

Q. No. 4

Youth bulge in Pakistan: an asset or liability?

Outline:

I. Introduction

Thesis Statement: Youth bulge in Pakistan is indeed an asset as it can transform the country's economy, political set-up and social order. On the contrary, some people opine that youth bulge in the country will prove to be a liability because it inflicts more damages than goods. However, youth bulge has a more constructive role than destructive on account of a number of reasons.

II. Profile of youth bulge in Pakistan

III. Youth bulge is indeed an asset for the country:

- A. Provides labour force
- B. Increases economic activity
- C. Expands the network of entrepreneurship
- D. Acts as a source of remittances
- E. Offers new leadership
- F. Augments political participation
- G. Ensures political accountability
- H. Challenges feudalistic order
- I. Plays role in gender equality

J. Bolsters soft power of the country

IV. Some people opine that youth bulge in Pakistan proves to be a liability:

- A. Lack of education
- B. Limited jobs opportunities
- C. Increase in extremist tendencies
- D. Uncontrolled brain drain

V. Youth bulge is not a liability because of its constructive role and optimism:

- A. Growth in education
- B. Potentials of various sectors to provide jobs
- C. More tolerance in educated youth
- D. Brain drain as a source of remittances and soft power

VI. Conclusion

Demographic time bomb is ticking in Pakistan today. The country is fifth largest demographic power in the world. Youth constitutes the major chunk of the country's population. Given the economic and political woes of Pakistan, increasing youth population is a subject of debate whether it becomes an asset or a liability in the long run. Indeed, youth bulge in Pakistan will be an asset for the country because it provides labour force, increases economic activities, expands the network of entrepreneurship and acts as a source of remittances. Similarly, youth bulge also brings forth new leadership to sail the country out of different crises, augments political participation to strengthen democracy and ensures political accountability. Besides this, it can challenge feudalistic social order, bridge the gender gap and bolster the country's soft power. Nevertheless, skeptics are with the view that youth bulge will prove to be a liability because of lack of education, limited jobs opportunities, growth in extremist tendencies and brain drain. However, youth will play a constructive role on account of its growing education rate, potential of different sectors to absorb youth for employment, more tolerance in literate youth and remittances from overseas skill and non-skill labours. In fact, youth bulge in Pakistan is an asset because it can

transform the country's economy, political setup, and social order. On the contrary, some people opine that youth bulge will prove to be a liability because it inflicts more damages than perceived goods. However, youth bulge has a more constructive role - than destructive on account of a number of reasons.

To begin with, the youth profile of Pakistan is quite promising. It constitutes greater part of the population - than old generation. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the youth population constitutes more than 60 per cent of national demography. Moreover, As per Pakistan's first Digital and 7th Census 2023, the country's population rose to 241 million, and youth constitutes about 67 per cent. It shows that Pakistan's youth population is growing at an unprecedented rate that will make Pakistan the top youth bulge population in the world. Youth bulge will offer many more boons to the country provided that it is ready to harness that population for the greater interest of the nation.

Obviously, youth bulge provides a generous number of labour force to Pakistan. Those countries have a large youth population, they cannot