

encompassing countries with huge potential for economic development. Explain.

**Q.5** Write a comprehensive note on the growth of population in Pakistan and underscore its effects on the country's socio-economic climate.

## Question

Write a note on growth of population in Pakistan and underscore its effects on country's socio-economic Climate.

## Introduction:

For the Pakistan is the world's fifth most populous nation, it is passing through one of most difficult times in its socio-economic and political history. The cash-strapped country is braving a record 29% inflation. The dollar hungry country is also reeling from last year's devastating flood that caused economic damages of estimated at more than 30bn.

## Findings related to Pakistan in world population.

According to UNPD, Pakistan will be 283 mn - strong by 2030 if its federal and provincial authorities do not join hand to hands to arrest the growth rate.

Pakistan started its family planning

programme in 1965 but it is lagging far behind its regional peers like Bangladesh, Iran and Turkey in improving access to family planning. These three countries have achieved a total fertility rate of 2.3%, 2.1% and 2.3% compared with Pakistan's 3.6%.

## Significance of Population

### Growth:

#### 1) Better human capital:

A large population is perceived to mean greater human capital, higher economic growth and improved standard of living.

However, if not managed properly it can lead to war, internal conflicts and ruptured social fabrics.

#### 2) Better economic growth:

Better economic growth is brought by increased economic activities due to higher working age population and lower dependent population.

### 3) High working population:

In the 2022, employment to population ratio for Pakistan was 49.9%. But by creating more jobs leads to economic growth. Then employees are paid and human capital improves of country.

### Effects on Pakistan's socio-economic climate

Pakistan is facing a major socio-economic predicament due to rapidly growing population caused by illiteracy, unemployment, patriarchal societal patterns, inept leadership, <sup>and</sup> lack of proper awareness about birth control.

Here are following the effects of youth population described:-

### 4) Poor standard of living:

Standard of living

is determined by per capita income and economic growth of country. However in present world, the population explosion overpowers every other crisis particularly in developed countries. In Pakistan, it has disrupted standard of living by jolting the demand and supply mechanism.

As per statistics of ~~Trading Economic~~ <sup>World Bank</sup> Global Macro Models, the inflation rate in country is to rise about 29.5% in 2023 due to high energy and food prices. Hence, it sustains the standard of living, but checking population growth leads to more balanced society.

2) Population growth leads to poverty,  
population growth seems to be a major contributor of vicious cycle of poverty in developing

economies. People are compelled to spend a significant portion of their income.

According to World Bank estimates, based on the lower middle income poverty rate, Pakistan's poverty rate <sup>was</sup> 39.3% in 2020-21.

Furthermore, decrease in <sup>per</sup> capita income and increase in overall price level result in significant cost of living result in encapsulating the country with poverty. Hence, to curb the menace of poverty, the government must take steps to make improvements in agriculture and industry sectors to reduce shortage of essential commodities.

The rapid growth of population is accounting for poverty.

(Ishaat Hussain)

3) Emerging water crisis:

Population growth crisis in Pakistan is the root cause of

emerging water crisis in the country.

The global water crisis report of United Nations (UN) has placed Pakistan in the fourteen position among countries facing extreme water crisis.

Rising population, along with the rapid urbanisation and climate change, is the cause of widening gap between water availability and water requirement.

The IMF has placed Pakistan in the third position among the countries facing acute water shortage. Around 80% of people living in 24 major cities of Pakistan do not access to the clean drinking water.

6) Giving rise to unemployment:

Similarly, an explosion in population gives rise to the large numbers of people coming to labour

market; however, economically struggling country cannot provide employment to all. As matter of fact, despite all endeavours, it is not feasible to employ everyone because no of jobs seekers expanding exponentially. Likewise, in Pakistan, disguised employment, unemployment are common elements overshadowing the country.

According to ILO, Pakistan's employment to population ratio in 2023 fell well below its pre-crisis trend line at 47.6% while

no of unemployed person expected to reach 5.6m a surge of 1.5m since 2021. As Andres Velasco correctly states that

"An increase in the size of population is giving rise to unemployment in country."

## Way Forward

1) Boost Entrepreneurship :-

support growth of small and



medium size businesses through tax incentives and financial assistance.

### 2) Create awareness: and provide tools

The centre and provinces need to give families, particularly information and tools required to help them plan the desired number of children - This can help reduce unwanted pregnancies

Providing women information and contraceptives through culturally appropriate methods can aid the goal of planned parenthood.

### 3) Present Islamic states examples:

The notion of planned families that it is against religious norms can be disabused by pointing towards the - Iran, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia - and all muslim states that have successfully reduced the population growth -

## Conclusion

### 1) Avoid extremes policies:

Pakistan should stay away from the extremes, policies such as one child scheme that infringe on personal rights as well as letting the population grow unhindered. Instead, balanced and progressive community led and state supported initiatives are needed to encourage family planning.