

Shatarupa Dey • Arun Kumar Singh •
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Editors

DECODING GEOGRAPHY



**Foundation of Practising Geographers
Kolkata**

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Published by



FOUNDATION OF PRACTISING GEOGRAPHERS
KOLKATA

Published in May, 2024

ISBN : 978-81-930691-5-8

© Foundation of Practising Geographers, Kolkata

Published by

Arati Singh

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Printed by

Subir Chatterjee

47/7 Saheed Hemanta Kumar Basu Sarani

Kolkata - 700 074

Ph : 98303 05740

E-mail : subir080@gmail.com

Price : ₹ 2500/-

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CHAPTER 2

DECODING CONTEMPORARY ISSUES OF RESEARCH IN GEOGRAPHY

Arun Kumar Singh, Prakriti Das, Umesh Kumar, Somnath Mukherjee, Atanu Sarkar and Sumit Mukherjee

INTRODUCTION

Contemporary geography has moved very far keeping its basic attributes of space and time intact to a great extent. Geographers in independent India have struggled hard to come out from its understanding of the British school of Geography where Geography was viewed as a holistic discipline encompassing into its fold both physical and human aspects and the search to establish a compatible relationship between these two broad phenomena. Geography started moving fast from these two basic understanding to the various field of scientific knowledge so that it can establish itself as a basic scientific subject or knowledge. We will not go into the detail discussion in this area; however, some references can be cited where researchers can navigate through it. The first article which comes to our mind is 'Identity of Geography' by Mallik & Chattopadhyay (1999-2000). The authors of important works in this aspect are P. Lal (1974), Arun Kumar Singh (1995), Ashis Sarkar (1999-2000), Saswati Mookherjee (1999-2000), Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt (1999-2000), Saroj K. Pal (2005), Ravi Singh (2008) and others. However, we don't intend to indulge into this debate, however we would like to identify some area of research where Geographers can make a meaningful contribution to the science of Geography taking into consideration modern trends of research in Geography.

MAN-ENVIRONMENT RELATIONSHIP RESEARCH

In the initial period, two different approaches lie behind the emergence of Man-Environment Relationship Research in Geography. The first geographer who paid a great deal of attention towards this type of research in Geography was an American geographer George Perkins Marsh (1801-1882) followed by a Russian geographer Alexander Ivanovich Woeilkof (1842-1914). Main concern of these two earlier geographers was the ruthless destruction of the inorganic and organic world and they suggested immediate restoration