

Chapter - 8

Primary Occupations

We have learnt about the major occupations based on economic activities practiced by man in the previous chapter. In this chapter we will study the major primary occupations.

World's primary occupations are mentioned below :

- Hunting
- Gathering
- Fishing
- Animal Grazing
- Agriculture
- Lumbering
- Mining

1. Hunting

This occupation is believed to be the world's oldest occupation. It requires least number of person. But in comparison to any other economic activity it requires a larger area. In this occupation livelihood is maintained at a minimum level. People wander across different regions to arrange food, cloth and shelter while adopting the process of hunting. People residing in severely cold and extremely hot regions depend on hunting for survival. This activity is undertaken by living as a stroller life in harsh climatic conditions. Very less capital and low level technical knowledge is



Fig. 8.1 : Hunting by Bushmen

required for this activity. There is no food surplus in it. Hunters use sharp tools, poisoned arrows and nooses etc for hunting. Many animal species are either extinct or are endangered due to illegal hunting. Hunting is completely banned in India. Inhabitants of only a few specific region earn their livelihood by hunting.

Hunting is an occupation in the following regions , at present :

- (i) In the Tundra and Taiga regions of Canada by Eskimos
- (ii) In Northern Siberia by Samoyeds, Tung, Yakut, Myet, Chukchi, Koryak etc tribes
- (iii) In the Kalahari desert by Bushmen
- (iv) In the Congo basin by Pygmies
- (v) In Malaya by Semang and Sakaai tribe

- (vi) In Borneo by Punaan
- (vii) In New Guinea by Papuans
- (viii) In Amazon basin by Zivaro and Yagua tribes.

At present, their regions are getting quite limited. At many places the tribal people engaged in hunting are leading a settled life by living in permanent houses.

2. Gathering

From the economic point of view food gathering is also oldest and lowest human occupation. The importance of this occupation is declining with the social and technological development. Hardly, a few thousand people are engaged in it. Man has been gathering various kind of things for food, cloth, shelter and other necessities. People engaged in this occupation gather fruits, root-tubers, nuts, berries, roots, leaves etc from forests. These people do not cultivate and do not domesticate animals. They do not disturb the environment and consume the things that are obtained by least efforts. The major areas of gathering occupation are :

- (i) In the Malaya Peninsula by Semang and Sakaai tribe
- (ii) In Amazon basin by Boro tribe
- (iii) In the Kalahari desert by Bushmen



Fig. 8.2 (A) : Gathering Tendu Leaves



Fig. 8.2 (B) : Gathering Tendu Leaves

- (iv) In mountainous regions
- (v) In the interior parts of South-East Asia

The activity of food gathering has been commercialized in modern times in some parts of the world. These people generally sell the leaves of valuable plants, bark and medicinal plants to in the market. The bark of several trees is used for making quinine, preparing leather and cork. Leaves are used for making beverages, medicines and cosmetics. Fibres are utilised in making textiles and dry fruits are useful as food and for extracting oil. Trunks are used for making rubber, balata, glue and lac. Gathering does not have much importance at the global level. The products obtained from these activities cannot compete in the world trade market.

3. Fishing

This occupation too is been practised since ancient times .In this occupation man has to continuously struggle against natural obstacles. Fishes are caught from ponds, puddles, rivers, channels, lakes and coastal areas. Fishes available naturally are caught in this occupation for subsistence. Apart from being used as food, fishes are caught for getting various products like oil, leather, fodder for milch animals and for making fertilizers etc.



Fig. 8.3 : Fishing Occupation



Fig. 8.4 : Fishing Nets in Kerala

The fisheries occupation has undergone modernisation due to technological development and increasing demand from the growing population. Fishes are caught in fresh water sources, open and coastal seas. Large quantities of fishes are fetched at confluence of cold and warm ocean currents in temperate region. The major fishing regions of the world are given below :

- (i) Coastal regions of Northern Pacific Ocean
- (ii) Coastal American regions of Northern Atlantic Ocean
- (iii) North- Western European region
- (iv) Japan Sea region

4. Livestock Rearing

Man adopted animal rearing as an occupation,

when human groups dependent on hunting and gathering realised that these could not provide them proper means of livelihood. People living in different natural conditions selected animals found in their regions and domesticated them. Food, leather and wool etc are procured from animals. This occupation is primarily practised in regions of warm and dry or temperate and dry climate and also in the regions with uneven and hilly terrain. The main regions of animal herding are

(i) Tropical grasslands :

These extend between 5° to 30° latitudes where average rainfall is below 100 cm. Height of the grass is between 1.8 to 3 metres. These grasslands are known as Savanna in Sudan, lanos in Venezuela, Pampas in Brazil and Parkland in South Africa.



Fig. 8.5 : Camel Rearing in Sudan



Fig. 8.6 : Animal Rearing in India



Fig. 8.7 : Goat Rearing in Western Rajasthan

(ii) Temperate grasslands :

These extend between 30° to 45° latitudes where average rainfall is 50 cm. These grasslands are known as Steppes in Russia, Prairies in USA and Downs in Australia.

(iii) Arid regions :

Thar desert, Kalahari desert, Arabian desert.

(iv) Mountainous regions :

All the mountainous regions of the world.

This occupation may be practised in a primitive manner and also in a very developed and scientific manner at a commercial level.

(A) Pastoral Nomadism

- (1) Nomadic herding is basically an activity for subsistence.
- (2) It is the simplest form of animal herding where animals mainly depend upon natural vegetation.
- (3) Land is extensively used in nomadic herding.
- (4) Animals are the only wealth of these people.
- (5) Most of the Nomadic herders live in their tribal groups.
- (6) The method of animal herding is primitive.
- (7) These people migrate seasonally to procure fodder.



Fig. 8.8 : Pastoral Nomadism

- (8) Camels in South-West Asia and Sahara desert of Africa, Sheep, Goats, Cows, Horses, Donkeys and Mules in the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan etc. countries, Yaks in high mountainous regions of Central Asia and Reindeer and Caribou are domesticated in Tundra regions.
- (9) Groups of Gujjar, Bakarwaal, Gaddi and Bhutiya migrate from plains to mountainous regions during summers and from mountainous regions to plains during winters in the Himalayan region in India.
- (10) The number and area of the nomadic herders are decreasing continuously. There are two reasons for this (i) Restriction of political

boundaries (ii) Plans of new settlements by many countries.

- (11) Nomadic herding has been replaced by Commercial Ranching in the previous century in North and South America and Australia. Permanent agriculture is practised instead of Nomadic herding in Steppes of Southern Russia. Cotton is been cultivated in Russian republic by arranging irrigation.

(B) Commercial Livestock Rearing or Ranching

The growth in the needs of man and progress in knowledge and science has brought major changes in Animal herding occupation. Today Animal herding is practised in many new and vast regions systematically on a commercial level. It's features are as follows :

- (1) It is a more systematic and capital intensive occupation.
- (2) Large farms are made for animals which are called as 'Ranches'.
- (3) Animal products are processed and packed scientifically and exported globally.
- (4) To prevent these products from rotting refrigeration is used.
- (5) Special attention is given to animal reproduction, genetic improvement , controlling diseases and their health.
- (6) Commercial Ranching is practised mainly in the temperate grasslands.



Fig. 8.9 : Commercial Ranching in Europe



Fig. 8.10 : Commercial Ranching in New Zealand

- (7) Denmark and New Zealand for milk, Australia for wool and United States of America have special recognition for meat and milk production.
- (8) Commercial Ranching is practised in New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Uruguay, USA, Denmark, Sweden and Holland.

Table 8.1 : Difference between Nomadic Herding and Commercial Ranching

Nomadic Herding	Commercial Ranching
1. They move from one place to another in search of fodder and water.	This type of animal herding is practised at one place in sheds.
2. Animals are reared naturally and no special care is taken for them.	Animals are reared scientifically and special care is taken of them.
3. Nomadic herding is an economic activity for subsistence.	This economic activity is based upon trade.
4. This is limited to the ancient world.	This is mainly prevalent in the new world.

5. Agriculture

Agriculture has a significant place in primary economic activities. It is the most prevalent occupation. Agriculture has given the facility of a

settled life to man. Agriculture is the main source of food in the world which fulfils about 71 percent of food needs. Agriculture is the main occupation in the developing countries. Due to mechanisation, agriculture production has increased and international trade of agricultural products has begun. The changing form and development of agriculture is a symbol of progress of human civilization. Agricultural activities are influenced by different physical and socio-economic conditions in the world. Different agriculture systems are seen in the world due to these influences. The major agricultural systems are :

(1) Shifting Agriculture

This is the oldest form of agriculture. It is practised in the hot tropical forests. In this forests are burnt, land is cleared and cultivation is done on it. This cultivation is done by primitive tribes. The features of this type of agriculture are the following:

- (i) The size of sown fields is very small in this.
- (ii) Cultivation is done by using primitive tools such as wood, spade, shovel etc.
- (iii) New fields are prepared elsewhere again for cultivation in the similar manner when the fertility of soil diminishes after 2-3 years.
- (iv) This type of cultivation is known as Jhooming in the eastern states of India, Milpa in Central America and Mexico, Ladaang in Malaysia and Indonesia and Rey in Vietnam.
- (v) This type of cultivation is also done in Amazon river basin, Congo basin and Eastern islands group.
- (vi) Presently the crops grown in this are paddy, local millets, maize, pulses, oilseeds etc.

(2) Primitive Sedantary Agriculture

Gradually as the Shifting Agriculture took the form of sedantary agriculture and is known as Primitive Sedantary Agriculture. The features of this type of agriculture are the following :

- (i) The soil is ploughed properly after the land been cleared.
- (ii) The available water is used for irrigation.
- (iii) Due to increased agricultural production other occupations also thrive.
- (iv) Animal herding is also practised alongwith agriculture.
- (v) Animals are used in ploughing fields and in transportation.
- (vi) This type of agriculture is spread over north-eastern India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Central Indies countries.

(3) Subsistence Agriculture

Although agriculture began as a means of livelihood, but it became the main means of employment for the peasant. When agriculture started fulfilling other needs apart from food this type of agriculture came to be known as Subsistence agriculture. This type of agriculture has rapidly extended in the last 100 years. The main features of this type of agriculture is :

- (i) It's a permanent form of agriculture and it is practised in areas of favourable natural conditions.
- (ii) Land is used intensively due to pressure of population over land.
- (iii) Agriculture is practised so intensively that two or three crops are sown in a year.
- (iv) Land holdings are small sized and scattered.
- (v) Agricultural implements are used along with excessive use of manual labour.
- (vi) Production has increased by the use of advanced seeds, chemical fertilizers and insecticides.
- (vii) Irrigation facilities have improved and crop rotation is followed.
- (viii) Mainly foodgrains are produced due to dense population.

- (ix) This type of agriculture is practised in the densely populated regions of Monsoon Asia.



Fig. 8.11 : Subsistence Agriculture in India

Subsistence Agriculture is of two types :

1. Subsistence Agriculture rice dominant. It extends in India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Southern and Central China. Rainfall is above 100 cms in these regions. Rice is the major foodgrain crop in these regions.
2. Subsistence Agriculture wheat dominant It extends in North Central and Western India, Northern China, Pakistan and Korea. Rainfall is below 100 cms in these regions. Wheat is the major foodgrain crop in these regions.

(4) Extensive Commercial Grain Farming

Agricultural production was done with a commercial viewpoint when subsistence agriculture took the form of extensive livelihood. This type of agriculture is practised in developed countries where land is ample and population is less. It's features can be understood in the following way :

- (i) This type of agriculture is practised on extensive land holdings. The area goes from 240 to 1600 hectares.
- (ii) All the activities from preparing the field to reaping the crop is done by machines. Tractor, Harvester, Thrasher, Combine, Winnowing etc are the main machines.

- (iii) Wheat is the major crop of this type of agriculture. Barley, Oats, Mustard, Oilseeds etc are also sown.
- (iv) Large warehouses are established to store food grains safely.
- (v) Use of manual labour is very less.
- (vi) Per hectare production is less and per person production is high.
- (vii) This type of agriculture is practised in temperate grasslands such as Steppes of Eurasia, Prairies of North America, Pampas of Argentina, Welds of South Africa, Downs of Australia and Plains of Canterbury of New Zealand.
- (viii) Agricultural area is continuously declining due to constant population growth.
- (ix) All the countries practising this type of agriculture are developed.
- (x) This agriculture is mechanised and based on advanced technology.

(5) Plantation Agriculture

This type of commercial agriculture was developed by Europeans in the tropical regions during the Colonial era. It's main objective was to arrange those essential crops for European countries which could be grown only in tropical climate. The Britishers developed tea plantations in India and Sri Lanka, rubber plantations in Malaysia and sugarcane and banana plantations in the Western Island group. The French transplanted coffee and cocoa in Western Africa. The Americans developed coconut and sugarcane plantations in Philippines. Many European countries developed coffee plantations in Brazil. These plantations are known as 'fazenda'. After the end of colonisation, the ownership of most of the plantations went to the local government or citizens. Now these plantations export their produce and also sell them in the local markets. It's features are as follows :

- (i) Huge capital investment, advanced management and scientific and technical based methods are used in this.
- (ii) Huge labour is required in this.
- (iii) It's a single cropped agriculture.
- (iv) These provide raw material to industries.
- (v) Cardamom, Black pepper, Sugarcane, Rubber, Tea, Coffee, Coconut, Banana are the major plantation crops.
- (vi) This type of agriculture is practised in Indonesia, Malaysia, Southern and Eastern India, Southern China, Myanmar, Cambodia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Central Africa, Brazil, Fiji, Cuba and Hawaiian Islands.

(6) Mixed Agriculture

In this type of agriculture animal rearing and crop cultivation is done simultaneously. This type of agriculture is practised in very highly developed parts of the world. It extends in eastern part of North America, North-Western Europe, some parts of Eurasia and in temperate latitudes of southern continents. The main features of this type of agriculture are-

- (i) Crop production and Animal rearing are given equal importance.
- (ii) The land holdings are of medium size in this agriculture.
- (iii) Wheat, Barley, Mustard, Oats, Maize, Soyabean and fodder crops are sown mainly.
- (iv) Animals such as Sheep-Goat, Pig, Cattle, Hen etc are reared along with crops.
- (v) Rotation of crops and multiple crops maintain the fertility of soil.
- (vi) Huge capital investment is made in this type of agriculture.
- (vii) Skilled and suitable farmers practise this type of agriculture.
- (viii) This type of agriculture is practised near

metropolitans.

- (ix) This type of agriculture is supported by advanced agricultural methods, superlative transportation and reliable rainfall.

(7) Dairy Farming

This is a specialised way of agriculture. In this special attention is paid to Animal reproduction, Animal herding and Genetic improvement of animals. Animals are looked after by scientific methods in this. Milking and its processing activities are done by machines. Dairy agriculture is done near cities and industrial centres as they are good market for milk and other dairy products. In New Zealand, Australia, Holland, Denmark and United States of America Dairy Farming has assumed a form of industry.

(8) Truck Farming

This is also a specialised type of agriculture in which vegetables are grown. These products are loaded in trucks and sold in nearby urban centres. The distance between market and farms are determined by the distance travelled by trucks overnight. Hence this farming is termed as Truck Farming. This type of agriculture initially began in United States of America. This type of agriculture grew rapidly due to the increasing demand of fresh vegetables in metropolitans and industrial regions. This agriculture is deeply associated to urbanisation. Urbanisation has spread rapidly in India and most of the population is vegetarian in India. Hence due to the increasing demand of vegetables in the country this type of agriculture is developing swiftly.

(9) Horticulture

This is also a specialised type of agriculture in which just like the truck farming fruits and flowers are grown instead of vegetables. Fruits and flowers are in huge demand in cities. Different types of fruits are grown in different regions. Banana, Mango, Coconut etc in tropical regions, Apple, Pear in



Fig. 8.12 : Cultivation of Grapes in Mediterranean region
temperate regions, Lemon, Orange, Grapes etc in the Mediterranean regions are main fruits.

Flowers are also in great demand like fruits in the urban areas. Farmers are highly profited from the sale of flowers. India produces Rose, Marigold and other flowers largely.

6. Lumbering

It is also a major primary occupation of man. It includes cutting wood from forests, making logs and carrying or transporting them to the saw mills. This occupation also has undergone significant changes like other occupations. Earlier wood was cut for fuel only but today it is used as a raw material in many industries. Paper and Furniture industries are based on this activity.

Lumbering is found at the primary level in the tropical regions. The major trees of tropical forests are Saal, Teak, Mahogany, Sandalwood, Rosewood etc. These are used in as timber and making furniture.

Lumbering is practised commercially in the temperate coniferous forests. These forests have large number of trees of the same kind in multiplicity. Tree cutting and logging is done mechanically. Modes of transportation have also developed considerably in these regions. Their softwood is used in making pulp, paper and packing material. Commercially lumbering is practised in



Fig. 8.13 (A) : Lumbering in India



Fig. 8.13 (B) : Lumbering in Myanmar



Fig. 8.13 (C) : Lumbering in Canada



Fig. 8.13 (D) : Lumbering in U.S.A.

Canada, Norway, Finland and United States of America. Due to the increasing demand of wood forests are being cut down rashly in the whole world. Forest area is decreasing swiftly. Due to this soil erosion is increasing. Fertility of soil is decreasing. Terrible floods are occurring in rivers due to soil erosion. Environment is getting imbalanced.

7. Mining

Mining activity develops only at the places where mineral wealth is found. Mining work means extraction of minerals from deep inside the earth's surface. Great disparity is found in global distribution of minerals. Minerals are natural chemical elements or compounds. These are known by their physical and chemical properties. The places from where minerals are extracted are called mines. In the history of human development various stages of discovery of minerals can be seen, like Stone age, Copper age, Bronze age and Iron age. Nowadays we are living in the Steel age. In ancient period the utilization of minerals was limited for making tools and weapons. Their actual development became possible only after the industrial revolution. Their importance is growing continuously. Today the parameter for any country's civilized and economic life is the quantity of minerals used as it is the axis of industry and trade. These are the natural wealth of a country. Iron is the most useful metal. Coal and petroleum are the basis of energy. Many ferrous and non-ferrous metals are required for the industrial development of any country.

(a) Factors influencing mining activities

Mining does not depend merely upon availability of minerals but physical and human conditions also influence mining.

- (i) Physical conditions : Physical conditions mainly include location of mineral deposits, quality of minerals, quantity, type, solvency and proximity to market.
- (ii) Human conditions : Human conditions mainly



Fig. 8.14 (A) : Coal Mining in India



Fig. 8.14 (B) : Coal Mining in Europe



Fig. 8.14 (C) : Copper Mining in Africa



Fig. 8.14 (D) : Mining in Europe

include demand for mineral, transportation facility, capital, labour, level of technological development, government policies etc.

(b) Characteristics of minerals

Some basic characteristics of minerals are given below :

- (i) Their distribution over the earth is uneven.
- (ii) Most of the minerals are limited and non renewable.
- (iii) Most of the minerals are hidden in earth's interior and their survey and extraction requires huge capital , labour and advanced technology.
- (iv) Due to continuous mining mines are becoming more expensive and uneconomical day by day.
- (v) No country is self sufficient in production of minerals.
- (vi) The extraction and utilization of minerals is based upon market and demand.

(c) Classification of minerals

More than 1600 minerals are found in the earth's crust. 200 minerals out of these are being produced for industrial usage. About 80 minerals are considered essential for modern industrial economy. Minerals can be mainly divided in three categories :

(d) Distribution of minerals

Minerals are associated to rocks. Rocks are mainly of three types :

1. Igneous Rocks
2. Metamorphic Rocks
3. Sedimentary Rocks

Gold, Silver, Copper, Zinc, Lead, Manganese, Mica, Sulphur etc. minerals are found in Igneous rocks. Graphite, Diamond, Marble etc. are found in Metamorphic rocks. Coal, Petroleum, Natural Gas, Rock phosphate, Potash, Salt are found in Sedimentary rocks. Table 8.2 shows the major mineral producing countries of the world.

Diagram 8.1 : Minerals

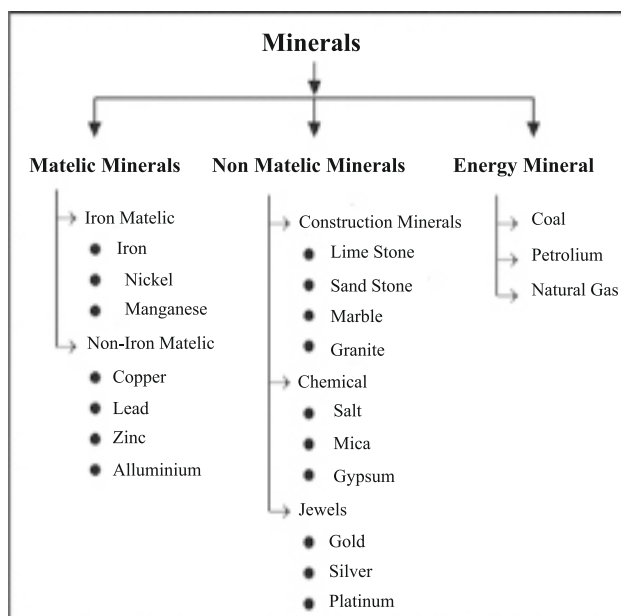


Table 8.2

Mineral production in major countries of the world.

Country	Mineral production (percentage of total global production)
USA	34.10
Russia	10.50
England	10.50
Germany	5.22
Venezuela	5.00
Canada	2.93
France	2.61
Kuwait	2.31
Saudi Arabia	2.27
Poland	2.06
India	1.03
Others	22.43
TOTAL	100.00

Countries of developed economy are reducing mining, processing and refining work as labour expense has increased, whereas developing countries are giving more preference to mining activity to maintain the high standard of living of their citizens on strength of their huge labour force. Many countries of Africa, some countries of South America and Asia derive around fifty percent of their income from mining activities.

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. Hunting, Gathering, Fishing, Animal Grazing, Agriculture, Lumbering and Mining etc. are major primary occupations.
2. Hunting and Gathering are world's oldest occupations.
3. Root-tubers, fruits, nuts, berries, leaves, trunks, herbs etc. are the main articles that are gathered.
4. At present maximum fishes are caught at confluence of warm and cold currents in oceans of the temperate regions.
5. Animal grazing is practised mainly in tropical and temperate grasslands, mountainous and desert regions.
6. Commercial ranching is practised in New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Uruguay, USA, Denmark, Sweden and Holland.
7. Agriculture is the main global food source which fulfils 71 percent of the total food needs.
8. Shifting agriculture is known as Jhooming in the North-eastern states of India, Milpa in Central America and Mexico, Ladang in Malaysia and Indonesia and Rey in Vietnam.
9. Both crop cultivation and animal rearing is done simultaneously in Mixed agriculture.
10. Minerals are classified into three major categories Metallic minerals, Non-metallic minerals and Fuel minerals.

EXERCISE

Multiple Choice Type Questions

1. Which of the following tribes does not live in Northern Siberia ?
(a) Samoyed (b) Tung
(c) Yakut (d) Eskimos
2. Which of the following activities is not a Primary Occupation ?
(a) Hunting (b) Gathering
(c) Fishing (d) Manufacturing
3. Which of the following is not a plantation crop ?
(a) Rice (b) Rubber
(c) Sugarcane (d) Tea
4. Which of the following agricultural types was developed by European colonial communities ?
(a) Truck farming (b) Mixed agriculture
(c) Plantation Agriculture
(d) Subsistence tillage
5. In which of the following Extensive commercial grain farming is not practiced ?
(a) Prairies (b) Savanna
(c) Pampas (d) Downs
6. Where is lumbering practiced on commercial scale ?
(a) Coniferous forests
(b) Mediterranean forests
(c) Tropical forests
(d) None of these

Very Short Answer Type Questions

7. Name any two temperate grasslands of the world.
8. What are coffee plantations called in Brazil ?

9. Nearly how many species of fish are commercially important ?
10. Mention the main characteristics of intensive Subsistence Agriculture.

Short Answer Type Questions

11. Give any four examples of Primary occupations.
12. Name the regions of Commercial Livestock Rearing.
13. What do you mean by Truck Farming ? Describe its salient features.
14. What are the major characteristics of Plantation Agriculture ?
15. Mention the factors influencing mining activities ?

Essay Type Questions

16. Describe the main types of Agriculture in the world.
17. Write an essay on Animal rearing .
18. Give description of Major primary occupations of man.

Map / Skill Based Questions

Depict the regions of primary occupations in the map of the world.