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Question No. 2

Natural Resources: A Blessing or a Curse?

Outline

① Introduction

② Arguments that manifest that natural resources are a blessing.

2.1) They improve the standard of living of the people

a) higher GDP per capita

2.2) They can boost the economy of a country

a) Fossil fuels in Saudi Arabia

2.3) They can create employment opportunities

2.4) They help the country to withstand against global sanctions

a) Russia stood firmly against

the western sanction, leveraging

her natural resources.

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2.5) They reduce dependence on other countries

a) Iran donot import Gas and oil.

2.6) They ensure ^{Green} ~~enere~~ energy availability

a) Pakistan has potential to generate 50,000 MW from its wind corridor

2.7) They ensure technological advancements

a) Investment in resource extraction lead to innovation and technological development.

2.8) They grant country a prominent position in world affairs.

2.9) They attract Foreign direct investments.

a) China's investment in Gwadar Port of Pakistan.

2.10) They help in strengthening the defense of the country

a) Uranium ore vital for nuclear deterrence

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3) How natural resources are considered as a curse.

3.1) They have environmental consequences

a) Land degradation due to mining and loss of biodiversity in resource extraction areas.

3.2) They may instigate intra-country conflicts due to unequal distribution of resources.

a) Balochistan's concern regarding fishing at Gwadar.

④ Conclusion

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Natural resources are those resources that are found in the nature. These resources are given to humankind by the nature. Natural resources are considered as the backbone for the development of the country, as they contribute to its progress and grant it a prominent position in global affairs. Natural resources are considered as a blessing because they improve the standard of the people, boost the economy and help the country to withstand against the global sanctions. They also help ^{a country} in reducing dependence on other countries, ensure green energy availability and technological advancements. Moreover, they grant countries a prominent position in world affairs, attract foreign direct investments and help in strengthening the defense of a country. Some

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people also consider them as a curse. They are of the view that the extraction of these natural resources has negative consequences for the environment. They also instigate ~~intraparty~~ intra-country conflicts due to unequal distribution of these resources. In a nutshell, natural resources are a blessing because ~~if~~ they play a great role in ^{enhancing} ~~the~~ economic, technological and political activities of a country. Their blessings have overshadowed their curses.

Natural resources are a blessing because they improve the standard of living of the people. The countries that ~~have~~ are rich in natural resources can export these resources to other countries. They earn ~~a lot~~ ^{great} revenue from these exports. They ~~can~~ utilize the revenue to ~~be~~ give quality education, health and other facilities.

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of life to their citizen to improve their standard of living. For instance, the oil rich countries like ~~was~~ United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have availed this opportunity to ~~a~~ elevate the standard of living of their people. ~~So~~, By utilizing these natural resources, countries can ensure sustainable growth and social well-being. Therefore, ~~the~~ natural resources fosters the standard of living of a nation.

Besides, natural resources boost the economic growth of a country. The extraction and utilization of resources fuels the production of goods and services, which in turn stimulates economic development.

For instance, vast deposits of copper and gold have diversified its economy beyond the oil.

The mining sector has generated significant revenue and contributed

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alot to the country economy.
This also acts as a substitute
for the depleting oil resources. Thus,
Natural resources act as catalysts
to grow the economy of a
nation.

In addition, natural resources
also help in creating employment
opportunities. These ~~are~~ are many
phases involved in utilizing
the natural resources. These phases
~~are~~ like, extraction and processing, ~~and~~ require
alot of workforce. For example,
Pakistan's Thar Coal project has
created thousands of jobs for
locals, ranging from unskilled labour
to skilled labour. The opportunities
generated by these projects not
only uplift the livelihood of
the local communities but also
decrease the unemployment rate.
Thus, natural resources boost
the employment opportunities in
a country.

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Moreover, the availability of natural resources empowers a nation to remain resilient against global sanctions. Countries rich in natural resources can use them to maintain trade relations, even facing restrictions from international community. For example, despite heavy sanctions imposed by western nations following its actions in Ukraine, Russia has managed to absorb the shocks of sanctions. Russia directed their trade toward India and China. This help Russia to minimize the impacts of the sanctions. Therefore, natural resources serves as a blessing by helping ~~the~~ nations to withstand ~~of~~ global sanctions.

Furthermore, the availability of natural resources reduce a country dependence on other countries. By utilizing their own

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resources for energy, industrial production and exports, countries can avoid excessive reliance on other countries. For instance, the oil and gas reserves in ~~the~~ Iran made Iran's less dependent on other countries. They are more than enough to fulfill her needs.

This reduces a country's vulnerability to global disruption and price fluctuation and it also helps the country to maintain its autonomy. Thus, natural resources act as a blessing by reducing dependence on other countries.

Moreover, natural resources also play a significant role in availability of green energy. to a ~~natural~~ nation it helps the country to reduce heavy reliance on fossil fuels. It also helps in transition from fossil.

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fuels to green energy. The green energy is eco-friendly and emits low green house gases. According to the Pakistan Institute of Development Economic (PIDE), Pakistan has the potential to generate 50,000 MW from its wind corridors. This shows that natural resources help in generating a huge amount of energy without causing harm to the environment. Therefore, natural resources help the country in generation of green energy.

In addition, natural resources serves as a foundation for the technological advancement of a country. The extraction and utilization of the natural resources drive the country toward innovation and advancement in its industries. For instance,

Countries, like Australia # 13
striving toward the advancement
in the solar panel industry. They
are trying to invent a
solar panel that uses infrared
radiation for the generation of
electricity. This solar panel will
also work at night time.

The availability of such resources
promote the industrial innovation and
allows countries to remain competitive
in the global market. Thus,
natural resources are a ~~valuable~~
blessing as they ensure technological
advancements.

Furthermore, natural resources
also help the country by
giving it a prominent position
in the global affair due
to its strategic important
and economic development. Nations
endowed with valuable resources
can use them as strategic.

tools in international relations, shaping alliance and negotiating powerfully on global stage. For instance, the US, with its vast reserves of oil and natural gas has become a global energy powerhouse. This resource wealth has granted the US significant leverage in global energy markets. Such resource wealth not only bolsters the US economic strength but also allows it to exert influence over global energy policies and trade alliances. Therefore, natural resources are a blessing as they grant countries prominence in global affairs.

Moreover, the availability of natural resources also attract foreign direct (FDI) to a country. Countries with natural resources offer a best destination for the investors to gain more

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profit. Moreover, other countries also invest in ^{countries with} rich resources to secure ~~the~~ its interest. For instance, China has invested in the Gwadar port to get easy access to the Indian ocean and it ^{also help} ~~also~~ ^{China to} avoid the Malacca strait, controlled by US. This has ~~highlight~~ bolster the ~~strategic~~ importance of Pakistan for the regional countries because of its natural resources. Thus, natural resources are a blessing, by attracting the foreign investments.

Lastly, ~~the~~ natural resources also help the country to strengthen her defense capabilities. Countries that possess critical resources can develop advanced military technologies and ensure self-sufficiency in time of conflicts. For instance, Uranium is an essential resource for nuclear energy and weapons. It has

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played a crucial role in strengthening the defense capabilities of a country. Countries with availability of natural resources, like Uranium and Polonium, ~~etc~~ can enhance their defence capabilities. Therefore, natural resources act as a blessing because they contribute in strengthening the defense of a nation.

~~However~~ On Contrary, natural resources can also be considered as a curse. Their extraction have significant environmental consequences that harm the ecosystems and contribute to global warming. Moreover, the extraction can lead to deforestation and the overuse of natural resources like fossil fuels contributes alot in emission of green house gases. For instance, the process of extraction of oil at the coast of ~~Karachi~~ Sea at Karachi

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body damaged the water
habitat and the water itself.

This shows that natural
resources and its extraction
damage and cause imbalance in
the ecosystem. Therefore, natural
resources have negative impact
on the environment of the world.

Moreover, the unequal distribu-
tion of natural resources ~~may~~
leads to intra-country conflicts.

Unequal access to resources, ~~partially~~
has ~~exacerbated~~ tension between
different provinces and ethnic groups.
For instance, Balochistan, resource rich
province of Pakistan, showed concern
that ~~the~~ its resources are
being exploited and other provinces
use ~~the~~ ~~its~~ Balochistan's resource
which undermine the development
of Balochistan. This disparity in
the distribution of natural
resources has intensified ethnic
and provincial conflicts in the

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country. Therefore, the unequal distribution of natural resources led to intra-country conflicts.

To cut the long story short, natural resources have the potential to improve the overall condition of a nation. When these resources are properly utilized they can drive economic growth, create employment opportunities for the citizen of a nation and ensure the energy security of a nation. They can also help in strengthening the defence of a country. It also elevate the global standing of a nation. However, mismanagement and unequal distribution of the natural resources can lead to environmental degradation and internal conflicts in a states that undermine the social cohesion. Therefore, the true value of natural resources lies in their sustainable and equitable use, ensuring that they

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contribute to the prosperity of
citizen rather than becoming
a source of instability and
division.