

6th Social Science Lesson 12 Notes in English

12] Resources

- **Resource** is anything that fulfills human needs.
- When anything is of some use it becomes valuable.
- All resources have **value**. The value can be either **commercial** or **non-commercial**.
- **Commercial resources** have great economic value. (e.g.) Petroleum.
- The **Non-commercial resources** are very abundant in availability (e.g.) Air.
- Resources can be **natural**, **man-made** and **human resources**.

1. Natural Resources

- All resources that have been directly provided by nature are called **Natural resources**.
- The air, water, soil, minerals, natural vegetation and wild life around us are all natural resources.
- The use of any natural resource depends on the place it is available, the form in which it is available and the technology necessary to avail it.

Classification of Natural Resources

- Natural resources can be classified into different groups depending on **origin, development, renewability, distribution, ownership etc.**

A. On the basis of origin:

On the basis of **origin**, resources can be classified into biotic and abiotic resources.

- All living resources are biotic resources, plants, animals and other micro-organisms are **biotic resources**.
- **Abiotic resources** are non-living things. Land, water, air and minerals are abiotic resources.
- The biotic resources were mere substances till they were recognized by humans.
- According to the human needs the substances were collected by the ancient men and preserved for use.
- In the beginning ,man had only three basic needs-food, clothing and shelter.
- He collected things through **primary activities** such as hunting, food gathering, fishing and forestry.
- Later when food became scarce, they had to cultivate and that became agriculture and the cattle were also reared on their farms to fulfill their basic needs.

- The abiotic resources were also sought after by the early men.
- They went in search of better landforms where they had enough water resources for agriculture and their cattle.
- They were in need of tools right from hunting to agriculture.
- Primarily the tools were only made of stones.
- Later man dug the earth for better abiotic resources and found copper first and iron later.
- He also mined precious metals simultaneously for making ornaments.
- Later mining became one of the leading primary activities and still holds an important place among the economic activities

B. On the basis of Development:

Based on the **level of development**, resources can be divided into actual and potential resources.

- **Actual resources** are resources that are being used and the quantity available is known. (e.g.) Coal at Neyveli.
- **Potential resources** are resources that are not being used in the present and its quantity and location are not known.
- The technology to extract such resources is also yet to be developed. (e.g.) Marine yeast found in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea.

C. On the basis of Exhaustibility:

- On the basis of **renewability** resources can be classified as renewable resources and non-renewable resources.
- Resources once consumed can be renewed with the passage of time are called **renewable resources**. (e.g.) Air, Water, Sunlight.
- Misuse of such resources can also limit its available quantity. So, they have to be used wisely.
- Natural resources which are limited can be called **non-renewable** resources.
- They become exhausted after use and the time they take to replace does not match the life cycle. (e.g.) Coal, petroleum, natural gas and other minerals.
- The resources which cannot renew themselves are either scarce or totally absent.
- So man is in search of new resources and is conducting several researches. He confirms that a substance is a resource only after research. He tries to harness it and also searches the regions where it may be found in. They are potential resources.
- Wind energy is one such example. The places where the wind energy can be utilized are still unknown.

D. On the basis of Distribution:

On the basis of distribution, resources can be classified into **localized resources** and **universal resources**.

- When resources are present in specific regions they are called **localized resources**. (e.g.) Minerals.
- Some resources are present everywhere Such resources are called **universal resources**. (e.g.) Sunlight and air.

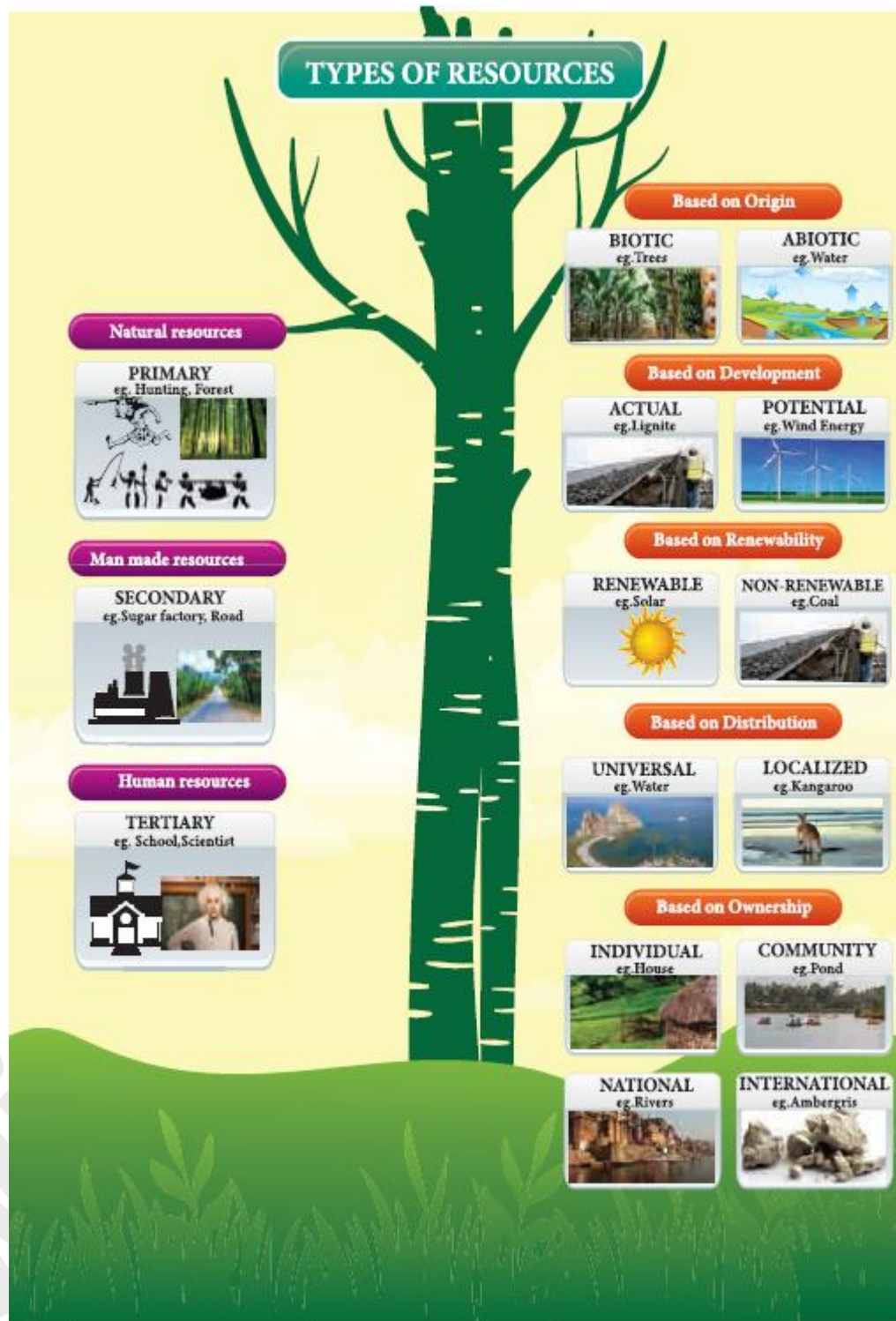
E. On the basis of Ownership:

Based on **ownership** resources can be classified into Individual resources, Community-owned resources, National resources and International resources.

- **Individual resources** are resources privately owned by individuals. (e.g.) Apartments.
- **Community-owned resources** are resources which can be utilised by all the members of the community. (e.g.) Public parks.
- **National resources** are resources within the political boundaries and oceanic area of a country. (e.g.) Tropical forest regions of India.
- **International resources** are all oceanic resources found in the open ocean. Resources found in this region can be utilized only after an international agreement. (e.g.) Ambergris.

2. Man-Made Resources

- Natural resources are modified or processed by technology into **man-made resources**. (e.g.) sugarcane processed to get sugar.
- All structures built by man can also be called man-made resources. (e.g.) Bridges, Houses, Roads.
- This transforming of raw materials into finished goods is called **Secondary Activities**.
- Man's skills and ideas are the basic requirements for these activities.



3. Human Resources

- **Human resources** are groups of individuals who use nature to create more resources.
- Though human beings are basically natural resources, we classify human beings separately.

- Education health, knowledge and skill have made them a valuable resource. (e.g.) Doctors, Teachers, Scientists.
- Tertiary activities are basically concerned with the distribution of primary and secondary products through a system of transport and trade (e.g) Banking, Trade and Communications.
- The quantity and quality of institutions and organizations involved in making the professionals decide the human resource of a country.

Gandhian thought on Resources:

- There is enough for everybody's need and not for anybody's greed. Mahatma Gandhi blamed "human beings" for depletion of resources because of
 - over exploitation of resources
 - Unlimited needs of human beings. So, conservation is very important.

Resource planning / Management

- **Resource planning** is a technique or skill of proper utilization of resources. Resource planning is necessary because
 - Resources are limited, their planning is quite necessary so that we can use them properly and at the same time we can save them for our future generation.
 - Resources are not only limited but also they are unevenly distributed over the different parts of the World.
 - It is essential for the production of resource to protect them from over exploitation.

Conservation of Resources

- Careful use of resources is called **conservation of resources**.
- Resources are being used at a very fast rate due to the rapid increase in population.
- So, natural resources are depleting fast; wisely using resources can control the depleting ratios.
- Development is necessary without affecting the needs of the future generations.
- If the present needs of resources are met and the conserving of resources for the future are balanced, we call it **sustainable development**. Sustainable development can take place when
 - The reasons of depletion are identified.
 - Wastage and excess consumption is prevented.
 - Reusable resources are recycled.
 - Pollution is prevented.
 - Environment is protected.
 - Natural vegetation and wild life are preserved.
 - Alternative resources are used.

- The easiest way to conserve resources is to follow the '3R's: **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle**.

More to Know

- Anything becomes a resource only when its use is discovered. The needs of human beings are ever changing. According to the ever changing needs, resources keep changing. **Time** and **Technology** are two important factors that determine whether a substance is a resource or not. for example: Sun's energy to generate electricity was made possible after the invention of solar panels (technology); and the receding of coal and petrol was in need of an inexhaustible resource (time).
- Marine yeast have greater potential than the terrestrial yeast. They can be used in baking, brewing, wine, bio-ethanol and pharmaceutical protein production.
- Tropical rain forests are called the 'World's largest Pharmacy' as 25% of the natural vegetation are medicinal plants. (e.g.) Cinchona.
- Ambergris is an extract from the sperm whale. A pound (0.454kg) of sweet – smelling ambergris is worth US \$63,000 and used in perfume industries.