

Date: _____

Q No: 01

Explain and critique the concept of value in economic anthropology. How do different culture conceptualize and ascribe value to goods, services and labour/work? Support your answer through Example?

(1)

Introduction: Brief Overview on Economic Anthropology and how it operates different across different cultures:

The father of economic anthropology is considered as **Malinowski**. Who firstly explained the concept of redistribution, production and consumption. Over and above, to understand the basic concept of economy in anthropological terms,

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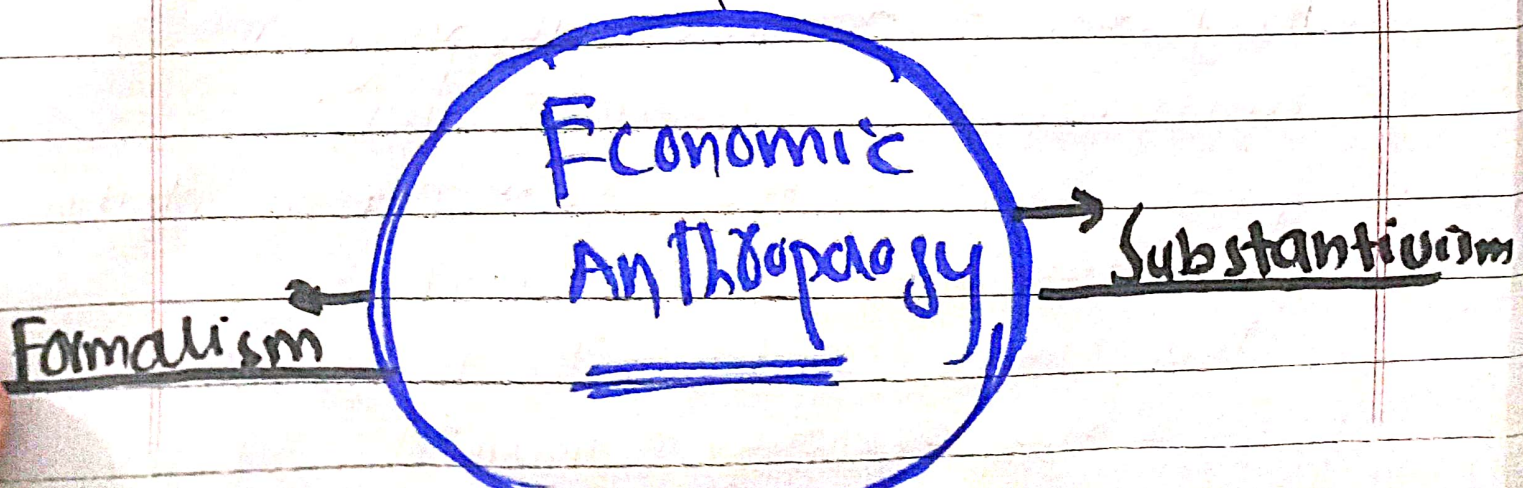
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, it is the mechanism through which people fulfil their needs. The culture of economy varies across different cultures. In some culture, the exchange of goods are exchanged by other goods. However, in some culture, goods are exchanged by special type of currency.

(2)

Explanation and Critique over the concept of value in Economic Anthropology:

In economic anthropology the two concept valueably explained the concept of value.



(a) Substantivism

Substantivism was given by Karl Polanyi ~~Horkowitz~~ who explained how the societies persuaded the principle of maximization and scarcity regarding the value of goods.

Case study:

(b) Industrialization

Formalism

Formalism was given by ~~MA~~ Horkowitz who explained that how the tribe exchange the gifts and goods for strengthening their relationship and social ties.

Case Study:

Kula System

(c) Criticism over these two concepts

(ii)
Neo-Marxist

→ Neo-Marxist theorist Mr. **Eric Wolf**: Critique over both concept

Criticism:

→ Formalism:

Focus on too much on individual choices, neglecting the exploitation of rich class.

Example: Feudal lords

→ Substantivism:

Over romanticizes the traditional societies and neglecting the struggle of weak individual in the tribe.

Example:

Chief power

(iii)

Another anthropologist Mr. **Sherry Ortner** criticized the above two concepts.

Criticism

→ Formalism:

Makes the people robots.
They just focus on maximization of profits.

→ Substantivism:

Romanticizes the traditional system, making no boundaries of the marginalized tribe individual to change their life status.

(3)

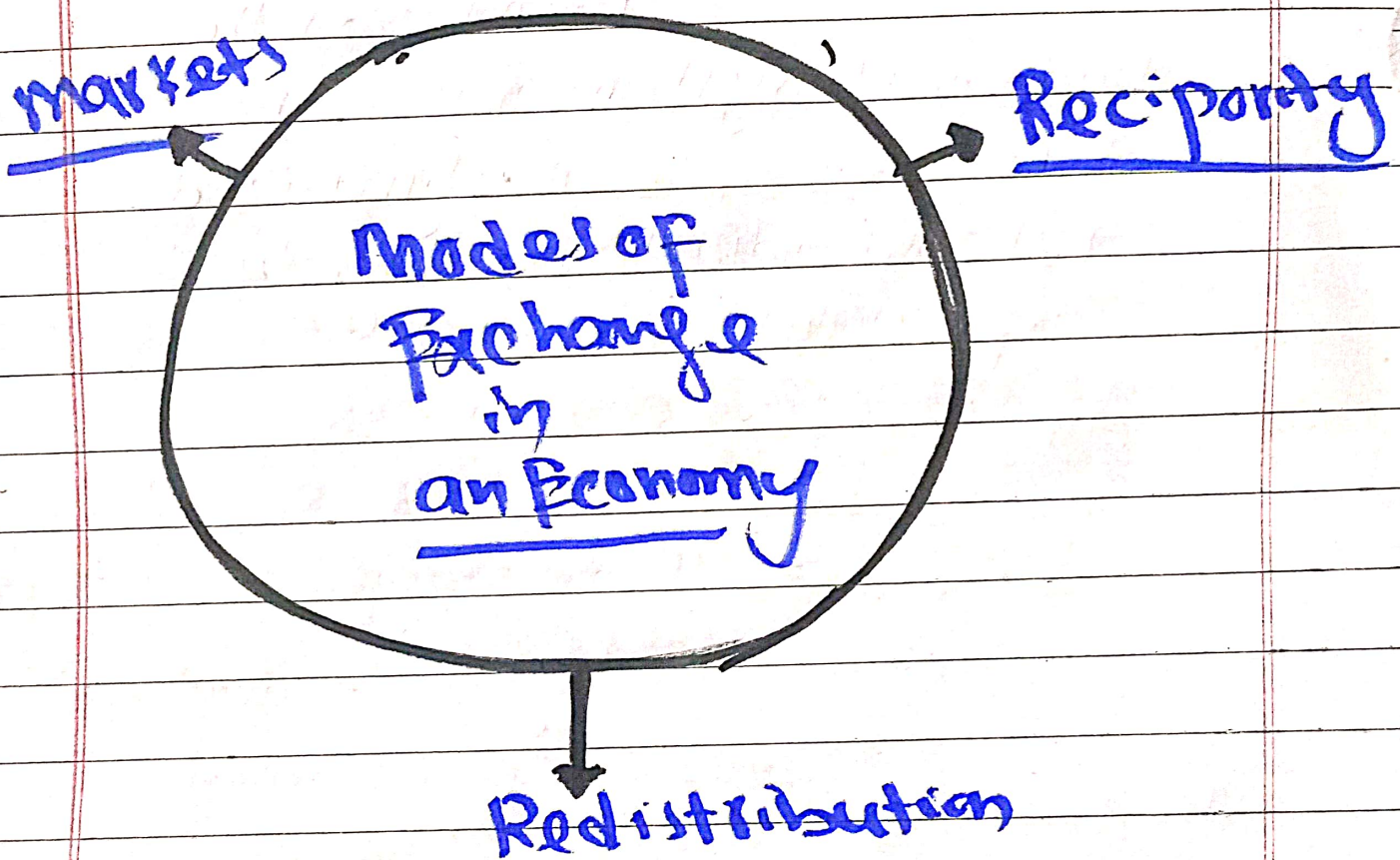
Different cultures conceptualize and ascribe value to goods and services and labour work in different ways:

Each culture in anthropology has own uniqueness and distribution mechanism.

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(a)

Models of Exchange in an Economy — Karl Polanyi — Work — The Great Transformation



(a)

Reciprocity

The concept of reciprocity given by

Date: _____

Marshall Sahlins explained the value of goods, services and labour work in following way:

Positive Reciprocity

In this reciprocity the property, goods are given to other person without taking anything.

Case Study

Indonesian
Sawma
Island

Negative Reciprocity

→ In this type the goods are snatched by force.

Case study:

Mongol

Balance Reciprocity

→ In this type the valuable goods are exchanged by two groups for a time period.

Case study
British
Colombian

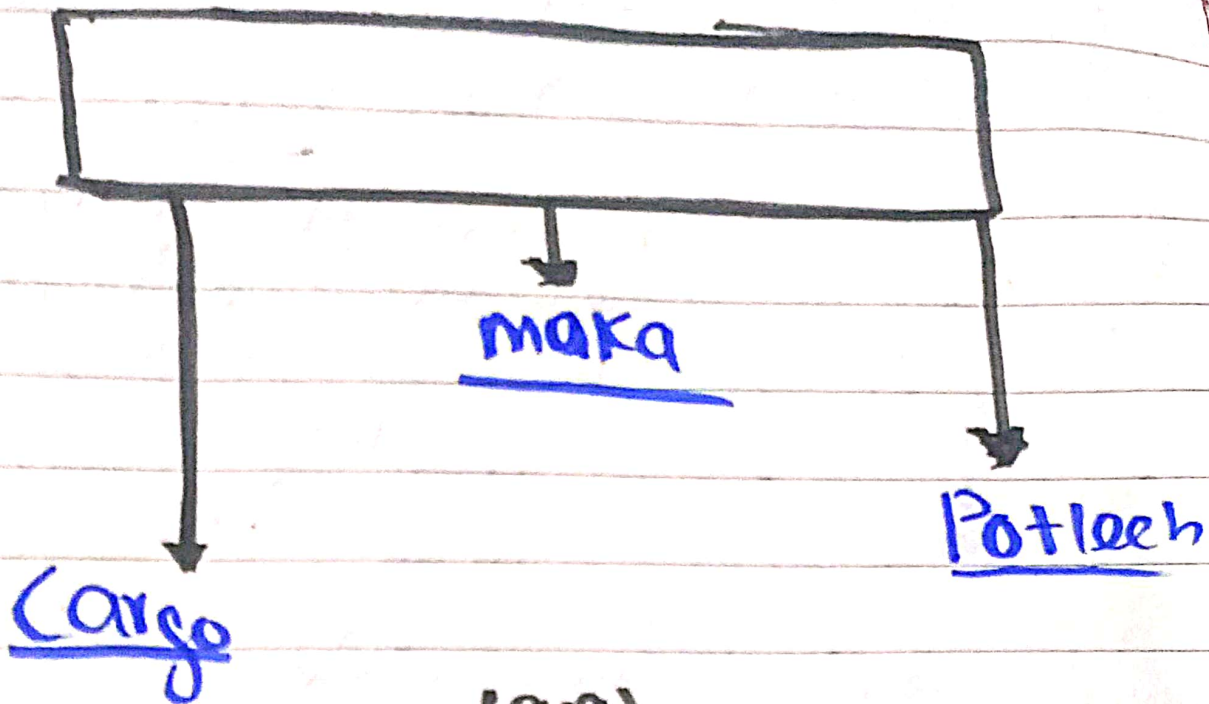
(b)

Re-Distribution:

The concept of re-distribution explained

Date: _____

by Karl Polanyi - He explained:



(a-a)
(Cargo)

it is kind of distribution of goods, services and labour by giving service and giving charity or funds to avoid the angry of super natural power.

Case Study

Southern America
(Chile) Vessel
Service

Date: _____

(a.b)

Moka

Moka is also kind of distribution of services. It is kind of service given by tribe individuals to make a good image and have wealth.

Case Study New Guinea

Marshall
Sahlins studied
them. Tribe
Kawelka.

(a.c)

Potlee

it is a party from the people who selects the head of tribe. Potlee divide all the material distribution in tribe.

later elucidate their achievements to strengthen their position in tribe.

(C) Market System

In the contemporary era, the market system operates which distribute goods, services and labour.

- Capitalism:
- Communism:
- Islamic System:

Capitalism:

it is market based system in which,

the market is free to operate.

However, it is different from Islamic system just in interest based system.

Case study: Industrialization Era.

→ Communism:

it is also market based economic system. But in this system

no economy is controlled by government

Case Study:

USSR Economic Model:

→ Islamic System:

Islamic system is also provide labour services and goods services on the bases of performance. However, it is different from other models when it comes to interest rate.

“ In last Sermon Hazrat Muhammad warned Muslims to not take interest.”

(4)

Each culture and time period have own economic model. However, the key focus of each model is to re-distribute wealth, but in a different manner.

Basic of Economy in Anthropology is...