Economic Activities

# Definition:

Economic activity is the activity of **making, providing, purchasing or goods or services.** An action that involves **producing, distributing** or consuming products or services is an economic activity.

**For instance;**

Running a small Business is a great example of economic activity. Exchange of products or services is also economic activities.

# Classification

Economic Activities are classified as following activities or sectors.

1. Primary Activities
2. Secondary Activities
3. Tertiary Activities
4. Quaternary Activities
5. Quinary Activities

# Primary Economic Activities:

The primary sector of the economy harvest or extracts products from the earth, such as **raw materials** and **basic foods.** These activities concerned with **gathering** or **making** available materials provided by nature. These activities are at the beginning of **production cycle.** Where human’s are in closest contact with the resources.

Activities associated with primary economic activity include **agriculture** (both subsistence and commercial, mining, forestry, grazing, **hunting and gathering**, fishing, quarrying. Before there was **farming,** hunting and gathering were the universal forms of primary production. Now their numbers are few and declining in some areas of **South East Asia, Northern Australia, Tropical Africa, Amazon Rainforest and Arctic regions** still contain such pre-agricultural people.

These activities include following aspects

1. Agriculture
2. Animals
3. Fishing
4. Forestry
5. Minerals.

# Agriculture:

Growing to crops or tending of livestock whether for the subsistence of the producers or for sale or exchange has replace hunting and gathering as economically the most significant of the primary activities. In highly developed commercial economics where commercial agriculture is being done only **3% to 10%** labor force is engaged in this activity.

# Animals:

After agriculture role of animals in human life is also very important that **herding** has become an important primary economic activity. In **Modern world** nomadic herding has been converted into livestock ranching, commercial dairy farming and mixed farming.

# Fishing:

Fishing is another important economic activity. Fish provide more than **6%** of the total daily protein intake of the developing world’s population and over **7%** of the total protein supply worldwide. Only about **10 – 12%** of the annual fish supply comes from inland water, rivers, lakes and pounds. The other **88 – 90%** comes from the world’s oceans.

# Forestry:

It is another valuable primary economic activity. After retreat of continental glacier some **11000 years ago** and before the rise of agriculture. The world forest and woodlands probably covered some **45%** of earth land area.

They were a productive environment for earlier society that gathered fruits, nuts, berries, leaves, roots and fibers collected from trees and woody plants. Forest still covered **30%** of land area roughly.

# Minerals:

The real massive exploration of the earth’s hidden treasure or minerals started with the advent of industrial revolution. In England about one’s half of the century ago the essential basis of industrialization. With the passage of time mineral extraction has become a commercial activity. We extract coal gold and different minerals from nature.

Thus primary producers are called “**red collar workers”.**

# Secondary Economic Activities:

It is also called as **manufacturing sector or industrial sector**. The primary sector cannot satisfy all human requirements. We need certain industrial goods to make our lives comfortable. The sector which transforms one physical good into another is called secondary sector. The **manufacturing, electricity, gas, water supply** etc are included in this group.

Secondary production increases increase the value or usefulness of a material by changing its form such activities includes manufacturing and commercial agriculture. It included **handicraft production, electronic goods or automobile production and chemical industries** etc. At least **one quarter** of the total population or total labor force in the world directly engaged in industrial sector.

These are called “**Blue collar labor force.”**

# Tertiary Economic Activities:

Tertiary economic activities include the service sector. Services of various kinds like **education, health, banking, insurance, trade and transport** are included in this sector. This sector includes those activities which are a must for running modern industries or support of activities.

These include financial business, professional, clerical and personal services. Tertiary activities are mostly concerned wholesaling or retailing of goods.

Tertiary activities included **“pink collar workers”.**

## For instance:

Wheat includes in **primary economic activity** because it is a raw material.

When wheat is converted into flour, then it include in **secondary economic activity** because of manufacturing or processing. When this flour converted into bakery items, it includes in **tertiary** **economic activity**.

# Quaternary Economic Activities:

Quaternary services represent a special type of service work focusing on administrative services, including financial and health service work, working in education, government management and information processing.

This sector of economy consists of intellectual activities often associated with **technical innovation.** It is sometime called the **knowledge economy.** This includes government, culture, libraries and scientific research. These intellectual services and activities are what we drives technological advancement, which can have a huge impact on short – term and long – term economic growth.

Quaternary activity includes **“white collar work force”.**

# Quinary Economic Activities:

This sector includes top executives or officials in such fields as government, science, universities, nonprofits, health care, culture and media. It may also include police and fire departments, which are public services as opposed to for-profit enterprises.

It also involves most visible persons includes chief executive officers and top management executives in both government and private services. Research scientists, legal authorities, financial advisors and problem solving services belonging to this cluster.

Quinary activity includes **“gold collar workers”.**

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Outline

## Economic activities

Every human effort or activity for the livelihood purpose is called economic activity.

There are five economic activities, which are primary, secondary, tertiary, quaternary and quinary activities.

## Primary economic activities:

It involves raw material production, hunting and gathering, grazing agriculture, fishing, forestry, mining etc. these are called **“red collar workers”.**

## Secondary economic activities:

It includes manufacturing and processing of raw material and commercial agriculture. These are called **“blue collar labor force”.**

## Tertiary economic activities:

It includes service sector, wholesaling and retailing of goods. These are called **"pink collar workers”.**

## Quaternary economic activities:

It includes professional and administrative services. It is intellectual activity associated with technological innovation. These are called **“white collar work force”.**

## Quinary economic activities:

It includes most visible persons like thinkers, chief executives and researchers etc. these are called **“gold collar workers”**

# Comments:

ASSIGNMENT

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

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