

## TOPIC:- RESOURCES CAN BE RICH ONLY WHEN PROPERLY UTILIZED

### OUTLINE:-

#### 1. Introduction

Thesis statement, Earth is abundant with natural resources, but, only that part of earth is rich in resources which harnesses its proper utilization. This can address various issues like: water crisis, food scarcity, poor economy, etc. However, robust policies and technical education can help in making best use of the resources.

2. Richness of resources is only possible with proper utilization.

3. Resources in Pakistan and their current utilization

- a) Renewable resources
- b) Non-renewable resources
- c) Human resources

4. Reasons for improper utilization of resources.

- a) Poor governance of the country
- b) Prevalent political instability
- c) Bottleneck approach while designing policies
- d) Rampant corruption
- e) Worsening law and order condition
- f) Lack of investment for upgrading technological system.

### 5. Negative impacts of under utilization of resources.

- a) Energy crisis in the country.
- b) Food insecurity due to dwindling water resources and infertile land
- c) Dependency on other countries for need is burden on economy.
- d) water scarcity haunting the nation for its survival
- e) Brain drain from the country: a threat to ailing economy.

### 6. Steps need to be taken for proper utilization

- a) Follow China human development model to make best use of population
  - b) KSA's water strategy of desalination and non-renewable water resources.
- to overcome water crisis.

c) Geological survey to identify resource potential areas.

d) Technical education for proper use of resources.

## 7. Conclusion

## Essay:-

It's a natural resource, but it's not unlimited (Billy Mayes). This famous quote of Billy Mayes points out towards the availability of resources. No matter how rich the country is in its natural resources, its richness can only be guaranteed by its proper management and utilization. Even the huge quantity of resources can be impaired, if not properly used; and a small quantity of resources can be transferred to generations only if it is properly utilized. ~~Any~~ <sup>Every</sup> country in the world witness the presence of these three types of resources i.e: Renewable, non-renewable and human resources. which are not properly managed. There are various ~~various~~ <sup>reasons</sup> for the improper utilization of resources like: poor governance of the country, prevalent political instability, Bottleneck approach while designing policies, and rampant corruption. This improper utilization of the resources has various negative impacts on the country which can be seen in the form of energy

Crisis in the country, food insecurity due to water scarcity and dependency on other countries to meet up various needs which is a burden on the economy. However, few steps ~~like~~ of following role model projects of various countries like:- human development model of China and KSA's water strategy of desalination can help to control the improper utilization of the resources. Earth is abundant with natural resources, but, only that part of earth is rich in resources which harnesses its proper utilization. This can address various issues like: water crisis, food scarcity, poor economy, etc. However, robust policies and technical education can help in making best use of the resources.

Natural resources are something that are occurring naturally on earth. It forms the indispensable part of our lives. It comprises of air, water, natural gas, coal, petroleum, fossil fuel, oil, minerals, etc. Pakistan is one of the richest country in terms

of natural resources. Among 200 countries of the world, it ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in coal reserves, has world's second largest salt mines and it is the fifth most populous country of the world. Despite being the largest salt producer of the world, Pakistan ranks at No: 20 for salt export due to poor policies (timesofislamabad.com, Pakistan Rank 20 for salt export, 2019). This clearly depicts that country has great potential but the resources have been untapped due to improper utilization.

There are plenty of renewable resources like ~~oil, gas and coal~~ in Pakistan. Solar, wind, thermal and hydro power resources. Wind and solar energy are unused lifelines of Pakistan. For Example:- 1046 Km long coastline of Pakistan gives potential of 40000 mw of electricity. The vast land of Baluchistan can be utilized for solar electricity generation. only 33% of around 20,000 mw generation capacity is produced from hydro power potential. No

concrete steps have been taken to harness these resources and these resources have barely been used due to technological backwardness and lack of innovative policies.

Besides, abundance of <sup>non-</sup>renewable energy resources like: coal, oil, gas, minerals can be witnessed in the country. Our farmers produce wheat, cotton, rice, sugarcane, fruit and vegetables. Pakistan has world's 20<sup>th</sup> largest coal deposits of 185 billion tons. (worldometers.com, 2023). Along with this, Pakistan has 436.2 million barrels of oil and 31.3 trillion cubic feet of proven gas reserves (CIA World factbook, 2022). <sup>Sui</sup> Gas fields is the largest and accounts for 26% of the gas production. Further, we have fertile lands of Punjab, ready to feed a population twice as big as now. All these facts are clearly depicting that the country has potential in terms of <sup>non-</sup>renewable resources also. But unfortunately the poor utilization has caused haphazard situation in the country.

Third most important resource in this globalized world is human resource. It is vital for the development of the country. Pakistan is the fifth most populous country of the world, with population of 241.49 million. (Pakistan Bureau of statistics, 2023). The country is having large share of youth population i.e. 63% of the population is below age of 25 years. (United nation development program, 2022). But the failed policies have caused mounting unemployment. The resources which could be used to enhance the economic stability is left to no use which is adding to various issues like: poverty and crime, and the situation is further worsened by poor policies for employment and no youth <sup>skill</sup> management programs.

However, There are various reasons for the improper utilization of the resources. Chief among them is poor governance of the country. The political leaders after being elected work for their own benefit rather than designing the policies that would be fruitful



for the development of the country. For example:- Despite of having resources of producing electricity, country is facing poor load shedding. Various coal reserves are left unexplored and it contributes only 2% for electricity generation. So, the poor governance is hurdle in the way of proper utilization of resources as the politicians are busy with their personal rivals and benefits instead of the interest in policies for development of the country.

Another reason for the improper utilization of the resources is the political instability in the country. Since the independence, no political group in the country has completed its tenure which is a hurdle in the continuation of the policies. This inconsistency has kept the ~~or~~ exploitation of natural wealth unattended. For example: The divergence of opinion on construction of water resources has deprived the country of storing the surplus water for agriculture and electricity generation. This situation of political

instability is affecting various sectors of the country which exacerbating the mismanagement situation and improper utilization of various resources.

Thirdly, bottleneck approach while designing policies is another reason for the improper utilization of resources. Policy makers think of the short term policies and do not think of the long term effects and consequences of those policies. They just want to design policies which can fulfill present needs but don't pay heed to the future demand. This bottleneck approach leads to the improper exploitation of resources which cause: energy, water and food crisis. Therefore, it is advisable to follow a long term policy that can witness proper utilization of resources.

Fourthly, corruption in the country is the root cause of various issues. It is discouraging factor for foreign direct investment. Pakistan ranked 140 out of 180 countries, in the corruption perception index, 2022.

(daily.pakistan.com, Pakistan Corruption Rank, 2022). Many of the foreign investors are hesitant to invest in Pakistan due to this ailment of corruption. The stand still in Riko degj project is an example of this case. Had this menace been eradicated from the country can increase the foreign direct investment in the country. Otherwise this mayhem of corruption will continue acting as a poor indicator of investments in resources exploitation projects.

Fifthly, the worsened law and order situation has caused severe blow to the economy in general and natural resources management in particular. The volatile situation in Balochistan is harmful to the exploitation of resources. The Gwadar port, despite located at crucial location, has not been fully functional due to the worsen law and order situation in Balouchistan. Other projects of mineral exploration are also facing the consequences of daily change in law and order situation. So,

is the case with tourism in northern areas. It has been greatly affected due to terrorism. Therefore, <sup>worsened</sup> law and law order situation is contributing factor in improper utilization of resources.

Sixthly, Pakistan lacks investment for upgrading technological system for the exploitation of resources. It possesses backward technological system and machinery which in this modern age consumes time for the exploitation of resources. Pakistan needs upgradation in technological system and machinery, and for this purpose, it lack of investment is the issue which is causing mismanagement of resource utilization. Corruption, poor governance and political instability is the root cause of the lack of investment. Another issue is lawlessness which is causing mistrust between the government and the investors. So, this lack of investment is giving setback to the proper utilization of resources.

The above mentioned reasons have caused mismanagement of resources

and has led to various negative impacts in the country, chief among them is energy crisis. Pakistan is witnessing acute energy crisis which is burden on the country which is already going through a tumultuous economy. It has been observed that the electricity shortfall widened to 7000 megawatts, which indicates that the energy crisis in Pakistan has deepened to such an extent. (modernpolicy.edu, energy crisis in Pakistan, 2023) Furthermore, 51% population of Sindh is without electricity (Dawn.com, 2023) Government is unable to use its indigenous natural resources which can play a pivotal role in the management of resources and can prevent energy crisis in the country.

Moreover, the country is facing acute food insecurity due to dwindling water resources and infertile lands. The country grows rice, cotton, and sugarcane, which are responsible for 95% of the country's water use. This is due to inadequate inefficient irrigation system that causes 60% of water loss. According to the national nutritional survey nearly

40% of Pakistani children are stunted, 29% are underweight. The infertile lands are not treated, they are left barren, whereas, they have the capacity to feed population as twice as present. These factors of improper utilization is causing acute food scarcity in the country which is the challenge for the survival of the masses.

Furthermore, another negative impact which is paralysing the country is the dependency on other countries to meet its needs. In spite of being rich in natural resources Pakistan is dependent on other countries for most of the basic commodities. 10% of our need for the wheat is being imported. In the current financial year Pakistan has already spent about US \$2 billion to import 2.7 million tons of wheat (Dawn.com, Pakistan wheat problem, 2023). This dependency on other countries is a burden on the GDP of the country which has enough potential to meet its need if the country has the policies

to utilize properly its resources and can help in pulling country out of the economic crisis.

Adding more to it, water scarcity is also a negative impact of the improper utilization of resources which is haunting the nation for its survival. Pakistan is categorized as water scarce country. 80 percent of the country population, living in 24 major cities do not have access to clean water. In the slums of Karachi, 16 million do not have access to running water, they are dependent on water trucks and tankers to fulfill their daily needs. There are no reservoirs in the country to store rain water. This incapability of resource management is creating a mayhem in the country which can only be addressed through proper utilization of resources.

Along with it, brain drain is also a negative outcome of the poor management of resources. A large number of Pakistanis have move abroad due to unemployment and average <sup>net</sup> pay of \$134 per month.

Tens of thousands of people try moving abroad illegally. 800,000 Pakistanis went abroad to seek better economic prospects (Pakistan Bureau of emigration and overseas employment, 2023). If the Government had designed the policies for the proper exploitation of resources, and would have provided proper employment opportunities, this youth would have ~~serve~~ been serving the country which is now helping in the development of other countries. Therefore, brain drain is a negative implication of improper utilisation of resources.

However, few steps are needed to be taken for the proper utilization of resources like: Pakistan should use China's human development model to make best use of its population. The government pays great attention to the development of its youth and has made youth empowerment as an important part of its national, economic and social development plans. Along with it also pay heed to the surging population and encourage late marriage, late child bear.



-ring and 'one couple, one child' policy. Pakistan also need to adopt such policies through which it can empower its youth and can control the size of its surging population which is estimated to reach 403 million by 2050.

Another step worth taking is to follow KSA's water strategy of desalination and to produce water from renewable resources. In spite of being water scarce country with no rivers, lakes or areas of abundant natural vegetation the country is coping with the issue in an effective way. MEWA plans to meet 90% of Saudi Arabia water demand using desalination water and 10% using ground and surface water by 2030 (trade.gov, Saudi Arabia-water, 2022). If a country with no natural water resources can design such effective policies to meet the needs than a country with abundant natural resources should have much stronger will-power of adopting such effective techniques and policies to overcome the crisis.

Next important initiative is

the geological survey of the resource potential areas. Pakistan is endowed with huge reserves of minerals due to its unique geographical condition. Despite of huge resources mineral sector is showing slow performance because many of the resource potential areas have not been explored yet. Countries like: USA, China, Russia have explored their resources with irreplaceable pivotal emerging technologies which is helping the country to get maximum benefits from its resources. For Pakistan, the need of the hour is to adopt such technologies in order to identify resource potential areas and for mining sector so that the country may also get maximum advantage of its unique geographical location.

Last but not the least, to take maximum benefits from natural resources there is need of technical education of people involved in resource exploitation and management. The technical education ensures that there is minimum wastage of the resources. Introducing seminars and workshops for the labours would be a viable option,

where they should be trained about the topography of the area, potential of the resource and the future prospects that if proper exploitation is carried out it can help in the development of the country. This can work like China's nationalization program of high-tech mineral equipment. Here Pakistan can nationalize the technical educational programs to overcome its poor management of resources.

In a nut shell, it can be said that, a country is said to be rich with natural resources only when it has the potential to make proper use of its resources. Pakistan is abundant with renewable, ~~non~~ renewable and human resources. ~~but~~ Here one can witness oil, gas field, coal, salt mines, wind, solar, thermal energy resources. But the country is unable to get maximum benefits by proper utilization of resources because of the rampant corruption, worsened law and order condition and lack of investment for upgrading technological system. All these reason of improper

utilization has shown worst negative impacts on the country like: dependency on other countries to meet the needs, water scarcity which is challenging the survival and Brain drain from the country, that is threat to ailing economy of the country. However, steps like: china human development model and KSA's water desalination strategy can be adopted to overcome various issues.

If By surpassing these challenges, Pakistan is destined to have a eminence place in the world as a stable, growing and prosperous nation. As it is said that:

"The real wealth of the nation lies in the resources of the earth - soil, water, forest, minerals and wildlife."

(Rachel carson)