

GeEs 2073 --Seminar on contemporary Geographical Issues

*Target groups---2nd year Geography
majoring students.*

Introduction to seminar to contemporary Geographical Issues

1.1.Prelude to Geography

What is Geography?

Perhaps one of the best ways of defining geography is to identify the major fields of study.

These include

- The physical characteristics of the environment(relief, climate, soil, etc and the processes that produce them.
- The human characteristics of the environment and the economic, social and political processes that produce them
- The interaction of people and the environment(two way interaction)—the impact of physical environment on people and the impact of people on the environment
- Spatial variations in the environment—differences from place to place
- Environmental changes over time

☞ The scope of modern geography is too wide.

☞ There can be no questioning of geography's tremendous potential to be an exciting topical and challenging subject.

☞ What other subject includes such a variety of topics---from environmental hazards to crime, from global warming to ghettos, from plate tectonics to inner-city decline?

▪ Geography really is a subject with a difference for the following reasons.

- It crosses a divide between the arts, sciences, and social sciences
- It looks at relationships between people and the environment
- It is concerned with all those contemporary issues and problems that lie rooted in the environment

- It investigates differences in two different dimensions—changes in space(from place to place, that is called spatial variation) and change over time---that is known as temporal variation.
- It investigates at a range of scales---spatially from global to local and temporally from short term to long term.
- It involves analyzing and summarizing complex material drawn from a variety of sources.
- It makes full use of cartographic, statistical and visual techniques to support and illustrate its investigations

Operational definition of geography:

Geography is the scientific study of the earth that describes and analyses spatial and temporal variations of physical, biological and human phenomena, and their interrelationships and dynamism over the surface of the Earth.

Activity

Is geography science? Explain.

1.2.Geographical Themes and Standards

The five main themes of geography are:

1. **Location** refers to the position of a place/things.

It can be expressed in two ways.

- Relative(vicinal which is expressed in relation to neighbouring countries or expressed in relation to landmasses and water bodies)

- Absolute(that is the exact address of a place and it is expressed by using lines of latitudes and longitudes)

2. **Place** refers to the physical and human features of a location.

- Three aspects of a place are
 - i. The toponym(the name of a place)
 - ii. site (the description of the features of the place), and
 - iii. situation (the environmental conditions of the place).
- Each place in the world has its unique characteristics expressed in terms of landforms, hydrology, biogeography, pedology, characteristics and size of its human population, and the distinct human cultures.
- The concept of “place” aids geographers to compare and contrast two places on Earth

3. **Human-environment interaction**

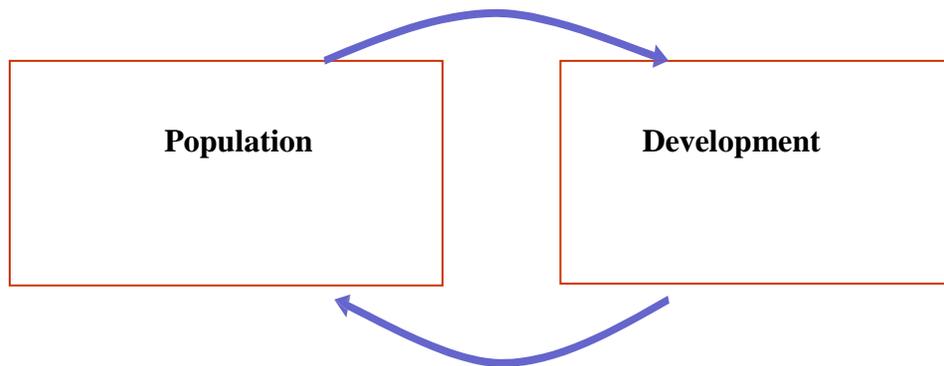
- Human-environment interaction involves three distinct aspects:
 - i. dependency,
 - ii. adaptation, and
 - iii. modification.
- Dependency refers to the ways in which humans are dependent on nature for a living.
- Adaptation relates to how humans modify themselves, their lifestyles and their behaviour to live in a new environment with new challenges.
- Modification allowed humans to “conquer” the world for their comfortable living.

4. **Movement**

This theme of geography involves three dimensions.

- physical movement of people
- movement of goods
- flow of ideas

5. **Region**



- Inconsistent and inconclusive relationship, suggesting that both arrows are working in the system

Theories of Population and Development

Interrelations

(The Pessimistic Theories)

- Supply of some natural resources (non- renewable) and capital is fixed
- Supply would grow more slowly than the population



Malthusian theory

- Population tends to increase at a geometric rate
- Food can only increase arithmetically
- Population expands to eat up any surplus
- Subsistence pays forever unless moral checks
- Choose moral checks or positive checks to influence population growth

Neo-Malthusian Theory (Coale- Hoover,1958)

- 1940s-1960s: An era of unprecedented growth of population in the developing world
- Social expenditure on school and health due to young age structure diverted funds from capital investment.
- Conclusion of the theory: High population growth causes poor socio- economic development
- Policy Implications: Government should intervene to control population

Coale-Hoover Theory: Limitation

- The theory does not take into account the changes in technology and labor quality (through better health and schooling of new generation)

Activity

What is the central theme of pessimistic view?

The Optimistic Theories

- Population growth exerts a positive influence on economic development

- Human ingenuity would create the technology to overcome any environmental constraints to development (Boserup, Julion Simon).

Marxism and Population

- A "Surplus population" is a creation of capitalism, and a necessary condition for its continuance. Capitalism requires a surplus of readily exploitable manpower" which it creates by expropriating land, and by displacing workers with machines

Revisionist Theory- 1

International Population Conference, 1974 (at Bucharest, Romania): *Development is the best contraceptive* (said a delegate from India) . Underdevelopment produces rapid population growth.

Policy Implications: Invest resources in development activities

Revisionist Theory- 2

International Population Conference, 1984, Mexico:

Population is a 'neutral' phenomenon in the process of economic development (USA position)

- Policy Implications: Other issues must take priority, e.g. economic reforms, free markets, democracy etc.

ICPD, 1994, Cairo

- Human rights are at the center of concerns for sustainable development
- Policy implications: Advancing gender equality, equity, and empowerment of women are key to population and development related programs

Effects of population growth:

- Agricultural stagnation,
- Environmental degradation
- Deforestation
- Underemployment
- High labor force

Boserup hypothesis:

- Agriculture intensification occurs as population density on agricultural land increases.
- But sub-saharan Africa experience agriculture expansion rather than intensification.
- Expansive agriculture involved conversion of large areas of forest, wetlands, river valley bottoms, and grassland savanna to crop land.
- Agriculture expansion + rapid population growth = accelerated degradation of natural resources = agricultural stagnation

Factors worsening the problem

- i. Deficiencies in economic policy (e.g. agricultural pricing, excessive control of agricultural marketing, lack of empowerment of farmers): Slowed the evolution of ancestral systems into systems more sustainable with higher population density
- ii. Lack of rapid and widespread technological change

iii. Traditional Tenure Systems

- Rapidly rising population pressure makes effective common ownership regulation increasingly more difficult
- Rapid population growth led to an erosion and breakdown in customary laws

and rules governing sustainable use and management of land and other common property resources

- It also causes fragmentation of agricultural land

iv. **Deforestation and fuel wood collection**

- 90% of households in Sub-Saharan Africa use fuel wood- as the staple source of energy.
- Slow economic growth will impede the switch to non-wood fuels.
- Hence, the demand for wood-fuel would increase with population growth
- It has important negative effects on rural women, health, nutritional patterns and soil conservation

Labor Force and Population Growth

- Population 15-65 years, who is actively seeking jobs
- Growth of the labor force in future will depend on
 - Age structure of the population:
 - younger the population-faster will be growth
 - Current fertility levels
 - Economic activity rates by age and sex
- Interaction between population growth and unemployment more acute among nations with younger population- SSA has 45% population under 15 years
- Measures to reduce population growth have a delayed effect on labor force size

Activity

Evaluate the optimist view of population growth.

Environment: Definition and Functions

Brainstorming: What is an environment?

Definition

We inhabit **two** worlds. One is the **natural world** of plants, animals, soils, air and water that preceded us by billions of years and of which we are a part. The other is **the world of social institutions and artifacts** that we create for ourselves using science, technology and political organizations. Both worlds are essential to our lives, but integrating them successfully causes enduring tensions.

Focus: Literally, the term environment is derived from the French word: **environner** meaning to encircle or surround. Accordingly environment can be defined as:

- ◆ The circumstances and conditions that surround an organism or group of organisms or
- ◆ The social and cultural conditions that affect an individual or community. Since humans inhabit the natural world as well as the “**built**” or technological, social and cultural world, all constitute important parts of our environment.

The National Conservation Strategy, Proclamation No 9 of 1995 of Ethiopia defined environment as:”the totality of all resources whether in their natural state or as modified or changed by man as well as the external conditions and impacts which affect the quality quantity of resources and welfare of human beings.”

Despite having the above definitions, however the environment is usually looked upon as located outside ourselves. This “bounded” quality of the environment is seen as its defining characteristics. It is better to view the environment as “process” rather than “form.”

Components of the environment

The environment is composed of both biotic and abiotic things. The biotic or living parts of the environment involve producers (plants), animals, insects and microorganisms which vary in description and characteristics. The abiotic component (non-living part) of the environment, on the other hand, consists of soils, rock layers, minerals, air and water resources. The environmental elements and processes are interdependence to one another, with human beings as the central and major influential in their interaction. The rocks of earth’s crust, the soils, water, air, plants, animals and humans all affect one another. Very often, the damage to any one of them can cause harm to several others. That is the reason why we have to see the total environment as a system of working parts.

Activity:

List down all the environmental elements around us and state their relationship with one another.

The environment of the earth is divided into zones called spheres. These are

- ❖ **Lithosphere**-The top soil and rocks of the earth
- ❖ **Hydrosphere**- The water in all its forms of existence
- ❖ **Atmosphere**- The air that surrounds the earth
- ❖ **Biosphere**-The living portion of the earth.
- ❖ **Anthroposphere**—cultural landscape made by man.

According to the definition above, environment is comprised of both physical, biotic and the cultural and technological aspects of the society. It is on these environments that any meaningful and sustainable development of any nation takes place. Thus the environment is the engine of development of the society. However, the natural quality of the environment is deteriorating from time to time particularly since the industrial revolution.

3.Sink function

Resource functions: The natural environment provides natural resources that are inputs into human production processes. These include such things as mineral ores, crude petroleum, fish and forests. Some of these resources such as fish and forests are renewable while others such as minerals and petroleum are not. Here, the environment supports livelihood of millions who depend upon environmental resources.

Environmental service functions: The natural environment provides the basic habitat of clean air, drinkable water, suitable climate that directly support all forms of life on the planet. Water filtration provided by the wetlands and erosion control provided by tree-covered hillsides are other examples of service function provided by ecosystems. People enjoy the services the natural environment directly when they enjoy pleasant scenery or outdoor recreation.

Sink functions: The natural environment serves as a “**sink**” which absorbs the pollutants and wastes generated by economic activities. Some wastes breakdown relatively quickly into harmless substances while others are toxic and/ or accumulate overtime, eventually compromising the quality of the environment. Forests also provide a number of these functions, including buffer soil erosion and land degradation protecting the biological diversity in delicate and fragile ecosystems, and regulating climatic variability. These functions are disrupted when forests are destroyed or fragmented. Car exhaust dissipating into the atmosphere used packaging that goes into **landfills** and **effluents** (liquid wastes) that end upon rivers and oceans are additional examples of sink functions. While for centuries these three environmental functions were treated as though they were provided “free” and in unlimited amounts, more

recently the problems of depletion of resources, degradation of environmental services and overuse of environmental sink functions have become increasingly apparent.

Activity :

Can you cite different environmental functions in your locality?

The Environment and Related Problems

The mal-distribution of resources makes the world's poorest citizens both the **victims** and the **agents** of environmental degradation. To satisfy daily needs, they:

- ◆ Fell irreplaceable forest
- ◆ Farm erodible hillsides
- ◆ Hunt endangered species and
- ◆ Work in dangerous, degrading conditions

Destruction of tropical forests, coral reefs, wet lands and other biological landscapes is causing an alarming loss of species and biological diversity that could severely limit our future options.

Activity: What do you think are to be solutions for this inequality?

This inequality will be minimized by both lowering our own consumption rates and helping others attain less destructive ways of living is an essential requirement for preserving a livable environment. Some authors argue that increasing environmental degradation and critical shortage in non-renewable resources require immediate, drastic reductions in human populations, level of consumption and standard of living.

The other way that humans affect the environment is by releasing heat trapping gases in to the atmosphere. As we **burn fossil fuels**, we release carbon dioxide and other heat absorbing gases that cause global warming and catastrophic climate changes in many places. Acids formed in the air as a result of fossil fuels combustion already have caused extensive damage to building materials and sensitive ecosystems in many places. Toxic air and water pollutants along with solid wastes are becoming great problems in threatening natural environment particularly in industrialized nations. Continuous fossil fuel use without pollution control measures could cause even more massive damages on environment.

It should also be noted that chlorinated compounds such as **chlorofluorocarbon** (CFC) used in refrigeration and air-conditioning also contribute to global warming as well as damaging the **stratospheric ozone** that protects us from dangerous ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

Some environmentalists conclude that anything we do will end up badly. But human beings also have the potential to find solutions. **Technology** is neither an evil force to

be feared nor a magic spirit that will pull us from errors rather it is a tool that must be used carefully. Our power to change or shape our surroundings gives us a responsibility to care takers not only for ourselves but also for all other creatures.

Technology creates risks, but it offers the means to manage them. The capacity for technological innovation needs to be greatly enhanced in developing countries. The orientation of technology development in all countries must also be changed to pay greater regard to environmental factors. National and international institutional mechanisms are needed to assess potential impacts of new technologies before they are widely used. Similar arrangements are required for major interventions in natural systems, such as river diversion or forest clearance. (Principle 5 of Tokyo Declaration of the World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987)

Fundamental improvements in market action, technology transfer, and international finance are necessary to help developing countries widen their opportunities by diversifying their economic and trade bases and building their self-reliance. (Principle 7 of Tokyo Declaration of the World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987)

Science and technology, as part of their contribution to economic and social development, must be applied to the identification, avoidance and control of environmental risks and the solution of environmental problems and for the common good of mankind. (Principle 18 of Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,1972)

Environmentally sound technologies protect the environment, are less polluting, use all resources in a more sustainable manner, recycle more of their wastes and products, and handle residual wastes in a more acceptable manner than the technologies for which they were substitutes. (Agenda 21, 1992 Paragraph 34.1)

There are different views about environmental futures. Among them some are reflecting **pessimistic view** but others look the environment in the attitude of **optimism** way.

Pessimism: A number of very serious environmental problems threaten us. Many scientists see our world as one of the **scarcity and competition** in which too many people fight for too few resources. This view points is often called neo-Malthusian doctrine after Thomas Malthus who predicted a miserable cycle of overpopulation which unless strong checks are applied would result in claims of the lives of many people by hunger, famine and starvation, war, diseases, floods. He stressed the difficulty of sustaining a rising(or even steady)standard of living with finite resources and a growing population. Malthus argued that population grows geometrically; while food production can only grow arithmetically. Therefore, population growth will ultimately outstrip the ability of the economy to meet the demand for food.

Optimism: Science and technology have provided many benefits to humanity. They also have caused many difficulties. Technological optimists believe that technology and human enterprise will find care for all our problems. They see the world as one of abundance and opportunity.

Malthusians describe the optimistic outlook as “**cornucopian fallacy**” (misleading belief) and see it as either wishful thinking or deliberate denial. In truth, blind faith in technology can be purely a pretext for business as usual.

Activity:

What is your position among the above environmental school of thoughts? Why do you stand in favor of the view?

The Concept of Development

Brain storming: How the concept of development got started?

“Economic development” or “development” is the term that economists, politicians and others have used frequently in the 20th century. The concept, however, has been in existence in the west for centuries. Modernization, westernization and especially industrialization are other terms people have used when discussing economic development. Although no one is sure when the concept originated, most people agree that development is closely bound up with the evolution of capitalism and the demise of feudalism.

Prior to the second half of 20th century, the idea of development as we know it today barely existed. The structures of imperial colonial power which dominated the world in the 19th and early 20th centuries made **little provision** for economic and social advances in what we now call **developing world**. Colonial regions functioned primarily to supply imperial powers with raw materials and cheap labor including slave labor as late as the mid 19th century.

Within the richer countries of Europe, North America and Japan economic growth was of course central to the generally accepted goals of “progress” and “modernization”, but there was relatively little concern for issues of equity and social justice.

By the end of the Second World War, perceptions and policy had changed drastically. Economic and social improvement for the majority had become a major preoccupation of governments and with the crumbling of colonial power relations; this goal was extended to the poorer nations of the world. Economic development with its social and

economic correlates came to occupy an essential place in theory and policy as well as in the cold war competition between capitalism and communism.

How development was perceived at different time?

The idea of development has been refined over time. In the 1950s and 1960s many Third World nations succeeded in achieving their economic targets. But the levels of living of the masses of people remained for the most part unchanged. This created the impression that something was wrong with the narrow definition of economic development. So there occurred a shift of emphasis from raising per capita income to directly attacking **three** major problems.

These are

- Absolute poverty
- Increasingly inequitable income distribution and
- Raising unemployment

Group activity

In your small groups, discuss on the differences between absolute poverty and relative poverty and report your group's finding to the whole class.

As a result, since early 1970s, economic development came to be redefined in terms of reduction or elimination of poverty, inequality and unemployment within the context of growing economy. Redistribution with growth becomes a common slogan.

Even the World Bank, which during the 1980s championed economic growth as the goal of development, asserted in 1991 World Development Report: *the challenge of development is to improve the **quality of life**. Especially in the world's poor countries, a better quality of life generally calls for higher incomes-but it involves much more. It encompasses as ends in themselves better education, higher standard of health and nutrition, less poverty, a cleaner environment, more equality of opportunity, greater individual freedom, and a richer cultural life*". As a result, the development further refined into **human development**.

Focus:

Quality of life: A state of life in which a person gets satisfied with access to basic life elements in terms of both quantity and quality. These include physical needs (food, fresh air, fresh water, housing and clothing), cultural and social needs (education, health employment opportunities access to information, recreation and entertainment security and freedom).

Human development: is a process of enlarging people's choice through equality of opportunity for people in society, sustainability of such opportunity

from one generation to another and empowerment of people to participate in and benefit from development.

Activity: How can you differentiate absolute poverty from relative poverty?

Is development similar with economic growth?

Economic growth refers to rise in national income or per capita income and product, without underlying **structural change** in the economy and institution of the country. It is said to occur if production of goods and services in a country rise by any means.

In line with this Simon Kuznet, a winner of Nobel Prize stated: “Growth is a sustained increase in per capita or per worker product.”

In the opinion of Douglass North, another Nobel laureate, Economic growth occurs if output grows faster than population. Here output is viewed in broad sense to include all goods and services enjoyed by people whether or not they are normally recorded in formal measures of national product.

Focus: A structural change: in the economy occurs when there is :

1. rising share of industry(along with the falling share of agriculture in national product)
2. growing urbanization and the increasing percentage of people who live in cities and towns rather than village
3. falling population growth and changing age structure of the population and
4. the consumption pattern of the people (falling expenditure on necessities and increasing expenditure on durables, services and recreations.)

Measurement of Development

Activity: How development is measured?

A number of indicators of socio-economic development in human communities are now widely known. They include those which tell us the improvements made in:

- Rising the number of years a person lives in average

- Increasing the chances of survival of vulnerable groups such as mothers in childbirth and their babies.
- Raising the quality and quantity of nutritious food availability to each person in average.
- Increasing the capacity to meet the basic and other essential needs to make daily life as high quality as we would desire within our means.
- Raising our capacity to acquire, use and exchange information through improved access to its sources and stored in books, communication media and data banks.
- Improvements in purchasing power of the community
- High living standard
- High Gross domestic product and per capita income

Some of the above indicators refer directly to the environment but they can only be achieved through human effort to **adapt** to the environment and **utilize** the resources available in it.

Activity:

On the basis of your peer group, collect your data on the basis of the level of delivery or adequacy of different types of social services from your nearby community or village, kebele and make an analysis of the level of the community.

Your data should include:

- Availability of housing and its quality and other basic necessities
- Clean water supply
- Provision of the electric supply in main roads and per households
- Sanitation and medical facilities
- Schooling(in terms of student-classroom ratio)
- Environmental sanitation and conservation
- Accessibility to information

Lack of social development is largely a reflection of lack of a human capacity to use the environment for the benefit of people and to conserve resources that it provides. The environment provides the materials (resources) for socio-economic development. Environmental resources are very essential for development and development is unattainable without these environmental inputs.

In order to understand this relationship, there should be observation of the nearby manufacturing centers (it can be either modern or local).Therefore, a teacher shall organize his/her students in groups to investigate the case as it is put in box as follows:

Activity:

On the basis of your peer group, collect your information of the:

- Types of products from the manufacturing firm
- The uses of these products
- Types of raw material that the manufacturing industry uses

- The sources of raw material that is used in the processes of production

On the other way round, sometimes people miss utilize these environmental resources. This inappropriate utilization of resources greatly affects our environment, which in turn influences the process of **sustainable development** negatively. In ancient times, people live in harmony with natural environment, with little influence on the environment mainly because of the small number of world population and absence of human technologies. Gathering of wild fruits and hunting of wild animals were the major human activities by then. However, as human population increased and technology improved and expanded through time, they began to change their environment rapidly in order to improve inhabitability of the environment. This human influence on the environment become aggravated the environmental problems particularly after the industrial revolution. Therefore, when human populations use the environmental resources extravagantly, the development that we aspire will not be attained. As a result, the world society become more concerned to avoid these environmental problems and this gave birth to the notion of sustainable development.

Brain storming:

What is sustainable development?

As stated in (WCED, 1987) **sustainable development** is defined as development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs.

*WCED-World Commission on Environment and Development

Thus a given development to be sustainable when the following goals should be achieved:

- Maximum environmental resource conservation
- Built environment and environmental quality
- Social equality and political participation

Activities that human beings perform in aspiring development and better way of living can make some negative impacts on the environment as it is indicated above. So, these environmental problems related to socio-economic development can be solved in different ways.

Group activity

In your peer group, describe the **conservation strategies** for the following environmental problems such as

- Pollution (air, water, soil)
- Land degradation(soil erosion)
- Desertification

indirectly or remotely based on natural resources and any pressure on natural resources can cause environmental stress. Environmental damage can prevent people, especially the poor, from having good and hygienic living standards. As poor people rely more directly on the environment than the rich for their survival, they are mostly on the receiving end of environmental problems

Poverty often causes people to put relatively more pressure on the environment which results in larger families (due to high death rates and insecurity), improper human waste disposal leading to unhealthy living conditions, more pressure on fragile land to meet their needs, overexploitation of natural resources and more deforestation. Insufficient knowledge about agricultural practices can also lead to a decline in crop yield and productivity etc.

On the other hand environmental problems add more to the miseries of poor people. Environmental problems cause more suffering among them as environmental damage increases the impact of floods and other environmental catastrophes. Soil erosion, land degradation and deforestation lead to a decline in food production along with a shortage of wood for fuel contribute to inflation. In short, the worst consequences of environmental deterioration, whether they be economical, social, or related to mental or physical wellbeing, are experienced by poor people.

More rigorous efforts should be undertaken by the governments of all countries to eradicate poverty and in turn, to save deprived people from the dreadful implications of environmental damage. There should be more collaborative partnerships among all sections of the society so that even the people living in poverty are linked to the world through their participation in social, political, and economical spheres along with their active participation in environmental regeneration.

Geopolitics

What is geopolitics? Elaborate the geopolitics of Nile River. What is the current stance of Ethiopia in equitable utilization of Nile River?

Geopolitics refers to political and economic significance of nations or institutions. It may be examined as the political influence of natural resources, such as oil, and human resources, such as population. Some of the major geopolitical issues of the world can include:

1. The Great Decoupling between US/China

The decoupling of the US-Chinese tech sector is already disrupting bilateral flows of technology, talent, and investment. This will create a deepening business, economic, and cultural divide that will risk becoming permanent, casting a deep geopolitical chill over global business.

As this decoupling occurs, US-China tensions will provoke a more explicit clash over national security, influence, and values. The two sides will continue to use economic tools in this struggle—sanctions, export controls, and boycotts—with shorter fuses and goals that are more explicitly political.

2. Peak MNCs

Far from filling the gaps on critical issues like climate change, poverty reduction, and trade liberalization created by underperforming national governments, multinational corporations (MNCs) will face new pressures from political officials, both elected and

unelected. Politicians working to manage slowing global growth, widening inequality, populist rivals, and security challenges created by new technologies will assert themselves at the expense of MNCs.

3. India gets Modi-fied

In 2019, Prime Minister Modi and his government revoked the special status for Jammu and Kashmir, piloted a plan that stripped 1.9 million people of their citizenship, and passed an immigration law that considers religious affiliation. Protests of various kinds have expanded across India, but Modi will not back down, and a harsh government response in 2020 will provoke more demonstrations. Emboldened state-level opposition leaders will directly challenge the central government, leaving Modi with less room for maneuver on economic reform at a time of slowing growth.

4. Geopolitical Europe

European officials now believe the EU should defend itself more aggressively against competing economic and political models. On regulation, antitrust officials will continue to battle North American tech giants. On trade, the EU will become more assertive on rules enforcement and retaliatory tariffs. On security, officials will try to use the world's largest market to break down cross-border barriers to military trade and tech development. This more independent Europe will generate friction with both the US and China.

5. Politics vs. Economics of Climate Change

Climate change will put governments, investors, and society at large on a collision course with corporate decision-makers, who must choose between ambitious commitments to reduce their emissions and their bottom lines. Civil society will be unforgiving of investors and companies they believe are moving too slowly. Oil and gas firms, airlines, car makers, etc will feel the heat. Disruption to supply chains is a meaningful risk.

Investors will reduce exposures to carbon intensive industries, sending asset price lower. All this as warming makes natural disasters more likely, more frequent, and more severe.

6. US and Middle East

The failure of U.S. policy toward Iran, Iraq, and Syria in the Middle East—creates significant risks for regional stability. These include a lethal conflict with Iran; upward pressure on oil prices; an Iraq caught between Iran’s orbit and state failure, and a rogue Syria fused to Russia and Iran. Neither Donald Trump nor Iran’s leaders want all-out war, but deadly skirmishes inside Iraq between U.S. and Iranian troops are likely. Iran will disrupt more tanker traffic in the Persian Gulf and hit the U.S. in cyberspace. It may also use its proxies in other Middle East countries to target U.S. citizens and allies. The chance is rising that the Iraqi government will expel U.S. troops this year, and popular resistance from some Iraqis against Iran’s influence there will strain the Iraqi state—OPEC’s second-largest oil producer. Feckless U.S. policy in Syria will also drive regional risk in 2020.

7. Discontent in Latin America

Latin American societies have become increasingly polarized in recent years. In 2020, public anger over sluggish growth, corruption, and low-quality public services will keep the risk of political instability high.

Globalization

<p>✎ What do you understand by the word globalization?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

The concept of Globalization

Globalization refers to the increasing interconnectedness among individuals across nations and their people. It is a remarkable exchange and sharing of information, culture, economic, resource, and technology etc which leads to tight interdependence among people.

Globalization, comprehensive term for the emergence of a global society in which economic, political, environmental, and cultural events in one part of the world quickly come to have significance for people in other parts of the world. Globalization is the result of advances in communication, transportation, and information technologies. It describes the growing economic, political, technological, and cultural linkages that connect individuals, communities, businesses, and governments around the world. Globalization also involves the growth of multinational corporations (businesses that have operations or investments in many countries) and transnational corporations (businesses that see themselves functioning in a global marketplace).

Activities

- ✎ **What can you mention as indicator of globalization in Ethiopia, and your local area?**

- ✎ **What do you want to comment on the concept and practice of globalization?**

Elements of Globalization

Globalization has three broad categories. They are:

1. The economic

In globalization, national boundaries no longer serve as the containers of the production process and this change has been brought about primarily by the rise of transnational corporations. There is division of production that is referred to as the international division of labor.

2. The political

Since 1945 the world has been more globalized politically. The UN has been able to play a meaningful role in world affairs, the EU has began to conduct some foreign matters on behalf of its member states, the NATO has been expanded in to eastern Europe and the GATT and WTO have began to act on behalf of states .

3. The cultural

Popular culture diffused around the world. There clear evidence that numbers of languages declining.

Globalization and culture

Globalization can both increase and reduce cultural diversity. It increases diversity as foreign cultures are introduced by the power of communications and by immigrations. It reduces diversity if a foreign culture displaces local culture. Both these effects can be problematic.

There are a number of institutions that promote and are themselves reflection at globalization. Some of the obvious examples are the international financial institutions, which include:

The international monitory fund (IMF) and the World Bank facilitate the development of common economic policies among many countries in the world.

Although most people continue to live as citizens of a single nation, they are culturally, materially and psychologically engaged with the lives of people in other countries as never before. Distant events often have an immediate and significant impact, blurring the boundaries of our personal worlds. Items common to our everyday lives such as the clothes we wear, the food we eat and the cars we drive are the products of globalization.

The cultural dimension of globalization is seen in almost at ubiquitous presence of western entertainment and mass media. Some are of the view that this cultural invasion dimensions the space available for people to develop and promote their local identities.

Do you think that globalization is advantageous for developing countries?

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe the influences of globalization on: demographic aspects (case of respecting families, elders etc) and challenges to national sovereignty and identity. - <hr/><hr/><hr/><hr/><hr/><hr/><hr/><hr/><hr/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Live sports programs like English premier leagues continue to draw some largest audiences. How do you understand this in relation to globalization?

Natural Resources Management

Identify the strategies of natural resources management.

R.	Resources of	Challenges	Measures
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N ^o	environment		
1	Natural vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Degradation - Overstocking (Over grazers & browsers) - Wildfire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Afforestation and reforestation - Balancing number of stocks - Controlling wildfire
2	Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Destruction of Habitats - Illegal hunting - Traditional outlook (cultural values), etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reserving parks, sanctuaries & reserves. - Controlling illegal hunting - Creating awareness
3	Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Erosion (river & wind) - Overstocking (grazers & browsers) - Deforestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining soil fertility through mulching, crop rotation, strip cropping, fallowing using fertilizes) - Controlling soil erosion through contour ploughing, rotating grazing land, reforestation & afforestation, constructing check dams
4	Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pollution by industrial emission or smokes (CFC, methane, C₂O, etc) - Volcanic eruption - CO from wild fire smoke 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managing pollutants emission - Substitution of environmental friendly technologies - Using geothermal, wind, solar, hydro power sources instead of nuclear & natural gas.
5	Water	<p>Pollution due to entry of pollutant through erosion, industrial by-product waste disposals, action of human & animal, urban wastes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planting natural vegetation near to water bodies - Store surface & underground water - Improving quality of water through chlorine, desalination processes - Filtration of water

Climate change adaptation is about reducing the risks posed by climate change to people's lives and livelihoods. Adaptation is simply defined as adapting to life in a changing climate. It involves adjusting to actual or expected future climate. The goal is to reduce our vulnerability to the harmful effects of climate change such as extreme weather events or food insecurity. It also encompasses making the most of any potential beneficial opportunities associated with climate change (for example, longer growing seasons or increased yields in some regions). Example, building flood defenses

Mitigation measures are those actions that are taken to reduce and control greenhouse gas emissions changing the climate. Moreover, it implies reducing the flow of heat trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, either by reducing sources of these gases or enhancing the "sinks" that accumulate and store these gases (such as the oceans, forests and soil).

Migration and Livelihood

What are the consequences of illegal cross-border migration on the migrants, migrant families, and the country at large?

What are the measures that should be taken to minimize illegal cross-border migration and promote safe migration?

Migration is an old and inevitable phenomenon, although human mobility has accelerated these days as a result of economic and technological progress especially in the fields of communication and transportation. It is considered as a form of geographic mobility involving a permanent or semi-permanent change of residence between clearly defined geographic units.

An assessment of human mobility is pivotal for its diverse effects. Some of the multifaceted implications of migration are indicated hereunder:

- Migration yields an increased level of urbanization;
- It enhances rural-urban linkages in creating an integrated economy
- It influences spatial population distribution
- Migration negatively influences human fertility and mortality patterns and levels; and affects age and sex composition of the population.
- It is a means of achieving economic efficiency.
- It can also be a cause and consequence of inequality and unequal development
- It is regarded as a cause and consequence of diversity; and a mechanism of spreading cultures
- It is a necessary condition for the creation and strengthening of a sense of nationhood and national unity
- It creates a creative and open society to new ideas than a homogenous group of people.

Urbanization and its problems

- Poor air and water quality, insufficient water availability, waste-disposal problems, and high energy consumption are exacerbated by the increasing population density and demands of urban environments. Strong city planning will be essential in managing these and other difficulties as the world's urban areas swell.

Threats

- Intensive urban growth can lead to greater poverty, with local governments unable to provide services for all people.
- Concentrated energy use leads to greater air pollution with significant impact on human health.
- Automobile exhaust produces elevated lead levels in urban air.
- Large volumes of uncollected waste create multiple health hazards.
- Urban development can magnify the risk of environmental hazards such as flash flooding.
- Forest detraction
- Animal populations are inhibited by toxic substances, vehicles, and the loss of habitat and food sources.

Solutions

- Combat poverty by promoting economic development and job creation.
- Involve local community in local government.
- Reduce air pollution by upgrading energy use and alternative transport systems.
- Create private-public partnerships to provide services such as waste disposal and housing.
- Plant trees and incorporate the care of city green spaces as a key element in urban planning.

Watershed management and irrigation schemes

Activity

Elaborate the idea of watershed management.

Watershed is that land area which drains or contributes runoff to a common outlet. Watershed is defined as a geo-hydrological unit draining to a common point by a system of drains. All lands on earth are part of one watershed or other. Watershed is thus the land and water area, which contributes runoff to a common point.

Watershed management implies an effective conservation of soil and water resources for sustainable production with minimum non point resources (NFS) pollutant losses. It involves management of land surface and vegetation so as to conserve the soil and water for immediate and long term benefits to the farmers, community and society as a whole.