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NATURAL RESOURCES CLASSIFICATION

Natural resources are gifted by nature. It is naturally occurring in environment. This includes all valued characteristics such as magnetic, gravitational, electrical properties and forces. These natural resources are very important for human's survival. Natural resources can be classified in a variety of ways based on Origin, Rate of recovery Availability and Development.

As classified in four main classes under which it is subdivided into two more in each which include- Biotic and Abiotic under Origin; Renewable and Nonrenewable under Rate of recovery; Potential and Actual under Development; and Ubiquitous and Localized under Availability.

Classification on the basis of origin means how the natural resources are originated. It can originate from biotic or abiotic things.

Biotic:- Biotic resources are obtained from the biosphere (living and organic material). Biotic resources are living or once living organisms in ecosystem. Materials that can be obtained from forest and animals. Fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum are also included in this because they are formed from decayed organic matter.

Abiotic:- Abiotic resources are those that come from non-living, non-organic material. Abiotic resources are obtained from atmosphere, hydrosphere, etc. Materials include fresh water, air, land. Heavy material such as ores, gold, copper are also included.

Second classification on the basis of Recovery Rate means after the use of natural resources whether it can be used again which is said as Renewable and Nonrenewable.

Renewable:- Renewable resources can be replenished naturally. These resources, like sunlight, air, etc. Continuously available and their quantities are not noticeably affected. Rate of recovery greater than consumption.

Nonrenewable:- Nonrenewable resources take millions of years to replenish once they are used. These resources like minerals, fossil fuels, etc. They either form slowly or do not form naturally in environment. Rate of recovery is lesser than consumption.

Third classification is on the stages of Development means whether the natural resources are developed or it is kept as unused. This is divided as Potential and Actual.

Potential;- Potential resources are those that can be used in future. It's entire quantity may not be known at present. As technology improves their use in future is possible. As an example- petroleum in sedimentary rocks that until drilled out and put to use remains potential.

Actual:- Actual resources that have been surveyed, quantified and qualified and are currently used. It's quantity is known at present. Available technology is used

to use these resources. As an example- wood processing which depends on technology and cost.

Last classification is on the basis of Availability which means natural resources are available anywhere or particular areas and is divided into Ubiquitous and Localized.

Ubiquitous:- Ubiquitous resources are found everywhere. They are found in large quantity. They do not cause pollution. Eco-friendly in nature. Examples of these are sunlight, wind, etc which can be found all over.

Localized:- Localized resources are those which only exist in specific areas. They are not found easily scarce in quantity. They are responsible in causing pollution. Not ecofriendly in nature. Examples of these are Mica found in Jharkhand.