

Essay

Lack of agricultural modernization and population explosion

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Introduction

Population growth rate is increasing exponentially which is a great concern for the survival of mankind. Over-population is a threat to the available resources on planet. Basic necessity of increased number of people is increased food availability, which is available through agriculture. But lack of modernisation of agriculture techniques in Pakistan is causing threat to food security to the

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Large population. Increased population and decreased agricultural yields cause a deficiency of basic necessities of life.

One of the major causes of backwardness of agricultural system of Pakistan is the lack of modern irrigation facilities. There are inadequate water facilities i.e. tubewells, ponds which are not fulfilling the basic necessities of water for agricultural land. Basically, a large area of agricultural land in Pakistan is dependent on natural resources i.e. rains. According to a report, only 28 percent of cultivable land in Pakistan is irrigated, while rest of the 72 percent is dependent on rain. Lack of modern irrigation facilities plays a weak havoc role in ~~the~~ a way of modernization of agricultural system of Pakistan.

One of the reasons for lack of agricultural modernisation is because of old traditional methods of cultivation which are still in use in Pakistan. Lack of installment of modern agricultural technology in agricultural system results in decreased productivity of agricultural goods. Almost quarter of 21st century has passed and old cultivation methods are still in use in Pakistan which is a hurdle in modernisation of agricultural system in Pakistan. Almost 78 percent of the agricultural land in Pakistan is still cultivated through traditional cultivation techniques. It proves to be a hurdle in the way of modernisation of agricultural system of Pakistan.

Natural calamities like unpredicted rains, floods etc are a hurdle in the path of modernisation

of Agriculture system in Pakistan.
These natural calamities lead to damage of all the modern infrastructure which is developed yet. It causes a wreak havoc to the agricultural yields.

According to a report, in 2022 floods which had hit Pakistan in monsoon, almost 4 Million acres of standing crops are destroyed which causes revenue losses of upto \$30 billion. and a lot of modern infrastructure is destroyed.

There are many causes of population explosion in Pakistan but one of the common is lack of family planning facilities - Less or no usage of birth-control contraceptives results in high population growth.

In Pakistan, there is much less usage of family planning techniques. According to survey, almost 70%

of women of child bearing age use no birth control methods. Lack of family planning activities causes a significant increase in fertility rates. According to a world bank report, fertility rate in Pakistan is approx. 3.56 births/women, which means each women has 3-4 children which is considered very high. Lack of awareness of family planning techniques causes a wreak havoc on the population growth of country.

Among many causes of population explosion in country, one of which is illiteracy among women or girls. Due to lack of educational awareness among masses, there is less awareness about population growth and its problems. Less than half of this country's women population had not ever

go to the school. According to a survey, in rural areas female literacy rate is about 36%, while in urban areas, it is about 68%, both are combined to show about 49%. Girls or women who do not go to school, they get married earlier than those who are educated or studying in educational institutions. Lack of awareness of education among women play a major role in population explosion in Pakistan.

Early child marriages is one of the main causes of over-population in the country. Early child marriages result in lack of education among masses which then results in lack of awareness.

A girl getting married at the age less than eighteen will bear more children than a girl getting married after 25 years of age.

According to a analysis carried out across 15 countries, women who married at the age of thirteen have on average 26.4% more live births than if they married at eighteen or afterwards. Even marrying at age of twenty than at eighteen causes a significant decrease in fertility rate. Child marriages causes a large increase in population growth.

One of the many causes of population explosion in Pakistan is large number of refugees from Afghanistan amid USSR invasion and US invasion in Afghanistan. Refugees causes a burden on Pakistan's already stagnant condition. It had started from 1979 after USSR invasion of Afghanistan and then US declared war on terror and ~~the~~ even after Taliban take over of power, many refugees

has crossed the border. As of Jan 2022, approximately, 3 Million Afghan refugees are living in Pakistan, about 1.4M are proof of registration cardholders, almost 8,40,000 hold Afghan citizen card, and estimated 775,000 are undocumented. (EUAA report, Afghan Refugees in Pakistan, 20 May 2022).

Large number of Afghan refugees ~~at~~ have caused a great problem in population explosion of Pakistan.

Due to lack of modernization of agricultural techniques, there are low agricultural yields which then causes food insecurity among masses. Even though, Pakistan was an agricultural country but it is not producing an ideal yield for everyday living of its people. Amid increased population over the years, the produced yield is not enough to meet the basic food necessities of

people of country. According to a report, total wheat yielded this year is 26.4 Million tonnes against a target of 28.4 Million tonnes. And estimated 26 Million people are food insecure. The low produced yield is not fulfilling the basic food necessities of growing population.

Malnutrition is becoming evident among masses especially in children due to low yields of agriculture and increased population growth. It is causing children to remain below their average weight and height due to below average intake of micronutrients and macronutrients. Many growth related issues are arising recently due to decrease intake of essential nutrients. According to National Nutritional survey 2018, childhood malnutrition are that 40% are children are stunted, 29% are

underweight and 18% are in wasting stage. Malnutrition is causing serious problems in children due to lack of essential nutrients.

Increased population growth lead to increased urbanization which results in decreased cultivable land. Population explosion is the reason for decrease in cultivable land to fulfil the needs of people for living. Cultivable land is a source of food for everyone and rural population is earning their living from agriculture. According to report of Kisan Board of Pakistan, 20-30% of fertile land in Punjab province produces 65% of country's total food requirement has been converted into housing schemes and industrial units, (Horizontal growth eating up agricultural lands, Pakistan today). Increased

urbanization is a need for increasing populations which causes a wreck havoc for agricultural land.

Increased population ~~is~~ result in higher demand of water which can lead to water scarcity. Water is the basic necessity of every human being and also required for agricultural, domestic and industrial needs. Pakistan is facing major water scarcity issues due to increase usage and over-population. According to PIDE, Pakistan ranks 14 out of 17 extreme high risk countries in the world. More than 80% of country's population faces severe water shortage. The situation is alarming as water being the essential necessity in every field of human being. Increased growth rate in

Pakistan lead to increased inflation among people. There are increased number of people whose standards in different aspects of life are below average. There is large number of people who are unemployed which is posing threat to the head of families who are supporting them. Recently there is rapid surge in inflation rate in Pakistan. According to a Global Report Index, Pakistan stands at 6th position in inflation in the world with a percentage rise to 38%. Inflation is causing headache to the families due to larger family sizes.

Unprecedented increase in population causes a decline in balance between available resource and number of people. Increase growth in Pakistan is causing eating up of all the available

resources either natural or man-made. There is decrease in availability of food, water, employment, education facilities and all the other necessities of life. Almost 60% of population who want to have a better education and reasonable employment. However, with a available resources in the country, it is a difficult task to provide high standards education and employment.

Balance between population and available resources is very necessary for balanced life.

Women empowerment is very important to curb the increase in population explosion. Women should be empowered enough with a say in the society, so that she can take stand for herself, for her health. It is very important for every women to take a decision, when and how many

children she wanted to have. It would result in decrease maternal and infant mortality rates, better women health and decrease in population. According to a report, 0.7% increase use of family planning methods would lead to fewer infant deaths and 600 fewer maternal deaths. Women empowerment is important for the aim of decreased population.

No country can achieve the desired population levels if they kept child marriages and family planning as optional rather than compulsory. Legislative actions should be taken against child marriages, women education and restriction of family planning methods. It is the last choice which can help in decreasing population growth in Pakistan. Populous country

China had ~~new~~ controlled its population through "implementation of one child policy" which they imposed through legislative action. It is very important for developing countries like Pakistan to take strict actions to control their increased population.

Use of modern agricultural technology is very important to increase the agricultural yields for this increased population. Farmers should be provided with financial incentives and tools, equipments which are required for the better agricultural yields. Farmers should be given awareness about water usage, use of pesticides and insecticides. According to a report, Netherlands had become a largest food exporter by diminishing the use of insecticides and

pesticides. And by usage of modern techniques. Pakistan can also learn the lesson and can get progress in agricultural system.

It is very important to improve the water irrigation facilities for agricultural lands to improve the agricultural production. Considering the water shortage in our country, it is important for government to ~~in~~ facilitate the construction of new dams and ~~use~~ spread the modern irrigation system.

Water is very important for crops, which requires efficient irrigation system to provide crops with ample amount of water, so that agricultural yield would increase and would be enough for this increase population.

Conclusion:

Population growth is increasing day by day, which is posing threat for the survival of no humans. It is important to eliminate all the factors which are helping in increased population techniques and devising techniques to curb this growth. Agriculture is providing food and employment to the masses, so its modernisation is also very important to increase the yields, so that increase number of population can get their needs fulfilled. It is also important for the social economic development of country.