

(Pakaffairs)

Question no: 04

Since the emergence of Pakistan: population growth has not been addressed. Underscore its effects on the country's socio-economic climate.

Answer:

Introduction:

Since the inception of Pakistan, it has been facing huge crisis and challenges in maintaining peace and prosperity across the country. Population growth is one of the main issues and a looming threat for the country. Since the emergence of the state, the officials and politicians were indulged in the challenges of weak economic situation, security threats from India and early wars and neglecting the menace of huge population. It, however, becomes a nightmare and major issue for the sustainability of the country. Hence, there is a dire need to formulate a policy and take pragmatic measures to curb the increasing socio-economic challenges caused by population growth.

Causes of huge population growth:

01) High Fertility Rate:

The standard fertility rate is 2.1 birth per women. If it exceeds from

its average rate, it will count as a high fertility rate. Pakistan, however, has a fertility rate of 3.1 births per women, according to United Nations Children and Education Funds (UNICEF). Hence, it becomes a cause of high population growth.

02) Limited Access to Family Planning: ~ a Major Cause of population Growth ~

Population is increasing at a high rate across the country, which becomes an issue for the state administrators. Families have a limited access and awareness about family planning and contraceptives to control the birth rate.

03) Religious Hardliners contributes in misguiding the masses and be

Religious hardliners become another cause of increasing population. The mullahs and religious extremists groups are always started protests, if any person speaks about family planning and indulge in children birth debates. As a result, population is increasing at a high rate.

Socio-Economic Implications of Increasing Population Growth:

01) Strain on Economic Development and Growth:

The rate of increasing population becomes an issue for economic development and growth. It causes a strain on distributing resources and financial opportunities, to all and hinders the economic growth of the country.

02) Looming Threat of increasing poverty and Inequality in the society:

High population demands huge resources, such as, daily basic needs - water, infrastructure and healthy food. For an already fragile economic state, it is difficult to provide everyone each resource. Resultantly, poverty and disparity will increase. According to World Bank data of 2023, there is almost 31% poverty rate in Pakistan.

03) Unable to provide Quality Education ~ Crime increases and lead to social unrest ~

To provide quality education to every individual becomes difficult for the state and as a result, uneducated masses turn towards extremist groups and are easily manipulated by criminals. According to Global

Organized crime index 2023, the crime rate in Pakistan has reached to 4%.

04) Shortage of Healthcare Professionals and Resources:

With high population growth, state is unable to provide quality education, resultantly, shortage of professionals in many sectors. Such as, in health sector, according to World Health Organization data of 2023, only 0.8% physicians and 2.3% nurses per 1000 patients.

05) Enormous Joblessness among young graduates:

State is already facing huge crises in economic sector. Huge population further fuel the fire. The labor is exceeding the job creation capacity and unemployment rate has increased. According to International Labor Organization Statistics of 2023, unemployment rate in Pakistan exceeds 12%.

06) Food Insecurity and Strain on Agricultural Sector:

Huge population demands food and daily basic needs. It strains the already weak and outdated agricultural sector and increasing the threat of food insecurity. According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), it gives the

alert of increasing famine and food insecurity in a coming few years due to global food crises. Hence, increasing population further strains the available food resources.

Suggestive Measures to curb the challenges caused by Population Growth:

01) Promote Awareness and Access to Contraceptives Usage:

To control the increasing population, it is necessary for the state to promote online awareness about family planning along with huge availability of contraceptives to control the birth rate.

02) Reinvigorate Agriculture Sector to curb the Food Insecurity:

It is necessary and a high time to reinvigorate the agriculture sector with advanced machinery and new techniques. It will help in meeting the food and basic needs of huge population and reduce the threat of food insecurity.

03) Embedding Quality Education and Skill Development:

It is high time, states should work on transferring quality education and enhancing infrastructure and syllabus for imparting skills that meets market demand. It will help in meeting the needs of huge population.

04) Urban Planning to accommodate population growth:

Urban planning is also a measure, because to provide quality and safe environment to the masses for better health. Hence, it is necessary to draft a plan to accommodate population.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, Pakistan is facing a huge challenge of increasing population, since its inception. It has diverse socio-economic challenges, such as, huge economic disparity, high crime rate and social unrest. It can be curbed by using proper family planning campaigns, quality education and advancement for the peace and prosperity of the country.

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