climatology* is the study of structure of atmosphere and elements of weather and climate and climatic types and regions.

- (iii) *Hydrology* studies the realm of water over the surface of the earth including oceans, lakes, rivers and other water bodies and its effect on different life forms including human life and their activities.
- (iv) *Soil Geography* study the processes of soil formation, soil types, their fertility status, distribution and use.

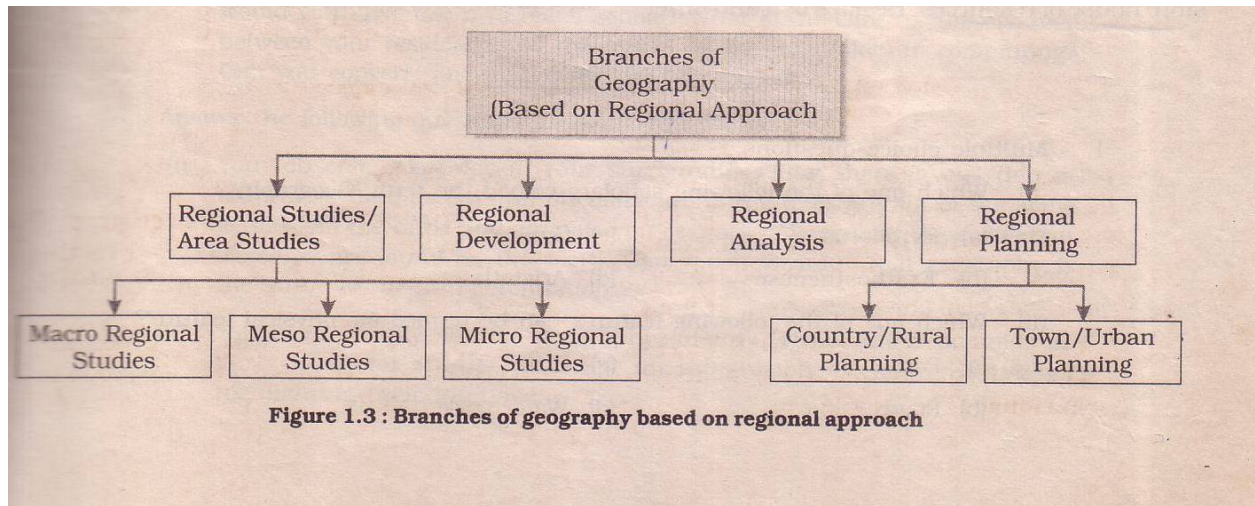
## 2. Human Geography

- (i) *Social/Cultural Geography* is the study of society and its spatial dynamics as well as the cultural elements contributed by the society.
- (ii) *Population and Settlement Geography* (Rural and Urban). It studies population growth, distribution, density, sex ratio, migration and occupational structure etc. Settlement geography studies the characteristics of rural and urban settlements.
- (iii) *Economic Geography* studies economic activities of the people including agriculture, industry, tourism, trade and transport, infrastructure and services, etc.
- (iv) *Historical Geography* studies historical processes through which the space gets organized. Every region has undergone some historical experiences before attaining the present day status. The geographical features also experience temporal changes and these form the concerns of historical geography.
- (v) *Political Geography* looks at the space from the angle of political events and studies boundaries, space relations between neighbouring political units, delimitation of constituencies, election scenario and develops theoretical framework to understand the political behavior of the population.

## 3. Biogeography

- (i) *Plant Geography* which studies the spatial pattern of natural vegetation in their habitats.
- (ii) *Zoo Geography* which studies the spatial patterns and geographic characteristics of animals and their habitats.
- (iii) *Ecology/Ecosystem* deals with the scientific study of the habitats characteristic of species.

- (iv) *Environmental Geography* concerns world over leading to the realization of environmental problems such as land gradation, pollution and concerns for conservation .

**Branches of Geography (Based on Regional Approach)****1. Regional Studies/Area Studies**

Comprising Macro, Meso and Micro Regional Studies

**2. Regional Planning**

Comprising Country/Rural and Town/Urban Planning

**3. Regional Development****4. Regional Analysis**

There are two aspects which are common to every discipline, these are:

## (i) Philosophy

(a) Geographical Thought

(b) Land and Human Interaction/Human Ecology

## (ii) Methods and Techniques

(a) Cartography including Computer Cartography

(b) Quantitative Techniques/Statistical Techniques

(c) Field Survey Methods

(d) Geo-informatics comprising techniques such as Remote Sensing, GIS, GPS, etc.

**PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND ITS IMPORTANCE**

Physical geography includes the study of lithosphere(landforms, drainage, relief and physiography), atmosphere (its composition, structure, elements and controls of weather and climate; temperature, pressure, winds, precipitation, climatic types, etc.), hydrosphere(oceans, seas, lakes and associated features with water realm) and biosphere (lifeforms including human being and macro-organism and their sustaining mechanism, viz. food chain, ecological parameters and ecological parameters and ecological balance).

Landforms provide the base on which human activities are located. The plains are utilized for agriculture. Plateaus provide forests and minerals. Mountains provide pastures, forests, tourist spots and are the sources of rivers providing water to lowlands. Climate influences our house types, clothing and food habits. The climate has a deep impact on natural vegetation, cropping pattern, livestock and some industries, etc. We study oceans which are the store house of resources. Besides fish and other sea-food, oceans are rich in mineral resources.

The study of physical geography is emerging as a discipline of evaluating and managing natural resources. It is essential to understand the relationship between physical environment and human beings. Physical environment provides resources and human beings utilize these resources and ensure their economic and cultural development. A better understanding of physical environment is essential for sustainable development.