

Natural Resources: Blessing or Curse.

1. Introduction:

Thesis statement: The question whether natural resources are a blessing or curse is debatable. But the important role of natural resources, ranging from independent survival to social harmony created by it, ^{they} natural resources are a blessing.

a. Bird's eye view of natural resources being a blessing or curse.

b. Natural resources are a great blessing:

- a. Guarantor of independent survival and sustainability.
- b. Strength economies due to material value.
- c. Enables civilizations ~~around~~ to flourish around natural resources.
- d. Brings employment opportunities thus enhancing social class.
- e. Plays role in gaining prestigious global standing.

f. Provides raw materials for technological advancement

g. Effective in preserving environment through climate protection criteria.

4. There are many reasons why natural resources have proven to be a curse

a. Leads to invasion of resource rich weak countries to extract ~~mineral~~ ^{natural resource} wealth

b. Interstate and interprovincial conflicts on its distribution leading to unrest and instability

c. Monopoly of natural resources rich countries over the rest

d. Foster inequality by create classes on the basis of access to natural resources.

5. Despite the few unpleasant examples of curse, natural resources has always proven to be a blessing for all times.

a. Natural resource wealth when used for its security can prevent foreign invasion.

b. It is the lack of effective policies and not natural resources that leads to unrest and instability

c) International laws are there to prevent monopoly.

d) Natural resources can also be used to uplift the lower class to create equality, depending on how it is used.

6. Conclusion:

Essay:

Since time immemorial natural resources have been the centre of attention. When Greeks reached to the heights of glory during the Platon and Aristotelean era, it was nothing else but the presence of natural resources that formed the rungs of the ~~low~~ ladder of their progress. They had land for agriculture, nearby water, and great youth which blessed Greece from wisdom to harmony. But with time, when population grew large, natural resources

gradually faded and Greeks weren't able to defend themselves. The lack of natural resources allowed their invasion by foreigners leading to their downfall. Even today there are a number of examples where natural resources have proved to be the saviour of nations or their destructors depending on how they are used. The question whether natural resources are a blessing or curse is debatable. But the important role of natural resources ranging, ranging from independent survival to social harmony created by it, they have proved to be a blessing. This is because natural resources are the guarantee of independent survival and economic strength. They also leads to flourish civilizations and creates employment opportunities. The credit of prestigious global standing also goes to natural resources. ~~Def~~ Along with all this, natural resources provides

raw material for technological advancement and preserve climate environment. Despite all this, there are instances where natural resources have proven to be a curse such as foreign invasions for resources, interstate and interprovincial conflicts for natural resources, it also creates monopoly of resource rich countries over the others and fosters inequality by creating social divide. But all these flaws are in the dealing of natural resources and the flawed policies for its management and not the natural resource itself, hence natural resources are a great blessing of all times.

Natural resources includes everything that benefits people and are present by nature. This can be from water resources to forests, from youth assets to agricultural land, from underground minerals and near earth to different geographical features, to name a few. They are

unequally distributed and are the source of comfort or conflict depending on how they are dealt with.

Natural resources are a great blessing ~~&~~ because they guarantee independent survival and sustainability.

Glacier and water resource are ~~one~~ present in ~~some~~ unequal quantity around the world. The places which have abundant natural water resources are independent in their basic survival and their sustainability is ensured compared to places which have scarce water supply. For example, the Tyangze river in Tibetan region ensures independent sustainability of the entire South Asia region compared to the water scarce regions of Africa. This shows that natural resources ~~is~~ the guarantor of independent survival and sustainability.

While it guarantees survival, it also ensures economic strength due to material value of natural resources.

Fossil fuel is one of the main ingredient in all recipes of advancement today. The countries which are rich in fossil fuels strengthened their economies manifold due to the material value of their natural resource. The sold

their natural resource, fossil fuel is this case, for exchange of money to boost their economies. For example, the Middle Eastern countries have fuelled the sockets of their economies through oil and natural gas which ~~was~~ is found in abundance there. Hence, natural resources plays a crucial role in boost economic wealth of countries.

Other than economic strength, natural resources have ~~proved~~ ~~to~~ enabled

civilizations to flourish around natural resources. Natural resources provides greater opportunities for people to settle and grow. They are in the form of cultivable land and water resources. History is filled with such examples and one such example is The Indus Valley civilization. The river Indus irrigated the entire river banks and it enabled an entire civilization to settle and build around the river. It was the first civilization that led the world to modernity only because of the presence of natural resources. Hence, it is proved that natural resources ~~are~~ ensure civilizational growth.

Along with growth of civilization, natural resources also provides opportunities for employment thus enhancing social class. Natural resources brings people together

with people comes their needs and those needs are fulfilled by the service sector. This service sector provides numerous opportunities for employment and financial opportunities thus enhancing social class. The scenic views of European countries which are their natural resources attracts tourists everywhere in Europe. This tourism requires service sector. According to Bureau of statistics, every year more than 10 millions people migrate to Europe for employment opportunities. ~~enhance~~ This shows that with natural resources comes employment opportunities which uplifts social class.

Besides ~~some~~ employment opportunities, natural resources play role in gaining prestigious global standing. Good international relations are determined

by natural resource wealth of a country. Every nation wants to have good relation with resource rich countries to gain benefit out of them. This also creates deterrence of resource rich countries over the other. For example, Qatar — a very small country by land but rich in natural resources — is valued by countries across the globe due to its natural resource wealth. Many important decisions are taken by her and are valued.

One such example is the 2021 America and Afghan Taliban mediation.

Thus ~~of~~ natural resources enhance global standing and prestige in the international community.

Other than prestigious position, natural resources also provides raw material for technological advancement.

Rare earth amounts
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Rare earth minerals are found in unequal amounts as in the earth's crust. They are the necessity of defense machinery, energy transition and mobile phone technology today.

Thus countries ~~is~~ rich in natural resources have already ~~been~~ conquered the fields of technological advancement. One such ~~the~~ country is Malaysia. According to US strategic studies on minerals, Malaysia provides 11% of all ~~natural~~ global rare earth minerals. Hence it boost technological advancement of Malaysia which is quite evident. This implies that rare earth minerals as natural resource are the reason for technological advancement.

~~Despite~~ A rather new field where ~~economic~~ natural resources are effective is climate protection. Natural resource

in the form of forest covers sustain ecosystem for biodiversity and allows CO_2 sink in the forest hence protecting the environment. Natural resources guarantee climate crisis reversal if taken care of. According to United Nations Convention on Climate Change 2025 report on world forest cover, Bhutan plays a key role in ~~climate~~ environment preservation because of 70% of its land covered forest. This concludes that natural resources are a blessing to the environment as well.

There are many instances where the presence of natural resources have proven to be a curse than a blessing and the top among them is the invasion of resource rich countries by foreign countries to extract their mineral wealth. Natural resources are an apple of all the stronger countries

eyes. Hence, they have also ensured to attack the weaker countries to extract their mineral wealth to boost their economies. Many authors have pinned the American invasion of Iraq 2003 as a planned hunt of ~~America~~ Iraq's oil wealth covered in the guise of terrorism ~~and~~ control. This shows that natural resource leads to invasion, ~~and~~ devastation and exploitation of resource rich countries over by foreigners.

Along with foreign invasion, there are also internal ~~and~~ interstate or interprovincial conflicts on the distribution of natural resources ~~at~~ leading to instability and rest. Natural resource distribution creates a divide between the social fabric by the unequal distribution. This leads to civil and political unrest enhancing instability.

Natural resources hence are the spark of fire of civil unrest.

For example the discovery of Natural gas at sui and its distribution has created so much resentment in the people of sui because they are still deprived of it. This has lead to extremism and distance between the centre and provinces. Thus the presence of natural resources have created unrest and stability.

Another ~~an~~ such argument against the blessing part is that natural resource rich countries have created monopoly of countries rich in it. This monopoly has lead to weaponization of the trade of natural resources, hence setting new global battlefields. Rare earth minerals which are a newer form of fossil fuel in modern world has shown such trends.

According to US strategic studies on mineral 2025 report, china extract, refine and export 90% of global mineral wealth. During April china has restricted export of 7 rare earth minerals posing threat to all major exporters. Earlier in 2010 ~~she~~ blocked rare earth's supply to Japan permanently after a small conflict, shackling its technological advancement. This shows that rare earth has created monopoly of ~~two~~ rich countries over the other. Other that monopoly, natural resource have created class difference based on access to natural resources creating inequality. The extraction and utilization is hoarded by the rich and influential people leading little access of natural resource to the poor deprived class. This

has widened the gap where the rich becomes richer and poor becomes poorer. Person A has an oil well in Saudi Arabia, ^{he} will extract all its wealth to improve ^{his} social class while person B works in the refinery of that oil well on daily wages as an employee. They will have a huge class difference fostering inequality. This shows that natural resources have created a rift ~~difference~~ deeper in the small crevice of inequality. Despite the few unpleasant examples of natural resources as a curse, it has always proved to be a blessing for all times. ~~and~~ The invasion of resource rich countries ^{by} the foreigners can be prevented when the wealth is used for its security. A stronger security wise state can prevent foreign

invasion leading to safe growth and progress. For example, kingdom of Saudi Arabia enters every now and then to regional parts to ensure its security of natural resources. One such example is the October 2021

Strategic Mutual defense pact with Pakistan.

This shows that when natural resources are protected from foreign invasion they are a blessing.

The point of creating unrest and instability is like plugging a pistol when it is fixed to kill instead of the person who has fired. The unequal distribution can be corrected by efficient policies and strategic management by the provinces. Just policies and strict implementation can harbour interprovincial strength and unity. This is the argument that natural resources create conflicts in

provinces is involved and bought.

The 2025 consensus on building
~~canals~~ ^{canals} on the river was voted
out when Jordan was taken on
board.

The argument of monopoly cannot
be blamed on natural resources. Flawed
international policies and unjust treatment
has lead to monopoly and weaponization.
It is mainly due to ineffective
role of international institutions.

strict set of international laws can
fix the monopolization and weaponization.

The argument that natural resource
~~etc~~ creates class rift is based on
how people manage it. socialism is
the distribution of wealth and its
effective and robust policies to eliminate
class difference can remove class
differences and ensure equality among
human beings.

Viewing the above states and arguments it can be concluded the indeed natural resources are the greatest blessing of modern times. They are the ~~the~~ decisive factor of any nations progress. and They can ~~enhance~~ ^{boost} ~~and~~ sky rocket or downtrade any nations progress depending on how they are manipulated. They have a variety of functions ranging from mere survival and sustainability to economic strength. They build civilizations around itself and brings employment opportunities. They ~~p~~ boost international standing and uplifts technological ~~de~~ advancement. They also ensures biodiversity preservation and climate protection. There are times when national resources ~~are~~ prove to be a curse. For example foreign invasions based on mineral wealth, inter state or inter provincial conflicts over its distribution, monopoly and weaponization

of natural resource rich countries and the inequality that is fostered by access to it. But all these are ^{because of} the flaws in policies and errors in its management both nationally and internationally. They can change and have changed the fates of nations with wise management. ~~According to~~