

TOPIC * 02

Natural Resources A Blessing or Curse

Outline

1 Introduction

Natural Resources can be Curse or blessing. However, the numerous advantages related to them make them a blessing. By implementing checks and controls, their negative effects can also be minimized.

2- How natural Resources can be blessing or Curse

3- Natural Resources: A gift of Nature (Thesis)

a) Natural Resources are the guarantee of a Country's strong economy

→ Qatar and UAE have strong economies due to presence of natural oil.

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b) Presence of natural Resources satisfy the nation by creating employment.

→ "oil and gas industry" in 2023 generated over 500,000 employment in Middleeast.

c) Natural Resources are essential for generating electrical power

→ Petrol is use to generate power

d) Renewable resources foster sustainable development and reduce reliance on fossil fuels

→ Solar panels, wind energy

e) Raw material supply drives innovation in sectors like pharmaceuticals, ~~raw~~ textile or petrochemical industries

f) Export of natural resources generates revenue

→ In Saudi Arabia oil exports accounted for around 42% GDP

g) The presence of forests, rivers and mountain holds cultural and spiritual significance

h) Natural Resources boost tourism industry

4- Natural Resources are curse hidden in disguise of wealth (Antithesis)

a) Natural Resources degrade environment as their exploitation cause deforestation, pollution and loss of bio-diversity

b) Dependency on natural resources ties country's economy to global market fluctuations

c) Competition over resource control can lead to internal conflicts and political instability

d) Countries over dependent on natural resources neglect other sectors like agriculture

e) Wealth from resources often increase inequality as rich become richer and poor become poorer.

5- Natural Resources have more benefits to mankind that outweigh its disadvantages (Synthesis)

a) It is exploitation done by human that deteriorate environment, not the natural Resources

b) The Global markets run by influence of Resource rich countries

c) A strong governance system over Country's resources prevent conflicts

d) Natural Resources are used to boost other sectors, like agriculture

- e) The proper distribution of Resources avoid inequality and makes a nation prosperous.

6- Conclusion

Essay

The drilling of the first successful oil well in Titusville, Pennsylvania by Edwin Drake marked the beginning of the modern oil industry. This discovery not only revolutionized energy production but also spurred industrial growth in the United States and world wide. This illustrates the importance of presence of natural resources in any country. Natural Resources can be curse or blessing. However, the numerous advantages related to them make them a blessing. But, by implementing checks and controls their

negative effects can also be minimized. Natural resources are gift of nature as they are - the guarantee of strong economy, and satisfaction of people of any state. Other advantages includes generation of electrical power, sustainable development, raw material supply to innovate the products and generation of tax revenue. Additionally, natural resources serve as cultural and spiritual assets due to which tourism industry boost up. Despite million of advantages of natural resources, there is a long list of disadvantage that make them a curse hidden in disguise of wealth. The disadvantages includes, natural resource environment degradation, Over dependency on natural resources, creation of internal conflicts and political instability and wealth accumulation that creates inequality. However through proper checks and balances, these disadvantages can be avoided because it is exploitation done by human

that creates pollution not the natural resources. Moreover the countries rich in natural resources influence on other countries which devoid of such resources. In fact strong governance over resources prevent conflicts created by competition on natural resources. Further more, they are use to boost other sectors of country too, if proper distribution is made. Conclusively, natural resources are blessing.

Natural Resources can be blessing or curse, as it is associated with advantages and disadvantages both. Basically, it depends on how we use natural resources. For instance, presence of oil in any country is guarantee of strong economy, but the thing is when that oil is extracted it not only requires human efforts but it deteriorate ecosystem too. So, natural resource on one hand is a gift of Allah, but on the other

has it may cause harm and appear as a challenge. Therefore, natural resources can ~~set~~ be both as blessing and curse. Natural resources generate employment, electrical power, sustainable development, innovation and revenue. All these advantages make natural resources a blessing. However, degradation of environment, competition on resources, over dependency on natural resources, and rise of inequality are some of its disadvantages, that make it a curse. Middle east is known for its oil production but despite such huge reserves of oil, there is political instability and weak economy in various countries of the middle east. It shows that presence of natural resource can be a blessing if properly managed otherwise it will be a curse for states.

Natural resources are a gift of nature to mankind. There are many manifestations of it.

To begin with, the major benefit of natural resources, that is, it is guarantee of a country's strong economy. In the world, the areas where there are abundant natural resources are having strong economy. For instance Qatar ~~and~~ in middle east have strong economy as well as strong influence on other countries of middle east, because it has large oil reserves. The oil of Qatar is exported to other countries making it strong in the region as other countries depend on it. Another example is of united ~~state~~ arab emirates UAE. UAE has strong economy because of presence of natural resources. Thus, the presence of natural resources is guarantee of strong economy of the country. Ultimately it proves that natural resources are blessing for any nation.

Another major advantage

of natural resources which make it a blessing is generation of employment. The presence of natural resources and its proper management satisfy the nation by creating job opportunities. It is obvious that if people of the country will be employed, they will be satisfied. According to a reported "Middle east demographics" in 2023, over 500,000 employments in middle east are generated by the companies of "oil and gas industries". This shows that the country having abundant natural resources are generating more and more employment, and if the people of any country will be employed they will be satisfied as a result, -the country will become more and more prosperous. Consequently, generation of employment in the country is dependent on natural resources. This makes natural resources a blessing.

Like wise, natural resources are used as a tool for generating electrical power. Today, almost all developing countries are struggling with shortage of energy as energy is backbone of industries. Natural resources such as coal, petroleum and natural gas are use in variety of forms to generate electrical powers. Pakistan is among those countries which are struggling with energy shortages. Most of the industries in pakistan are using natural resource petroleum in order to generate electrical power, even at domestic level petrol is used as power generators. More over, the fuel in transports vehicle is basically a natural resource, its absence can obviously impact the over all transport structure. Therefore, it is utmost true that natural resources are a blessing because of it the electrical power is generated and transport is managed.

Similarly, ~~Renew~~ natural resources foster sustainable development ~~and it~~ by reducing reliance on fossil fuels. There are two types of natural resources exist in world. One is non renewable another is renewable. Renewable energy resources, now a days are used in variety of forms, as they foster sustainable development. Non renewable resources such as fossil fuels are fastly depleting, so renewable energy resources reduce reliance on fossil fuels and foster sustainable development. The use of solar energy, wind energy and hydro energy is increasing day by day. As of 2024, Pakistan's installed solar capacity exceeded 1.5 GW. This shows that countries are dependent on renewable energy resources now that foster sustainability which is major goal of Millenium development goals 2015. Thus, natural resources foster sustainability, thereby proved to be a blessing for a Country or on earth.

In the same way natural resources prove to be a blessing as they create innovation. As the raw material is supplied through natural resources, it drives innovation in products like pharmaceutical products, textile products or petrochemical industries. For instance manufacturing of antimalarial tablets to antimalarial injections requires innovation, which is obviously not possible without raw material. Besides the modern agricultural products or even advanced farming can not be possible without raw material. According to a report published by world bank (2020) rare earth metals are crucial for clean energy technologies and electronics. These rare earth metals are basically raw material supplied by natural resources of the earth. Subsequently, it can be seen that natural resources are blessing because they supply raw material needed for modern technological advancement.

Additionally, natural resources are exported in order to generate revenue. The amount collected through export of natural resources, basically known as revenue. It is very crucial for country's economy. The more the revenue will be, more will be the strong economy. According to a report published by "Global economy" as of 2022, the revenue generated by natural resources export was about 1.44% to Pakistan's GDP. In the same way projects like "Thar coal" and Saudi arab's "Mamara mineral" projects highlights international interests in natural resources of Pakistan. This creates more and more revenue generation. Consequently, it can be inferred that natural resources' exports is so essential of any country making it a blessing on earth.

Furthermore, the natural resources like forests, rivers, mountains holds cultural and spiritual significance. Definitely the presence of forests, rivers and mountains shape local customs and identities. For instance the Indus river civilization is known for its cultural and historical legacy. More over many communities specially hindues consider natural sites sacred. Mountain like Δ and Himalayan range inspire reverence and spiritual awe.

"UN environmental programme" in their report showed cultural and spiritual values of biodiversity which is of course are natural resources. Hence, natural resources are blessing on earth as they contains cultural as well as spiritual importances.

Due to forests, rivers, and mountains the beauty of the area increases. As a result the tourism industry is flourished, leading to overall impact on

Country's economy. Tourism industry has immense importance in a country. The presence of natural resources boost tourism sector. The beautiful glaciers, landscape, mountains and hills attract foreigners. As a result, there started huge flow of visitors in the country. This influx of visitors in the country ultimately boost tourism sector. Pakistan is blessed with beautiful areas like northern areas, according to ministry of tourism government of Pakistan, Pakistan is projected to reach a revenue of \$4.26 billion in 2025. This shows the importance of tourism sector which is obviously through natural beautiful sites. Therefore natural resources are blessing on earth as they boost tourism sector.

Despite a lot of advantages natural resources have several disadvantages that make it a curse. There are many disadvantages, chief among which is deterioration of environment.

The Natural resources are extracted through a process of metallurgy, the machines used for extraction spread dust in the environment. Moreover due to rapid urbanization, forests are cut, which cause deforestation, which is basically disturbing the whole ecosystem, as forests are major source of absorption of Carbon dioxide. In fact it causes loss of biodiversity too. According to IPCC, the global earth temperature has been increased to 1.5°C since 1850 to 2024. This is because of deforestation and disturbance of ecosystem. No matter what importance does these natural resources carry, the deterioration of environment by them can not be neglected. Thus, natural resources become curse when the environment devastation is seen.

Further more, despite huge resources, a country may have weak economy. The dependency on natural resources ties country's economy to global market influence.

In Russia-Ukraine conflict, overall global market was disturbed and the price of oil in global market fluctuated. Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar despite huge resources of oil faced severe crisis. Because these countries become overly dependent on natural resources, so the change in price of oil in global market affected them a lot. This shows how natural resources are making the countries dependent and this dependence is causing a negative impact on overall economy of a country. Therefore natural resources ~~are~~ are ~~be~~ a curse for a country or on earth specifically.

Moreover, due to the competition created over control on resources, conflicts and political instability rises. These internal conflicts and political instability affects the country's growth. As it was seen in Kalabagh Dam controversy that all provinces became

against each other. Especially the conflicts in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa exacerbated over water distribution and control. These conflicts not only created political instability but the project is stalled till today. Pakistan has diverse ethnicity each province support their own political party so it is obvious that lack of consensus ~~between~~ among these political party ~~can~~ harmed the country's overall growth. Thus, it showed that natural resources are root cause of creation of conflicts too, that make it a curse.

Furthermore, over dependence on resources causes neglect of other sectors like agriculture. There should a proper balance between all resources of the country. This over dependence on country's natural resource neglect other crucial areas. For instance, in middle east countries there is extremely low literacy rate. According to UNESCO

the literacy rate in Iraq, Syria and Yemen is less than 50%, despite resource rich countries they are facing crisis. This is because they are solely reliant on natural resources. Moreover, these countries have little or no contribution of agriculture in their GDP. This cause excessive import of food as a result the country some time faces severe crisis related to food security. This imbalance lead to several other crisis ~~lead~~ in a country. Thus, it is undoubtedly said that natural resources are curse as their over dependence harms the country over all growth.

Finally, natural resources are curse, it can be proved by seeing rising inequality. The countries having huge natural resources often has huge inequality as the one who have control over resources become rich and richer and the one who does

not have such wealth or resource access become poor and poorer. For instance Balochistan holds vast natural gas reserves, but its population remains among the poorest in the country and the elites who have control over the resources are becoming rich and richer. This creates a sense of deprivation among populations and impacts the country's growth severely. Thus, it can be illustrated that natural resources are causing inequality in the country that's why it is a curse.

Despite these disadvantages natural resources have more benefits to mankind. First of all it is exploitation done by human that deteriorates the environment, not the natural resources. Humans are using excessively the resources without taking care of the environment, for their own interest. Natural resources are a gift of God to mankind. These assets must be

managed and used in such a way that it do not damage the environment. Natural resources such as forests clean the environment they are basically carbon sinks. It is calculated that Amazon rainforest absorbs approximately 2 billion tons of CO_2 annually. This shows that natural resources are major stakeholder in clean environment. Therefore, natural resources are blessing on earth.

Moreover, the global market fluctuations are basically run by influence of resource rich countries. In the same Ukraine - Russia war, the price hike was due to trade disturbance, the Europe and U.S collectively decided to raise the prices. So, the resources rich countries basically influence on global market. The influence of Saudi arab in middle east is high because of presence of abundant natural resources. The global

or regional market fluctuation do not impact the Saudi Arabia because it is Saudi Arab that ultimately decide the price. Thus, the global markets run by influence of Resource rich countries. This proves that resources are blessing for any country.

In addition to, the internal conflicts and political instability are because of poor governance in the country. A strong governance system over country's resources can prevent conflicts. A true leadership that build consensus of all political parties on Kalabagh dam can resolve the issues and concerns of province. Moreover proper distribution of natural resources is responsibility of state. If proper distribution of resources will be there in any country how can conflict generate in that area? Norway is a prime example of a country that is rich in natural

resources and that has avoided conflicts many times by effective resource management. In short, natural resources are blessing as only a governance proper can prevent conflict.

Furthermore, natural resources are used to boost other sectors like agriculture. The pesticides, fertilizers and other agro chemicals used in agriculture are made up of raw material derived from natural resources. For instance, nitrogen is a basic element used in fertilizers and it is present in soil and water bodies. Studies show nitrogen-enriched soil increase crop yields significantly. So, the natural resources boost not only agriculture but other sectors too. Moreover, sunlight drives photosynthesis which is essential for plant growth. Sunlight is, again a natural resource that boost plant

growth. Thus, it is shown that natural resources are basically blessing as they boost economy by regulating sectors such as agriculture.

Finally, if the resources are managed and divided on equality basis it can make a nation prosperous.

The fair distribution will resist inequality in the country. One of the examples of countries having fair and equitable access to natural resource, like water, forest, mineral is Canada. It has fair transparent policies and provincial resource management system, benefiting local communities. Fair distribution basically depends on transparent governance, equitable policies and long term planning. So, it is not natural resource that cause inequality.

It is basically lack of governance or equitable policies. Thus, natural resources are blessing in true sense.

Conclusively, natural resources may become curse or blessing depends upon its management. There are numerous advantages of natural resources that makes natural resource a blessing. few disadvantages are also there but they can be outweighed. By implementing checks and balances their negative effect can also be minimized. The advantages of natural resources includes strong economy, nation's satisfaction, ~~etc~~ power generation, sustainable development, raw material supply, good exports and revenue generation and spiritual and cultural significance. However it have some demerits like environmental degradation, over dependence, political instability, neglect of other sectors and inequality. Despite these advantages natural resources benefit mankind because it is not causing harm to ecosystem, but its exploitation is causing harm. and good governance better control and distribution can overcome its harms. As Aristotle.

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Said " Do not let small setbacks deter
you; great rewards often demand
overlooking minor losses."
