Geography handout for grade 11

Dear My Students how are you? I think everything is ok for you except Covid-19. Any way before One Month we have discussed in detail about Population, Economic Growth and Development of Africa. Now let us see in detail about Characteristics of African economy

Characteristics of African Economy

- What are the major characteristics of Africa's economy?
- The following are the major characteristic of the economy of Africa :-
  - ✓ Largely depend on agricultural sector. Agriculture is the :-
    - backbone of the economy
    - main source of employment industrial raw material, food stuff and exportable item
    - main source of foreign currency
    - major contributor to the GDP of all African country.
  - ✓ Other primary economic activities (fishing, forestry, mining, bee keeping, and poultry) are important and less developed.
  - ✓ less level of industrialization
  - ✓ Manufacturing industries are few in number and are confined to few urban centers.
  - ✓ Intercontinental, intra- regional and intra - continental trade is at low level. It has negative trade balance.
  - ✓ All communication facilities are poor, causing low level of socio – economic and political interconnection among the countries and people of the continent.
  - ✓ Various economic sectors of the continent run short of capital, stilled human power and efficient technology.
  - ✓ As a result of low GDP and low per capita income, the majority of the people live in poverty.

Present features of Africa's socio – economic development

The following points outline the features of economic development in Africa.

- Fertility is high and population is growing rapidly despite the relative decline in mortality rate in many countries.
- Life expectancy at birth is still very low and is the lowest as compared to the rest of the continents in the world.
- Adult illiteracy rates are high and even most school age children fail to get access to primary education.
- Lack of capital, lack of skilled human power and lack of advanced technology together with conflicts and civil war, corruption, bad governance and high foreign debt are among the factors that negatively influence socio – economic development in Africa.
- Few countries of northern and southern Africa such as Egypt of the republic and South Africa have better levels of socio – economic development.
- The majority of the states are characterized by very low socio – economic condition.

- GDP and precipitate income is very low, as a result, poor and substandard housing condition, inadequate provision of health and education services, poorly developed social infrastructure such as transport and communication facilities, malnutrition, illiteracy and widely spread unemployment have become commonly observed phenomena in the continent, particularly the countries in sub – Saharan Africa are much affected by the conditions, just stated above. (Inter and intra – state conflicts, poor governance, corruption and poor infrastructure have made the regions backward socio – economic conditions.)

Challenges and prospects of economic development in Africa

- ✓ The Africa's economy has been suffering from serious challenges

Economical challenge

- ✓ lack of capital investment
- ✓ lack of modern technology
- ✓ poor infrastructure
- ✓ declining industrial output
- ✓ lack of skilled human power
- ✓ poor export performance
- ✓ saving and local capital accumulation are extremely limited

Political challenges

- ✓ political instability
- ✓ civil war
- ✓ lack of good governance
- ✓ corruption

Demographic challenges

- ✓ rapid population growth (2. 4%)
- ✓ high fertility rate
- ✓ low life expectancy
- ✓ large number of unemployment .....

Environmental challenges

- ✓ soil erosion
- ✓ land degradation
- ✓ drought

- ➢ All the above challenges influenced negatively the work habit of the majority of Africans and impeding its economic development.
- ➢ Though the current socio – economic condition of Africa are under the extreme pressure as a result of the above mentioned problems, the future of the continents seems somehow promising, this is due to the establishment of so many continental, regional and sub regional

organizations that are meant to facilitate socio – economic development in Africa.

- These organizations play significant roles in increasing continental interconnectedness, integrity and cooperation to promote over all progress and development in the continental economy.

Natural Resources of Africa and Its Politics

Major Resources of Africa

1. **Mineral Resources**
   - consist of various types of rocks and fuel oil
   - the continent rich in mineral resources
   - regional distribution of mineral resources in Africa are:-

Northern Africa
- rich in petroleum resources and phosphate deposits

Waste and central Africa
- has huge petroleum resources

Southern Africa
- has aboundant metallic minerals and gem stones

Estimate potential and mineral resource of Africa

- Africa has
  - ✓ 90% of world cobalt and platinum
  - ✓ 50% of worlds gold
  - ✓ 98% of worlds chromium
  - ✓ 70% of worlds tantalite
  - ✓ 64% of world manganese
  - ✓ 1/3rd of worlds uranium
- Africa plays a significant role in the world's mineral economy. It produces about:-
  - ✓ three- quarters of the worlds cobalt
  - ✓ Half of the global supply of platinum, chromium, and diamond.
  - ✓ one – third of gold, manganese, and uranium
  - ✓ one – fifth of all bauxite
  - ✓ One – tenth of the world's petroleum.

Table - major minerals produced in Africa and the leading producers of the continent.

Mineral	Africa's global share	Leading producers in Africa
Diamond	77%	Zaire, Botswana , RSA
Gold	55%	RSA, Ghana, Zimbabwe

Copper	20%	Zambia, DRC, Zimbabwe, RSA
Bauxite	19%	Guinea, Ghana and Sierra Leone
Iron ore	4%	Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, RSA. Zimbabwe and Swaziland
Chromites	41%	RSA and Zimbabwe
Manganese	27%	RSA, Gabon
Petroleum	10%	Nigeria, Libya, Algeria, Egypt and Angola
Tin	13%	DRC (Katanga area) and Nigeria
Cobalt	76%	DRC and Zambia
Coal	6%	RSA, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Zaire, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania

A. Agricultural Resources

Table- leading producers of tropical crops in Africa and Africa's share to the world's production

Crop	Leading producers in Africa	Africa's global share
Cocoa	Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, Nigeria, Liberia, Togo, Cameroon	53%
Coffee	Cote D'Iivoire , Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Cameroon, Tanzania, DRC, Angola	20%
Tea	Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Congo, Mauritius	13%
Palm oil	Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Zaire	16%
Sugar care	Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopian	7%
Rubber	DRC, Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, Cameroon, Gabon, Sierra Leon, Kenya and Tanzania	6%
Sisal	Tanzania, Kenya and Madagascar	29%
Cotton	Sudan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Mali, Congo and Egypt	7%
Ground nuts	Nigeria, Senegal and Zaire	29%

Water and Associated Resources

- ✓ Africa is rich in terms of water resources
- ✓ The rivers and lakes of Africa have tremendous potential in terms of fishing, hydroelectric power generation, irrigation and mineral extraction.

Fishing

- ✓ the continent is rich in terms of fish resources
- ✓ major ground for marine fish – such as – Tuna, Sardines and hake – are found some distance of West African coasts stretching from Morocco to Senegal and Angola to Namibia
- ✓ Lakes and rivers of Africa are rich in fresh water fish.
- ✓ Morocco- is leading in fish processing industries, producing more canned fish, fish oil and fish meal than any other African country.

HEP

- ✓ Africa has the vast HEP potential.

- ✓ Several major dams – like – as wan high dam on the nile river, the akosombo dam on the voltar river, and the kariba dam and cabora bassa dam on the Zambezi river have been constructed since 1960.
- ✓ **Irrigation**

- ✓ Nile river supports the lives of millions of people in Sudan and Egypt by providing irrigable water these countries
- ✓ Awash river in Ethiopia has great potential of irrigation activities

Mineral

- ✓ Construction material such as sand, gravel and boulders and being exploited from rivers and lakes.
- ✓ Gold and other precious metals are also being extracted from river in traditional ways.

Human Resources

- ✓ The continent is a home for about 1 billion people. Of this number 41% - is fewer than 15 and 3% above 65 years of age. The rest 56% is in the productive age. This makes the continent rich in terms of human resource potential.

Natural Resources Exploitation and Mineral Extraction Methods In Africa.

Factors that limited development of the resource exploitation sector in the continent are:-

- ✓ lack of good governance
- ✓ corruption and maladministration
- ✓ lack of citizens participation in resource development program
- ✓ lack of capital, skilled human power and technology
- ✓ extraction techniques are traditional in nature

Resource Utilization and Conflict Management

- ✓ Though the continent possesses huge resource potential of all sorts, the resources are not yet fully utilized to promote the continent's socio-economic development. Instead, they have been sources for the continent's deep rooted backwardness.

Table - conflicts associated with natural resources in Africa

Country	**Duration of conflict**	**Resources**
Angola	1975 - 2002	Gems, Opium
Angola, Cabinda	1975	Oil, Diamonds
Congo	1997	Oil
DRC	1996 – 97, 1998	Copper, Colton, Diamonds, Gold,

	– 2002	Cobalt
Liberia	1989 – 1996	Timber, Diamonds, Iron, Palm, Oil, Cocoa, Coffee, Marijuana, Rubber, Gold
Morocco	1975	Phosphates, oil
Sierra Leone	1991 – 2000	Diamonds
Sudan	1983 – 2005	oil

ACTIVITY

1. What makes Africa rich in terms of natural resources?
2. Describe human resource potential of Africa
3. Identify the resources that are associated with water resources in Ethiopia
4. Discuss the mineral resource potential of Ethiopia.
5. What are the mineral resources that Africa is well known for globally?
6. Which of the countries of Africa are leading producers of these minerals?
7. What are the major agricultural resources that Africa contributes to the world market?
8. Account for the resource potentials of Africa's rivers and lakes
9. Why is mining more of traditional in its extraction methods in Africa?
10. Mention extraction.

NB:- Additional exercise for you page 249- review excise of the chapter.