

2011 : Welfare approach in Human Geography

or

2015 : "The welfare face of geography makes it an interdisciplinary subject". Elaborate

or

2018 : Comment upon contributions by D.M. Smith in outlining 'welfare' as a key focus in the geographies of social well being.

or

2018 : "Welfare geography emphasizes spatial inequality and territorial justice" Comment with reference to the main ideas and scope of the subfield.

Frame In all these PYQs crux of answer will be what is welfare approach, its key focal areas, major contributors in relation to well being and quality of life.

Welfare perspective in geography acknowledges that geographical factors as location, environment resources, infrastructure significantly impact welfare and living conditions of both individuals and communities

- Answer - Welfare geography corresponds to the general shift in societal perspectives from narrow economic criteria of development and progress to the broader aspects of quality of life, so that distributional issues assumes great importance.
- Welfare geography addresses the question of redistribution in spatial context, and is inevitably concerned with issues of inequality and social justice in distribution of public goods and bads
 - It provides frame work for understanding how geographical factors intersect with social - economic dynamics to shape the well being of communities, making it interdisciplinary in nature
- ⇒ Key aspects of welfare approach that caters social well being includes -
- a) Spatial inequality - geographers analyze how welfare is distributed spatially, exploring disparities in access to essential services - healthcare, education infrastructure - between regions or socio economic groups
 - b) Human development - life expectancy, literacy rate income levels like human development indicators are closely linked to welfare
 - c) Place based approach - Geographers use place

based analysis to understand how local contexts as cultural norms, environmental conditions and governance structure influences well being. This approach helps tailor policies and interventions to meet specific regional needs and challenges.

- d) Environmental Quality - Air, water quality, accessibility to green spaces, exposure to natural hazards affects health and overall quality of life. They examine how environmental degradation or improvements impacts welfare
- e) Policy and planning - in order to enhance resilience of communities to withstand and recover from adverse events, policy designs to reduce inequalities and promote sustainable developments with variable governance systems.

⇒ welfare in geography serves critical lens through which valuable insights to address socio-economic inequalities and promote equitable development can be attained

* Its relation with spatial inequality and territorial justice can be associated with welfare perspectives in geography -

Spatial inequality - refers to disparities in distribution of resources, opportunities and quality of life across

regions and or within region.

Territorial Justice concerns itself with fairness and equity in the distribution of resources, opportunities and decision making power across territories or geographic units.

→ Geographers by mapping the disparities, highlights areas where policy interventions are needed to improve social outcome and reduce inequalities. It also facilitates policies and governance structures to foster inclusive development, addressing historical inequalities and enhancing social cohesion. - to promote territorial justice.

⇒ DM Smith - British Geographer - in text entitled Human Geography: A welfare Approach - successfully attempted to restructure human geography around the theme of welfare, which according to him, provided an integrating focus for more relevant human geography.

- Apart from contributing to all key aspects he added

1) Urban geography - urban poverty, segregation and challenged conventional understanding of urban development by critical approach to power relation and inequalities