



HUMAN ECOLOGY

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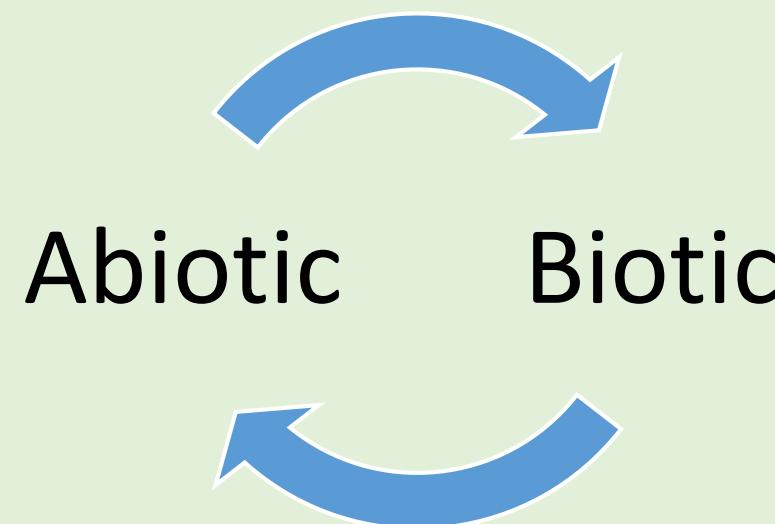
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What is Human Ecology?

- Combination of two terms 'human' and 'ecology'.
- **Ecology**- study of interrelationships between biotic and abiotic components of the environment on one hand and among the biotic components on the other.



Biotic and Abiotic components

BIOTIC

Living Things



Protists



Plants



Animals



Fungus



Bacteria

ABIOTIC

Non Living Things



Water



Soil



Air



Light



Minerals



Themes in Human Ecology

- Put forwarded by American Geographer, **H. H. Barrows**.
- In 1923, Barrows in his **presidential address** to the **Association of American Geographers** declared that "**human geography is human ecology**".
- It is the **application of ecological principles** to study the **relationships** between **man** and other **biotic** and **abiotic** elements of the environment.



Themes in Human Ecology

- It is a **philosophy** which tries to discuss **Man's adjustment to his natural environment**, thereby leaving **footprints**.....
- It studies the **relationship** between **humans** and the **natural, social and built environment**.
- Human ecology explores not only the **influence of humans on their environment** but also the **influence of the environment on human behaviour** and their **adaptive strategies** as they come to understand those influences better.

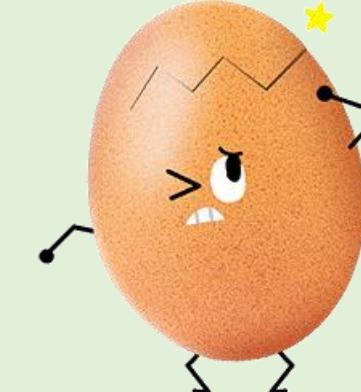
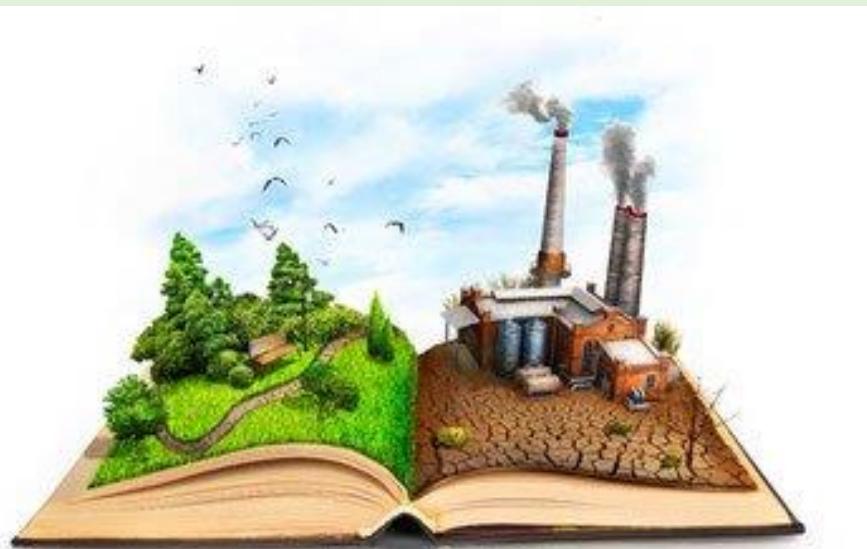


Themes in Human Ecology

- In ecology, **focus is not much given on humans.**
- However, in **human ecology**, **humans are considered** as the **most influencing and determining** factor that can **change or modify** the **nature and intensity of interaction** between the **biotic and abiotic** elements.
- Thus, it is the sub-discipline of ecology that focuses on humans and their activities.

Themes in Human Ecology

- Humans play the role of **consumers** and **producers**, **conserver** and **destroyer**, and **modifier** and **developer**.
- We can say that **human ecology** studies **human behavior** towards the environment.



THE FUTURE OF NATURE
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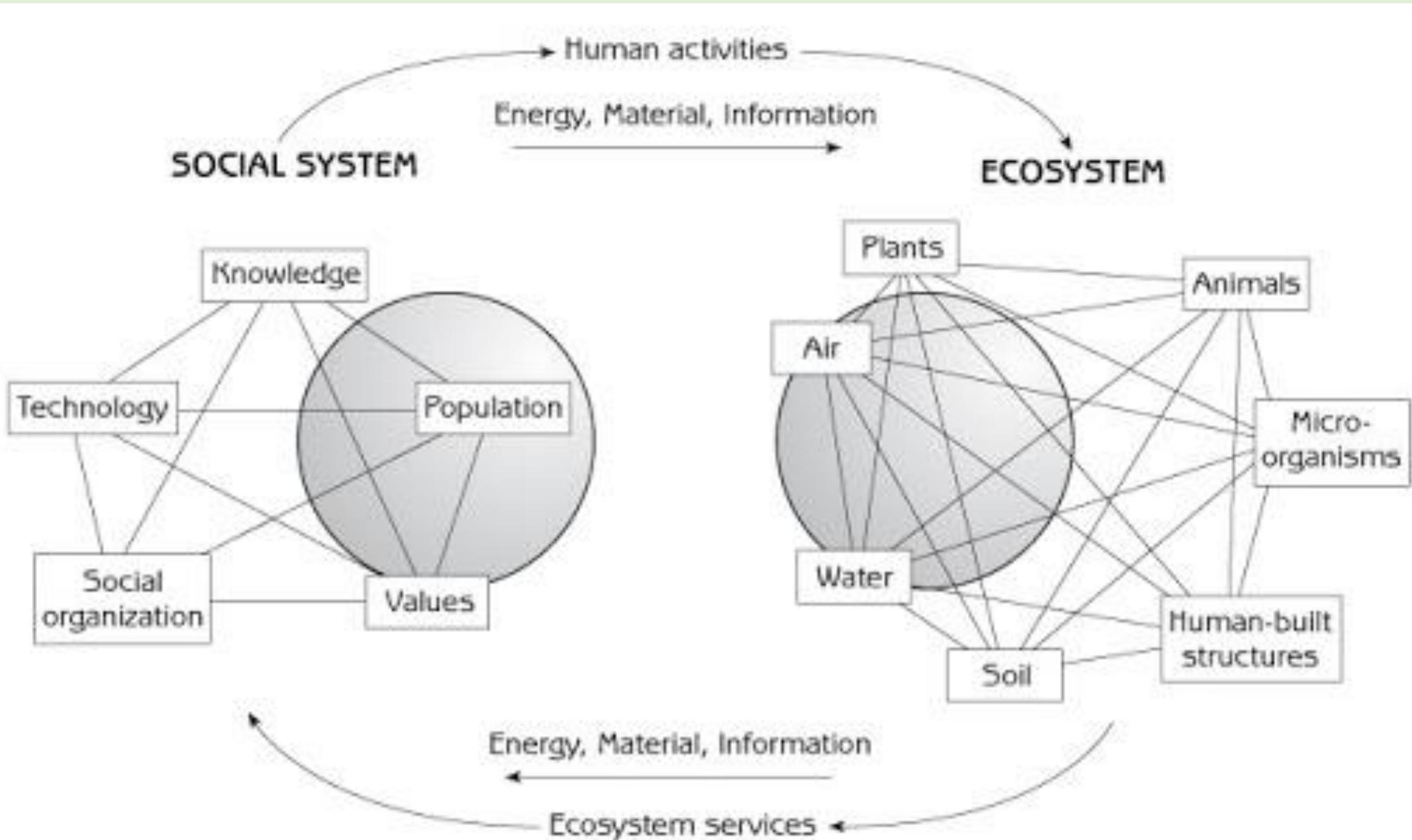




Application in Geographical Studies

- To study and understand the **man-environment** relationship.
- To assess the **impact of man on environment** and **vice-versa**.
- Though the **nature** and **dimension** of **impact of humans on environment** is **not the same** everywhere but, **human ecology** helps in finding out the **kind of relationship** between the two.

Humans in Ecology



A photograph of a sunset over a savanna. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is a bright white circle on the horizon. In the foreground, a herd of zebras is grazing in a field of tall, golden grass. The zebras are silhouetted against the bright sky. The text "Thank you!" is overlaid in the lower right corner.

Thank you!