

The Perspective and Association of Geography with Environment and Society

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Abstract: The study examines the relationship of the discipline of Geography with conceptual terms of Environment and society. Geography is seen as a spatial science, majorly concerned with spatial analysis, of how and why things differ from place to place and how observable spatial pattern evolved through time on the surface of the earth. The study adopts a survey of literature as its methodology. It is observable that every society has its individual physical and cultural attributes that distinguishing it from other societies; thus giving it unique character, potential and location. And it is found that in society cultural traits are more pronounced in changing the natural phenomena of the environment. The Environment is better understood when broken to its component: atmosphere, hydrosphere lithosphere and biosphere. Environment has all that is needed to sustain the society and all that is required for life sustenance. It provides the setting with which human action occurs, its shapes but not dictate, how people live in the society as well as their resource base. However, how resources are perceived and utilized is culturally conditioned in society. And virtually every human activity leaves its imprint on the environment. Environment and society form the laboratory for geographic operation. And its spheres form the space which is the major concern in geography and the concept of society introduces the important factor of culture which greatly has direct impact on the environment. The socio-cultural content of the society is influenced by the environment where it locates and the society modifies the content of the environment. There are interconnection between the environment and society which purposely produces spatial patterns with their hidden mechanism of spatial process, accessibility and connectively in addition to idea of location and distance. Advance level of interaction has produced globalization which has accelerated greater spatial diffusion of idea and material resources in the world. The major role of geography is to ensure harmonious spatial organization and inter relationship between and among societies on one hand and between society and its environment on the other. Thus, this is being pursued in geography through its traditions: Earth science, cultural-environment, the location (space), the areal analysis and various paradigms and spatial techniques. It is therefore recommended that for speedy development in developing nations particularly at combating the myriad of environmental challenges and appropriate exploitation and utilization of environmental resources, the spatial tool should be adopted as contained in the discipline of Geography.

Keywords: Connectivity, Culture, Environment, Space, Society, Globalization.

1. INTRODUCTION

Geography is the scientific study of the earth's surface, physical features, divisions, products, population etc (Advanced Learner Dictionary). From geographers point of view, Getis, Getis and Fellmann (2009) describes geography as the study of spatial variation, of how and why things differ from place to place on the surface of the earth. This points to the fact that there is no single acceptable definition that can concisely describe what geography is all about. Wilson and Kirkby (1980) define geography as the study of the spatial structures and processes associated with man, organizations and physical environment. The study in geography is inseparable from the environment and the society, thus, the main focus of this paper is to examine the environment and its components, society particularly the culture and cultural influence on

the use of environment, spatial organization and to highlight the environment-society nexus. That is, to bring to light the effective interconnection between environment and society. It will also delve into the significance of geography in spatial organization considering its traditions, relevant paradigms and geographic techniques for harmonious relationship between environment and society.

There may be a divergent of opinions or variation in the way geography is defined, one truth is that the discipline is concerned with space and the content of space and geographers are united in the questions they ask and the common set of basic concepts they employ to answer such questions. The space as used above may stand for the term environment, or the planet earth. With respect to the questions, geographers seek to provide solution to where, what is where, how and why questions, that may arise in the interaction of people and social groups with their environment and with each other. They seek to understand how and why physical and cultural spatial patterns evolved through time and continue to change and they are quite sensitive to the variety of forces (processes) that produce the patterns.

In short, the role of geography is to ensure harmonious relationship between society and its environment through effective and efficient spatial planning and use as will be established in this study. Thus, geography is often regarded as a spatial science which is concerned with spatial distribution of phenomena, with spatial behavior of people, spatial relationships between places on the earth's surface, and the spatial processes that underlie those behaviors and relationships (Getis, et al, 2009).

2. ENVIRONMENT AND ITS COMPONENTS

Environment can be defined as our surrounding; it is made up of all physical, social and cultural aspects of our world that affect our growth, our health, and our way of living (Getis, et al, 2009). Similarly, environment can be regarded as the totality of things that surround an organism on the earth's surface, which also affects it in any way. It consists of network of numerous dynamic processes, which in a natural state, are maintained in equilibrium. Environment is actually a system because a system is any entity that consists of interrelated components (variables) that are grouped together for the fact that the variables interact with one another as parts of a functioning units, and a change in one aspect of the environment system affects other parts, and the impact of these changes can be significant to appear in regional or even worldwide patterns which clearly demonstrated the interconnections among these variables. For instance, the presence of mountains influence the distribution of rainfall and variations in rainfall affect the density, type and variety of vegetation (Getis, et al, 2009).

Let us briefly highlight the components of environment system. Environment is made up of a set of interrelated components; the environment system comprises four major subsystems though no sharp boundaries exist among them because they are interrelated: atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere.

The atmosphere is the gaseous blanket of air that envelops, shields, and insulates the environment. The movement and processes of the atmosphere create the changing conditions that are known as weather and climate. The lithosphere is the solid part of the environment wherein we have landforms, rocks, soils and minerals. In other words, it is the upper reaches of the earth's crust containing the soil that support vegetation, minerals that plants and animals depend for life and fossil fuel and ores that humans exploit. The hydrosphere is the component of the environment made up of water system of oceans, lakes, rivers and glaciers. In other words, it is most liquid, consists of the surface and sub-surface water in the oceans, lakes, glaciers and groundwater. The biosphere is a sphere of the environment which is composed of all living things: people, other animals, and plants. All the living things here are found in the three other spheres, meaning that biosphere is the interface of the other spheres. This is the living portion of the environment thus, a cogent evidence of earth habitability. Thus, for environment sustainability there is need to have a clear understanding of the network of interrelationship among the spheres (Jimoh, 2011).

Furthermore, the environment is dynamic as it responds to continuous changes in its four major components, these changes can be directly observe through the seasons, the ocean tides, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes and volcanic eruptions. Other changes may remain imperceptible for so long because it may take a long term before they become conspicuous. For example, the shifts in world climate, drought cycles, and the spread of deserts, worldwide rise or fall in sea level, erosion of coastlines, and major changes in river systems.

Again, environment is a life-support system, that through natural processes produce an adequate supply of oxygen: the sun interacts with the atmosphere, oceans and land to maintain tolerable temperatures, and photosynthesis or other continuous cycles of creation provide new food supplies for living things (Getis, et al, 2009). Nevertheless a change in one component of environment system affects other parts and the whole system. For instance, if a critical part of a life-support system is adversely affected or changed or fails to operate properly, living organism in environment may no longer be able to survive. The changes in the environment system may be naturally caused or human induced, or they may result from a combination of these factors. The environment may become hazardous to human and other life forms when relatively uncommon and extraordinary, sporadic natural events (earthquakes, volcanism, tornadoes etc) occur and they are associated most directly with the atmosphere, hydrosphere or lithosphere but the consequences of such is borne by the biosphere including humans, that suffer the damaging consequences. The other component of the environmental change will be examined under society or cultural influence in the system.

Considering the usefulness of every component of the environment to human sustenance, the environmentalists thus believe that all human actions are controlled by the physical elements in the environment. They are of the opinion that environment determines culture, that is, every society is built in consonance with resources made available by the immediate environment of such society. People are what they are because they have been shaped by their physical surroundings such as climate, vegetation, topography and so on. One of the leading proponents of this paradigm, environment determinism, Taylor, suggests that the aim of education (Geography) should be to enable man to make best use of his environment. The contrary view to this cul-de-sac perspective of man- environment relationship will be examined under cultural influence. Moreover, the support of this perspective of society- environment relationship is well captured in the work of Ellen Semple 'influence of Geographic environment' published in 1911 where she declared that:

"Man is a product of the earth's surface. This means not merely that he is a child of the earth, of her dust, but that the earth has mothered him, fed him, set him tasks, directed his thoughts, confronted him with difficulties that have strengthened his body and sharpened his wits, given him his problems of navigation or irrigation and at the same time, whispered hints for their solution" (Jimoh and Akindele, 2005).

The above statement has clearly shown how powerful and dominant the environment is in the relationship.

3. SOCIETY, CULTURE AND CULTURAL INFLUENCE IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Society from dictionary meaning refers to a long-standing group of people of a community or country, sharing cultural aspects such as language, dress, norms of behavior and artistic forms (Advanced Learner Dictionary). In line with the current discourse, society is a mini-component of the environment; however, what makes it more significant is its cultural making that actually brings about concrete areal differentiation of societies in the environment. For instance, society varies according to the advancement in cultural orientation, thus, there are developing and developed societies, rural and urban societies that manifest significant spatial variation in which culture plays a vital role. To really have a good grasp of a society, there is need to have good understanding of such society, thus, the need to explore the concept of culture.

Culture from anthropological point of view has historical background which broadly refers to a body of beliefs, customary behaviours, and modes of social organization that are transmitted over generations (Head, Trigger and Mulcock, 2005). Its traditions are known to be resilient through time and normally experience change and adaptation to prevailing social and environmental conditions. It has been criticized that culture should be conceived as being actively 'made' by each generation, that is, 'constructed' by human agents rather than being produced solely by a body of encompassing traditions (Head, et al, 2005). Culture is then seen as a dynamic mix of symbols, beliefs, languages and practices that people create not a fixed thing or entity governing humans (Anderson and Gale, 1992). Thus, the structures of daily life often taken for granted, or seen as natural are both understood as the product of culture and also subject to human capacities to effect change overtime. Moreover, culture is a set of processes and assumptions that pervade all of our lives and institutions, including scientific ones (Proctor, 1998). This points to the fact that science and technology that enhance the manipulation of the environment are part and parcel of culture.

In other words, culture is the specialized behavioural patterns, understandings, and adaptations that summarize the way of life of a group of people. Broadly, culture is as much a part of regional differentiation of the earth as are topography, climate and other aspects of the physical environment. Manifestation of culture in the environment abounds visibly and

invisibly and such include buildings and settlements, farming patterns, language, road network and political organization that are elements of the spatial diversity. It is important to note that environment may influence the symbolic and material needs of the societal's culture, and culture also affects the environment in different ways.

The rest of this section will shed light briefly on the society interference with environmental system particularly as it affects lithosphere (land), water and air. The biosphere which includes man is taken as the component that bears the brunt of the aftermath of such interference. There is need to understand that environment does influence society in its provisions of essential needs, and society also influences the environment in various ways. For instance, environmental circumstances directly affect agricultural potential and reliability; and indirectly, they may affect such matters as employment patterns, trade flows, population distribution, and national diets. The environment has noted earlier, can simultaneously presents advantages and disadvantages with which society must deal with. Therefore, virtually every human activity leaves its imprint on the environment/earth's soil, water, land, air, vegetation, animal life and other resources as well as the atmosphere common to all earth space. The visible imprint of the human activity is called the cultural landscape such include agricultural practices and other land use.

Air is being contaminated or polluted through many societal activities such as transportation, energy production, refining and distribution, generation of electricity (burning of coal and natural gas), use of refrigerants and coolants (ozone-depleting substances), metal smelting and other industrial activities (e.g. pulp and paper, chemical manufacturing and other heavy-industries), mining of aggregates, application of pesticide for agriculture, waste incineration, and use of various volatile chemicals. The potential impact of those activities in air include release of carbondioxide and other greenhouse gases (contributing global warming), depletion of ozone layer, impairment of air quality, smog (including particulates, ground level ozone), effects on human and wildlife health (e.g. upper respiratory problems and higher rates of hospitalization), acidification of lakes and rivers (acid rain), deposition of air pollutants on land and surface water bodies.

Furthermore, every living thing has an impact on its environment; therefore a human impact on the environment is inevitable. Perhaps, the most obvious example of a negative human impact on the environment is water pollution. Evidently according to US Environmental Protection Agency (sustainablebabystep, 2015), 45% of assessed stream miles, 47% of assessed lake acres, and 32% of assessed bay and estuarine square miles were not clean enough to support uses such as swimming or fishing. Water is contaminated particularly surface water through sediments, pathogens and habitat alterations from agricultural activity and hydrologic modifications (such as dams), excessive nutrients, metal and organic enrichment from agricultural activity and atmospheric deposition, heavy metals (primarily mercury), excess nutrients and organic enrichment from industrial and municipal discharges (treated or untreated waste water released from sewer plants and industrial factories into natural water sources). Removal of shoreline vegetation, logging/forestry and mining, spill and accidental releases of pollutants, boating/shipping (e.g. discharges of fuel, ballast water and refueling activity).

Water pollution summarized above lead to poisoned and un-habitable environment for plant and aquatic life, as well as affect land animals and human reliant on these systems for survival and other land-bound plant life in need of clean water for growth. in addition, these activities have potential impacts such as reduction in quality of habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms, increased runoff and erosion, depletion of fish populations, impairment of water quality, increased need for water treatment, increased algal growth/blooms, increased biodiversity and encroachment of exotic, invasive species (e.g. Zebra mussels).

Land pollution, the degradation of the environment and soil, is caused by human activity and a misuse of natural resources arisen from such activity as creation of transportation infrastructure, urban development, forestry/logging, mining activities, agriculture (soil tilling, livestock grazing, application of fertilizers and pesticides, intensive farming practices), spreading of manure and sewage sludge, tourism and recreational development, oil and gas production and distribution, and oil sands development, storage of fuels and other hazardous materials, land filling – disposal of waste, spills and accidental releases and military training. Others include personal consumption/modern culture of generating huge waste, industrial activities, over production of synthetic materials and radioactive waste. The potential impact of these activities on land include depletion of renewable and non-renewable resources, soil and groundwater contamination, erosion/desertification, reduction or removal of wildlife habitat, removal or reduction of wet lands, increased surface water runoff or storm water runoff, mining waste (tailings), and opening of remote areas. We should note that one human

impact may affect the three other components simultaneously, so also the consequence of such impact affects more than one species of living organisms.

The pollution of the air, water and land and eventual damage, discomfort and destruction of their living content (biosphere) is better regarded as environmental degradation. Environmental degradation refers to the reduction of the capacity of the environment to meet social and ecological objectives and needs. It is a process through which the natural environment is compromised in some ways, reducing biological diversity and the general health of the environment.

Without mincing words, society and its various activities impinge on the environment, which make the environment to be in a state of disequilibrium, generating more heat and eventually putting under the scourge of climate change (Jimoh, 2012). A good example of human society where all spheres of the environment are not spore o f human interference is the urban area, a product of the process known as urbanization. An urban area is where the environment is intensively utilized. The US Bureau of the census defines an area as being urbanized if a central city and it's closely settled surrounding territory are of a certain size with 50,000 people and density of at least 1000 people per square mile (Knox, 1994). It must be noted that before an urbanized area could be created, a natural environment must be destroyed and these destructive activities have an irreversible effects on the natural environment such as climate change, air pollution, sediment and loss of habitat.

Importantly, local climate is dramatically changed in urban area because temperatures are always warmer in the city than it is surrounding area creating a sort of 'heat-island' (Harms, 1994). The conditions that promote such change in city include the absence of vegetation to use sun's energy, concrete, stone, asphalt and tend to act as solar collectors and emit and absorbed heat. Also, fossil fuels burning (automobiles and industry) emit green house gases like carbon dioxide that heat up the atmosphere. Cities are 10 percent rainier and 10 percent cloudier and have 25 percent lower average wind speed, 30 percent more summer fog, and 100 percent more winter fog than non-urban areas (Keller, 199). However, average relative humidity is 6% less in urban areas because cities have large imperious surfaces and little surface or soil water to exchange by evaporation with the atmosphere (Keller, 1996). Generally the average maximum temperature difference in a city can be 3 degrees Celsius compared to its surrounding areas (Keller, 1996). Urbanization and human activity creates a microclimate that is not environmentally healthful, not only are humans affected adversely by bad air quality, animals also suffer. It affects all living creatures in urbanized world. Even though the consequences of human activity are unintended, the effects can be far reaching and potentially damaging (Merrifield and Swyngedouw, 1997).

From the foregoing, one could see the tremendous impact of the society on the environment which serves as basis of the counter-theory to determinism, that is, possibilism. This engulfs the premise that modern technology can conquer and modify man's environment to suit his needs. It posits that man is able to accelerate, slow or stop the progress of a society's development. This paradigm presents a model of people perceiving the range of alternative uses to which they could put an environment and selecting that which best fitted their cultural disposition. This framework captures the dual relationship between human and environment as it establishes that all effects must have a cause (Jimoh and Akindele, 2005).

Similar paradigm, which does not go the same direction as the previous ones, probabilism though adopts the similar concepts as the earlier two. It posits that the physical environment determines a good deal of man's actions. Also advanced cultures can overcome environmental constraints with the use of technology, and that if one knows both the physical environment and the cultural environment and the cultural traits of an area, such a person can put the land to its best possible use and even predict future results. This position is wholly pointing to environmental sustainability (Jimoh, 2006).

4. SIGNIFICANCE OF GEOGRAPHY IN SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

Geography is a discipline concerns with spatial organization of society in such a way there will bring about harmonious relationship between society and environment. In striving to achieve that goal it has four traditions which facilitate good understanding of man-environment system. These are spatial tradition, an area studies tradition, a man-land tradition and an earth Science tradition. The explanation of each by Pattison (1990) is as follows;

The spatial tradition emphasizes the significance of spatial interaction and analysis with interest in such aspects of the environment that impinge on interaction like distance, form, direction and position. For instance, distance is a spatial

separation between places on the earth's surfaces (absolute). The determination and display of spatial aspects of reality through mapping were quite significant. In essence, the true essential of this tradition exists in geometry and movement; movement aspect is well captured in the theoretical and substantive work of Edward L. Ullman; work of Emory R. Johnston and a deep attachment to geometry or positioning and layout in the work of Joseph Schaefer in 1953 that granted geographical legitimacy only to studies of spatial patterns (Schaefer, 1953). This will be further discussed in this work.

The area studies tradition is quite strikingly represented in classical antiquity work of practitioners, Strabo, Ptolemy with interest in the nature of places, their character and their differentiation. Also, Richard Hartshorne has pondered the meaning of the area studies tradition. The companionship between area studies and history he clarifies by appraising the so-called idiographic content of both and by affirming the tie of both of what he and Sauer called "naively given reality".

Man-land tradition is well established in the work of O.H.K. Spate and also in the work of Hippocrates, Greek physician of the 5th century B.C. who left to posterity an extended essay, on Airs, waters and places (Spate, 1960). In this work made up of reflections on human health and conditions of external, the questions asked are such as to confine thought almost altogether to presumed influence passing from the latter to the former, questions largely about the effects of winds, drinking water and seasonal changes upon man (environmental determinism). Further work of both culture historians and geographers has exhibited a reversal of direction of the effects of Hippocrates, man appearing as an independent agent, and the land as a sufferer from action (possibilism paradigm). This has also been highlighted in this paper. The earth science tradition embraces the study of the earth, the waters of earth, the atmosphere surrounding the earth and the association between earth and sun, confronts one with a paradox. This tradition brings about the adage "Geography is the mother of sciences". It is a wide ranging study of natural processes in and near the surface of the earth; as found in the work of Aristotle in ancient Greece. This tradition was rejuvenated by Varenus in the 17th century as "Geographia Generalis." This is the tradition that has been subjected to subdivision as the development of science has approached the present day, yielding mineralogy and other specialized fields of learning. Every component of the environment is given serious attention in this tradition.

In summary, the spatial tradition abstracts certain aspect of reality; area studies tradition is distinguished by a point of view; the man-land tradition dwells upon relationships; but earth science is identifiable through concrete objects. It should be understood that all the four traditions are being pursued concurrently in geography in its effort to attain sustainable society - environment relationship.

5. INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

Geographers are specialists in the study of the dynamics of spatial relationships. Movement, connection and interaction are part of the social and economic processes that give character to places and regions. This focus of geographers recognizes that spatial interaction is a fundamental organizing principle of the physical and social environment. This has also become universal and is termed globalization. Let us go back to examine the hindrances to spatial interaction, which we have identified distance, form, direction and position as crucial. Location of society identifies by a precise and accepted system of coordinates (Absolute) such as global grid of Latitude and longitude refers to as mathematical location. It is unique and independent (site) of any other characteristic and enables the measuring of distance, or direction between places on the earth's surface. However relative location is more significant than absolute location. Relative location is the position of society in relation to that of other societies (situation). It expresses spatial interconnection and interdependence and may carry social (neighborhood character) and economic (assessed valuation of vacant land) implications. It informs us that people and societies exist not in a spatial vacuum but in a world of physical and cultural characteristics that differ from place to place (Getis, et al, 2009).

It is cogent that greater accessibility and connectivity within and among societies be given priority so as to improve spatial interaction as supported by Tobler's law. Tobler's first law of Geography in spatial sense states that 'everything is related to everything else but relationships are stronger when things are near one another.' This implies that interaction between societies diminishes in intensity and frequency as distance between them increases; that is, distance decay effect. And accessibility is when distance is considered on how easy or difficult it is to overcome the 'friction of distance'. That is, how easy or difficult to overcome the barrier of the time and space separation of places? This then brings about the idea of connectivity which implies all the tangible and intangible ways in which societies are connected: by physical telephone lines, street and road networks, pipelines and sewers etc. There are proliferation of technology and devices to achieve it

today: cell phones, e-mail, broadband wireless internet, instant messaging, and more have erased time and distance barriers which have reduced our dependence on physical movement and on networks fixed in the landscape.

Connectivity could be taken to imply increasing global spatial proximity. What Marx in the *Grundrisse* (1973) cited by Tomlinson (1999) talked of as the ‘annihilation of space by time’ and what David Harvey (1989) cited by Tomlinson (1999) has referred to as ‘time-space compression’. It implies shrinking of distances through the dramatic reduction in the time taken, either physically (e.g. via air travel) or representationally (via transmission of electronically mediated information and images) to cross them.

From another perspective, connectivity is seen as idea of spatial proximity via the idea of the ‘stretching of social relations across distance (Giddens, 1990, 1994 cited by Tomlinson, 1999). Being connected means being close in very specific ways. This enhances the interchange between connected societies, thus, spatial diffusion concept is relevant in this context. The concept is the process of dispersion of an idea or a thing from a centre of origin to more distant points. Its rate and extent are affected by distance, technology, other societies eventually adopted it, population densities, means of communication, advantages of the innovation, and importance or prestige of the originating node.

The advance level of connectivity is globalization which is replete with metaphors of global proximity, of a ‘shrinking world’ from Marshall McLuhan’s famous ‘global village’ to the United Nations’s recent coming of the term ‘our global neighbourhood’ to describe an emerging world political context. In addition, proximity is inseparable from global modernity and this is generally of either a phenomenological or a metaphorical order.

Phenomenologically, it describes a common conscious appearance of the world as more intimate, more compressed, more part of everyday reckoning. For example, in air experience of rapid transport or our mundane use of media technologies to bring distant images into our most intimate local spaces (Tomlinson, 1999).

Metaphorically, it conveys the increasing immediacy for and consequentiality of real distanced relations. This involves the connections that affect our lives (e.g. the financial networks that tie our bank accounts into the global capitalist market or shared global environmental threats like ‘global warming’ which is one of the current world challenges) are made sense of as though they really bring us into closer contact (Tomlinson, 1999).

In addition, business travel is actually to minimise cultural difference so as to give ‘universal’ practices. This is connectivity working financially to achieve a manufactured form of proximity experienced as universality. Also from the view of capitalism, connectivity works towards increasing functional proximity. It does not aim to make places the same, but it creates globalized spaces and connecting corridors which ease the flow of capital, commodities and personnel by matching the time-space compression of connectivity with a degree of cultural ‘compression’. This is certainly an important dimension of globalization. Globalization makes the world a ‘single place’ thus the idea of the world becoming one place which is only contingently related to the idea of increasing connectivity. In fact, globalization lies at the heart of modern culture, cultural practices lie at the heart of globalization. Globalization according to Tomlinson (1999) refers to the rapid developing and ever-densening network of interconnections and interdependences that characterised modern social life. It is a complex connectivity, McGrew (1992) cited by Tomlinson (1999) describes it as ‘simply the intensification of global interconnectedness which implies multiplicity of linkages which exist in a number of different modalities. Nowadays, goods, capital, people, knowledge, images, crime, pollutants, drugs, fashions and beliefs all readily flow across territorial boundaries. It has provided every society opportunity to live beyond their available immediate environmental resources.

In summary, connectivity furnishes people with cultural resources that they lacked before its expansion: a cultural awareness which is, in various senses, ‘global’. Roland Robertson has always stressed that globalization intrinsically involves ‘the intensification of consciousness of the world as a whole (Tomlinson, 1999) and Giddens (1991) as cited by Tomlinson (1999) also argues that people’s phenomenal worlds’ though situated locally, ‘for the most part are truly global. This implies that ‘global’ is increasingly exists as a cultural horizon within which we (to varying degree) frame our existence. The penetration of localities which connectivity brings is thus doubled edged: as it dissolves the security of locality, it offers new understandings of experience in wider ultimately global terms. Globalization therefore matters for culture in the sense that it brings the negotiation of cultural experience in other realms of connectivity: the political, the environmental, the economic etc.

6. PROSPECT FOR CORDIAL RELATION BETWEEN SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT

From the foregoing, geographers are not restricted bounded by what they study but free to research on nearly any topic related to scientific analysis of human or natural processes in the environment. They generally consider all of human and natural phenomena that affect a given problem or issue, that is, they often taken a holistic approach to understand the environment. They gather, organize and analyse many kinds of geographic data and information with a focus to provide explanation on spatial locations, distributions, and relationships. They also search for and study the processes that influence earth's landscape in the past, how they continue to affect them today, how a landscape may change in the future, and the impact of such changes.

Apart from mapping, positivism scientific method and quantitative methodology, geographers have brought to bear geographic techniques of analysis that are used for interpreting remotely sensed images and for environmental monitoring, in form of Geographical information system (GIS), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), to determine optimum location, diffusion of innovation and spread of infectious diseases, delineation of voting districts and other planning challenges.

It has been brought to the fore in this study how imperative it is to understand our environment and its components as well as all processes that operate to change or regulate it will enable us to consciously utilize and manage it sustainably. Also, to combat human pollution activities, the necessary action is proper planning and proper usage of natural resources. For example, adapting and adopting the use of organic and sustainable farming techniques instead of chemical applications. Use of clean sustainable energy such as wind or solar power can help to avoid the pollution from coal or nuclear plants. Others include the use of better public transit, electric cars, rail and city planning with many green belt areas, retrofilling or otherwise upgrading existing factories with green technologies such as solar panel s or air infiltration systems and raising animals on natural diets and rotating pasture to reduce methane emissions and pollution, and reduction in consumption of animal products and sourcing food from sustainable farms.

In addition, in order to overcome urbanization problem, urban ecological policies must be given priority with special consideration to clean up and rebuild cities in balance with nature (Merrifield and Swyngedouw, 1997) rather than destroy natural environment. Other means of avoiding or minimising negative environmental effects include consideration of environmental concerns in the early stages of decision making, reducing energy consumption and increasing use of renewable energy sources through increased efficiency for vehicle and domestic needs, new environmentally compliance building design or retrofitting, advancing , developing and employing green technologies, reducing consumption of resources, increased reuse and recycling, thus decreasing resource consumption, and waste production and disposal, eco-efficiency, green procurement, pollution prevention and improved emergency response and preparation.

In addition to the above, suggestions for environmental sustainability there is need for societies to engage in environmental assessment, natural habitat management, pest management, forestry, project on international water ways, and involuntary resettlement (Jimoh, 2011). Without mincing words, geography learning and understanding and the use of spatial tools is therefore recommended in combating the myriad of environmental challenges, and also appropriate for proper exploitation and utilization of environmental resources.

Importantly more robust measure a nd calculation for the analysis of globalization concept needs to be fashioned out in geography, as well established for accessibility and connectivity concepts, so as to keep abreast of development and to easy means of assessing and contribution to universal culture in society which has greatly overcome some of impediments imposed by natural constraint in society – environment relationship.

7. CONCLUSION

This study on the perspective and association of geography with environment and society has revealed the vital role and abundance of knowledge in geography to understand the environment, its components as stock of resources for societal's sustenance. It also shed light on various ways society has intervned in the efficient functioning of natural environment and how the latter has being polluted unconsciously, unplanned and disproportionate exploitation without environmental care. In addition, various geographical knowledge to grasp proper and balance relationships are identified and discussed in this study. It thus recommends geography study and learning in understanding and for proper use and management of environment for societies development and sustasinability.

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