

Part – 3 Geography

Class - VIII

Chapter: Resources

Anything that can be used to satisfy a need or has value can be called a resource. Water, electricity, rickshaw, vegetable and textbook all have utility and hence are considered as resources. All the resources have value or worth. Some resources have economic value, some do not. Some may become valuable only over a period of time. For example, your grandmom's home remedies may not have commercial value at present but if they are patented and sold, they could also become economically valuable. Meanwhile, the two factors that change substances to resources include time and technology.

Types of Resources

Resources are of 3 kinds- natural, human made and human.

Natural Resources are drawn from nature and are used without much modification. Examples include the air we breathe, water in our rivers and lakes, soil, minerals and so on. Natural resources can also be categorised into renewable and non-renewable resources. Renewable resources can be renewed and get replenished very quickly. Solar and wind energy are renewable resources that are unlimited and will not be affected by human activities. Meanwhile, non-renewable resources have limited stock and once exhausted may take thousands of years to be replenished. Some examples are coal, petroleum and natural gas. Physical factors like terrain, climate and altitude affect the distribution of natural resources.

Human Made Resources: At times, natural substances become resources only after their original form has changed. People make use of natural resources to manufacture human made resources like buildings, bridges, roads, machinery and vehicles. Another example is technology.

Human Resource refers to the number (quantity) and abilities (mental and physical) of the people. That is why human beings are a special resource. People are human resources. Improving the quality of people's skills so that they are able to create more resources is known as human resource development.

Conserving Resources

Imagine a situation where all the water on the earth had dried up and all the trees were cut down. There is no shade and nothing to eat or drink. If we are not careful then even renewable resources can become very scarce and the non-renewable ones can definitely get exhausted. Using resources carefully and giving them time to get renewed is called resource conservation. Carefully utilising resources so that besides meeting the requirements of the present, it also takes care of future generations is called sustainable development. There are ways to conserve resources. Each person can contribute by reducing consumption, recycling and reusing things.

The future of our planet and people is dependent on our ability to maintain and preserve the life support system that nature provides. Therefore, we are required to ensure that:

- all uses of renewable resources are sustainable
- the diversity of life on the earth is conserved
- the damage to the natural environmental system is minimized

Activity for the students

1. Discuss the importance of resources and make a list of the natural resources.
2. Discuss the type of resources and differentiate between Human made resources and Human resource.
3. Write your own method to conserve the resources.