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Youth Bulge in Pakistan: As asset or liability

I- Introduction

Thesis statement:

A youth bulge can either become an asset or liability depending on how young population is engaged in productive activities. However, in the case of Pakistan, the fast-rising youth bulge seems to be a constantly ticking time bomb instead of strength.

II- Brief overview of Pakistan's demographic profile

III- Youth bulge in Pakistan: a liability

(A) Political factors responsible for youth bulge acting as a liability

(i) Limited avenues for upward mobility fostering resentment

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ii- Absence of youth from legislation and policy making

iii- Lack of policies to exploit youth potential

(B) Economic factors responsible for youth bulge acting as a liability

i- High youth unemployment rate converting youth strength into burden

ii- A veritable lack of utilization of the human capital in the country.

(C) Social factors responsible for youth bulge acting as a liability.

i- Poor educational outcome perpetuating the cycles of poverty and marginalization
Case in point: misalignment between educational programs and market demands

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ii- Undernourishment and malnourishment leading to stunted mental and physical growth

iii- Embracement of radical views by frustrated youth disrupting social peace

(D) Digital illiteracy responsible for youth bulge acting as a liability

i- Digital stagnation hindering the ability of youth to compete global economy

ii- Limited access to online services and opportunities

(E) Religious factor responsible for youth bulge acting as a liability

i- Religious education and ideological indoctrination limiting societal progress and innovation

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ii- Disillusioned and marginalized youth becoming a recruitment pool for extremist organizations

IV- How to make the youth bulge of Pakistan an effective asset?

(a) Focusing on education reforms to improve access, quality, and relevance of education

(b) Harnessing the youth potential through targeted policies and investment

(c) Advocating for social welfare program

(d) Allowance of politically active youth in political parties

(e) Need for aptitude assessment and career counseling

v- Conclusion

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Youth bulge represents a substantial asset for a nation's future development and prosperity. With the large population of young people comes a wealth of innovation, economic prosperity, and political stability provided the youth being literate, educated, trained, and employed. However, in the case of Pakistan, this youth bulge is more than just a demographic nightmare. According to Pakistan's National Development Report, the youth forms 64% of Pakistan's total population, with the annual growth rate of 2-7%. Unfortunately, this huge number is only adding to the burden of on an already stunted economy. Various factors are responsible for making the youth a liability to the nation. Lack of policies to harness youth potential, high unemployment ratios, and, most importantly, less investment in education are some of the defining reasons converting the strength of youth into weakness. Such issues raise concerns

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about the creditability of the youth in navigating the pressing challenges of technological stagnation and mental retardation in terms of creativity. However, there is still the potential of addressing the hurdles, which ~~impedes~~ has been impeding the trajectory of youth to become an asset. Focusing on educational reforms, advocating for social welfare programs, and employing targeted policies for exploiting the youth potential could navigate the problems associated with youth acting as a liability. With sagaciously employing such measures, Pakistan could gain stability and prosperity by converting the youth into valuable asset.