[Document Name] Claims

[Claim 1]

A method for producing a water-absorbent resin by performing a reversed-phase suspension polymerization of a water-soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer in a petroleum hydrocarbon dispersion medium, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of the steps;

forming an aqueous solution of a water-soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer containing a hydrophilic polymeric dispersion agent;

forming a mixture of a petroleum hydrocarbon dispersion medium and a hydrophobic polymeric dispersion agent;

adding and dispersing ~~an~~ the aqueous solution of a water-soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer containing ~~a~~ the hydrophilic polymeric dispersion agent to ~~a~~ the mixture of the petroleum hydrocarbon dispersion medium and the hydrophobic polymeric dispersion agent in the presence of a surfactant under stirring, and

performing a reversed-phase suspension polymerization using a radical polymerization initiator.

[Claim 2]

The method according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic polymeric dispersion agent is at least one kind selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol and polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

[Claim 3]

The method for producing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the surfactant is at least one kind selected from the group consisting of polyglyceryl fatty acid ester, sucrose fatty acid ester and sorbitan fatty acid ester.

[Claim 4]

The method for producing a water-absorbent resin according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the water-soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer is at least one