

## The Significance of Economic and Commercial Geography

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**Abstract:** *The life-style of human being has been changing day by day. Due to technology development peoples are coming closer to each other all over the world. Transport and communication facilities are developed and tendency of people has changed. Inter cooperation and interdependence among people increased day by day. Environment circumstance results unevenness in the productions and human being cannot live without the exchange of ideas and commodities. It is not possible to every country in the world to produce all commodities without export and import and fulfill their needs. At the same time, the present life-style is creating new needs and to fulfill them the production has to be increased. Environment is the only source for getting production to fulfill the needs.*

*A competition of the unlimited needs and limited resources has been started in human life. Humans are engaged in making available of the resources to a maximum level. This is the biggest economic struggle now a days. A large storage of these resources is in the hands of nature. Therefore, it is needed to study economic and commercial geography because one can obtain information about how a particular country has economically developed and others have not.*

- **Keywords: Branches of Geography, Key Concepts and Approaches to Economic Geography, Scope and Importance of Economic and Commercial Geography**
- **Introduction:**

Geography is the study of the earth and its relationship to man and his activities. It was introduced by Greek scholars. Geo-Earth and Graphein to write. The modern Geography is not only concerned with earth but also concerned with man's relationship with earth. Geography is a human and dynamic subject. Human activities which generate income are known as economic activities.

Economic activities are broadly grouped into Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and Quaternary activities. These are activities concerned with obtaining materials from nature directly. These activities are concerned with activities adding value to already existing products by changing their form, making them more suitable to satisfy our needs and wants. Tertiary activities are concerned with providing material goods. These activities include all personal and business services. These include some special type of service work which include professional and administrative services. It provides an understanding of the exchange of goods and commodities between different countries. It explains how some countries produce certain goods in surplus on account of environmental advantage and exchange them with goods which cannot be produced due to certain environmental constraints. It also helps to understand the shifts

of markets producing centers of certain goods on account of the development of new transport and communication.

- **Objectives of the study:**

1. To understand the background of geography
2. To explain branches of geography
3. To highlight scope and importance of Economic and Commercial Geography

- **Meaning of Geography:**

The word Geography is derived from “Geo” and “Graphy”. The geo means earth and graphy means description. The geography is a science which studies physical environment and human interaction. Human take various advantages through various natural resources and also interact with our environment.

- **Definitions:**

1. Geography:

A science that deals with the description, distribution and interaction of the diverse physical, biological and cultural features of the earth’s surface.

2. Commercial Geography:

Commercial geography is a form of geography concerned with the production and supply of raw materials including agricultural product and finished goods.

Commercial geography investigates the spatial characteristics of trade and transactions in terms of their nature, causes and consequences.

According to Chisholm, it is an intellectual interest to the study of geographical facts relating to commerce. According to Chisholm, the economic geography may study the influence of geographical conditions on trade. Some geographical factors are necessary to produce any kind of commodity.

3. Economic Geography:

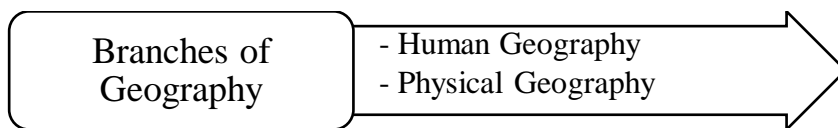
Economic Geography is a study of human economic activities under varying sets of conditions which is associated with production, location, distribution, consumption, exchange of resources and spatial organization of economic activities across the world.

Economic geography is concerned by the location, distribution and spatial organization of economic activities, particularly in terms of their supply and demand requirements for energy, resources, goods, capital and labor.

According to R.S. Thoman, 'Economic and commercial geography may be defined as an enquiry into the production, exchange and consumption of goods by people in different areas of the world.'

- **Branches of Geography:**

From ancient times, geography has been popularly known for its curious nature. Geography, in the later period, started to study the actions and reactions between man and the various factors on the surface of the earth. In the recent past, geography developed with its different branches such as physical geography, human geography, political geography, economic geography etc. The economic geography is equally an important branch of human geography. The commercial geography is a sub-branch of economic geography.



- a) Human Geography:

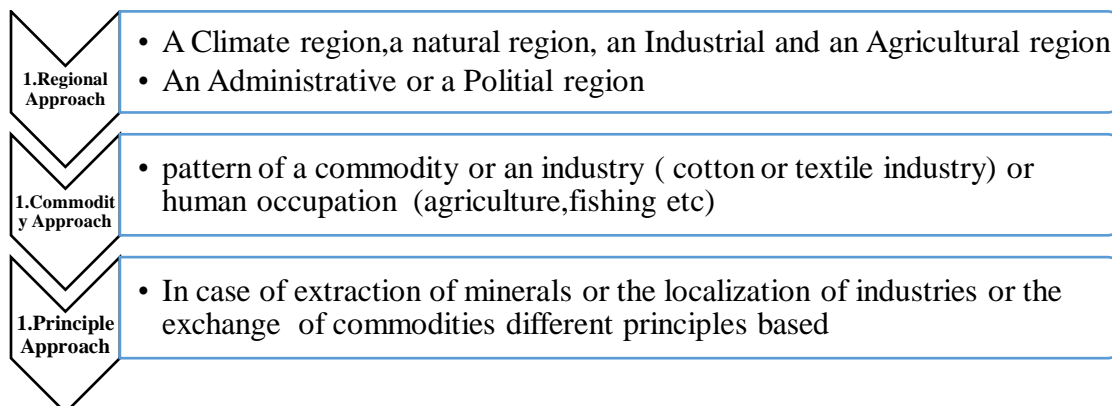
It deals with study of human communities, cultures, economies and interactions with environment by studying relationships with across space and place. Urban Geography, Population Geography, Cultural Geography, Economic Geography, Political Geography all these deals with Human Geography. Political situation, globalization, population of a particular country study in this branch of geography. It clearly indicates that Human Geography is related with people.

- b) Physical Geography:

Physical is a thing that is physically existed that we can see or touch that thing. It deals with study of processes, patterns of natural environment like the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and geosphere as opposed to the cultural or built environment. Atmosphere e.g. Ozone Layer. Biosphere means resources that we get from our land. Hydrosphere means things that we get from water or oceans. Geosphere includes resources we get from internal part of land e.g. Minerals.

- **Approaches to Economic Geography:**

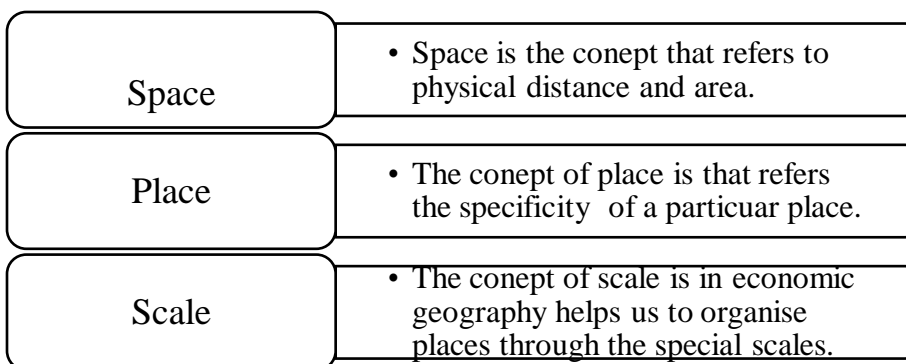
- **Traditional Approach:** Traditional approaches are the approaches which are common in geography and frequently used in geography. Economic Geography mostly used traditional geography. Following approaches of traditional approaches:



• **Scope of Economic and Commercial Geography:**

As the purpose and scope of economic and commercial geography is to study the factors responsible for production and distribution of various commodities, to study the trend of consumption, together with the problems involved. Economic geography and Commercial Geography are parallel to each other. Economy of country depend on trade of that particular country. Suppose for example a particular country is rich in production of rice but consumption is low compare to production but other country is poor in production of rich but consumption is very high comparing to production then there is a need to study the problems involved for the same. So, there is a need to study the resources such as agricultural, means of transport, trade, industrialist, minerals. These resources are involved in production, distribution and trend of consumption.

• **Key concepts of Economic Geography:**



Space is the concept which necessary for deciding production and distribution areas distance. Space is the key factor for deciding import-export policy, distance from manufacturer to the market or establishing any factory or using way out consider. Place is the concept useful as a

point of trend of consumption or determining a particular products consumption pattern. The concept of scale is an instrument of measurement. In an economic geography places are organized through special scales. Special scales are used for describing or classifying with large approximation the extent or size of the length, distance or area studied or described. Special scales are mostly used in geography, statistics etc. where large areas or measurement used.

- **Significance of Economic and Commercial Geography:**

The importance of economic and commercial geography is depicted through following figure:



- Economist: With the help of study of economic and commercial geography, an economist can make economic planning in an effective way.
- Agriculturalist: Agricultural can also get maximum advantage after the complete study of economic and commercial geography. E.g. There is too much progress in every country in agriculture through innovations. Agriculturalist In progressive way through study of economic and commercial geography.
- Trader: A trader can trade his goods and services in such a way if he has complete knowledge about the market size, location and many others factors. A trader must know their market location or factors related to for supplying goods and services in an effective way. A trader involved in goods and services to get maximum benefit he must study market size and their distribution areas. This is possible

through study of commercial geography and economic geography. e.g. Services provided by a trader between two countries or between two cities in an effective way is possible due to study of economic and commercial geography.

- iv. Ruling Class: Study of economic and commercial geography can guide the ruling class, they can know about agricultural, minerals and industrial progress in different parts of the world.
- v. Students: It can help commerce students to choose right path for their future, so that they can become successful businessmen, industrialist, traders and bankers etc.

## Conclusion:

Commercial and economic geography are interconnected. Trade and Commercial activities are core components of the economy. Exchange of goods and services over long distances at specific markets is necessary for industry revolution. There is a close relationship between the sphere of locations (the geographical setting of supply and demand), the sphere of transactions (the geographical setting of exchanges) and the sphere of circulation (the geographical setting of movements). In economic geography, environment and human occupations are considered from economic point of view and in commercial geography, trade is considered from commercial point of view. The study of commercial geography is useful in the development of resources, development of commercial activities with trade, increase in production, searching new markets. The study of commercial geography is useful in the development of commercial activities. Due to the development of trade, the production increases and the resources and services develop as well as transport and communication system becomes efficient. Therefore, the study of economic and commercial geography has got greater importance to each country all over the world.

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