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**ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY - NATURE, SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE**

Environment literally means surrounding in which we are living. Environment includes all those things on which we are directly or indirectly dependent for our survival, whether it is living component like animals, plants or non-living component like soil, air water. Environment is the source of life on the planet, determining the existence, growth and development of mankind and other organisms and its activities.

**Environmental geography - Nature:**

**Environmental geography is an aspect of geography that delves into the relationship, including the social, economic and spatial interconnections, between people and their environments.** The impact of these human processes on natural systems and the possible solutions to address key environmental issues are some of the fields of interest of environmental geography. Environment geography deals with the environment in its totality unlike some other disciplines which only focus on one or few of its aspects. It analyses the time-space relationship between man and the environment. Traditionally, geography is mainly considered as the scientific study of various places on Earth. However, the modernistic view not only includes the designations of the natural and artificial landforms on the planet, but also human demography, economic activities, cultural and historical development, social organizations and climates. The interactions between these major elements provide a better understanding on how humans directly or indirectly shape the environment.

**Environmental geography - Scope:**

The scope of Environmental Geography is vast. Geography is the study of all the things that make a place singular, which involves climate, topography, cultural customs, political and religious beliefs - to name a few. Environmental issues and geography are inextricably connected. Geography is the study of various environments, and there is always something happening that could be done differently to better steward our unique places.

Environmental geography is the branch of geography that describes the spatial aspects of interactions between humans and the natural world. It requires an understanding of four realms of environment viz. atmosphere (climatology), hydrosphere (hydrology), biosphere (bio geography) and lithosphere (geology and geomorphology), as well as the ways in which human societies conceptualize and interacts with the environment.

**Environmental geography - Significance:**

Environmental geographers are not just familiar with how natural systems function, but they also identify that humans are a dominant agent of change in nature. They realize that it is not possible to understand environmental problems without understanding the physical processes as well as the demographic, cultural, and economic processes that lead to increased resource consumption and waste. Environmental geographers thus follow a variety of academic paths, and these paths converge with those of other disciplines. By its very nature geography is a discipline that seeks to integrate and synthesize knowledge.

Environmental geography is the branch of geography that describes the spatial aspects of interactions between humans and the natural world. It requires an understanding of the dynamics of climatology, hydrology, biogeography, geology and geomorphology, as well as the ways in which human societies conceptualize the environment. Environmental geography represents a critically important set of analytical tools for assessing the impact of human presence on the environment by measuring the result of human activity on natural landforms and cycles. Environmental geographers are familiar with how natural systems function, but they also know that humans are a dominant agent of change in nature. They realize that it is not possible to understand environmental problems without understanding the physical processes as well as the demographic, cultural, and economic processes that lead to increased resource consumption and waste. Environmental geographers fan out along a variety of academic paths, and these paths will cross, mingle, or converge with those of other disciplines. By its very nature geography is a discipline that seeks to integrate and synthesize knowledge, therein lays its strength. The geographer’s world is the earth as the home of humans.