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Course: Home Management, B.A. part II

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Family Resources

Anything which satisfies our wants or needs is called resource. Family resources are those things which help in achieving the family goals. Without having resources, goals cannot be achieved. All resources are scarce and need management.

Types of resources

The common classification of family resources is based on their origin.

Family resources	
Human resources	Nonhuman resources
Knowledge	Money
Skill	Material goods
Attitude	Energy
Interest	Space
Human energy	
Time	

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Human resources

Human resources originate internally and are personal characteristics and attributes of human beings. They are less tangible and cannot be easily determined. Like other resources human resources are also limited. Knowledge, attitude, skill, human energy,interest attitude all are examples of human resource.

Nonhuman resources

Nonhuman resources are not the parts of human beings. They are acquired and developed by the human. Examples are money, community facilities, fuel, space, material and goods. They are tangible and easily identifiable .Nonhuman resources are also limited. Example of community facilities are: park, railway, bus services or any transportation facilities, hospitals etc. Material and goods include furniture, refrigerator, other household equipments which we utilise to make our lives comfortable.

Characteristics of resources

All resources are useful.

Definition of resource itself shows that anything which satisfies our needs or wants is called resource. So, utility is an important criteria for a thing to be used as a resource. A pen is an important resource for a student but it can't be resource for a labour. Utility of a thing varies from person to person.

According to Gross and Crandall, the usefulness of or value of a given element may be recognised only in relation to a specific goal.

We always need a combination of different resources to meet the various family goals.

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All Resources are limited

No resource is in abundance. If resources would be in abundance then management of resources is not required. The second important characteristic of resource is that all resources are limited .We can understand the thing by taking an example of money. It is an important nonhuman resource and is always limited. We have limited amount of money and once we spend, the amount gets scarce.

Similarly time is a very important human resource and everyone has 24 hrs a day .No one can save from this 24 hrs for future use and you cannot spend more than 24 hrs a day. Suppose we have a set goal and it has to be achieved in 5 days. So must develop a plan of work in such a way that we could reach our goal within this time period.

All resources are interrelated

We always need a resource mix to achieve our family goals. Some resources are more scarce while some are in sufficient quantity. We must know how to use scarce resource wisely and judiciously so that our set goals could be achieved .e.g. If a homemaker is well educated but has limited money .She can't afford tutor for her children. So in that case she may teach and guide them and save money. She can use her time in a more productive way. Replace more scarce resource with less scarce resource. Similarly a working homemaker may have money but less time .So in order to finish all household activities timely before leaving for job, she may take the assistance of paid helpers.