

## WELFARE APPROACH IN GEOGRAPHY

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### ABSTRACT

*The welfare geography method addresses the problems of injustice and inequality. The methodology emerged in opposition to the 1960s' quantitative and model-building traditions. Human geography underwent a significant shift in the 1970s toward social issues, including poverty, hunger, crime, racial prejudice, and lack of access to health and education, among other things. The tremendous socio-political upheavals in Eastern Europe and South Africa are mostly to blame for the increased emphasis given to issues like the distribution of the benefits of economic development. Therefore, welfare geography's primary focus is on who receives how, what, and where. The "who" denotes the populace of the area being examined (a city, region, or country). The term "what" refers to numerous amenities and limitations that the populace uses and experiences in regard to services, goods, social interactions, etc. Where does it say that there are varied various living standards places? And "How" refers to the method through which the observed variations develop.*

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**Keywords:** *Welfare Geography, Human Geography, Inequality.*

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### Introduction

The GDP is a faulty indicator of economic welfare, as numerous economists have remarked. Leisure, inequality, mortality, sickness, crime, and the environment are just a few of the significant aspects impacting a nation's living standards that are imperfectly if at all, taken into account in GDP. The Stiglitz Commission Report (Stiglitz, Sen, and Fitoussi 2009) was the most recent effort to go through GDP critiques and find useful suggestions for reform. Even though some of these elements present major conceptual and empirical challenges, normal economic analysis is probably well-suited to handle several of them.

We suggest a straightforward summary statistic for population welfare, expressed to compute its level and growth rate for a variety of countries as a consumption equivalent. This welfare metric integrates information on consumption, leisure, inequality, and death using the traditional economics of expected utility. The emphasis on welfare comparable to consumption continues the work of Lucas (1987), who determined the welfare gains of removing business cycles vs increasing growth rate.

From a welfare geography perspective, territorial fairness and spatial inequality are prioritized. Welfare geography emphasizes the necessity of identifying and explaining the presence of prejudice and disadvantages of other kinds, such as hunger, poverty, and crime. It emerged at the same time as radical geography in the early 1970s. The goal of welfare geography was to identify who receives what, where, and how. This early study developed the welfare economics' abstract formulation and grounded it experimentally while keeping the use of algebraic representations. It offered a foundation for assessment. It is possible to compare current welfare arrangements—including who receives what, where, and how—against potential alternatives. This focus on description was eventually attempted to match and then supplanted by a study on the mechanisms that shape inequity. Neo-classical economics was substituted with Marxist economics as the foundation for the two-level illustrated analysis. It entails comprehending the operation of the entire social, economic, and political system and identifying common tendencies.

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This level of research demonstrates that inequality is pervasive throughout capitalism. The geographical and regional effects of capitalism's restlessness as a system are uneven development. The second level of explanation focuses on the specifics of specific social, economic, and political systems; for instance, how capitalism's housing policy benefits some individuals in some places and disadvantages others in other locations. Recent interest in the relationship between social justice and the state has strengthened the examination of the politics underlying these programs.

Relational ethics of care has been attempted to be theorized alongside an emphasis on the restructuring of the welfare state, which characterizes much of this current work (Peck, 2001). This study, which serves as an illustration of feminist philosophy, aims to understand the social relationships that underlie the creation of justice and caring. The emphasis is on links and interconnections rather than the distinction between categories, such as private and public or state and market, when viewing politics as an essential component of daily life (Smith and Lee, 2004).

In order to create welfare geographies, welfare geography focuses on the relationship between regional variation in need and the mechanisms of a service (Smith 1973). The Vietnam War, the rise in crime, and environmental degradation are only a few examples of the political, historical, and psychological factors that contributed to the welfare approach's relatively late debut in the humanities, social sciences, and particularly geography. These crises in cities and towns served as a catalyst for the radical method to be proposed by a group of social scientists as a means of addressing social, political, and economic injustice. The distribution problem was becoming more urgent, especially in light of geography (Smith, 1977).

Like all of the other major sibling disciplines from the Humanities and Arts, geography had a number of philosophical and methodological issues prior to the advent of the Quantitative revolution. The development of geography as an organized field of study stalled.

However, in recent years, geographers have adopted new approaches, restructured their study programs and developed themes around modern concerns like socio-economic development and rural-urban studies, making the field a key resource for understanding local environments and regional milieu.

The field of geography has seen significant changes in its content, philosophy, and technique over the past 50 years. Geographers are currently focusing on a number of pressing concerns, such as hunger, poverty, racial discrimination, pollution, environmental pollution, social inequality or injustice, and the use and abuse of finite resources.

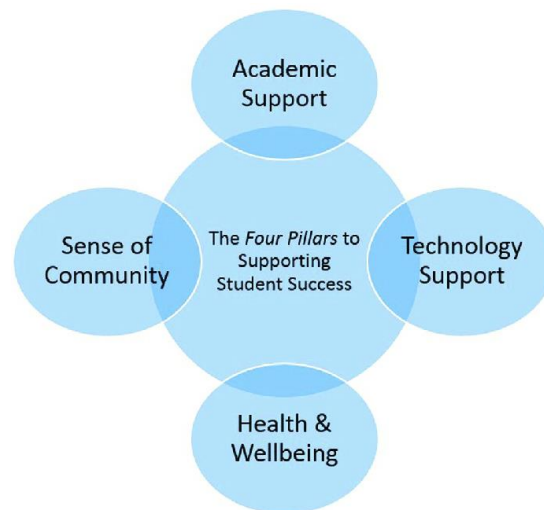
Black Ghetto, Crime geography, and social well-being geography are some of the top works and topics that have helped shape public policy. The quantitative revolution of the 1960s gave geography a vigor that was absolutely necessary for the thorough and in-depth study needed in any public setting as well as the creation of ideas for public policy.

Early in the 1960s, the scientific revolution helped shape the field of geography. The pragmatists pioneered the application of positivism, or scientific methods, to problem-solving for the benefit of humans. In discussing the issues, possibilities, and future of human geography, academics like David M. Smith have embraced the welfare method with this goal in mind.

Some renowned geographers have given differing definitions of the welfare approach. Theoretical welfare geography, in the words of Mishan, "is that branch of study that endeavors to formulate positions by which we may be able to rank, on the scale of better or worse, alternatives in the geographical situation open to society." While Nath described welfare geography as the field of geography where we can investigate the potential effects of various geographic policies on societal well-being. Smith described welfare geography as the study of "who gets what, where, and how" in a spatial setting.

By describing and explaining the phenomena, geographers, whose main interest is in societal issues, are attempting to develop more practical plans for public policy. They analyze their plans and offer relevant tactics for balanced development through such analysis.

The rationale for this involves empirically identifying regional levels of human development and the state of the human condition. Incredibly little study has been done on this important and immediate issue in both industrialized and developing nations, including India.



Does the explanation include the how? It entails locating the causal connections between the various social behaviors that are carried out because they influence who receives what and where. This is where the examination of the aforementioned social, economic, and demographic patterns logically fits into the welfare framework.

Whether the building is a road, railway, hospital, school, theatre, community hall, cinema, park, or recreational area, some people will be enjoying the better site for advantages or drawbacks due to geographic distance and simplicity of understanding.

If the advantages and penalties are locational choices and detailed plans for the spatial allocation of resources that are proportional among the population in a more or less predictable and acceptable manner must be developed with the utmost care and attention. Given their competence in the spatiotemporal analysis of such phenomena, geographers play a significant role in establishing public policy.

The placement of factories or other places of employment, the design of hospitals, housing developments, and shopping malls, and the distribution of land for different urban and recreational uses are all instances of spatial allocation problems. Each of these decisions could be taken in a variety of ways and result in a different outcome.

Due to their skill, geographers can create more complex knowledge and models of the development process.

This entails unraveling intricate webs of social, cultural, and economic connections. Moreover, the ecological interactions that are in balance and are so readily upset by poorly thought-out "developmental" schemes.

By distributing, analyzing, and synthesizing space, geographers can more effectively, meaningfully, and with success contribute to the development of policies for the general public, private property, etc.

Internal inequality is generally rather significant in developing nations like China, India, and Brazil. Contrarily, metropolitan elites or powerful landowners continue to hold an excessive quantity of money, influence, and other resources of public interest in Third World countries. There are greater than

In contrast, only a dozen households control more than half of the nation's entire assets, while 50% of the population continues to live lower than the poverty line. Additionally, although the majority of India's economic activity is focused in its major cities, more than 70% of the country's population still lives in rural areas.

The already expanding discrimination between the wealthy and the poor, as well as between the rural and urban populations is a result of planners' urban-based industrial and social infrastructure policies.

Highly developed nations like the United States, Russia, Australia, and Japan also geographical differences in human development levels. The total level of living within the United States is the highest in the entire world. In ghettos or urban slums, millions of Americans, particularly Black Negroes (black people), endure poverty and social exclusion. Some people's living conditions are as poor as anywhere on the African continent in many rural areas of the United States (Texas, Georgia, etc.).

The prevalence of crimes like drug addiction is particularly high in these ghettos.

A contradiction that highlights the continued existence of widespread poverty in American slums, the richest society on earth, is evidence that economic progress under a capitalist system has failed to lift everyone's living to a current standard of decency. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that 26 million Americans (or nearly 12 percent) lived in poverty in 1976.

One of the theories advanced by capitalists for the current regional discrepancies, both inter- and intra-regional, is that because people are not equal by birth, they are not capable of becoming equal in their societies.

If the social, political, and economic organization is founded on a policy that favors cities or wealthy people, the issue becomes much more serious. The planners can build general social facilities that will help all facets of society with the aid of geographers.

However, geography cannot be the panacea for all injustices, inequality, and ongoing socio-economic imbalances.

Geographers are skilled at handling, analyzing, and interpreting geographically distributed data. The spatial component of environmental problems and natural disasters may also be studied by them. People from other disciplines frequently lack this awareness of and comfort with dealing with the spatial component if a geographer does not build it up, which is a problem. A significant factor in all problems of resource and environmental management.

A welfare society requires improved resource sharing, distribution, and manufacturing methods among people (or places (either in classes or groups)). At the local, regional, national, and international stages of development, the process of planning and creating public policies, will be made easier if geographers study the interface between man and the environment and elaborate. There is a direct relationship between phenomena' spatial distribution.

Geographers collaborate with academics and researchers from various fields to establish public policies in nations including Sweden, the Netherlands, France, Norway, Israel, Denmark, the USSR, Australia, and New Zealand. which is efficient, advantageous, and useful to all societal segments. Similar to this, geoscientists in India can also offer workable solutions for the myriad social, economic, and infrastructure issues brought on by a rapidly growing population.

### **The Distinction between Humanistic Geography and Welfare Geography**

Geographers can use their work to demonstrate the links between social structure and social structure in space and the causes of inequality. Planning enables specialists to create public policies concerning restructuring and rearrangement that are appropriate. experts in spatial study of phenomena and the relationship between people and their environments. Geographers will need to emphasize this goal by means of their employed and practical research.

However, human geography emerged from earth sciences and continues to have connections with physical geography. The primary goal of this field of study has been to investigate the numerous environmental issues that affect diverse socioeconomic groups. The welfare approach has become the standard method used by geographers today, especially since the 1960s, to examine human behavior. The welfare method actually came into being as a reaction to the quantitative revolution, geographical science, positivism, and model-building, which were deemed to be inadequately concerned with the current flaws in human society.

Human geography saw a significant shift in the 1970s towards 'welfare' issues including poverty, crime, income inequality, and access to social services (such as education and healthcare). The shift from narrowly focused economic conditions of growth or advancement to broader characteristics of quality of life was accompanied by a significant shift in social concern. In the current era of slow economic growth, the phenomenon's spread in space and distributional issues have assumed new significance because, under these circumstances, policies of distribution in favor of the poor or socially disadvantaged can only be instituted at the expense of the rich or better-off members of society.

The "what" refers to the various pleasant and terrible things people enjoy or put up with the provision of services, goods, social interactions, environmental quality, etc.

The 'where' refers to the reality that different places have different living standards. The process through which the observable disparities develop is referred to as the "how."

The welfare approach's initial task is descriptive. the current state of society in terms of who receives what? Where? Giving individuals access to these factual materials is a realistic goal, which may be shown by the expansion of welfare economics' abstract interpretations. The overall degree of welfare in a spatially segmented society can be expressed as:

The Dictionary of Human Geography, edited by R.J. Johnston, D. Gregory, and David M. Smith, states that "In a spatially disaggregated society, the general level of welfare may be written as  $W = f(S_1, \dots, S_n)$ , Where S is the level of living or social well-being in a set of n regional subdivisions." (1994). In other terms, one may define welfare as the process of distributing benefits and drawbacks among various social groupings that are determined by where they live.

According to what people receive, social well-being might be characterized as follows:

$$S = f(X_1 \dots X_m),$$

where 'X' denotes the total amount of goods and bad eaten or experienced. Regarding the composition of the concerned area, social well-being can alternatively be represented as follows:

$$S = f(U_1 \dots U_k),$$

where the "U" degree of satisfaction, utility, or well-being experienced by the k population subgroups individually. The terms in all of the aforementioned expressions can be merged in accordance with any function and weighted differently to indicate the territorial or regional levels of well-being, goods, and bad that maximize the Objective performance (W or S)."

The creation of social indicators is crucial for detecting differences in territorial distribution. These indicators could include things like housing, income, education, employment, social standing or social involvement, etc.

Neo-classical economics was identified by the welfare approach as being the least appropriate theory to elucidate societal injustice. Due to capitalism's innate inclination to produce inequality, Marxian economics offers a good instrument for analyzing social issues including housing, income, education, employment, etc. The method by which certain components of a socio-political and economic system operate is covered in the second tier of justification. The concept was first proposed by D. Smith (1977) presented a welfare concept in Human Geography: A Welfare Concept that later melded with other theories. of geography dealing with inequality-related issues.

Welfare geography's focus on these concerns necessitates a highly interdisciplinary approach. Furthermore, a fascination with welfare geography has changed in the quickly evolving globalization era when the developing South is disadvantaged compared to the developed North.

### Conclusion

Geographers are more concerned with what ought to be the geographical distribution of phenomena than what it is in order to lessen regional inequality and raise the standard of living. In order to identify the causes of disparity instead of decrying injustice, geographers examine the spatial discrepancy in this environment's social amenities and living conditions.

The explanation of the phenomenon and its description are clarified by geographers who are primarily focused on societal issues and working to develop workable ideas for public policy. They analyze their ideas and offer relevant solutions for balanced development based on such analysis. The empirical determination of geographical levels of happiness for individuals, or the human condition, is a part of the description.

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