LOCATIONAL ANALYSIS IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

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WHAT IS LOCATION?

- In **geography**, **location** or **place** are used to denote a region (point, line, or area) on the earth's surface or elsewhere.

**Relative location**
- A relative location, or situation, is described as a displacement from another site.
For example, "3 kilometers north of Guwahati".

**Absolute location**
- An absolute location is designated using a specific pairing of **latitude** and **longitude**.
Locational analysis also known as spatial analysis is an approach to human geography which focuses on the spatial arrangement of phenomena.

Its usual methodology is that of spatial science.

Unwin (1981) presents locational analysis as the study of the arrangements of points, lines, areas and surfaces on a map.
• Empiricism is a philosophy which accords special privilege to empirical observations over theoretical statements.

• In empirical inquiry, it is assumed that its facts ‘speak for themselves’. They presented a strong case for using geometry as the language for the study of spatial form.
The main objective of locational analysis was expressed as building accurate generalization, models and theories with productive power.

It is based on the philosophy of positivism.

- The philosophy of positivism underpins the approach, which concentrates on the identification of theories of spatial arrangements and so is closely linked to the discipline’s quantitative revolution.

- Locational analysis is based on empiricism.
Haggett, in his book *Locational Analysis in Human Geography* (1965), appealed to adopt the geometrical tradition to explain order, location order and patterns in human geography. Such a focus needed:

- to adopt a system approach which concentrates on the patterns and linkages within a whole assemblage;
- to employ models as to understand man-environment relationship; and
- to use quantitative techniques to make precise statements (generalizations) about locational order. For the spatial analysis they suggested to adopt ‘linear model’, spatial autocorrelation and regression.
Other geographers who contributed substantially to the field of locational analysis are Morril, Col, Chorley, Cox, Harvey, Johnston, Pooler, Sack and Smith.

Morril was strongly influenced by the geometrical traditions adopted by Bunge and Haggett.

In his book, ‘The Spatial Organisation of Society’, Haggett argued that people seek to maximize spatial interaction at minimum cost and so bring related activities into proximity—the result is that human society is surprisingly alike from place to place… [because of] the predictable, organized pattern of locations and interactions.
KEY CONCEPTS IN LOCATIONAL ANALYSIS

• Spatial Organization

Spatial organization focuses on how to recognize and organize geographic space in which human activities occur, giving rise to spatial structures.
KEY CONCEPTS IN LOCATIONAL ANALYSIS

• Spatial Interaction

Spatial interaction is a basic concept that considers how locations interact with each other in terms of the movement of people, freight, services, energy, or information.
KEY CONCEPTS IN LOCATIONAL ANALYSIS

• Spatial Distribution

A spatial distribution is the arrangement of a phenomenon across the Earth's surface and a graphical display of such an arrangement is an important tool in geographical and environmental statistics.
KEY CONCEPTS IN LOCATIONAL ANALYSIS

• **Place**
  - **Place** is defined as a particular location or space or the particular area normally occupied by something.

• **Space**
  - **Space** is something abstract, without any substantial meaning. While place refers to how people are aware of attracted to a certain piece of space. A place can be seen as space that has a meaning.
Thank You