

GEOGRAPHY OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

What is economic activity?

Ans- Economic activities can be defined as those activities of man through which man can earn money to satisfy his basic needs and other needs.

Economic activities are those activities which in return gives us money. In other words, any action that involves producing, distributing, or consuming products or services is an economic activity.

CLASSIFICATION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

They are divided into the following groups-

- 1) Primary activities**
- 2) Secondary activities**
- 3) Tertiary activities**

Primary activities - The people engaged in primary activities are called as red-collar workers due to the outdoor nature of their work. Primary activities are earliest form of economic activity. Certain nomads living in the extreme climatic condition (pygmies, bushman, Jarawa, Bedouins) are seen to practice hunting and gathering in the present time at large scale which was the earliest form of the primary activity. People engaged in primary activities are very much related to nature. They are directly dependent on the natural resources of earth like land, water, vegetation, minerals etc. examples- Fishing, Hunting and gathering, forestry, agriculture etc. The goods produced through a primary activity can either be consumed or can be used as raw material to produce a more finished product.

Primary activities have the largest share in the developing nations but its share is very less in the developed countries of the world. It is estimated that around 40% of the world's workforce is employed in some form of primary activities.

Secondary activities – The activities which add value to natural resources by transforming raw materials into valuable products is called as the secondary activities. Secondary activities mostly cover the manufacturing, processing

and construction (infrastructure) industries. Example- manufacturing of cloth from cotton, sugar from sugarcane etc. They are called secondary activities because they process and manufacture the primary products into secondary products, thus they represents the secondary stage of activities.

However, there are many secondary activities which are not carried out in factories such as entertainment industry and tourism industry but they also form the secondary activities.

Tertiary activity- Tertiary activities are those economic activities which needs high skill, expertise and knowledge. These mostly covers the services of various kinds. The tertiary sector creates services which are being consumed by others. The services are generally intangible in nature unlike the secondary sector. Ex – visit to doctor, teaching by a teacher, service by shopkeeper, transport, communication , trade etc.

In more developed countries a higher percentage of workers are employed in this sector compared to the less developed countries. In U.S.A over 75 percent of workers are engaged in services. The demand for this sector is on rise at a constant rate unlike the other sectors of the economy..