

## Chapter - 7

### Human Occupations : Major Types

Man occupies a central place in the study of human geography. Man is an active creature and practices many types of activities to fulfill his needs. The human activities which bring economic growth are known as Economic Activities. Man's economic activities are influenced by the physical and cultural environment. Due to varying physical and cultural environment in different regions of the world, man does different economic activities. For example, Man is involved in food gathering, hunting and lumbering in the forests, rearing animals, farming in the fertile plains, fishing and extracting minerals. Besides this, in favourable conditions he is engaged in activities such as manufacturing industries, transport or trade. Economic activities practiced to earn livelihood are known as Occupations.

#### Development and Changing nature of Human Occupations

Primitive man used to hunt wild animals and collect forest produce to fill his belly. Man was a stroller. There has always been an uncertainty in procuring food. Gradually, due to his intellectual development, he domesticated useful animals. Man started animal rearing in groups. For fodder needs, he started practicing Transhumance. Basic human needs were met from animal products. Agriculture inspired man for settled life. Man started living at a place by establishing colonies. Agricultural activities were started in fertile alluvial plains. Ancient civilizations developed in these river

valleys. Indus valley civilization of India, Hwang-Ho valley civilization of China, Nile river valley civilization of Egypt and Mesopotamian civilization between Euphrates and Tigris rivers flourished with the development of agriculture activities.

Economic development gained momentum during Renaissance period along with discoveries, explorations and technological advancement. Economic activities like mining and industries expanded throughout the world during 18<sup>th</sup> century after the discovery of fossil fuels. Trade and Commerce developed. People came forward for services sector as the urbanization increased. In this way we can observe that there is an order of development in human occupations. This order of development can be divided into following stages in the chronological order :

#### (A) Prehistoric period

During this period man used to hunt wild animals and collect root vegetables and fruits from forest. Population was confined and requirements were limited. Man was living in forests. Sharp stones and wooden poles were used for hunting. Dog became man's assistant in hunting in this period.

Gradually, man started domesticating the useful animals. He gained useful things like milk, flesh, leather, bones etc from the animals. He led a nomadic life to meet out the need of fodder for animals. Man lived in temporary dwelling (tent) in

small groups. Man started cultivation by inseminating seeds of useful plants. He started with shifting agriculture. Man formed huts from sprigs, leaves and animal skins to look after crops and domestic animals. Man invented wheel in the Neolithic age. Till this period man had learnt the art of making utensils from clay.

### **(B) Ancient period**

In this period development of economic activities like Agriculture and Animal husbandry brought stability in human life. Man's basic needs were been fulfilled easily. He utilized the spare time in developing other arts. Strong metals like iron, copper and bronze were discovered, from which he started making useful articles and weapons. Cultivation was carried on with the help of plough and ox. He learnt irrigating crops. During this period in 2500 B.C. Mohen-ja-daro and Harappan civilization flourished in the Indus Valley. An excellent example of Town planning and Architecture can be seen at excavation sites of this civilization. Pyramids of Egypt are indicator of technical advancement of this period. Besides agriculture, cottage industries also developed rapidly. Urban civilizations flourished in Greek and Roman civilizations.

### **(C) Medieval period**

The duration from 600 A.D. to 1500 A.D. is included in the Medieval period. Diversity in Human Occupations enhanced during this period in Europe. Seigniorial and Feudal system was prevalent during this period. Agriculture was also developing steadily. Big cities were developing due to trade, increasing education and cultural development. Trade was done by Barter system. Agricultural produce was brought to cities from rural areas and finished goods were brought from cities to rural areas. In Europe technological development could not find much space due to dominance of religious thoughts and oppression of intellectual independence. In this period, commerce, agriculture, cottage industry and trade moved to development at peak in India. India led

the world in this sphere.

### **(D) Modern period**

The period till date since 15<sup>th</sup> century is known as the Modern period. Human Occupations reached at all time high during this period. Modern developed Human occupations shined due to technological development, Discoveries and Inventions. Man began to practice Secondary, Tertiary, Quaternary and Quinary Occupations as compared to Primary Occupations. The industrial Revolution occurred in this period, due to which most of the economic activities were been operated by unmanned machines. High yielding seeds, chemicals, insecticides, and advanced machinery are used in agriculture from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Animal husbandry and fishing began to be practiced on extensive and commercial level by automated machines. Various minerals such as iron-ore, copper, zinc and lead were extracted through scientific methods on a large scale for industrial activities. Due to the availability of different sources of energy various kinds of products are manufactured on an extensive scale in the industries. People of the developed countries, which reached the highest levels of development, are more into quaternary and quinary occupations.

### **Classification of Human Occupations**

Methods of earning livelihood and economic activities of man may be classified into five categories at present. This classification has been done on the basis of continuously increasing distance of earth's natural resources.

**(1) Primary Occupation :** Hunting, Gathering, Agriculture, Animal husbandry, Mining etc.

**(2) Secondary Occupation :** Manufacturing, Construction, Energy production, Processing and other productions.

**(3) Tertiary Occupation :** Transportation, Trade, Communication, Administration, Entertainment, Banking, Insurance, Tourism.

**(4) Quaternary Occupation :** Information, Research, Management, Education, Health and Security.

**(5) Quinary Occupation :** Executive Manufacturer, Research, Governance, Legal and Technical advisor.

The historical development of people involved in various occupations occurs in progressive stages in any economy. It therefore clarifies that the people were mainly engaged in primary occupations in ancient period, in secondary occupations during industrial revolution and the increasing trend towards tertiary, quaternary and quinary occupations at present.

### **(1) Primary Occupations :**

Occupations in which man directly utilizes natural provided resources like land, water, vegetation and minerals etc to fulfill his needs are called Primary Occupations. These are directly related to conditions of the natural environment. These occupations produce food and raw material.

Most of the primary occupations symbolize simple, traditional and primitive socio-economic structure. The distribution of people engaged in primary economic activities in the world is uneven.

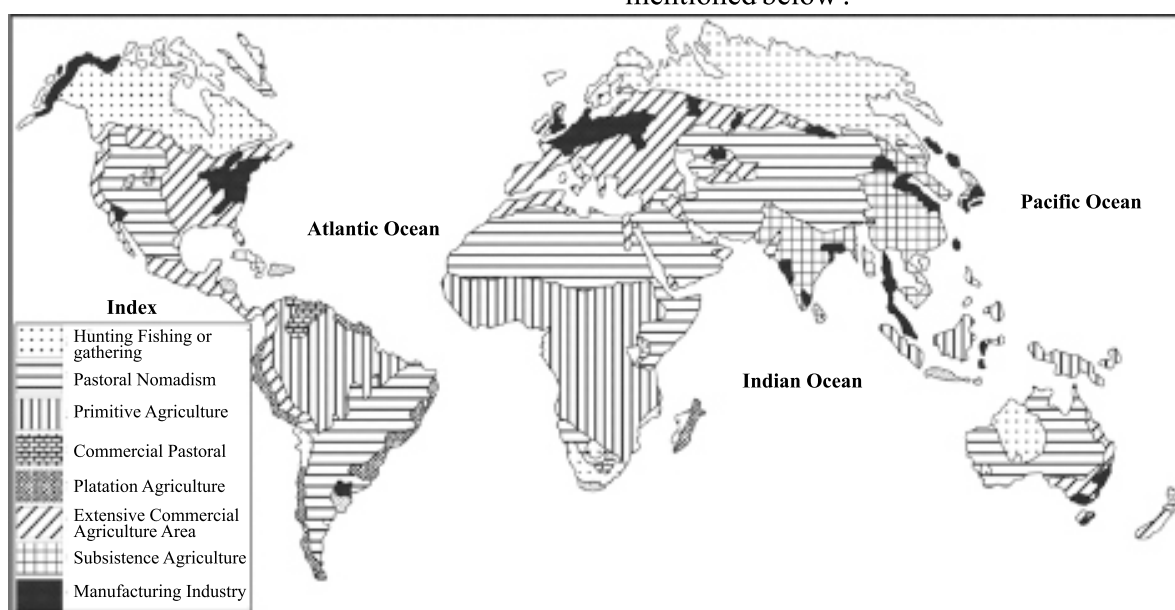
In developed countries less than five percent of workers are indulged in primary activities , where as in the developing countries these activities provide employment to a very huge part of the labour.

Exceptionally , Canada stands high amongst developed countries on account of two primary occupations viz. lumbering and petroleum extraction. Primary Occupations are very significant, as they provide food for humans and raw material for industries. These occupations have nourished the human race for more than ninety five percent of it's period of existence.

The following occupations are included in primary occupations :

- (i) Hunting
- (ii) Food gathering and forest produce
- (iii) Lumbering
- (iv) Fishing
- (v) Animal husbandry
- (vi) Agriculture
- (vii) Mining etc.

On the basis of differential land use the major regions of primary occupations in the world are mentioned below :



**Map 7.1 Primary Occupations of Human**

**(i) Tropical Region :**

- (a) Equatorial wet forests (Amazon Congo type)
- (b) Tropical wet arable region (Eastern India, Eastern Brazil)
- (c) Wet Dry low latitude Savana (Sudan, India, Brazil)
- (d) Tropical Highlands (Ethiopian type)
- (e) Desert (Sahara, Arab, Thar, Central Asia, Mongolia, Western Australia, Kalahari)

**(ii) Temperate Region :**

- (a) Temperate grasslands (Prairies and Steppes type)
- (b) Mediterranean region
- (c) Northern China region
- (d) Maritime cyclonic region (Western European type)
- (e) Continental cyclonic region (North-Eastern United States of America type)
- (f) Cool continental region (East European type)

**(iii) Polar Region :**

- (a) Cold forest (Taiga, Siberian, Canadian type)
- (b) Tundra region
- (c) High Mountains

In these regions, natural resources such as climate, land form, soil and vegetation determine the primary occupations.

**Table 7.1 Agricultural Income in major countries of the world , 2015**

Country	Income (in billion American Dollars)
China	1088
India	413
European Organization	333
United States of America	290
Indonesia	127
Brazil	110
Nigeria	106

Source : According to IMF & CIA World Fact Book

**(2) Secondary Occupations :**

In secondary occupations naturally available resources are not utilized evidently , instead they are refined and modified into more useful and valueable commodities. ie. Such human activities which refine or transform naturally available resources into utility suitable commodities by refining or transforming them without directly consuming them are called Secondary Occupations. Secondary Occupations include manufacturing, processing, and activities of production. For instance, Steel from iron-ore, Flour from wheat, Cotton textile from cotton, Sugar from sugarcane, Furniture and Paper from wood etc .

The following occupations are included in secondary occupations :

- (i) Industries
- (ii) Food processing
- (iii) Construction- Buildings, Roads etc.
- (iv) Dairy industry
- (v) Specialised Agriculture

**Table 7.2 Industrial Production Income in major countries of the world , 2015**

Country	Income (in billion American Dollars)
China	4922
United States of America	3752
Japan	1164
Germany	1016
Great Britain	588
India	559
South Korea	555

Source : According to IMF & CIA World Fact Book

Both the natural and the cultural resources lay down effect on determining secondary occupations. The factors determining them are- (i) Raw material (ii) Energy Resources (iii) Facilities of Transport and Communication (iv) Capital (v) Market (vi) Government policies (vii) Labour and (viii) Technological innovation.



**Fig. 7.1 : Major Occupations in the World**



(1) Primary Occupation



(2) Secondary Occupation



(3) Tertiary Occupation



(4) Quaternary Occupation

### (3) Tertiary Occupations :

Personal and Commercial direct services to the communities are included in this occupation. It is also known as 'Service Sector' occupation. Most of the tertiary occupations are executed by skilled labour, professionally trained specialists and consultants.

The following occupations are included in tertiary occupations :

- (i) Transportation
- (ii) Trade and Commerce
- (iii) Communication
- (iv) Services ( banking, insurance, tourism etc)

These are determined by the cultural level and scientific technological advancement of the people of that region. In a developed economy majority of the workers are employed in tertiary occupations. Tertiary occupations include both production and exchange. Production includes availability of the services used. Remuneration is received in return of services. Thus, we observe that instead of production of concrete products , commercial production of services takes place in tertiary activities. Plumber, Electrician, Shopkeeper, Doctor, Lawyer, etc are examples of these occupations. Exchange include the facilities of transport, trade and communication. These are utilized to neutralize the effects of distance.

Table 7.3 presents the classification of tertiary economic activities.

**Table 7.3 Tertiary Human Occupations**

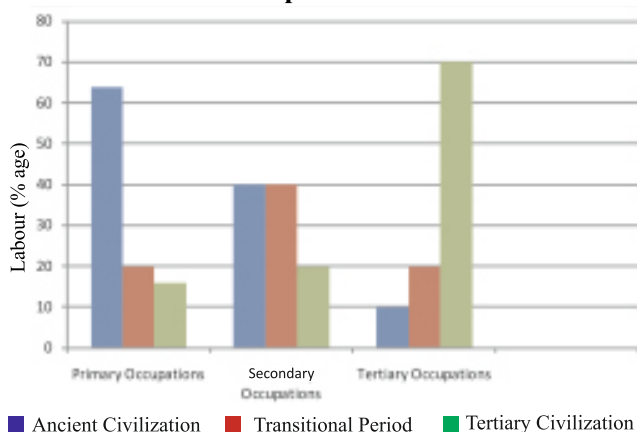
Tertiary Occupations			
Transportation	Trade and Commerce	Communications	Service
Road	Wholesale	Telecommunication	Banking
Rail	Retail		Insurance
Water			Individual
Air			Commercial

Table 7.4 and Graph 7.1 depict swing in income in human occupations with economic development on the basis of economic tri-divisional principle.

**Table 7.4 : Distribution of Workers in Various Occupations**

	Ancient Civilization	Transistion Period	Tertiary Civilization
<b>Primary Occupation</b>	65	40	10
<b>Secondary Occupation</b>	20	40	20
<b>Tertiary Occupation</b>	15	20	70

**Diagram 7.1 : Workers engaged in Various Occupations in the World**



#### (4) Quaternary Occupations :

Jean Gottman includes indirect services in the category of Quaternary Occupations. More than half of the workers in developed economies are working in this field of knowledge.

This category is related to information based and research-development based services. Employees working in offices, educational institutions, hospitals, theatres, accountancy and commission firms are related to category of indirect services.

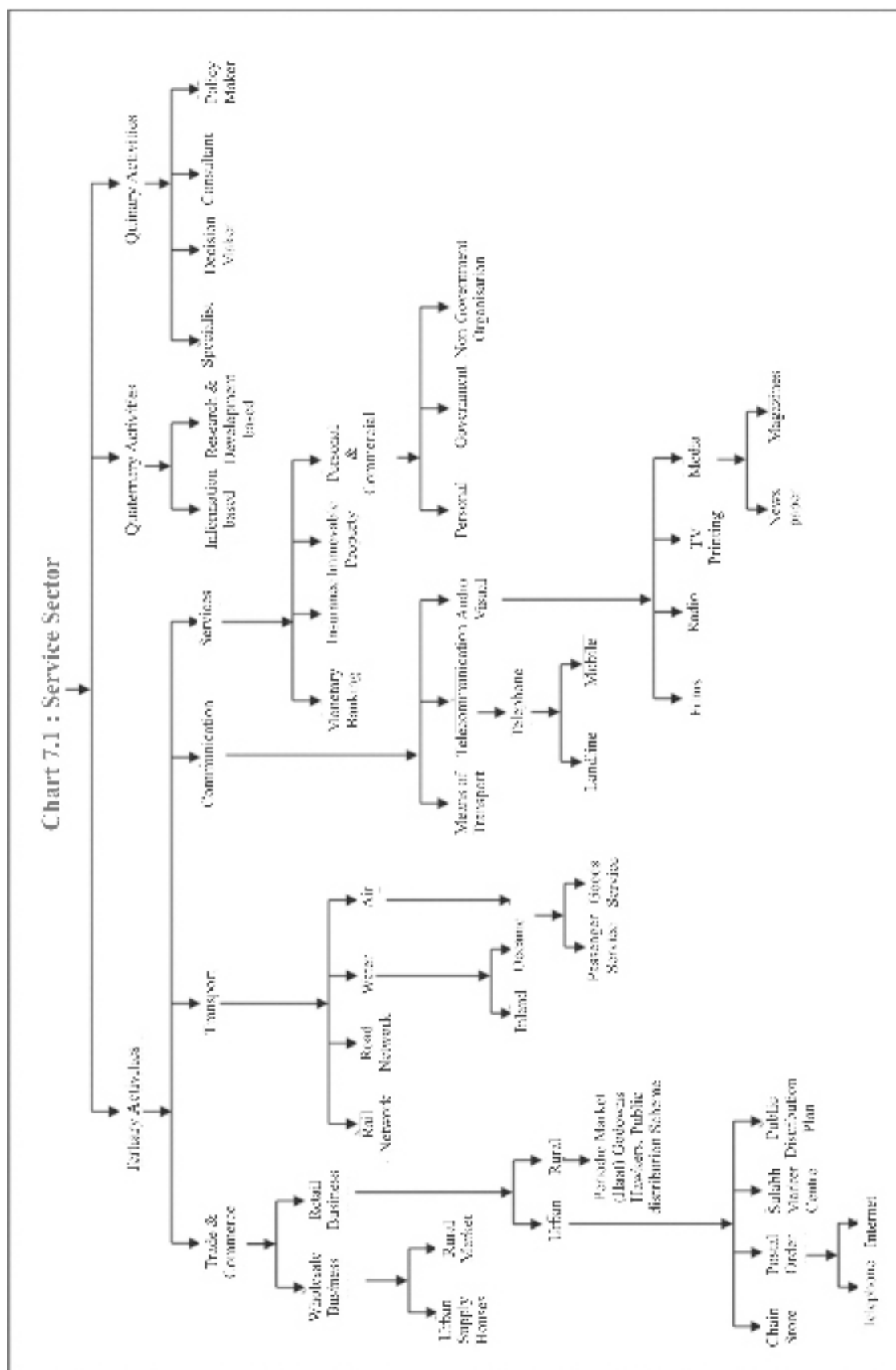
#### (5) Quinary Occupations :

These include the services which are focused on creating new and contemporary ideas and explanation of re-construction, interpretation of data and their application and the evaluation of latest technology. These occupations are also a sub-division of tertiary occupations in which subject specialists, decision makers, consultants and policy makers are included. In the constitution of an advanced economy their significance is much more than their numbers.

Chart 7.1 on the next page presents the classification of service sector.

#### IMPORTANT POINTS

1. Man occupies a central place in the study of human geography.
2. Changes in human occupations have been occurring along with technological advancement.
3. Human occupations have been classified into five categories.
4. In primary occupations man directly utilizes natural resources to fulfill his needs.
5. In secondary occupations natural resources are refined and transformed into more useful and valuable commodities.
6. Tertiary, Quaternary and Quinary occupations come under service sector.
7. Changes have taken place rapidly in the activities of workers indulged in human occupations along with economic development.
8. In the developed countries more population is engaged in quaternary and quinary occupations.
9. In the developing countries more population is engaged in primary and secondary occupations.



## EXERCISE

### Multiple Choice Type Questions

- How many types of Human Occupations are there ?  
(a) Two                      (b) Three  
(c) Four                     (d) Five
- Which of the following occupations is not a primary occupations ?  
(a) Hunting                (b) Gathering  
(c) Trade                    (d) Animal husbandry
- With which occupation is manufacturing industry associated ?  
(a) Primary                (b) Secondary  
(c) Tertiary                (d) Quaternary
- Which type of occupation is a direct service sector ?  
(a) Quaternary            (b) Tertiary  
(c) Secondary            (d) None of these

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Give an example of primary occupations.
- In which occupation people were engaged during the industrial revolution?
- Mention the names of secondary occupations.
- Mention the names of tertiary occupations.
- What are quaternary occupations?

### Short Answer Type Questions

- Describe the primary occupations.
- Describe the quaternary occupations.
- Name the factors that determine the secondary occupations.

### Essay Type Questions

- Describe the major occupations been practiced in the world ?
- Explain the changing nature of human occupations with development.

### Map / Skill Based Questions

- Observe the occupations been practiced by people in your village or town and in large cities.
- Find out the number of people engaged in primary, secondary and tertiary occupations in your village.