

①

CLASS NOTES FOR - B.A. Part - II (GEOG. HONS.)

PAPER - IV (A) - ECONOMIC AND RESOURCE GEOGRAPHY

SECTION - B - RESOURCE GEOGRAPHY

TOPIC - 1 CONCEPT OF RESOURCES.

PREPARED BY - ARBAB KHAN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, GEOGRAPHY
D.K. COLLEGE, DOMRAON

Resource: All those elements of the earth which are useful or necessary to man can be considered as resources, and resource process takes place when they are extracted and used by man and returned as wastes.

In other words, the word resource is an abstraction reflecting human appraisal and relating to a function or operation.

"A thing is converted into a resource only, if it satisfies human wants which may be of any nature i.e. personal or social."

So, A resource must possess functionality & utility.

→ The Nature of Resources:

Resources are cultural appraisals rather than absolute assets, and are produced as the elements of the objective environment are filtered through the process of perception and evaluated as necessary or useful.

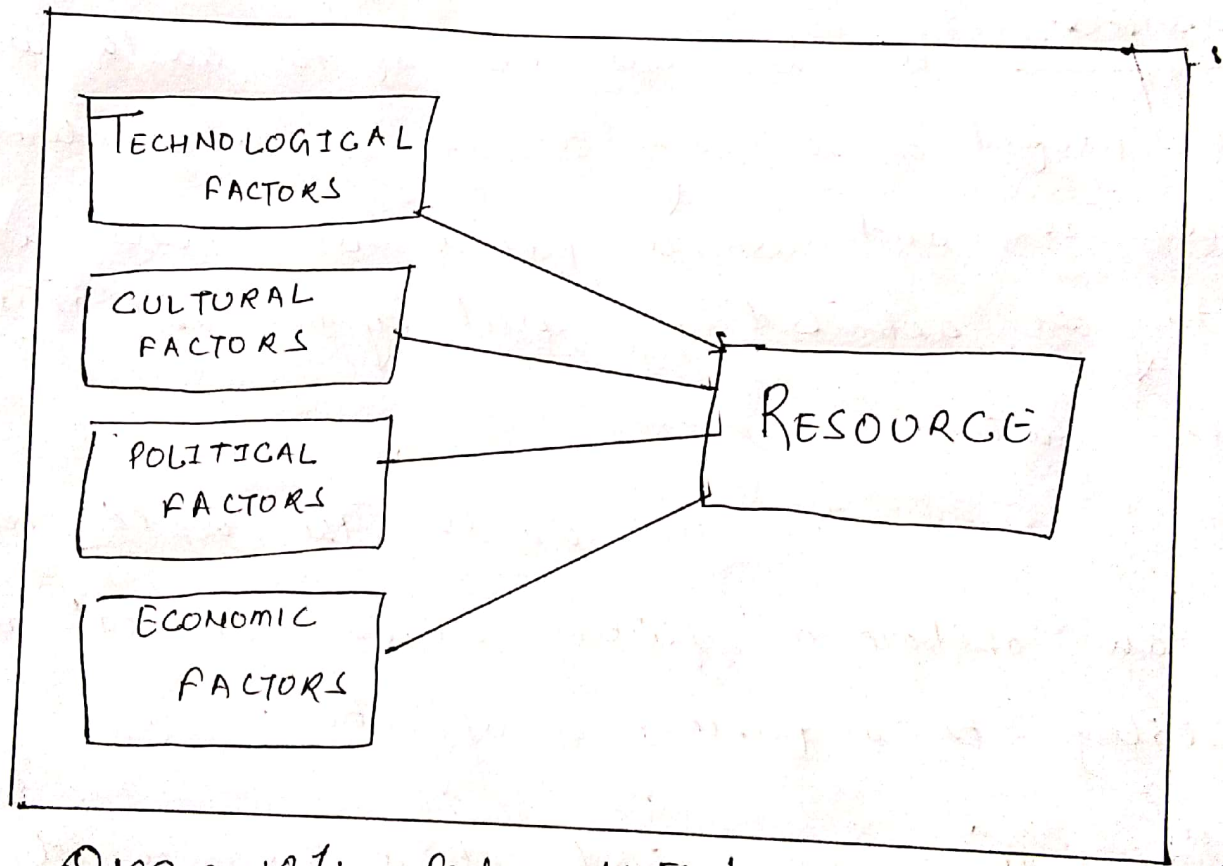


Diagram 01: Factors affecting resource development.

Elements do not become resources simply by being perceived as such, because there are many different factors operating to constrain the use of potential resources.

① First there is the "technological factor", the level of development of present technology decides the element or waste into resource. for example before nuclear technology Uranium was not considered as a resource.

Secondly there is cultural factor, and many religious and cultural taboos operate to restrict the use of certain animals as a source of food or the use of excreta as fertiliser.

Thirdly there is a political factor which can restrict the exploitation and exchange of the strategic minerals or limit the extent of contentious methods of mineral extraction such as strip mining.

Fourthly, and operating as the most important single influence, there is the economic factor. Resources are greatly affected by the price and will only be used if the costs are not too high. If the price of a particular resource rises, then previously uneconomic sources can be used or substitutes will be sought.

However economic costs are not always easy to work out because of social or strategic value of commodities.

Types of Resources

4

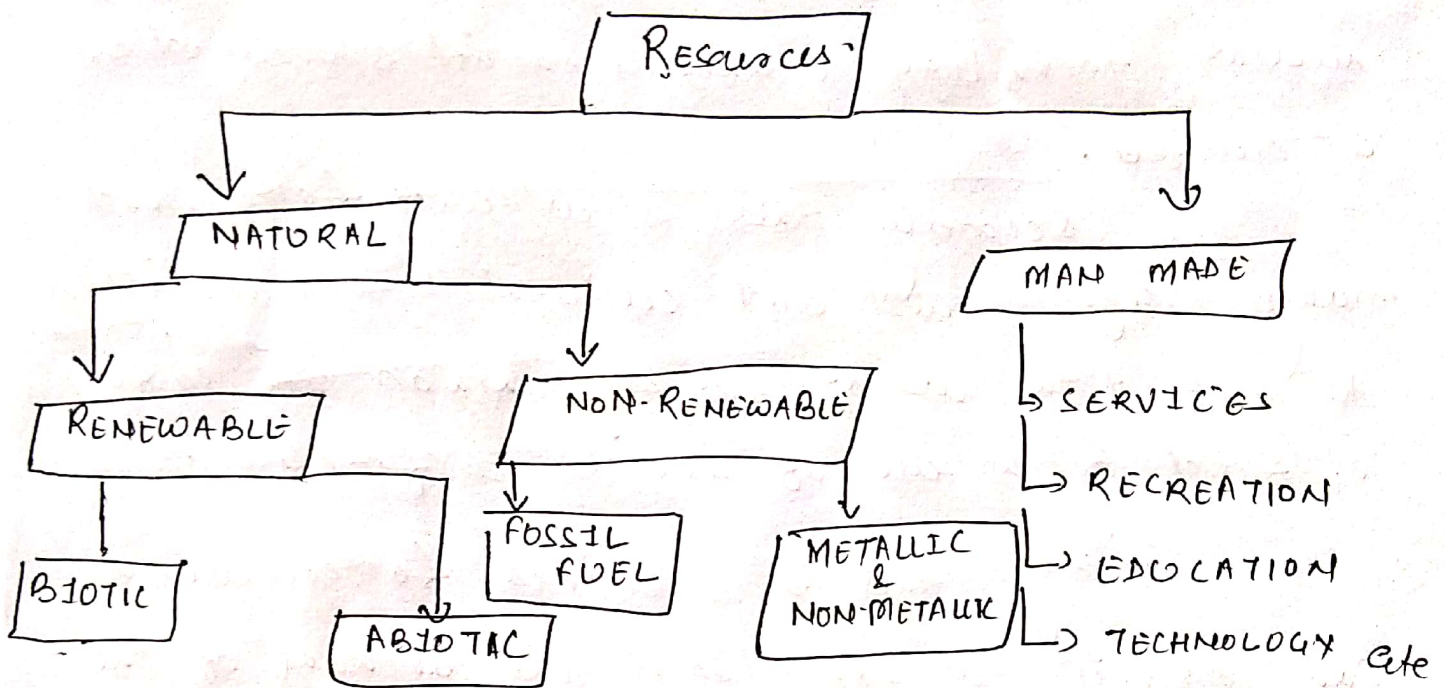


Diagram 02 TYPES OF RESOURCES

Resources can be classified into two major groups: Natural Resources, which can be further divided into two subgroups: renewable resources including the biotic resources exploited in farming, fishing and forestry and the in-situ energy coming from the sun, and non-renewable resources largely made up of the energy capital of the earth in the form of fossil fuels and many metallic as well as non-metallic minerals.