

Natural Resources : A Blessing or a Curse?

Outline

1. Introduction

2. Natural Resources are a blessing and essential for human existence and Earth's sustenance.

- i. Humans exist on Earth owing to the natural resources.
- ii. They are lifeline for the planet Earth.
- iii. Natural resources play an important role in beautifying Earth and making our country's economy strong.

3. Being a blessing, natural resources play an important role:

3a. Natural resources are essential for life.

- i. Water sustains all life forms while providing hydration.
- ii. Air allows gaseous exchange for breathing.

3b. Natural resources form the basis of economic prosperity.

- i. Agricultural products provide food to every human on Earth.
- ii. Minerals and Fossil fuels are a new metric for measuring a country's prosperity.

3c. Natural resources enhance the beauty of the environment of Earth.

- i. Mountains and oceans add to the beauty of the Earth.

3d. Natural resources allow for a country to make itself a nuclear power.

- i. Uranium and other nuclear material helps in establishing nuclear power.

3e. Natural resources play an important role in making environmental health much better.

- i. Forests and oceans regulate Earth's climate.
- ii. Ecosystems are established for natural processes which ensure soil fertility.

3f. Natural resources backup medical and technological advancements in today's world.

- i. Many life-saving medicines are produced from plants.
- ii. Stones, metals and fibers are used in creating technology and everyday use material.

3g. Natural resources today are being relied upon to make renewable energy and make world more sustainable.

- i. Solar energy, wind energy, hydel energy and geo-thermal energy are today used to make electricity and power.

3h. Natural resources today also enhance globalization and make the countries interdependent.

- i. Oil and natural gas are being exported by oil-rich countries making the world interdependent.

3i. Natural resources also serve as the foundation for urban growth.

- i. Land is provided to people for infrastructure establishment.
- ii. Construction materials are also used including sand, wood, clay and stone.

3j. Natural resources overall improve the quality of human life.

- i. Sunlight and water prevent deficiencies within the human body.
- ii. Fruits and vegetables make a human being healthy from within.

4. Natural resources can not be a curse for this Earth but their inefficient use and shortage can be.

i. Wasting natural resources can lead to their shortage.

ii. This shortage can become a curse for this planet impact all aspects of life including quality of life, progression, surroundings and environment.

5. Conclusion

Natural resources are the ultimate blessings which can play their role in maintaining life on Earth and helping it to sustain, grow, progress and develop as the time enters a new modern age.

Essay

Imagine the Earth with no mountain, ocean, river, forest, air, water and soil. Will it be able to sustain life? Definitely not! The Earth without these natural resources would be nothing less than any other planet of the Solar system where no form of life exists. Earth is blessed with natural resources and so it is able to sustain life. Humans and wildlife enjoy these natural resources and these resources provide them with their food, shelter and life. These natural resources play an important role in countries' progress in terms of economy and trade. These natural resources allow the technological and medical advancement along with sustainable energy development. These natural sources bring man a foundation which can be used to excel in all aspects of life. Human life is managed and handled with a great quality through the use of agricultural products. Natural resources are simply the reason of existence of life. Growth, development, interdependence are all advancements owing to these resources. Natural resources are the ultimate blessings which play their role in

maintaining life on Earth and helping it to sustain, grow, progress and develop as the time enters modern age.

Natural resources are definitely a blessing for not just the Earth itself but for all the diverse kinds of life forms found on the Earth. Human life exist and grow because of the availability and presence of the diverse forms of natural resources. All these kinds of resources are the lifeline to the planet Earth. They play their own different roles in different aspects. Mountains and oceans for example provide defence to the countries. Alongside, they also make a country's landscape picturesque attracting tourism and generating wealth for the country. These are just two resources with only three of their uses. If we count the resources, we will get to know how blessed the Earth is and how we can use these resources to grow together and make this planet a safe place to live. Earth, planet is itself a natural resource which is exploited by humans today without taking proper care of it. All these resources if are wasted and exploited in the same way, they might extinguish making human life difficult. These blessings are thus to be used efficiently to maximize gain and minimize losses in the longer run. This will prove to be fruitful for coming generations and increasing population.

First and foremost, natural resources are a blessing as they are essential for life on Earth. Earth itself provides the area and regions for the human form to live on it. The list of natural resources keep on going which play their part in making the sustenance of life easier. Water, one of the natural resources, is used by all forms of life, by Earth itself and by the sky. Water hydrates animals, plants and human beings keeping their water levels safe. Earth uses water for irrigation purposes. Clouds in the sky uses water through evaporation to produce rainfall. All of these factors indicate that water is necessary for all life forms. The other natural resource important for living beings is air which contains oxygen, carbon and nitrogen essential for the respiration of plants, animals and humans. This respiration or it may be called as breathing keeps the form of life alive on Earth.

Without this resource, life would simply cease to exist. The gases within this air is the key component for the organisms' breathing process. Other than these functions, air keep the environment and surrounding calm, clean and cool. Water droplets within the air helps in handling summer season. These functions by different sources assert how natural resources are key to life on Earth.

Secondly, after keeping the human life and other forms of life alive, natural resources provide human beings with the food which includes fruits and vegetables. These agricultural products are produced by every country to feed their nation. But due to some constraints of weather, resources, land and fertility levels, certain products ~~can~~ not be grown in a region. For example, wheat can be grown in moderate temperatures. So, the countries with shortage or unavailability of certain products, these resources are imported from the country having excess of it. It increases the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and wealth of a nation. Along with these agricultural products, fossil fuels and other minerals are also exported to the countries for energy production. These resources today brings about a massive increase in the economic prosperity of the nation. Energy, being the major demand of life, is needed under every condition so the countries with fossil fuels and minerals enough, to be shared with others will be economically prosperous than ~~others~~ the ones who do not own any such resources. These resources have become a new metric for measuring a country's prosperity and growth.

Thirdly, to count these natural resources a blessing, the beauty these resources add to our environment and surrounding can not be neglected. The mountains of Japan including Nanga Parbat and K2 from Pakistan attract tourists from all over the world. The magnificent forests in USA to the deserts of Africa, all of these resources add to the embellishment of the Earth. The oceans of the world including Pacific ocean ^{and} Atlantic ocean are all a testament to the natural resources being a blessing and in no way a curse. The human nature

being conscious ^{and} creative ~~and~~ crave for beauty. And so these natural resources are arranged in a particular way to fulfill the desire of beauty within the human soul. The enormous mountains and oceans along with their beauty hold the Earth firm to prevent earthquakes and other natural calamities. These natural resources thus provide for the beauty of the Earth unlike other planets where some do not have water bodies and some do not have such beautiful mountains.

Fourthly, natural resources are not all beautiful and lovely, they could be explosive in nature too. The nuclear elements found in nature including uranium and other radioactive elements are used in nuclear energy. Countries with these natural resources have an inherent power and can not be challenged by any other country. These natural resources are used by country to make themselves a nuclear power and have a say in the world affairs. Nuclear power in today's age is the ultimate power which a country if acquire, it would have no one to threaten it. This power in today's age comes from natural resource, which is thus a blessing. This power stands with a handful of countries only including Pakistan. This power has the capability to change the narrative of the state like Pakistan whose interest is now shifted from geo-politics to geo-economics which allow the country to make efforts towards strengthening the economy. Natural resources have the capability to allow the states to become powerful and therefore, they are counted as blessings.

Fifthly, natural resources play their due role in managing the environment and protecting it from further climate change and disruption of normal natural activities. Human activities including increased use of vehicles, industrial air pollution and smoke from chimneys have led to climate change which is countered by the dense forests ~~and~~ naturally available. Forests and oceans both play their role in maintaining the natural cycles including water cycle which ensure soil fertility for better and increased crop production. Ecosystems established by the forests, oceans, lakes and wildlife all play an integral role in keeping the environ-

ment natural and free of hazardous gases. These hazardous gases affect normal functioning of human beings and it leads to the impoverishment of the societies at large. In this modern age, after globalization and urbanization, it is recommended by every government to plant more trees which being natural filters of the atmosphere, take away all air pollutants. The importance of these forests and ecosystems built within them has been understood by the humanity and so they are protected and counted as a blessing.

In today's era of advancement, the sixth role played by natural resources is a huge blessing in itself. The world is rapidly moving towards development in medicine, technology and other aspects of human life. Even after thorough advancement in research and development, natural resources including many plants and herbs are a source of newly synthesized medicines. Many other beneficial compounds for human body, for example moringa, is extracted from plants. These organic compounds have tons of benefits for example, moringa is beneficial for controlling cholesterol levels, and it also maintains blood sugar levels. Many such organic compounds and medicines originating out of plant sources are manufactured today. Natural resources are used in technological development too, including metals, fibres and stones. For example, metals are used in industries of diverse sorts. Fibres are also used in new technologies like optic cable. This proves that relying on natural resources will not leave humanity backwards rather it will pull humans to new heights of development, technology and success.

Sevently, natural resources due to rapid increase in population, is now used to meet the energy demands of the masses. Fossil fuels, oil and natural gas reserves are finite natural resources which are now becoming extinct and costly to be used for making energy. To replace these resources, solar, hydel, geo-thermal and wind energy can be effectively used to generate energy and especially electricity. These natural resources are infinite and self-replenishing which make them the best

alternative to make the world more sustainable in its energy ~~demands~~ production.

Sunlight which is used by solar panels to generate electricity has replaced traditional meters in many commercial areas. Wind turbines are used today to use wind energy and generate electricity. This has made the experience much better and has become successful in meeting the energy demands of the people. Hence, it is certain that natural resources are overtaking the world as a blessing to human life on the planet Earth.

Eightly, the expanding usage of natural resources available to only some countries have made the world a globalized space to live in. This increase in coordination is marked by the exporting of natural resources in exchange for money. This has increased interdependency and better relations between the states. For example, the oil-rich countries of Middle East export their oil and natural gas resources throughout the world to different continents. This has increased interdependency which prevents war and war-like situation for the betterment of everyone. This increased interdependency promises better working and cooperative relations between the countries making world a peaceful state rather than fighting over these natural resources and spreading chaos among the countries. Natural resources have in this way benefited nations, making them all interdependent to make the world a better place to live in.

Ninethly, natural resources itself allow for growth of urban centres. People perceive land present within the urban settlements and shift in to make the lives much better. Natural resources provide the foundation for building infrastructure. Land, being a natural resource is used by people to construct their offices, homes and other commercial areas. Construction upon this land also make use of natural resources including stone, wood, clay and sand to prepare for the infrastructure of a building. Natural resources in the world are enough to handle the growing urbanization. People move to urban areas for better opportu-

nities and resources. Urban settings have better quality of life which makes people adamant on moving to such setting. Natural resources in this regard are enough to provide for the settlements of people. This asserts that natural resources work as a blessing for people which improves their standards and quality of life.

At last, but not the least, natural resources are all important for human beings and the quality of their lives. With today's monotonous and strenuous routines, humans are unable to take care of themselves like our ancestors did in ancient times. It is the need of the hour to make full use of the natural resources before we get sick leading to just being bed-ridden patients. Natural resources, including sunlight should be soaked in everyday for a few minutes to absorb in Vitamin D and prevent skin and bone diseases due to lack of Vitamin D. Similarly, fresh fruits and vegetables are immensely essential to meet the body's certain needs of vitamins, minerals and other organic molecules, which if not taken could lead to deficiencies converting into serious diseases. Natural resources should therefore be used rather exploited to extract their all possible advantages to improve quality of human life by preventing serious medical conditions.

Natural resources are a true blessing for human life with so many advantages. They ^{are} the prime reason of the existence of human life on Earth. These resources are not a curse to human beings so they should be used efficiently and responsibly. They help in the growth of life in various aspects including technology and medicine. Natural resources can not be a curse to human life and so they should be used responsibly to maintain the worth and respect. If used ruthlessly, their shortage can become a curse for humanity. Human life will have to face immense challenges because of their shortage. For example if forests are cut continuously for wood and paper, climate change would affect the world badly leading to worst conditions of living.

In a nutshell, natural resources are a true blessing to humanity on Earth. They elevate living experience by protecting climate, providing land, food, beauty, and chances of advancement. So, these resources should be carefully used to extract the best possible but should not be wasted for which human life would have to bear consequences. Natural resources being the provider of so many diverse materials and being the prime reason of existence of human life, it is a blessing and not a curse.