

Critically examine the following statement with relevant examples. Furthermore, draw relevant lessons and propose way forward for Pakistan.

Natural resources though desirable for the development of a country, can become a source of conflict and instability.

I. Introduction:

Natural resources are
the new zones of warfare
in the 21st century.

(Mark Ruff)

As it has been rightly quoted by Mark Ruff that natural resources like water, critical minerals and location of a land are the new zones of warfare. Because of their utility in modern appliances these resources attract the core interest especially the developed world like USA. The developed world exploit the natural resources of a developing country by exploiting their sovereignty, child labour, women harassment and environmental hazards. In this way

the natural resources can become a source of conflict and instability in the developing and resource rich country is Venezuela, Greenland and Kashmir. Pakistan can learn lesson from the exploitation that it will cost a high as compared to gains. That's why, he will propose a strict regulatory framework and involve the local investors to invest in natural resources with climate friendly initiatives.

II. How Natural Resources Can Become a Source of Conflict and Instability?

Followings manifestations are the proof of conflict and stability caused by natural resources:

Sovereignty compromises

Child labour

Causes of Conflict

Climate Disasters

Less attention

to local develop

I. Compromise of Sovereignty:

Developed countries invest in the developing world which is rich in natural resources. In this way they are breakage liable to involve in internal matters of the host country and upon retaliation cause a conflict.

Example:

Investment of France in critical minerals of South Africa and upon retaliation by Rapid Support Forces, France was forced to leave.

II. Exploitation of Child Labour:

Exploitation of child labour in the mining sector of poor country can be a source of conflict and instability. Poor countries have high proportion of child labour which is not costly

and the investors exploit it for the gain of maximum profits.

For example:

Canada's investment in the Balochistan Reko Dig Project and exploiting the cheap laborer.

III. Source of Climate Disasters:

Operations during the exploitation, transportation and the processing of natural resources need heavy machinery. The movements by the heavy machinery can cause slight earthquakes, landslides and smokes thus endangering the local population.

For example:

Deforestation of Amazon Basin witnessed the slight earthquakes and frequent climate induced disasters.

IV - Less Attention to the Local Development:

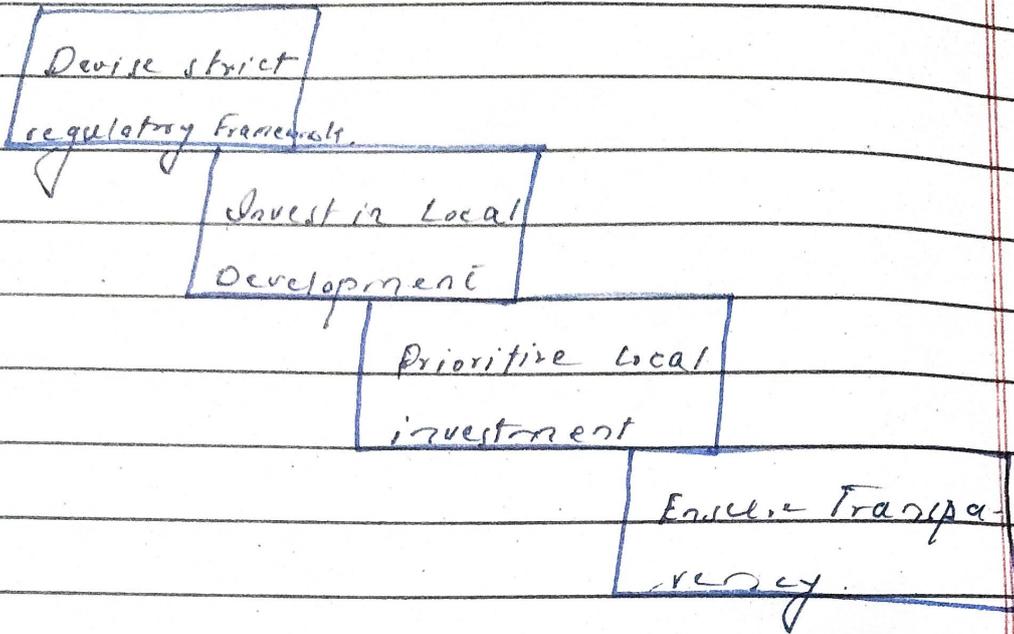
Mostly the natural resources are present in the under-developed ~~world~~ regions. These resources or the income of the resources is not being implemented in their parent regions. This leads to a situation of instability in a country.

For example:

Leaving large swathes of Balochistan devoid of Sui Gas despite explored in that region.

III. Relevant Lessons For the Pakistan:

Following are the relevant lessons for Pakistan:



I. Devise Strict Regulatory Frameworks:

Drawing lessons for Pakistan, it is essential to devise a strict regulatory framework to oversee the natural resources and the process of mining. This framework will prevent the chaos and instability in the region.

Case study:

China Board of Investment drawing framework is an important case study for Pakistan.

II. Invest in Local Development:

To avoid conflict and instability, it is favourable for Pakistan to invest in the local development. The resources and the investment income should be invested in the local health, education and infrastructure development.

Reference of Books Towards' Green Transition by Nicholas

Developing world should focus on the green transition through the local development.

III. Prioritize Local Investment:

Local investors invest their income in the local development and prioritize the local investment and job opportunities. This will bring stability in the country.

IV. Ensure Transparency in Agreements:

It is favourable for Pakistan to ensure transparency in the agreements. This will make the people well aware and builds trust in the government and avoids the conflict.

Case study:

Controversy in the agreement with US to explore minerals in Pakistan sparks conflict.

IV. Way Forward for Pakistan to Avoid Conflict and Instability:

Following is the way forward for Pakistan to avoid conflict and instability.

Make flexible
Agreements

Build consensus
Among Parties

I. Make Flexible Agreements:

Pakistan should make flexible agreements owing to the changes in the geography and climate and the external conditions. This will help Pakistan to avoid fiscal stress.

Example:

Rigid ENCA and IPPPs
agreements posing high
fiscal stress.

II. Build Consensus Among Local Political Parties:

It is an important way forward for Pakistan to build the local consensus among the ruling and the opposition parties. This will enhance the investor confidence and local

local participation effectively.

Case study:

natural gas agreements
of former government with Russia
rise backlash.

V. Conclusion:

Natural resources can be
source of conflict or the development
depending upon the management.
In most cases, these resources build
conflicts due to the exploitation of
women and child labour. To avoid
this situation, Pakistan should build
local consensus and make flexible
agreements.