

Essay Outline - Expository

day / date:

Topic: Resources can be rich only when properly utilized

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: Despite their necessity for the human race, resources are still being underutilized. This underutilization is proving to be detrimental for the collective wellbeing of living beings on the planet. However, corrective action will help steer humanity in a better direction of resource management.

2. The importance of resource management

3. How resources are being underutilized

- a) Excessive government spending
- b) Insufficient use of natural resources
- c) Neglected food resources
- d) Underutilization of human resource
- e) Waste of domestic resources
- f) Underutilization of facilities due to seasonal peaks
- g) Insufficient recycling of materials

4. Impact of under utilization of resources

- a) Resource depletion of non-renewable energy sources
- b) Poor or no economic growth
- c) Increase in environmental degradation
- d) Rise in pollution
- e) Increase in global warming
- f) Risk of regional conflicts
- g) Lack of technological innovation in development.

5. How resources can be efficiently utilized

- a) Initiation of global initiatives
- b) Policy formulation at state level
- c) Social awareness campaigns

6. Conclusion



①

day / date:

Essay - Expository

Topic: Resources can be rich only when properly utilized

"Efficiency is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort." - Paul Meyer. These lines by Paul Meyer highlight the elements required to achieve efficiency - elements the world is currently lacking when it comes to the utilization of resources, which is preventing the achievement of efficiency. The underutilization of resources can be seen in various forms. These include excessive government expenditure, insufficient use of natural resources, neglected food resources, and insufficient recycling. In addition, human resource is also being underutilized along with domestic resources such as water and electricity. Over the course of time, such inefficiencies have led to widespread impacts, such as resource depletion, economic stagnation, environmental degradation, as well as global warming. This further heightens the risk of conflicts and decreases technological innovation that is required for sustainable development. However, with the help of corrective steps such as the initiation of global initiatives, policy formulation, and social awareness campaigns can help curtail these impacts. Despite their necessity for the human race, resources continue to be underutilized, which is proving to be detrimental for the collective well-being of living beings on the planet, therefore, corrective action will help steer humanity in a better direction of resource management.

Resource management is the efficient and effective development and usage of available resources to achieve a goal (Imed Bourchik, What is resource management 2023). In simple terms, efficiency is doing things right, while effectiveness is doing the right things. Both efficiency and effectiveness are required and without either of them, resources cannot be managed properly. Resource management comes with



②

day / date:

many benefits and can be applied to different spheres of life. Efficient use of human resource, finances, and physical space along with the increased ability to solve problems and to adapt to unforeseen events are some of the key benefits of resource management. In addition, it also helps in maintaining and increasing social cohesion (Katharina Lohr, Social cohesion: The missing link between Resource management and peace building, 2021). Hence, resource management is vital for the betterment of the human race as it positively contributes to the utilization of resources.

Although resources are important in the modern age, they still continue to be underutilized. One key area of underutilization is government expenditure. Excessive government expenditure leads to an underutilization of resources at the state level. This is because large expenses tend to disturb the balance of payments as well as resource allocation at the local level. This leads to a misdirectional approach where resources are not directed where they are needed the most, resulting in decreased efficiency. For example, too much spending to curb environmental degradation actually leads to a larger carbon ~~foot~~ footprint, and thus, more environmental degradation (Adam Millsap, High costs of too much government spending, 2021). This shows how excessive government expenditure leads to the underutilization of resources.

Just as high government spending impedes resource management, the insufficient use of natural resources also contribute to the underutilization of resources. This is because without fully tapping into the resource potential, it is nearly impossible to fully utilize all the resources available at hand. With increasing demand, fully utilizing natural resources helps with keeping up with the changing economic environment, which is necessary for

Continued development. According to a study conducted by Darany Vandi, the development of underutilized natural resources are necessary for development and survival, whilst keeping up with rapid population growth, industrialization, and socioeconomic development (Darany Vandi, Development of underutilized renewable energy sources, 2023). This highlights how untapped natural resources contribute towards their underutilization.

Similarly, the insufficient use of food resources also threatens the efficiency of their utilization. This is due to outdated agricultural practices along with the rising demand of food resources. Outdated practices lead to lower yield and crop varieties being available, whereas rising demand puts ~~a~~ stress on the already insufficient supply quantities, resulting in a huge negative impact on efficiency. A study conducted by Deepak Ray illustrates the relationship between rise in demand of food resources, and low crop yields, and concluded that in light of rising food demand, low crop yields pose challenges to poor developing countries which include malnourishment and food deficiency related diseases (Deepak Ray, Crop harvests insufficient for direct food use, 2022). This highlights the threat posed by the insufficient use of food resources.

Just as the insufficient use of food resources highlights their underutilization, the inability to fully incorporate human resource also shows a lack of efficiency. This is because of microeconomic factors such as unemployment. Unemployment results in a fraction of the available workforce unable to contribute to the economy, which in turn affects economic stability and growth. Unemployment in a country adversely affects the disposable income of families, erodes purchasing power, diminishes employee morale, and reduces an economy's output (Elvis Picardo, How unemployment affects

everybody, 2023). This highlights how human resource is being underutilized.

At the domestic level, resources are also being underutilized in the form of wastage. This is because resources like usable water are wasted during regular household activities. Water is considered as one of the most vital resources for a country, and in light of the rise in global warming and water scarcity, its importance along with the need for better utilization is increasing. It is estimated that nearly 150 liters of water is needed for an average person on a daily basis, out of which 45 liters are possibly wasted per capita per day. In addition, it is found that more than 50% of people in India still do not have access to any kind of water purification technology, which further exacerbates the utilization of water resources (Iradat Hussain, Analysis of water wastage in Indian households, 2023). This highlights the increasing underutilization of water as a domestic resource.

Furthermore, due to the seasonality of tourism, tourist facilities are also being underutilized. This is because of natural factors such as weather patterns, the amount of foliage in different seasons and the amount of sunshine a tourist destination receives, as well as human factors such as the designation of a few months for vacation. This seasonality limits the facilities and services that can be utilized to benefit the tourism industry, which in turn leads to inefficiency in revenue generation as well as the usage of physical space available. According to a study conducted by Dr. Shida Irwana, it was concluded that the seasonality of tourist destinations are mostly caused by natural factors ~~and~~ coupled with human factors, and leads to a loss of potential and underutilization which ultimately damages the tourism industry (Dr. Shida Irwana, Seasonality in tourism, 2019). This highlights how seasonality leads to an underutilization of tourist facilities.

5

day / date:

Resources are also being underutilized at the state level, where there is insufficient recycling of materials and waste. This is due to the lack of incorporation of recycling techniques and technology, coupled with undercapitalized waste use schemes. This causes a large amount of recyclable material to go to waste which could have been used for various purposes due to its potential. According to statistics provided by 'The Encyclopedia of World Problems', in 2023, out of the UK's 18 million tons of domestic waste each year, less than 10% is recycled even though 94% believe recycling is important. In addition, despite nearly 30 years of active recycling in the US, 96% of plastic still goes into landfills. This shows resources are underutilized due to a lack of recycling.

According to causality, which is the theory of cause and effect, where there is a cause, there must also be an effect. Similarly, the causes of the underutilization of resources come with significant implications, one of which is the depletion of non-renewable energy sources. This is because renewable energy sources are not being tapped resulting in their underutilization, which has led to an overreliance on non-renewable energy sources. The consumption of non-renewable energy sources is important for human activities and development, however an overreliance on them is proving to be detrimental for non-renewable energy reserves. According to Amjad Ali, there is currently an underreliance on renewable energy sources, which has increased the demand for natural resources, resulting in their depletion at an alarming rate (Amjad Ali, Natural resource depletion, 2021). This highlights the impact of underutilization of resources on natural energy source depletion.

Furthermore, the underutilization of resources also exacerbates economic

conditions in a country. This is because a healthy economy requires a healthy combination of micro and macroeconomic factors working in tandem, and resources, the key driving factor of an economy is vital for its survival. A healthy economy is similar to a well oiled machine where every cog independently contributes to the functioning of the machine. An underutilization of resources would lead to greater inefficiency, which would in turn decrease productivity, and ultimately overall economic output. For example, the underutilization of human capital ~~on economic growth~~ has a negative relationship with economic growth in the long run, and significantly decreases labor productivity in the short run (Vijaya Kumar, Impact of human capital underutilization, 2023). This illustrates how the underutilization of resources negatively impacts economic health.

Just as the underutilization of resources negatively impacts economic health, it also leads to the degradation of the environment. This is because the inefficient use of fossil fuels produces waste products that are harmful for the environment. These waste products, if not removed, contribute to environmental degradation in the form of pollution and global warming. The vast utilization of energy sources in promoting economic growth has been identified as a major cause of environmental degradation. Since this use of energy is inefficient, it results in the release of harmful materials into the environment. Raising energy efficiency by 1% reduces carbon emissions by 6.29% and 3.29% in the short, and long run, respectively (Abraham Deka, Impact of energy efficiency, 2023).

Furthermore, this rise in carbon emissions due to the inefficient use of energy sources also strongly contributes to a major issue—global warming. This is because pollution contributes to an increase in overall global temperatures. The presence

7

day / date:

of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere exacerbates global mean temperatures due to the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect occurs when greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane in the earth's atmosphere trap some of the heat radiated from its surface, raising its temperature. Vehicular emissions, a prime source of carbon dioxide are a result of the inefficient combustion of hydrocarbons, which are contributing significantly to the greenhouse effect. Hence, inefficient use of resources leads to global warming.

Like global warming, another threat to peace includes conflict which can arise due to inefficient resource use. This is because inefficiency would lead to reduced access of the resource to the public and would also impede a country's development. Poor resource management in a country also negatively affects resource allocation as the true potential of available resources is not utilized. The term 'resource curse' is used when a country, rich in resources is still unable to lift itself economically. The reasons behind this curse could be corruption, inaccessibility of resources, or both for example. This in turn leads to economic stagnation, poor resource allocation, and also increases the risk for civil unrest and conflict (Usip, Natural resources and conflict, 2008). This shows how the risk of conflict rises with the inefficiency of resource consumption.

Moreover, the underutilization of resources also impairs technological and innovational developments. This is due to a lack of resources available for innovation. This inavailability stems from inefficient and ineffective resource management where innovation does not get its share. In developing countries if more resources are utilized for innovation, then there is a



risk of lesser resources being used for economic development, which is why complete utilization of resources is pivotal in developing economies. In a study conducted by Athanasios, it was concluded that one of the primary barriers to innovation and development is improper utilization of resources available for economic development and innovation (Athanasios Hadjimanolis, Barriers to innovation, 2019). This highlights how underutilization of resources becomes a barrier to innovation.

Despite the negative implications of the underutilization of resources, collective measures can be taken to curb these implications. One of these measures includes promoting the efficient use of resources through global initiatives. This is because global initiatives carry weightage and often help gather countries for a united effort. Global initiatives also have the capability to reach an agreement or pact, where countries can become signatories. For example, the Kyoto Protocol, signed in 1997 brought states together to commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which is possible by either utilizing renewable energy sources or increasing the efficiency of energy consumption when it comes to fossil fuels. Such an international agreement is needed to urge states to reduce redundancy, improve efficiency and improve resource management which will lead to a united effort on a global level.

Similarly, a united effort is also required at the state level, where all stakeholders work towards the formulation of policies and legislation to improve resource management. Such legislation would prove to be fruitful in coordinating such efforts across a country. According to a report published by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, laws curbing the wastage of food can help decrease hunger, provide food sovereignty,

(9)

day / date:

and also contribute to rural development. (FAO, Legislating to prevent and reduce food loss and waste, 2021)
Hence, it is imperative that states indulge in such law making, which would increase utilization of food resources.

At the individual level, social awareness campaigns can be launched to reduce domestic resource wastage. Awareness campaigns would serve to inform the public about the short and long term consequences of resource wastage, and would encourage them to resort to efficient means. According to statistics by The US Department of Agriculture, each year the average American family of four loses \$1500 to uneaten food. This highlights the impact of wastage at the domestic level, and the need for awareness to utilize wasted resources.

10

day / date:

In a nutshell, the underutilization of resources has several negative implications. Caused by practices such as excessive government expenditure, wastage of food resources, underutilization of natural resources and human resource, these practices have led to economic stagnation, resource depletion, environmental degradation, pollution, and a rise in the risk of conflict. Despite these negative implications, by incorporating the suggested remedies into our effort to improve our resource management, the world can steer itself on a constructive path, rather than a destructive one — a path that would be beneficial for the collective well being of the planet.