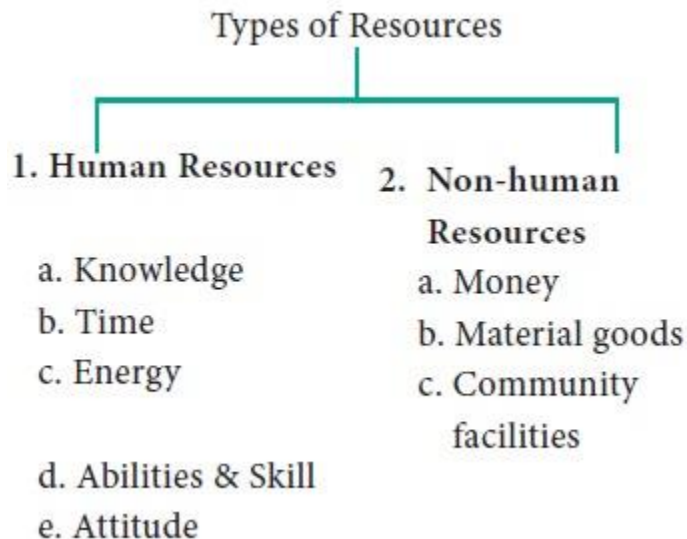


MA IInd Year Lecture Notes Online
Semester-II
Paper-II Specific Resource Management
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Unit-I- Resources In the Family

FAMILY RESOURCES:

Resources can be defined as anything we use to achieve what we want (our goals). In other words, they are the materials and human attributes which satisfy our wants.

Types of Resources



1. Human Resources: These are the capacities and characteristics of an individual. These can be used only by the person who possesses them. They have the high potential to achieve what we want and many a times may not be cultivated or made available. Most of the time, families underestimate these resources and are unaware of them.

i. Knowledge: It is important to be aware of things to be able to achieve what we want. If we want to buy a T.V. we need to know what features to look for, brands available. This will help in buying a better quality product.

ii. Time: It is constant for everyone, 24 hours a day. The way a person manages and uses her time is her personal choice. A student may finish all the work before going to play; another may waste his time watching television or talking on the cell phone.

iii. Energy: This is both mental and physical power of a person. To achieve goals, one needs to plan, organise and finally implement the plans. This would require both mental and physical energy.

iv. Abilities and skill: These are inherited and acquired. These may include skills like cooking, decorating, gardening. Each individual has particular abilities with which he/ she can achieve his/her goals. These skills can also be developed by systematic learning and practice.

v. Attitude: These are opinions or feelings a person has towards a thing which may hinder or help in achieving his goals. A positive attitude may help a person achieve what he wants whereas a negative attitude may hinder her in achieving what she wants.

2. Non-human Resources: These are tools and assets that families have at their disposal to achieve what they want. These are available for everyone to use. A person works hard and earns money to be used by him and his family. He/she may

buy material goods or land from this money and may build a house on this land. Community facilities like banks, post offices, parks, and library. These are tangible and are more identifiable.

a. Money: It is the pivotal resource which can be exchanged to buy material things, commodities and services. It can also be used for future use and thus gives a sense of security to the family.

b. Material goods: These include durable goods or perishable goods used and owned by a family in their everyday use. Land, house, furniture and vehicle are examples. These help to make life easier and more comfortable for all family members. Durable goods like land can also help families to earn or save money. If vegetables are grown on land, the family can save money on buying vegetables or sell these vegetables to earn money.

c. Community facilities: These are those facilities which are common for all members of a community. Parks, libraries, post office, police and fire protection, banks, hospitals, transport facilities, roads, rail-ways, electricity, water supply, markets, community centres and ration shops are examples of community facilities. All families can avail these facilities without directly paying for them but indirectly paying for them through taxes.

Characteristics of Resources

1. All resources are useful and all help to achieve goals.

One cannot call energy or time as a resource if it is wasted or not used. If a piece of land is lying vacant, it is not a resource, only when a family grows vegetables on it, does the land become a resource.

2. All resources are limited.

There is a limit to a person's knowledge, skill, energy, material goods and money available to the family.

3. All resources are inter-related.

A resource cannot be used in isolation. If a homemaker has to go to the market, she will use her knowledge, skill of bar-gaining, time, energy, money, market and transport to achieve this goal.

4. Resources can be substituted.

One can exchange one resource for another. A family uses time, skill and energy of a servant and gives her money in exchange. Similarly, material goods can be bought in exchange of money. One can exchange knowledge by paying tuition fees.

5. All resources need to be managed.

Since all resources are limited, they need to be utilized properly, otherwise they may be wasted. Time and energy have to be managed by work simplification techniques, proper postures and labor saving devices.

Affecting The Resource Use

vathy et,al have identified ten important factors influencing the use of resources:

. Size of Income

Money is a very versatile resource. This resource has a number of alternate uses. It can be exchanged for non-human resources such as material goods and also for human resources such as skill, time, energy, etc. The size of income is correlated with the purchasing practices with decisions such as to when clothing and furnishing should be discarded, with the amount of paid help available to the homemaker, and with the presence of facilities and equipment in the home. When the size of income is more, there is a possibility that the family will be able to attain more' number of these goals. Larger the money income, higher will be the satisfaction of the family members. While the size of income affects the use of all resources, most of the information available on-this resource stresses the effect of income size upon its distribution oil the family needs.

2. Socio-Economic Status:

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Social status indicates. a perceived relationship of a person to the social group. Social status accounts for differences in family values, attitudes, decision making

and in expenditures pattern. In the modern urban areas, status is something which is achieved and not ascribed through birth. There is a social stratification in the society, as all people do not enjoy the same life style. An individual has many different positions in a society, each of which may have distinct status implications. Therefore, the individual's status is a composite of these different and sometimes contrasting aspects, rather than the result of anyone. These aspects and their interrelationships are constantly changing. The complexity of status determination demands great care in the selection of indices to status. Status groups are classified as upper-upper class, low-upper class, upper-middle class, lower-middle class, upper-lower class, and lower-lower class. Many families consciously or unconsciously, choose upward mobility as their goals. Upward mobility occurs only in terms of their education and occupation. To maintain a higher status, a family has to live up to it and this directly governs their expenditure pattern, values, goals and standards of status.

3. Occupation:

Traditionally the family's life-style, which include time schedule, the entertainment schedule etc. has been influenced by the husband's or the head of the family's occupation. The time schedule of the doctors and businessman's family differs from that of an ordinary middle income salaried family. The other factors such as the size of income, the status of the family, and their social circle, are also to a large extent determined by the occupation of the father. Traveling allowance, housing facilities etc. are all determined by the occupation, which again affects the status and the living styles of the family.

4. Gainful Employment of the Homemaker:

Women in the paid labour force affect resource allocation of all family members. Adding to a family income is considered one of the major reasons for married women for taking up gainful employment. The expenditure pattern also changes with the employment of women. Gainfully employed women use more purchased services, spend more on transport, clothes, labour saving devices, fast food etc.

5. Size and Composition of the Family:

The family size, age and sex make up the family composition that affects their resource usage. If a large family attends to maintain the same level of consumption as that of a small family, it is clear that it will require more commodities and services. Food, clothing, personal care, medical care and entertainment expenditures vary quite directly with the size of the family while expenditures for equipment, housing and home furnishings are less variable as the size of the family changes.

The availability of the resources like time and energy for use increases as the size of the family increases. Similar to the size of the family, in the use of time, energy and other resources the composition of family assumes importance. If a large family is made up of adolescence and adults, more human resources are available' and extra demand on money resource may be expected. In a family where there is a grown up daughter, she may contribute to the availability of human resources by sharing the activities of her mother whereas a grown up boy may not be able to do so. Thus, the composition of the family in terms of sex affects the availability and use of their resources.

6. Motivation! Attitude:

Motivation is an internal attitude. It is the way people use what they have that is important in meeting and establishing their goal. It directs or limits the quantity, quality, and the mixture of resources that a person is willing to use in goal attainment. When two children of the same family have two different attitudes, the one with increased motivation and positive attitudes than the other child, will do a better job as compared to the other. In a family where there is no motivation of family members with unfavorable attitudes towards the availability and use of resources, it is likely to affect the kind and number of goals achieved by them.

7. Education:

Formal education has direct influence on the amount of income earned. Persons with increased education have more likelihood of earning better than others. Women with more of formal education tend to take up gainful employment and so have less number of children thereby affecting the size of the family. Educated people have more geographic mobility, increased income and economic stability.

8. Family Heritage and Cultural Background:

This is an influential factor in transmitting family values. In our Indian society, we have joint family system in which grandparents, parents and children live together. The traditions, values, beliefs of the family are transmitted from older generation to the younger generation orally.

The cultural background of the family also affects the use of resources as the eating and spending, hobbies, their beliefs, festivals, superstitions etc. all are governed by this factor. This directly influences the way family utilizes its resources on various occasions or similar situations.

9. Location of the Family:

The location of a family within any community in relation to shopping areas, schools, place of husband's work and so forth will affect the homemaker's use of time, energy and other resources. Families living near the city, all the community facilities such as markets, schools, parks, clubs, banks, post office, etc. will be easily available to the family that may affect the use of resources such as time, energy and specially the money.

There is some marked difference in the use of their resources between the families in village area from the city families. Village families make up for an exchange of values because of the close, almost enforced association of families. In a city, families are so busy within themselves that they have no time for socialization or to think of culture. Whatever they, need, they buy them from the market. Similarly, families living a good shopping complex will have the tendency of spending more on clothes, eating out, shopping, etc. and so on. Nearness to or being away from the place of work or a school may affect the expenditure on transport or similar needs.

10. Health:

Health of all family members is important in home management. It is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being. Illness can make increased demand on managerial activities and resources such as money, time and energy. All such major resources are diverted when a family member's health is affected. A family, which enjoys good health, has an increased availability of resources to utilize or to meet more of their needs.

The efficient utilization of resources for attaining the family goals is influenced by the following factors according to Bharti and Jecintha(1994).

Aim and objective: Any resource can be utilized differently by different families/individuals based on the aim and objective set by them and the specific needs.

Family set up: The use of resources differ greatly with the size, set up, stage of family life cycle and the values, goals and standards of the family.

Surroundings and environment: Effective use of resources is also influenced by the social as well as natural environment.

Education of family members: If the family members are educated, the resources are utilized more efficiently and effectively. Lack of education may lead to wastage of resources.

Ex: time utilization.

Skill and abilities of the home maker: The use of family resources is affected to a maximum extent by the skill and abilities of the house wife. A skillful and able home maker will use the resources more efficiently than the unskilled person.

Economic conditions of the family: Money is the most important resource both for attaining other resources as well as their usage.

Ex: use of soaps and detergents to wash cloths by a machine or a maid servant.

On management of resources, the essential thing to consider is the use of resources and not just the acquisition of goods, goals can be achieved only through the use of resources. Therefore the optimum distribution of resources determines the degree to which a family is actually striving towards a particular goal. Families should gear their management process towards

achievement of short term and long term goals and increase the satisfaction of the family members.