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## **A. DEVELOPMENT OF GEOGRAPHY/ HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHICAL THOUGHT**

**1. Raju, Saraswati**, “Contesting Postmodernism: A View With Gendered Lens”, *Population Geography*, 30 (1 & 2), 2008: 1-10.

**Introduction/Objectives:** The paper deals firstly with emergence of postmodernism as a response/reaction to modern, secondly, with content of post-modernism as a process and, thirdly, with critical evaluation of postmodernist engagements, particularly with gender lens perspective of the Third World. The paper does not attempt to resolve the theoretical conundrums often related with postmodernism for obvious reasons.

**Data Base and Methodology:** Keeping in view the nature of the paper the source of information (data base) obviously was the literature on this theme. Understandably the paper has rich bibliography. The long list of references stands testimony to this. These references have been quoted widely in support of the stand taken up by the author. The paper has been divided into parts. In the introductory attempt the term post-modernism has been defined. It is followed by the description of underlying concerns. The implications for research are seen in the methods of modern inquiry such as that can stand the text of statistical scrutiny through testing of hypotheses. Because only such methods could be called scientific. Next section of the paper provides a rich discussion on postmodernism in which views of a large number of scholars have been described. The last part of the paper deals with the problem of gender specificity of post-modernism.

**Findings:**

- (i) Post-modernism is notoriously difficult to define and conceptualise though modernism has been associated with rational and objective viewpoint.
- (ii) Post-modernism is not only about questioning meta-narrative or the grand theories, it is also about questioning the construct

of human as rational being. That is why the term post-structurism has also been used preferably instead of post-modernism.

- (iii) Post-modernism is not a critique or replacement for the modernist paradigm but a movement to challenge the very notion of such paradigms.
- (iv) Much of the postmodern discourses arose from within feminist scholarship because the meta-narrators were mostly men. Needless to add that the most robust critique is also from feminist scholars.
- (v) Geographers with their training in spatial organizations and interlinkages are particularly well equipped to theorise differences as scalar in nature also knowing fully well that certain of the differences reflect and reinforce broad structures of social domination.

**2. Sharma, H. S.** “Repositioning Geographical Research Environment Development and Sustainability”. *Annals of the National Association of Geographers, India* 28(1) 2008:1-21

The present research addresses issues related to concepts of development, underdevelopment, uneven development and the emergence of environmentalism. The second half discusses environmental degradation, pressure of population on the resources and the poverty and environment with references to sustainable development. The later half discusses the issue of possible intervention with special focus on Indian geography. Views of different scholars such as Lee, Williamson and Miller are presented to define the development and underdevelopment. Three schools of thought related to sustainable development are discussed e.g. (i) weak sustainability or shallow environment (ii) strong sustainability of deep ecology and (iii) moderate sustainability. The approach of ‘weak sustainability or shallow environment’, is pro-growth and pro-consumerism. It wants the economic prosperity as conceived in the west to continue unabated. The adherents of ‘strong Sustainability’ or ‘deep ecology’ advocates that the demand side of the equation be revised by reducing consumption. This ‘eco-centrist’ world view argues that nature has biotic rights, just as humans have human rights, to remain unmolested. The third view i.e. ‘moderate sustainability’ combines the element of the strong and weak approaches the two core school of thought in sustainability

paradigm. It seeks to expand the stock of resources while at the same time to reduce the demands on this stock in order to conjoin demand and resources. The other part discusses the contribution of geographers to the environment -development debate, its focus starts with the decade of 1980's as a powerful critique of neo-malthusian emphasis on the pressure of population on resources thesis. It was launched by a number of geographers in 1980s and anxieties about tropical deforestation and biodiversity destruction, global warming and climate change, and the thinning ozone shield added a fillip. The article discuss about the various geographical research tools. Such as GIS, Remote Sensing, structured interview, field measurements, surveys, distributed modelling, SPPS, participant observations etc. At the end author discuss the state of geography in India and the contribution it can make to the environment and development debate. At a time when theoretical and technological advance have made geography in Anglo-American academia a leading discipline, geography in India has ironically remained moribund during the last three decades. Today, geography is losing its prestige in the country. There is a need to undertake useful research, that evokes diverse and contested meanings and solutions, that enhance the role of geography in policy making. In a nutshell introduce professionalism in the field.

**3. Qureshi, M.H.**, "Unity in Diversity in India: Revisited", *Annals of the National Association of Geographers, India*, 28(2) 2008: 10-17.

The present research addresses issues related to unity in Diversity in India. The diversity of India is unique. Beneath the manifold diversity of physical and social type, language, custom and religion, which strike the observer in India, there can still be discerned underlying uniformity of life from the Himalayas to the Cape Comorin. There is, in fact an Indian character, a general personality, which one can not resolve into its component element. Indian unity has evolved with its diversity and the diversity has provided colour to the country. The diversity has made it a garden with flowers of different colours and smells. Diversity has never been a danger to our country but it is the disparity generated by economic and social discrimination and deprivation which is dangerous. Thus, one should not attempt to rub off the diversity and homogenize; rather we should celebrate diversity and strengthen unity.