[**Information about Pakistan**](http://pakistan-index.blogspot.com/)

Earning a living is one of the most compelling needs of man. Without exerting himself in some way, man can find nothing to eat and without food he cannot hope to live for long. Even when man was a savage, he roamed around in search of fruits, nuts, berries and birds eggs. As population increased, the supply of wild fruits and nuts was no longer enough to meet man's needs. He became a fisherman and a hunter. Further increase in population forced him to domesticate animals and rear stock. The next step on the road to civilization was the cultivation of land. Men settled down in villages and began to till plots of land. Settled life and agriculture gave rise to the need for simple tools, and agricultural implements. Some men became skilled craftsmen, smelting iron and making tools and instruments. Others took to weaving and making pottery.

These simple occupations were only the first step in mans early period. Man has since marched a long way on the road to development and progress. Modern man has learnt to make machines to do much of the work for him. This remarkable progress of man has had interesting side effects. Perhaps the important of these is that the number of jobs to be done has multiplied fantastically. The few simple occupations of early times are no longer enough to meet the demands of modern life. This fact needs to be carefully realised by our youth. If they want their country to be strong and great, they have to master modern skills, i.e., the technical know-how.

Economic progress of a country depends on two main factors:  
  
  
**(1) Natural resources.**  
**(2) Trained manpower.**

Fertile soil, rainfall, rivers, seas, forests, animals, fish and mineral wealth are the gifts of nature and are called the 'natural resources' of a country. But these gifts of nature by themselves cannot make a country rich and powerful. Man has to learn how to put them to good use. In other words, we must develop our natural resources if we want a place of honour in the world. Pakistan is quite rich in natural resources. To develop them, we need a plentiful supply of trained young men and women. Only trained manpower can give Pakistan large-scale mechanised farming, mining, manufacturing, engineering and efficient transport.

In this background let us take a brief look at the major occupations of people in different areas of the world.  
  
  
  
**Stock Rearing**  
  
  
From the earliest times man has been rearing cattle, such as buffaloes, goats, sheep, horses, etc. These animals supply several basic needs of man. They supply milk, butter, meat and leather. They are used for transport and for tilling the land. That explains why stock-faring, as an occupation, is almost universal. People can take to stock-rearing for two reasons:  
  
(1) The scarcity of other resources may make stock-rearing the major occupation of the people.  
(2) Climatic conditions may make stock-rearing a profitable means of earning foreign exchange.

Of these two, the former is traditional and" the latter scientific and commercial.  
  
The land that has not sufficient moisture for agriculture. Climatic conditions rule out agriculture is these areas. Grass is the only vegetation that can flourish. This naturally makes stock-scaring the chief occupation of the people. Sheep and goats supply milk, meat, butter, wool and skins. Camels and horses are used for transport. Most of the people are nomads. When a pasture-land has no more grass, they move on in search of another one.  
  
In Pakistan, traditional stock-rearing is done in the Sulaiman Mountain Range, area of the KPK, in the Cholistan area of the Punjab and in a greater part of Balochistan. Plans are under way to put stock-rearing on a scientific footing, so that it fetches a reasonable return to the people.Stock-rearing for home and foreign markets is a profitable occupation.

In the central plains of Canada, the central and western part of the United States and Northern Mexico, grass grows in the open plains, on the highlands and on mountain slopes. Both rainfall and temperature favour its growth. Similar climatic conditions prevail in Argentina, Uruguay, South Brazil, eastern and south eastern parts of Australia and the greater part of New Zealand. In these lands, stock-rearing has been developed on modern scientific lines. As an exporter of meat, Argentina leads the world. It meets one-third of the demand of the international market for meat.   
  
  
**Mining**  
  
  
Mining is a very old occupation. Mining as an occupation depends on the presence of mineral wealth in a country. Mineral wealth includes various metals, coal, oil, natural gas, stones of various kinds, diamonds and scores of other things lying under the surface of the earth which are scattered around.

Various methods are in use for taking out different kinds of minerals and for making them ill for use. Some minerals, like gypsum, lime, marble, building stones, etc. can be had from open sites. However, most of the mineral deposits lie buried under the surface of earth. To haul them out, tunnels have to be dug. This is how coal, iron, copper, gold, silver and salt are taken out.  
  
Oil fields and gas fields are embedded in the deep layers of the earth. They are reached by drilling and driving pipe-lines deep below, the surface of the earth.  
  
The mining of most of the minerals passes through three stages: prospecting, extracting and refining.  
  
The first stage in mining is the location of deposits. Most of the minerals are buried deep below the surface of the earth. Or they may lie in places not easily approachable. The pin-pointing of mineral deposits calls for great skill and hard work.  
  
The extraction of minerals lying on open sites is no problem. But most of the minerals have to be taken out of deep layers of the earth. Tunnels are dug to reach the deeper layers of rock and machines are used to cut them. Special arrangements have to be made to allow fresh air to circulate in the mine. Rail tracks are laid to haul out the ore (crude minerals) from the mines in trolleys.  
  
For the purpose of refining it, the ore is transported to factories. Here impurities are removed and the mineral is made fit for use. Good transport between the mine and the factories is basic to efficient refining. Oil and gas are transported by means of pipelines.  
  
Western countries like Germany, England and the United States have led the way to scientific mining. The gold and diamond mines of South Africa and the oil-fields of Saudi Arabia follow mining tech niques developed in the West.  
  
Pakistan has a big salt mine in the southern part of the Potwar Plateau. Salt has been mined from here for hundreds of years. In other parts of the plateau, some oil wells have been drilled. Search for more oil has continued. It is very encouraging for Pakistan that large deposits of oil and gas have recently been found at Dhodak in Distt. Dera Ghazi Khan in the Punjab.  
  
Balochistan is the most important part in Pakistan in respect of mineral wealth. Natural gas, coal, bauxite and magnesium are already being mined. Saindak copper project is immense importance. It will yield large amounts of copper, silver and gold when completed. The greater part of the province lacks facilities of transport. This has hindered the survey of mineral deposits. New roads are opening up the closed parts of the province. Teams of scientists and technicians are busy exploring the province. Their efforts are sure to bear fruit and set the country on the way lo progress and development.  
  
  
  
**Agriculture**  
  
  
The greater part of mankind is busy in agriculture. Leaving aside the snowbound Tundra and the mountainous and the desert regions of the world, agriculture is everywhere. an important occupation. The development of farming depends on good soil and suitable climate. Different crops need different amounts of moisture .and heat and different degrees of richness in the soil.  
  
Long ago man realized the need for artificial irrigation with a view to overcoming the shortage of water supply. He learned to water his fields by drawing water from tanks and wells. Later, he dug out canals from the nearby rivers. Canal — irrigation has had its greatest development in the present century. All over the world, huge dams have been made across rivers and their waters have been made to flow into canals to irrigate fields.  
  
Agriculture is not equally developed in all countries of the world. The climatic conditions and the physical features of different parts of the world differ greatly. Moreover^ people of all the lands are not equally hardworking and hardy. These factors account for different kinds of cultivation going on round the globe. A brief survey follows:  
  
  
  
(1) **Temporary Cultivation:**  
  
  
The 'equatorial region1 never lacks moisture and heat. Therefore, wild plants and trees grow everywhere in this region. The creeping forest rapidly covers any patch of bare ground that lies within its reach. This makes it quite difficult to get land for cultivation. People living in the region clear small patches of the forests and start cultivating crops. But after two or three years they find the weeds re­appearing with a vengeance. The yield of the land begins to fall. In despair, the poor farmers give up their fields to the forest. They move on to some other part of the forest. Here, they again clear patches of land and start cultivation. This drama goes on all the time. Sometimes a whole village has to move to a new place.  
  
  
(2) T**raditional Cultivation:**  
  
Outside the "equatorial region" peasants have permanent holdings of land in most countries of the world. They grow cereals like rice, wheat, millet and fibres like cotton and jute or fruits and vegetables. This kind of traditional cultivation only meets the needs of the cultivator and his family and the needs of the local community.-The yield of these lands is limited and hence plays no role in the foreign trade of the country  
  
  
(3) **Mechanized Cultivation:**  
  
That advanced countries of the world have mechanized agriculture. Machines till the soil, sow the seeds, spray insecticides/pesticides, harvest crops and haul them to the market. Mechanized cultivation has revolutionized agriculture. It has boosted per acre yield of various crops.  
  
  
Mechanized cultivation can be successful only if it is done on a large scale. In the old world, the average peasant did not have a holding big enough for the use of machinery. The answer to it has been suggested by introducing 'collective farming' which is a form of co-operative farming. Some experimental co­operative farms have also been set up in Pakistan. There is a plan to encourage people to set up co-operative farms of their own free will.  
  
  
In co-operative cultivation, all members of the co­operative society pool their lands. This gives them a tract of land, large enough to justify use of the heavy agricultural machinery. Against the security of this land they can borrow sufficient money to buy necessary machinery and fertilizers. Run on sound lines, co-operative farming can change the very fate of our countryside.  
  
  
(4) **Plantations:**  
  
The large scale cultivation of certain crops or fruits in a specially suitable area, for commercial purposes is known as a plantation. Rubber, tea, coffee, sugar-cane and bananas are examples of crops grown on plantations. Plantations were set up by European settlers in Asiatic and African Colonies for the supply of raw materials on a large scale to their industry. They were set up in tropical and sub-tropical regions, mostly on coastal strips or islands. Rubber plantations in Malaya proved a singular success.  
The rich soil of Pakistan is our most valuable resource. This makes agriculture the key industry of the country. If we develop our agriculture on modern lines, we can feed our population, get enough raw material for our factories and still have a surplus to export. To do this, we have to give up traditional cultivation and introduce mechanized farming.  
  
  
**Industry**  
  
  
Millions of people around the globe are engaged in industry at different levels. Let us take at look at them:  
  
  
**Cottage Industries:**  
  
These are industries carried on by a few individuals or by the members of a family on a small scale. Machines used In cottage industries are generally light such as power looms, paper-cutting and printing machines and tool-making machines etc.  
  
  
**Light Industry**  
  
Factories preparing sugar, textiles, flour, shoes and other articles of daily use are called 'light industry\*. Machines used in light industry are not light. With the help of machines and the labour force they turn the raw material into finished goods on a very large scale.  
  
  
**Heavy Industry:**  
  
Factories which make machines etc, are known as heavy industry. To make machines we need metals and fuel. So the preparation of steel and the refining of mineral ' oil are basic to heavy industry. Countries that have developed heavy industry manufacture heavy machines like railway engines, electric machines, ships, aeroplanes and the like.

Heavy industry also needs the services of a large number of skilled technicians and experts. This is why heavy industry is looked upon as the index of a country's .progress. Sound industrial development depends on the development of heavy industry  
  
Cottage industries cater largely to the demand of the national market. Some of their products reach high standards of artistic skill.  
  
  
Besides meeting the country's own needs, light industry tries to capture foreign markets. This it can do if it gets a plentiful supply of raw materials and can sell its products at moderate prices. Th^ developing countries of Asia and Africa provide a big market for such goods. However, these countries are now trying to set up their own industries and turn their raw materials into finished goods themselves. This is just what Pakistan has done. Formerly it imported cotton and woollen textiles as well as sugar. Now it does not. Thus it has created thousands of jobs for its youth. It is also saving millions of rupees in the form of foreign exchange.  
  
As already said heavy industry depends on the supply of steel and mineral oil. Pakistan has some oil wells but these do not produce enough oil to eater for the needs of the country. Two oil refineries have been set up at Karachi and one at Morgah (Rawalpindi), which purifies the imported crude oil. Pakistan does not have high grade iron ore of its own. All the same, a steel mill is also set up at Karachi, Pakistan has to import iron for feeding this mill.  
  
  
**Trade**  
  
Trade has always been an important profession. Trade means. the exchange of goods between people. We have seen how people working in their homes, workshops and factories are busy manu­facturing different kinds of articles. Trade is a means of putting these articles In the hands of people who need them. In other words, trade is a bridge between the producers of goods and the users of goods.  
  
  
Fast and efficient means of transport and communication are essential for modern trade. The modern world is a fast-moving world. The speed with which goods move from one place to another is an index of a country's industrial progress. Pakistan has a good railway system and a net-work of good roads. But in several parts of the country the means of transport and communication need improvement. Many of the farmers have to carry their produce to the nearby market on the back of animals or in slow-moving bullock-carts. Transport and communications need proper streamlining so that the country may really benefit from the industrial development.  
  
  
**International Trade**  
  
The system of international trade is" still more complicated. Here the buying and selling of various articles is done not between individuals of the same country but between individuals of various countries or between the countries themselves. Different parts of the world differ in physical features and climate. Naturally they produce different kinds of crops and prepare different kinds of goods . This gives rise to the need for the exchange of all kinds of goods between different countries. Each country exports goods which it can produce easily, at low cost and in abundance. In exchange it buys from other countries, goods which it cannot produce or produces in insufficient quantity, or can only produce at a very high cost.  
Goods exchanged between countries are of two kinds: raw material and finished goods. Raw materials fetch relatively low price. To manufacture goods one has to invest huge amounts of capital.