

## **CLASS:- 12 TH, GEOGRAPHY NOTES**

### **CHAPTER -5 : PRIMARY ACTIVITIES**

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All humans perform a variety of activities on any given day. There is work that we do every day and other activities we do for personal fulfilment and joy. We can say that all the activities we do to earn a living are economic activities. All other activities are non-economic activities.

*Economic activity* is an activity of providing, making, buying or selling commodities or services by people to satisfy day-to-day needs of life.

Any activity that includes manufacturing, distributing or utilizing products or services.

#### **Classification of Economic Activities :**

In terms of the national economy, a basic classification of economic sectors, broken into five basic sectors:

1. Primary sector (raw materials)
2. Secondary sector ( manufacturing and industry)
3. Tertiary sector (service sector)
4. Quaternary sector (knowledge sector)
5. Quinary sector ( decision making sector)

#### ✓ **PRIMARY ACTIVITIES**

Primary activities are directly dependent on environment as these refer to utilization of earth's resources such as land, water, vegetation, building materials and minerals. It includes ,hunting and gathering, pastoral activities, fishing, forestry, agriculture, mining and quarrying. Primary sector refer to that sector of the economy which uses natural resources to produce goods.

- ✓ Primary sector dominates in underdeveloped countries.
- ✓ People engaged in primary activities are called red-collar workers due to the outdoor nature of their work.

#### **1. HUNTING AND GATHERING**

Primitive societies depended on wild animals. People located in very cold and Extremely hot climates survived on hunting. The people in the coastal areas catch Fish. The early hunters used primitive tools made of stones, twigs or arrow.

*Gathering and hunting are the oldest economic activity.*

- (i) Gathering is practiced in regions with harsh climatic conditions.
- (ii) This type of activity requires a small amount of capital investment.
- (iii) It operates at very low level of technology.
- (iv) The yield per person is very low.

#### **Gathering is practiced in:**

- (i) High latitude zones which include northern Canada, northern Eurasia and southern Chile.

(ii) Low latitude zones such as Amazon Basin, tropical Africa, Northern fringe of Australia and the interior parts of Southeast Asia.

In modern times gathering is market oriented and has become commercial. Gatherers collect valuable plants such as leaves, barks of trees and medicinal plants and after processing sell the products in the market. They use various parts of the plants, for example, the bark is used for quinine, tannin extract and cork-leaves supply materials for beverages, drugs, cosmetics, fibres, thatch and fabrics; nuts for food and oils and tree trunk yield rubber, batata, gums and resins.

Gathering is losing its importance at global level because:

- (i) Products of such activity cannot compete in world market.
- (ii) Synthetic products are of better quality and at lower prices.

## **2. PASTORALIS**

Nomadic herding or pastoral nomadism is a primitive subsistence activity, in which the herders rely on animals for food, clothing, shelter, tools and transport. They move from one place to another along with their livestock. In tropical Africa, cattle are the most important livestock, while in Sahara and Asiatic deserts, sheep, goats and camel are reared. In mountainous areas of Tibet and Andes, yak and llamas and in the Arctic and sub Arctic areas, reindeer are the most important animals.

Pastoral nomadism is associated with three important regions.

- (i) It extends from Atlantic shores of North Africa eastwards across the Arabian peninsula into Mongolia and Central China.
- (ii) It extends over the tundra region of Eurasia.
- (iii) In southern hemisphere there are small areas in south-west Africa and on the island of Madagascar.

### **What is transhumance ?**

The process of migration from plain areas to pastures on mountains during Summer and again from mountain pasture to plain areas during winter. In mountain regions, such as Himalayas, Gujjars, Bakarwals, Gaddis and Bhotiyas Migrate from plains to the mountains summer and to the plains from the high Altitude pasture in winter.

## **3. COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK REARING**

Commercial livestock rearing is more organised and capital intensive. It is Practised on permanent ranches. This is a specialised activity in which only one Type of animal is reared. Important animals include sheep, cattle, goats and horses. Products such as meat, wool, hides and skin are processed and packed scientifically And exported to different world market. Rearing of animals in ranching is Organised on a scientific basis. The main emphasis is on breeding, genetic Improvement, disease control and health care of the animals.

Commercial livestock rearing is practised in New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Uruguay And USA.

## **4. AGRICULTURE**

Subsistence Agriculture:-

Subsistence agriculture is one in which farming areas consume all of the products locally grown. It can be grouped in two categories:

(i) Primitive Subsistence Agriculture

(ii) Intensive Subsistence Agriculture

- Primitive subsistence Agriculture-

Primitive subsistence agriculture or shifting cultivation is practiced by many tribes in the tropics, especially in Africa, south and Central America and south East Asia. The vegetation is cleared by fire and the after 3 to 5 years the soil loses its fertility and the farmer shifts to another place and clear other patch of the forest for cultivation. In North eastern states of India, it is known as Jhuming , in central America and Mexico it is known as Milpa, in Indonesia and Malaysia, it is known as Ladang.

- Intensive Subsistence Agriculture-

This type of agriculture is found in densely populated regions of monsoon Asia. Land holdings are very small due to high density of population. Farmers work with the help of family labour. Use of machinery is limited and most of the agricultural Operations are done by manual labour. Manure is used to maintain the fertility of the soil. The yield per unit area is high but per labour productivity is low. Principal Crop is paddy but Wheat , soyabean, barley and sorghum are grown in northern China, Manchuria, North Korea and North Japan. In India wheat is grown in western parts of Indo-Gangetic plains and millets are grown in dry parts of Western and Southern India.