

# PEOPLE AS RESOURCES

## Introduction

- ◆ **Resource** : Any material which can be transformed in a way that it becomes more valuable and useful is known as Resource.
  - ◆ **Natural Resource** : A natural resource is any thing in , on , or above the earth that people use to meet their needs.
  - ◆ **Human Resource** : By the term human resources we mean the size of population of a country along with its efficiency, educational qualities, productivity, organisational abilities and farsightedness.
- Though natural resources play a vital role in the economic development of a country but human resources are considered the most important resources of a nation because it is the human resources which convert the natural resources into more useful form.

## How people become resources

Most of the developing and backward countries of the world are economically backward not because they lack sources but because they lack quality human resources. The force by which all kinds of productivity is achieved by the use of natural resources are called **productive forces** and human resource is the most important productive force.

### ◆ Factors which improve the quality of Human :

1. **Skill development** : A skill worker is one who has proper training and education to work in a particular field. Training and education increase the productivity of workers. Skill development also ensures continuous employability of a worker, it helps the worker to absorb the new technology and prepare him to compete with the labour force of the other developed countries.
2. **Technology** : It helps the human to convert natural resources into more useful form. For example, coal and mineral oil present below the earth have no value until human have the technology to dug them and use them in various machines.
3. **Education** : Illiteracy is the single most important factor holding back economic development in developing countries. Education also widen the mental horizon of the people and gives them scientific attitude. Education also help in the national harmony of a country.
4. **Health** : Health does not mean survival only. It concern physical, mental, economic and social well-being of an individual as well. An investment in health not only improves the quality of life, but is also a part of human resource development, which in turn affects economic and social development of the country.

A wide range of activities are covered under health such as population control, family welfare prevention of food adulteration, drug control, immunisations and eradication of major communicable and non communicable diseases, as health concerns.

## Steps taken by Government for Improving Health Status

1. **Control of common disease** : Many common diseases like plague, malaria, small pox etc. have been controlled to a large extent.

2. **Health Programme :** Besides, major national health programmes, for control and eradication of Polio, Tuberculosis, AIDS, Leprosy, Blindness, Cancer, Iodine Deficiency, Diabetes etc. and nation wide immunisations programme have substantially helped in the reduction of mortality rate.
3. **Health centre :** Government has created an extensive network of 2, 935 Community Health Centres (CHC) 22, 975 Primary Health Centres (PHC) and 137271 health subcentres to take care of health services in rural areas. Apart from public sector, private sector also provides health care services to the people.

#### **Economic and Non-Economic - Activities**

◆ **Economic Activities :** All these activities that gave income to the people are called economic activities. All the economic activities contribute to the flow of goods and services in an economy. e.g. -

1. A teacher teaching in a class.
2. A man or women working in a bank.
3. A farmer ploughing his field.
4. A worker working in a mine.

All the economic activities are classified into three categories..

1. **Primary Activity :** It includes those occupations which are closely related to man's natural environment. e.g. Gathering, Hunting Fishing, Lumbering, Grazing, Farming and Mining.
2. **Secondary Activity :** The occupations which produce finished goods by using the products of primary activities as raw material are included in secondary activity. Manufacturing of cloth from cotton, sugar from sugarcane and steel from iron ore are examples of secondary activity.

◆ **Tertiary Activity :** Tertiary activity consists of all service occupation. For both primary and secondary activities, we require a substantial amount of support services. Transport, communication, trade, health, education and administration are example of tertiary activity.

◆ **Non-Economic Activity :** These are those activities which do not give income in return. They also do not contribute to the flow of goods and services in the economy. e.g.

1. Teaching by father to his son at home.
2. Domestic work by the housewife.
3. Washing of father's car by the son.
4. Scholarship to a student.

◆ **Reasons :**

(A) These activities have negligible impact on the rest of the economy.

(B) These services are not produced for the market. So their valuation becomes difficult.

#### **Unemployment**

◆ **Unemployment :** It is situation when a person is willing to work but fails to find any gainful work or job.



### ◆ Types of Unemployment :

**(A) Disguised Unemployment :** It is a situation in which more people are engaged in an activity than required. The people who are actually engaged in such an activity appear to be employed but are not fully employed. In such cases, even if the surplus labourers are removed from work, production does not fall. For example, in a cultivation field only 4 persons are required, but if 9 persons are working the additional 5 persons are considered as disguisedly unemployed. It is known as under employment.

### ◆ Factor Responsible :

1. Over dependent on agriculture.
2. Absence of alternative employment opportunities.
3. Lack of diversification of agriculture.

**(B) Seasonal Unemployment :** It is a type of unemployment under which people are employed during some parts of the year and remain without work during the rest of the year owing to the seasonal nature of work. For example - agriculture in India is a seasonal activity. During the harvesting and sowing season more labourer are required but after the season is over these labourer become unemployed.

**(C) Structural Unemployment :** It is that situation in which unemployment occur due to -

1. Lack of capital
2. Lack of resources
3. Under utilization of natural resources.
4. Surplus workers as compared to demand.

Indian economy is facing structural unemployment as work force is more than the demand.

◆ **Cyclical unemployment :** It is a type of unemployment which occurs due to slackening of demand for goods. This type of unemployment generally occur in capitalist countries. This type of unemployment prevails for short duration only.

◆ **Technical Unemployment :** If unemployment occurs owing to changes in technology. It is referred to as technical unemployment.

### Magnitude of Unemployment in India

There are two ways by which the magnitude of unemployment is measured in India.

1. Conducting sample surveys and population census.
2. The information provided by employment exchanges.

### Problems due to Unemployment

1. Many youth with matriculation, graduation and post graduation degrees are not able to find a job.
2. It leads to wastage of man power resources.
3. People who are an asset for the economy turn into a liability.

4. There is a feeling of hopelessness and despair among the youth.
5. Inability of educated people who are willing to work to find gainful employment implies a great social waste.
6. Unemployment tends to increase economic overload.
7. The dependence of the unemployed on the working population increase.
8. Unemployment has detrimental impact on the over all growth of an economy.
9. Increase in unemployment is an indicator of a depressed economy. It also wastes the resources.

### **Strategies to reduce Unemployment**

#### **(A) Rural works Programme :**

1. **Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) :** It is the self employment programme for the rural people. It was launched on 1 April 1999. It replaces the earlier self employment programmes.
2. **Sampoorna Gramin Rozagar Yojana :** It was launched on the 1st Sep - 2001. Jawahar Gram Samridhhi Yojana and Employment. Assurance scheme were integrated into a single yojana.
3. **National Rural Employment Gurantee Scheme :** It was launched by Prime Minister M.M. Singh in 2007. It target SC., ST, and poor women who suffered from poverty.
4. **Skill development :** With a view to impart skills through training, The Central Board of Workers's Education (CBWE), has been created to create understanding and enthusiasm among workers for the success of industrial growth.

#### **(B) Entrepreneurial Development :**

Entrepreneur is the basic input or factor of production. Entrepreneur hires and organise other factor (land, labour and capital) for production of goods and services. So to increase the production of goods and services, Indian government has launched various schemes to promote entrepreneurship.

1. **Low cost capita :** The government has implemented a number of schemes for providing low cost capital to small enterprises and self employed persons.
2. **Financial Institution :** Financial Institution like banks and cooperative societies have been opened to provide credit facilities at concessional rates. These measures have brought about positive result in recent years.

### **Reason out Why**

#### **(i) Why is education an input of growth ?**

1. It opens new horizon for people.
2. It provides new aspiration to the people.
3. It develops value of life.

#### **(ii) Why has the mid-day meal scheme been implemented ?**



It has been implemented to encourage attendance and retention of children and improve their nutritional status.

### (iii) Why are women employed in low paid work ?

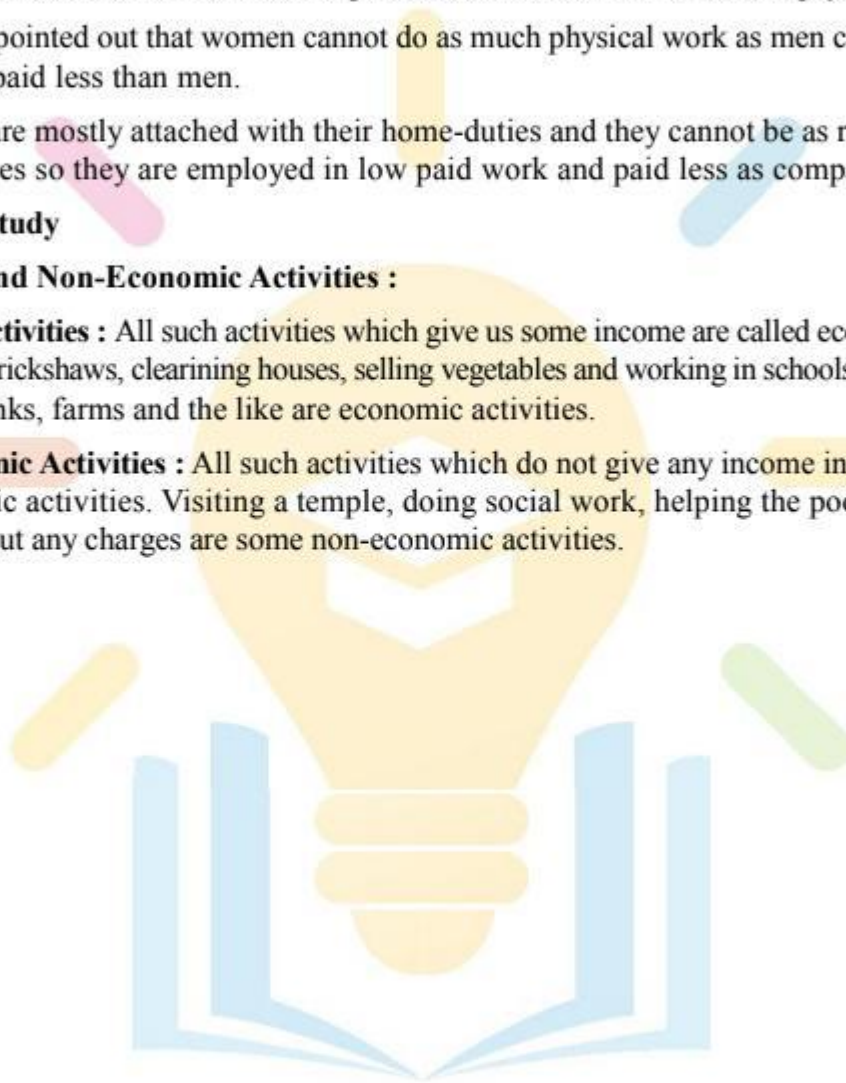
There is no denying the fact that women are generally employed in low paid work and they are paid low as compared to men. The reasons for the same are the following :

1. Education is one of the major determinants of the earning of any individual in the market. As majority of women have meagre education so they are paid less as compared to men.
2. Along with education skill is also an important determinant which affects the pay of the individuals.
3. It is also pointed out that women cannot do as much physical work as men can do. So natural they are paid less than men.
4. Women are mostly attached with their home-duties and they cannot be as regular as men in their duties so they are employed in low paid work and paid less as compared to men.

### Comparative Study

#### ◆ Economic and Non-Economic Activities :

- ◆ **Economic Activities** : All such activities which give us some income are called economic activities. Pulling cycle-rickshaws, clearing houses, selling vegetables and working in schools, shops, factories, hospitals, banks, farms and the like are economic activities.
- ◆ **Non-Economic Activities** : All such activities which do not give any income in return are called non-economic activities. Visiting a temple, doing social work, helping the poor, educating the illiterate without any charges are some non-economic activities.



## **GLOSSARY**

1. **Resources** : Any material which can be transformed in a way that it becomes more valuable and useful is known as Resources.
2. **Natural Resources** : A natural resource is anything in, on, or above the earth that people use to meet their needs.
3. **Human Resources** : By the term human resources we mean the size of population of a country along with its efficiency, educational qualities, productivity, organisational abilities and farsightedness.
4. **Skilled workers** : A skilled worker is one who has proper training and education to work in a particular field.
5. **Economic activities** : All these activities that give income to the people are called Economic activities.
6. **Primary Activities** : These include those occupations which are closely related to man's natural environment. e.g. Agriculture, hunting etc.
7. **Secondary Activities** : It occupations which produce finished goods by using the products of primary activities as raw material.
8. **Tertiary activity** : It consists of all service occupations.
9. **Disguised unemployment** : It is a situation in which more people are engaged in an activity than required.
10. **Seasonal unemployment** : It is a type of unemployment under which people are employed during some parts of the year and remain without work during the rest of the year owing to the seasonal nature of work.
11. **Literate** : According to the census of 2001, a person aged 7 years and above who can read and write with understanding in any language.
12. **Investment** : The existing stock of physical capital assets such as machinery, building, plant and equipment.
13. **Productivity** : The out put of goods and services compared to the inputs used. It is measure of efficiency of factors of productions.

## EXERCISE

### VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- Q.1 How can a large population be turned into an asset for the country.
- Q.2 How does investment in human resource lead to higher returns in future.
- Q.3 How does quality of population depend upon ?
- Q.4 Why are women employed in low paid work ?
- Q.5 How does investment in education help in human capital formation ?
- Q.6 How have countries like Japan become rich and developed ?
- Q.7 Why is it difficult to break out of the vicious cycle of illiteracy and ill health ?
- Q.8 Many children and women are not working, called unemployed. Why ?
- Q.9 Why is literacy rate higher among males in India ?
- Q.10 What major changes indicate improvement of health in India ?
- Q.11 What facts indicate the growth of medical facilities in India.
- Q.12 Why is education an important input of growth ?
- Q.13 Which activities are included in the primary sector ?
- Q.14 How is the human capital superior to other resources like land and physical capital ?
- Q.15 Name any four important factor of production.
- Q.16 Name any four factor which can improve the quality of human resources.

### SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- Q.1 What do you understand by people as a resource ?
- Q.2 What is the role of education in human capital formation ?
- Q.3 What part does health play in individual's working life ?
- Q.4 Suggest some measures in the education system to migrate the problem of the educated unemployed ?
- Q.5 What are economic activities ? Explain.
- Q.6 Mention any four peculiarity of literacy in India.
- Q.7 What steps taken by the government to promote education ?
- Q.8 What are the two types of unemployment which are prevailing in rural areas ? Write any four factors responsible for this ?



- Q.9** Define unemployment ? What are the major types of unemployment prevailing in India ?
- Q.10** What is disguised unemployment ? Explain with the help of an example.
- Q.11** Distinguish between natural resources and human resources.
- Q.12** Explain the factors which improves the quality of human.
- Q.13** Mention any two steps which have been taken by the government for skill development.
- Q.14** What is the importance of financial institution in an economy ?
- Q.15** Mention the major objective of rural works programme.

### LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- Q.1** What are the disadvantages of unemployment ? Explain.
- Q.2** Explain the employment scenario in the three sectors.
- Q.3** Explain any three Yojana's with their objectives.
- Q.4** What is importance of entrepreneurial development ? Explain various steps taken by government for entrepreneurial development.
- Q.5** Suggest some measures to reduce unemployment.
- Q.6** Which capital would you consider the best land, labour physical capital and the human capital ?
- Q.7** Distinguish between -
- (A) Economic and Non-Economic activities
  - (B) Disguised and cyclic unemployment
  - (C) Seasonal and structural unemployment.

### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- Q.1** According to the National Health Policy 2002 What is the percentage increase in dispensaries ?
- (A) 400 %
  - (B) 200 %
  - (C) 370 %
  - (D) 450 %
- Q.2** What is the number of doctors in 1951 ?
- (A) 61,800
  - (B) 55600
  - (C) 65400
  - (D) 64600
- Q.3** What is the increase noticed among the teachers in the year 1988-99 ?
- (A) 10,000
  - (B) 12,000
  - (C) 15,000
  - (D) 21,000
- Q.4** In which year India has the highest literacy rates ?
- (A) 1998
  - (B) 1999
  - (C) 2000
  - (D) 2001



- Q.5** Literacy level in the year 1951 was -  
 (A) 10 % (B) 18 %  
 (C) 25 % (D) 30 %
- Q.6** What is your projection about India's literacy rate in 2010 ?  
 (A) 70 % (B) 60 %  
 (C) 85 % (D) 95 %
- Q.7** What is the percentage of male member in 1999-2000 in urban areas -  
 (A) 7.3 % (B) 5 %  
 (C) 6.2 % (D) 4 %
- Q.8** Domestic work by house wife is a ..... activity.  
 (A) Economic (B) Noneconomic  
 (C) Both of them (D) None of these
- Q.9** ..... is an example of economic activity.  
 (A) A farmer ploughing his field  
 (B) Scholarship to a student  
 (C) Domestic work by house wife  
 (D) All the above.
- Q.10** ..... activity consists of all service occupations -  
 (A) Primary (B) Secondary  
 (C) Tertiary (D) None of these

### ANSWER KEY

Q.No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ans.	C	A	D	D	B	C	A	B	A	C