



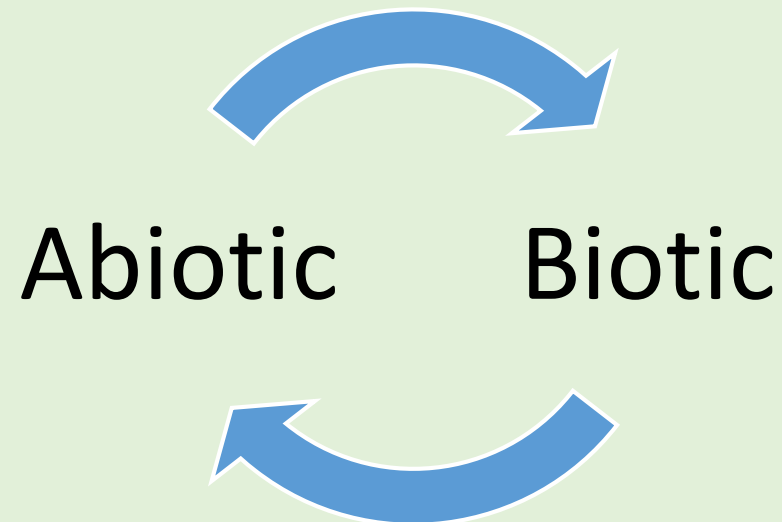
HUMAN ECOLOGY

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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



Light



Air



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.

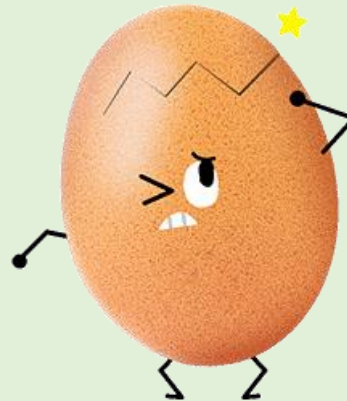


Themes in Human Ecology

- 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**.

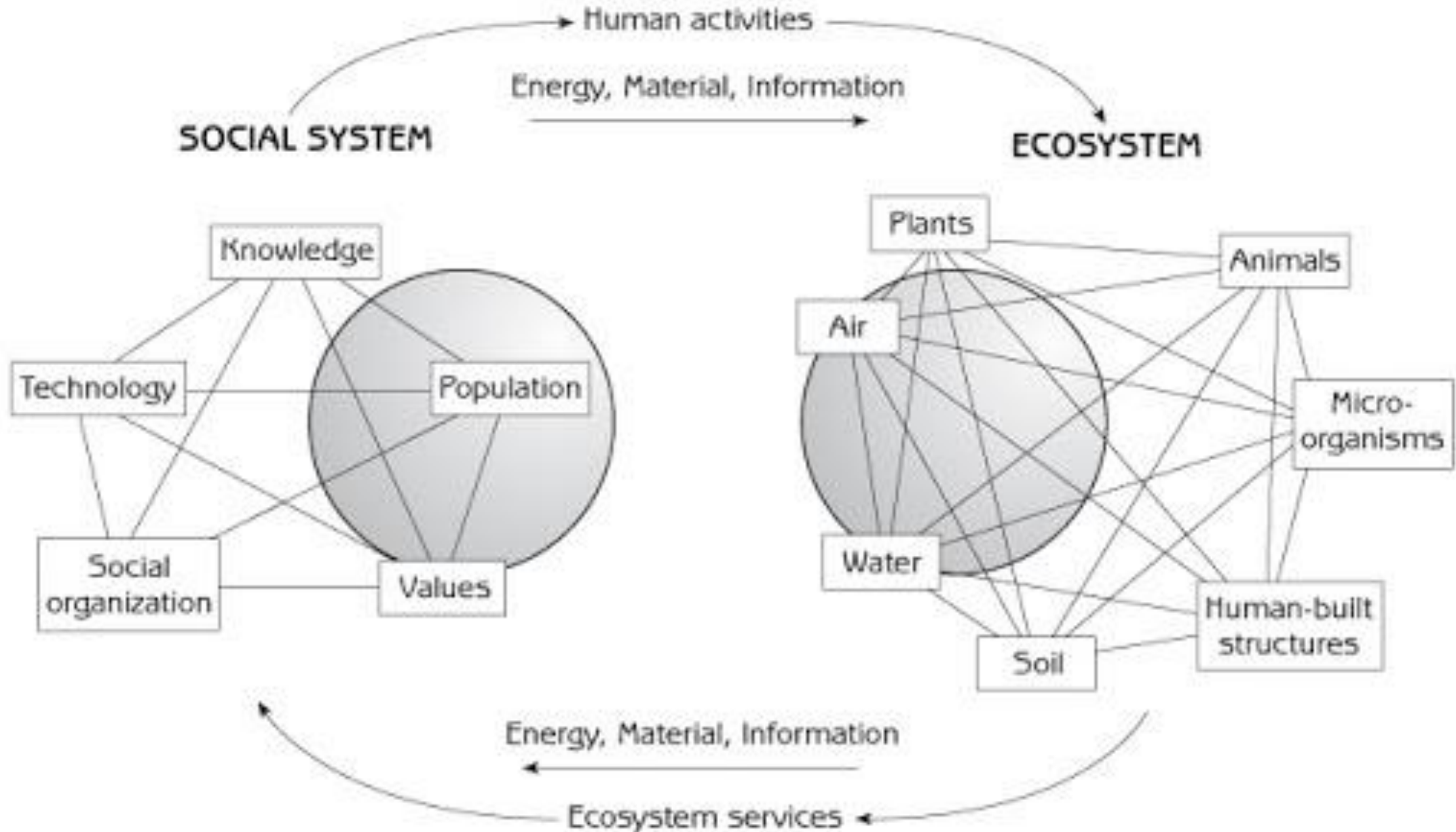




Application in Geographical Studies

- 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





Thank you!