

It may however, be noted that Evles changed his definition subsequently and said that social geography was the analysis of social phenomena in space (1981). E. Jones (1975), the other British pioneer in the field of social geography, defined social geography as 'the understanding of the patterns which arise from the use the social groups make of space as they see it, and of the processes involved in making and changing such patterns. The sub-discipline grew rapidly through the nineteen-eighties and nineties. In 1989, J. Carter and T. Jones mentioned that 'social geography's core theme might be said to be the spatial pattern as an expression of and an influence on social processes.' Peter Jackson was more candid when he defined social geography (1955) as 'the study of social relations in space and spatial structures that underpin those relations'. C. Hamnett put forward (1996) a still clear definition by saying that, 'social geography is primarily concerned with the study of geography of social Structure, social activities and social groups across a wide range of human societies'.

We have come across above as many as eleven definitions of social geography. Like any other definition of a discipline, none of these is comprehensive. Although social geography is a relatively new field, it has meanwhile, undergone some conceptual and contextual changes. Moreover, the term 'social' itself has many connotations and is interpreted in several ways. Lastly, the field of social geography is vast. It is because of these reasons that no unanimity has been struck so far in respect of evolving a commonly accepted definition of social geography. Without going **into these polemics, we may, however, gainfully say that social geography is concerned with the patterns of the attributes of a population (like religion, social customs and traditions, literacy, age-sex structure, rural-urban composition, social organisation, etc.) and activities of people (eg, economic, social, cultural, etc.). The dominant themes of the sub-discipline are** : First, it is primarily concerned with space; second, it searches for order, i.e. it tries to establish pattern, say from small order to large order. For example, it tries to study people in society from a family to a clan, then from a clan to a caste, and finally to the religion; third, it tries to explain the patterns so established. In other words, social geography examines those processes that produce a particular social pattern (for example, the process of continuous immigration produces a high density of population or the process of growing literacy ultimately leads to changed economic pattern). Fourth, social geography identifies social problems and their areal distribution, and attempts to ameliorate the problems.

- Social geography differs from human geography in that the former attempts to study the social aspects of people in so far as such aspects give character to space, but human geography is all pervasive and includes all the dependent variables associated with the activities of human being that are spatially discernible. Sociology, is a science of society with scant spatial interpretation, It, however, must be clear to us that social geography draws a lot from sociological concepts and theories, and thus there is a relationship between the two disciplines. Almost allied to social geography, there is a sister subdiscipline called cultural geography. Although geographers have been slow in taking up behavioural studies, they have contributed widely to examining the effects of man's behaviour, mainly in terms of the past. Carl O. Sauer in 1931 pleaded for the first time for establishment of cultural geography as a separate sub-discipline. Then Hans Bobek (1959), a postwar German geographer, who was Professor and Director of the Geographical Institute at the University of Vienna, came forward as the protagonist of this branch of geography. To him and his school, cultural geography is the application of the idea of culture to geographic problems. But it becomes easy for us to understand cultural geography when we say that it examines the geography of culture. With the passage of time cultural geography has emerged as a separate sub-discipline dealing with the variables related to both

material and non-material culture that give character to an area. It is difficult to differentiate social geography from cultural geography. However, we can say that while cultural geography deals mainly with the works of men, social geography is more concerned with men, their social institutions like political organisations, social organisation, etc), structure like family, clan, caste, etc.), quality of life, age sex structure, etc. in a particular region. Of late, however, there has been a closer association between social geography and cultural geography, The two sub-disciplines seem to have some common focuses, such as iconography of landscape, places of worship, cultural (e.g. communal) politics, etc.