

Topic: Pakistan's population, instead of a natural advantage, can turn into a crisis if young people are unable to find economic opportunities.

Outline:

- 1- Introduction
- 2- Current Overview of Pakistan's Population
- 3- A Brod View of Economic Conditions in Pakistan
- 4- How Youth Bulge can turn into a Crisis?
  - A- Alarming increase in the Brain Drain
    - a) case in point: Report of Buseau of Statistics 2023
  - B- Rise in Populism and Ethnic Tensions
    - b) case in point: Unrising Regionalism
  - C- Reduction in Economic Growth
    - c) case in point: Less Tax Revenues
  - d- Decrease in consumer spending
    - d) case in point: Report of State Bank of Pakistan
  - e- leads to ~~street~~ protests and social Tensions
    - e) case in point: Baloch Student's Protests



f-	Tool of Terrorist Organizations
f)	Case in point: Report of Amin-ul-Molahideen
g-	Threat to Law and order situation
g)	Case in point: DAWN's Report
5-	Suggestions for turning Crisis into Advantage
A-	Invest in Skill Based Education
B-	Diversification of Economy
C-	Prioritise Small-Medium Businesses
D-	Foster Partnerships Between Industries and Academia
E	Provision of Easy Installments <sup>of Loan</sup> to Youth
6-	Conclusion



Youth, is the most powerful agent of cohesive society and holds the ability to bring pragmatic changes to country. Youth bulge in Pakistan can be both: an asset or a crisis. Pakistan is the 5th most populous country in the world. It is also the most young country in the world with 64 percent young people. It is becoming a ticking bomb because of weak economic conditions of Pakistan. The youth of Pakistan is unable or less to survive. The international economic institutes have revealed different reports which highlights weak macroeconomic condition of Pakistan. In this case, the youth of country can turn into another crisis for Pakistan such as alarming increase in brain drain, rise in populism and ethnic tensions, reduction in economic growth and decrease in consumer spending. Moreover, it can lead to street protests and social tensions,



become tool of terrorist organizations and threat to law and order situation.

However, Pakistan has abundant talent in youth and they can make significant progress to country. This can drive the transition of country to unused potential if the policy makers implement apt policies. The government should invest

in skill-based education, diversify economy and foster partnerships between industries and academia. Besides that, the government should provide easy installment of loans to young people.

Pakistan is facing internal threat in the form of population's explosion.

It can be asset or crisis. The government needs to make multidisciplinary policies in order to turn crisis into asset as the weak economic system can further catalyse this crisis.

Currently, Pakistan is the 5th most populated country of the world with 246 million people. The majority



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of population is ~~comprised~~ comprises of young people. According to the Demographic Survey 2023, the country has 64 percent youth between age of 15 and 29. It shows that Pakistan is a young country in term of population. It is also expected that population would be 270 million in 2050 which is alarming as the ministries of population and planning hinted out that "Population trumps all."

The economic conditions in Pakistan are painting glooming picture. All the international indicators of economic institutions are not satisfying with pace of progress of economy in the Pakistan. Ultimately, it has resulted in less opportunities for youth to thrive and contribute to country's progress. As per report of the United Nation's Development Index, Pakistan has 24 million unemployed University graduates. This report shows how youth in Pakistan,



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is unable to find economic opportunities in Pakistan.

Following paragraphs show that how youth bulge can turn into crisis if there are no opportunities for them in Pakistan.

Firstly, Pakistan has number of doctors, engineers and IT experts. The fragile economic system is not creating jobs and opportunities enough to meet their requirement. ~~As a~~

~~result,~~ they are leaving the country for better future. This alarming ~~increase in brain~~ drain leads to death of

skilled people in country. According to report of Bureau of Statistics 2023, almost 8 lacs people have left the country. Majority of them was professional degree holders. Thus, brain drain is alarming for Pakistan.

Secondly, ~~the increase in population leads to increase populism and ethnic tensions~~ Pakistan is

already a polarized country with sub-nationalism and regionalism. The ~~use of~~ economic opportunities further fuel the



dividend upto concerning extent.

The youth of these marginalized areas feel sense of depriveness and aloofness. The case in point is Balochistan and South-Punjab. The youth here is demanding quotas in jobs and opportunities. So, the population with less economic opportunities fuel regionalism.

Thirdly, the unemployed youth is burden on economy. The majority of youth are not having economic opportunities and unable to pay taxes which is the backbone of economy. The reduction in tax revenues will cost negatively for the economy. The report of Federal Board of Revenue has revealed that only 2.4% Pakistanis pay taxes annually. Therefore, it is another crisis for country.

Moreover, the population with no economic opportunities is not a good man for country's progress. The people with no opportunities are unable to spend on their lives for better standards of



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living. With a low income, one can not buy for all better living conditions. It leads to decrease in consumer spending which affects economy of country. The State Bank of Pakistan has shed light in its report that there is a 29 percent decrease in spending of people in 2023. Thus, this is another impact.

Additionally, the youth with no economic opportunities leads to street protests and social tensions. The frustrated young people are ticking bombs which might be exploded in future if economic conditions would not be better. The recent street protests of Baloch people in Gwadar is case in point. They demanded economic opportunities in the ongoing mega project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. So, it causes social tensions.

Besides that, the youth becomes tool of extremist organization which leads to security threat to the country.



The terrorist organization Amn-ul-Mujahideen and Khyber National have influenced young people for their petty interests. The student from Karachi University has been rescued by the intelligence force who is influenced by a terrorist organization according to report of Pakistan Peace Institute. The young people of marginalized areas are more volatile to these groups. Therefore, it is crisis for Pakistan.

Earlier, the population with less economic opportunities is threat to law and order situation. The young people are more inclined to crimes and unlawful activities. The DAWN newspaper has reported that snatching and kidnapping are mostly planned by young people to get ransom in return. Another case reported was dacoity in Karachi where young master degree holder was involved. The population explosion is threat to law and order of country if their potential is not used by

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policy makers for country's progress.

The untapped potential of youth can be turned into an advantage by following suggestions.

Firstly, the government should invest in skill-based education.

Pakistan has skill rate below 1 which is minimum required rate according to UNCTAD's Frontier Technology Readiness. There are 11 millions Pakistanis in the Middle East and among these, 76% are unskilled. So, the

skill based education can help to turn crisis into an advantage.

Secondly, the government should diversify economy. It helps in creating innovations and attracting foreign investment for young people. The inclusion of

Commander basic language is fine  
opportunities to youth. Hence, diversification of economy is helpful in this regard.

Thirdly, the government should prioritise small-medium businesses approaches. The young people should be provided with business friendly atmosphere.

with business friendly atmosphere.



The national conferences and exhibition can be helpful in this regard. It leads youth to show and bring out their potential for market.

Furthermore, the government should foster partnerships between industries and academia. The universities should be linked with industries in order to produce skilled graduates.

The young graduated students with no skills are just a heap of dust and unable to find opportunities for themselves which ultimately leads to crisis. Therefore, the government should make a bridge and foster collaboration between industries and universities.

Lastly, the government should design loan schemes for young people. The mechanism of providing loans should be easy and business friendly. It would help youth to establish their own businesses.

The government of Pakistan has already started numerous programmes in this regard which



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are aidful.

In a nutshell, Pakistan is a populated country and majority of population is in young age bracket.

It can be asset or crisis.

The fragile economic conditions and unemployed young population ~~is now become~~ **Has now become**

a ticking bomb which can be exploded and ~~destabilized~~

introduce instability into political, social, security and governing domains. However, the untapped

potential of youth can be turned into an advantage

by designing and implementing policies that yields long term economic results. The

above mentioned suggestions can be helpful in this regard.

There is need multidisciplinary approaches to avoid turning of advantage into crisis.

