

POPULATION GROWTH VS RESOURCE ALLOCATION: A POLICY DILEMMA FOR PAKISTAN

Outline

A. Introduction

B. An Overview of the Relationship between Population and Resources

C. How is Population Growth vs Resource Allocation a Policy

Dilemma in Pakistan:

i. Rapidly growing population, on one hand, in need of basic necessities of life and incapacity of government to fulfill or manage them, on the other hand.

(World Bank Report, 2025)

ii. Rising levels of illiteracy multiplying population and lack of space in public schools to accommodate it.

(25 m out of school children)

iii. Rapidly increasing population requiring healthcare facilities vs inadequacy of doctors and healthcare sources.

(Per capita spending on healthcare)

iv. Youth bulge and unemployment as a result of ticking population

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and poor efficiency of economic sectors to employ.

(Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-2024)

v. Vulnerability of big states of population to climate catastrophes vs infrastructural lapses to prevent damage.

(Successive floods in Pakistan)

vi. Need to upgrade the skills of growing population in the light of digital innovation and the paucity of digital technology in country.

(India vs Pakistan)

vii. Horizontal growth of human societies vs depletion of agricultural land and looming threat of food crisis.

(Growth of cities in Pakistan)

D. Root Causes of Policy Dilemma On Population Growth and Resource Allocation in Pakistan:

i. Political entanglements and carelessness on part of policy-makers towards population crisis and resource allocation.

(Political turmoil and short-term policies)

ii. Lack of consensus on societal level on the imperils of unplanned population growth.

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prompting a dilemma in policy-makers to control it.

(Divided Public Opinion and Religious Opposition)

- iii. Economic crisis, disturbed supply and demand and fight over resources providing room to the issue of growing population.

(The Neglected Crisis by Maleha Lodhi)

E. Impacts of Policy Dilemma on Population Growth and Resource Allocation:

- a) Brain-drain in Pakistan.
- b) Grievances of marginalised areas on resource allocation
- c) Serious implications on national integration
- d) Environmental degradation

F. Way Forward to End the Policy Dilemma on Population Growth and Resource Allocation:

- i. Developing a strategy to control population by the will of all stakeholders.

(Case study of Turkey)

- ii. Dissemination of awareness in public on population control.

(China Policy on Population Control)

- iii. Methodical utilisation of available

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resources for capacity-building in
terms of education and healthcare and
sustainable population.

(Amartya Sen)

G. Conclusion