Trends of Teaching and Research in Geography: Indian Scenario

Narayan Chandra JANA*
*University of Burdwan

Indian geography claims a substantial space in the national academic arena. India after Independence has been in the phase of transformation from a long time that has some serious implications on its economy, society and environment across the regions. In this critical juncture, geographers played a key role in sharpening the tools and techniques of regional analysis and providing conceptual clarity to region/space as the fundamental viewpoint of geography.

In India, progress in geography from traditional to modern began in 1950s, almost coinciding with the launching of the National Five Year Plan and expansion in research and teaching activities under the UGC's programme for development of different disciplines. Establishment of many Universities and the opening up of Geography Departments brought new talent and awareness for improvement of the discipline of geography.

Since 1930s Post-Graduate teaching was started in the University Departments and different colleges of India. At present, based on available information, Geography at the Post-Graduate level is being taught in more than hundred universities as well as more than two hundred colleges. In addition to PhD programmes, M. Phil. Programme and Professional Courses in Geography have been introduced in a quite significant number of Universities. Moreover, there has been change in the name of the Geography Departments with professional orientation, e.g. Department of Geography and Environment Management, Department of Geography and Disaster Management, Department of Geography and Resource Management and Department of Geography and Regional Development. Besides, 25 national and regional Associations were formed as well as 37 Journals are being published to disseminate research-writings at the regional and national levels. All those aspects give us a clear-cut trend of inter-disciplinary research and strong scientific base in Indian Geography.