

SOCIAL SPACE :-

Introduction - The term 'space' in Social Geography broadly means a part of the biosphere as perceived and used by man.

A 'social space' is a mosaic of personal spaces of the members of a social group. In fact, it grows up as a result of homogeneous space perceptions of the members of a community. The social space has within it numerous points like homes, schools, offices, farm lands, factories, markets, shops, places of prayer and worship, cinema hall etc. and lines representing the routes among one another of the above points. Each social group has its own social space area and it reflects the economic activities, social traditions, values, preferences and aspirations of the group. As one locality may hold as many personal spaces as the number of persons there, one superimposed on another, so also there may be as many social spaces in a region as the number of social groups living there in. One group's social space is superimposed on that of another. Thus, it is clear that

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the density of social space is high in the cities where many social groups live side by side. In the rural areas the density is low because different social groups normally occupy different territories away from one another.

There are two types of social space — (1) Objective social space and (2) Subjective social space. It is clear that ~~social~~ social structure and organisation of a group are conditioned by ecological and cultural factors. For example, a river valley of tropical monsoon area has a pre-industrial peasant community based on subsistence economy. This space looked from outside or looked without involving oneself with the space perception of the group of local people, will give us objective social space. On the other hand, the subjective space is the same river valley as perceived by the members of that community. They may perceive a mountain of the area as the abode of gods and goddesses, a river as a sacred one, a lake as the

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abode of spirits ~~at~~ or devils, and so on and so forth. The social space thus conceived is the subjective social space.