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# WE ARE RICH IN HUMANS NOT HUMAN RESOURCES

## I. Introduction

### a- Thesis statement

Population explosion has caused an existential threats to humanity by depleting water reserves, clean air, forest reservoirs, food supplies, mineral wealth, fuel, health facilities and quality education.

## II- Explanation of phrase, Rich in Humans not in Resources

## III- HOW POPULATION INCREASE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO RESOURCE DEPLETION

- 1- Limited Carrying Capacity of Earth
- 2- Limited Water Resources
- 3- Over population caused Air Pollution
- 4- Over population induced Deforestation
- 5- Limited Food Availability
- 6- Limited Mineral Resources
- 7- Limited Health Facilities
- 8- Over population and compromise on quality education.

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## IV - CONCLUSION

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## THE ESSAY

According to Ibn e Khuldan, a renowned social philosopher of middle ages, greatest threats to human civilizations are due to internal factors rather than external one. Today, social scientists and researchers hold the consensus that the resource depletion is one of the major threat looming on humanity. Humans have fought wars over centuries and millions were killed in these wars yet humanity survived. This is because wars killed humans not human's resources. But the population explosion in 21<sup>st</sup> century has led to resource depletion. In 21<sup>st</sup> century, alien attacks, epidemics and even nuclear bombs do not possess as <sup>much</sup> threat to humanity as the population explosion alone. Population explosion is leading towards resource depletion in form of decrease in earth's carrying capacity, water resources, clean air, fuel reserves, mineral resources, food reserves and less social and developmental institutions.

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like schools and hospitals. These limited reserves of resources have far reaching impacts on human survival.

To begin with, ~~one~~ ~~major~~  
The phrase "Rich in Humans but not in human resource" means that over population and availability of limited resources in modern age. A surge in population is recorded in recent times with world population reaching the 8.2 billion in 2026. Advancement in medical science decreased the death rate at one end and increased the birth rate by providing fertility techniques like in vitro fertilization. The increase in population led to exploitation of natural resources, more food, water and fuel was required for more people. Likewise, for daily usage items, more industries and more production was needed. This led to deforestation and minerals exploitation. Ultimately, more humans we have now, but the available resources are limited.

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To begin with, one way through which human population has led to less resources is decrease of earth's carrying capacity. Carrying capacity refers to earth's ability to host a certain number of people at a specific geographical location. With increase in population, the earth's carrying capacity is becoming full with each passing day. According to a research study published by John Hopkins research institute in 2023, if the population growth continued at the current rate, Earth's carrying capacity will be saturated till 2045. This is an alarming indicator, as earth will not be able to host more people and land availability will be an issue leading towards wars. Thus increasing population has led to a decrease in availability of land resources.

Similarly, humans are facing issue of water resources as well. Increase in population also caused the depletion of available water resources.

↑ rapidly.  
Firstly, the more population require more water for drinking purpose. Secondly, the water is required for agricultural purpose and more population requires more agricultural activities. Hence more water is required. But water resources are limited and are not sufficient for growing population. The water available in  $\text{cm}^3$  per person, as reported by EPA, is less than the daily need of 40% population in India, 35% population in Pakistan and 50% population in Afghanistan. This shows that water resources are not sufficient compared to population growth. Like the availability of clean water, access to clean ~~water~~ <sup>air</sup> is also not available to majority of population. This is because the clean air has been destroyed by population explosion. Increase in industrial production has poisoned the air with dangerous chemicals. Likewise, increase in vehicles due to overpopulation has added the fuel to the fire. Agriculture linked air pollution <sup>has</sup> polluted the air in the

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same way. Thus the availability of clean air has become a luxury for most of the world population. In this way population explosion has depleted the precious air, vital for life.

In the same fashion, the forest reserves are also depleted and are now limited in number. Forests play a vital role in cleaning the air and are precious source of wild life. They increase the aesthetic beauty of the mother Earth. But due to population growth, trees are cut. Forests have <sup>been</sup> cut to provide shelter, obtain agricultural land and to get fuel and make luxury items. Thus, the number of forests have been decreased significantly. According to UNEP, 33% of the state land <sup>should</sup> must have forests. But only few states have forests in their  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd area. Thus forest resources are also depleted compared to humans on the earth.

likewise, food availability is also

not sufficient for the population. According to the UN, 32% of the world population is living below the poverty line with 26% population has not access to two times meal. This report is a manifestation of depleted food resources. Availability of balanced diet is another related issue. According to UNWA, 35% of the average child population either suffers from kwashiorkor or marasmus or both. Both these disorders are caused by malnutrition. Both these reports show status of limited resource availability to growing population.

In the same way, mineral reserves are also limited. Minerals are essential for industrial processes. Overpopulation has caused the over-exploitation of mineral reserves. Mineral reserves of the Earth are not limitless. But the rate of population growth is increasing day by day. Copper and silicon reserves has been exploited to an extent that these resources are about to become

new wax fronts, as quoted by various security analysts like Barry Buzan. This is on evidence that Earth's mineral resources are not sufficient for population it has.

In the continuation of mineral resources, the Earth's fossil fuel resources are also limited and may end soon. According to a report, the oil reserves of the world are expected to end till 2060. The US has been safeguarding its oil reserves while exporting oil from middle East is a classical manifestation of depletion of oil reserves. The initiation of projects like Niom by KSA is another attempt to decrease the dependency from oil based income. Likewise, the race for electric based vehicles also show that world has realized that oil and fossil fuel reserves are not unlimited. All these efforts by international actors reflect the depleted oil reserves, insufficient for humans.

Like the resources, social resources like availability of health facilities is another resource issue. As the population is growing with a limitless speed, the states are not able to ensure the availability of health

facilities. Thus, it has lead to availability of limited hospitals and related facilities for such a huge population. Like health sector, education sector has also been not able to cope with increasing humans. Thus most of the developing states having rapid population growth lack the facility of proper education. Take the example of Pakistan. Around 2.5 million children <sup>are out of school in</sup> Pakistan, 5<sup>th</sup> largest state on bases of population. Same is the case of other developing populous state. This show that increasing population face shortage of educational resources.

To conclude, resource availability has sufficiently decreased ~~to~~ and is no more able to fullfill the needs of population. Essential resources like water, food, clean air and fossil fuels are at the verge of depletion and are becoming ~~star~~ unavailable to vast population with each passing day. Pertinent measures are required to cope with the menace of population explosion to combat the looming existential threat to humanity.