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DATA

Data is defined as a collection of numbers, representing measurements from the real world. In simpler words, the quantitative information about any element is called data. It is expressed in numerical forms. For eg. geographic area under cultivation, changes in the past year etc. These numerical facts to describe an element is called data.

Need of data collection -

- (1) Maps are important and an integral part of geography. Studying in Cartography, data from various sources is used extensively.
- (2) The interrelationship existing between many phenomena over the surface of Earth are influenced by many variables which can be best explained in quantitative terms.
- (3) Statistical analysis has become the immediate need of the hour and hence data is required to study cropping pattern, rainfall pattern etc.
- (4) In order to study the growth of a city, data on related entities like total population, density, industries, transportation is needed to be studied.

Overall data plays a vital role in geographical analysis!

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Sources of data

Data is collected in the following ways:-

(1) Primary Sources

(2) Secondary data

(1) Primary data -

The data collected by researchers directly from main sources through interviews, surveys, experiments etc. Primary data is usually collected from sources where the data originally originates from and is regarded as best kind in research.

Sources of collection of Primary data

(a) Personal observation -

Collection of data by individual or a group through direct observation in field. Information about the relief features, drainage pattern, type of soil and natural vegetation as well as population etc. is collected.

(b) Interview -

Getting direct information from the respondent through dialogues/conversations.

(c) Questionnaire -

In this type of method, simple questions with their most probable answer set combination is given to be ticked and filled by a large set of audience. This helps to know opinion/bias/ground

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check on a topic by a large set of respondents. The only drawback being the illiteracy of a area as they wont be able to respond.

(2) Secondary data -

In this, the data is collected by government organisation and departments. Such sources of data collection published and unpublished records which include govt. publications, documents and reports.

Sources of data collection of Secondary data

(a) Government Publications -

Data from government publications includes census report, Statistical reports, national sample survey report and agriculture statistics.

(b) International Publications -

From yearbook, reports of UNESCO, IPCC, WHO, FAO etc.

(c) Newspapers and Magazines

(d) Electronic Media, specially internet

(e) unpublished data.

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Classification of Statistical

The data collected by primary and secondary sources ungrouped and proper classification of that data needs to be done in order to use that data defectively and with much ease of understanding. They are classified broadly in four types

- (a) Chronological classification
- (b) Geographical classification
- (c) Quantitative classification
- (d) Qualitative classification

(a) Chronological classification -

The data collected is arranged according to the order of time expressed in years, months, days, hours etc. The data is generally classified in ascending order. eg -

Year	1970	1980	1990	2000
Birth Rate	35:1	36:6	34:1	32:1

(b) Geographical classification -

Data is classified as per geographical region or place. For eg. oil production in UAE, Russia, Iran, Oman, India etc

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Country	USA	China	India	Srilanka
Yield of wheat in (kg/acre)	1946	893	503	97

(c) Quantitative classification -
Classification according to some characteristics eg.

Weight (in kgs)	Children
15 - 20	20
20 - 25	50
25 - 30	10
30 - 35	3

(d) Quantitative classification -
Classification as per qualities like, sex, literacy, employment etc
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