

## Youth bulge in Pakistan: an asset or a liability

### 1) Introduction:

#### a) Youth bulge

→ The balance between advantages and drawbacks of Youth bulge will shape Pakistan's future trajectory. Youth bulge in Pakistan embodies the potential for economic growth and innovation, but also presents the challenge of managing unemployment and strained resources.

### 2) The Asset perspective:

#### A) Potential Advantages of youthful population:

- a) Demographic dividend and economic growth
- b) Innovation and entrepreneurship
- c) Potential for building a skilled workforce

3) The liability perspective:

- a) Unemployment and underemployment
- b) Strain on public services like education and healthcare
- c) Political and social instability

4) Education and skill development:

- a) Education system of Pakistan
- b) Challenges in providing quality education and vocational training
- c) Potential for improvement in education system

5) Economic factors:

- a) Relationship between youth bulge and economic growth
- b) Policies that can leverage youth population to boost economy
- c) Importance of job creation and labour market reforms

6) Conclusion

The urge to reproduce is one of the strongest human urges. To pass on one's genes is an inherent motivation for all species, including human beings. According to United Nations Fund for Population, it took humans millions of years to reach population of 1 billion, whereas it only took another 200 years for human population to reach 7 billion. Pakistan is the 5th largest population holder in the world, the balance between advantage and drawbacks of Youth bulge will shape Pakistan's future trajectory. Youth bulge in Pakistan embodies the potential for economic growth and innovation, but also presents the challenge of managing unemployment and strained resources. For example, according to the Pakistan economic survey, in fiscal year 2018-2019 agriculture saw only 0.8% growth.

while population growth was 2.4%.  
Pakistan already being a food  
insecure country this population growth  
could further alleviate Pakistan's food  
insecurity problem. However, few  
people are of the view that  
high population is useful as it  
can lead to economic growth as  
useful labour. Labour is unproductive  
in itself unless it is skilled and  
For skilled labour capital and  
education are required.

Skilled labour can serve as  
our demographic dividend as it can  
result in economic growth. As  
this skilled labour can be exported  
to other countries and also work  
in Pakistan's industry and add to  
the workforce. Labour which is  
exported will send remittances to  
Pakistan which can in turn  
change current account deficit to

current account surplus.

Skilled labour force and educated youth could work together and produce new innovative technologies which can be exported to the rest of the world and increase Pakistan's export and reduce the economic strains on Pakistan's economy which are existing due to fewer exports and excessive imports, furthermore this skilled labour can be used in new Industries which are aimed at providing Import substitution products.

This youth bulge is also a source of economic strain on the already collapsing weak economy of Pakistan as unemployment has risen in the last decade which in turn has forced the majority of Pakistanis

population to fall below the poverty line as the whole world had come to a stand still in terms of economic growth since the onset of covid-19.

This youth bulge also serves as an economic strain on public services such as education and healthcare. Pakistan is already insufficient in numbers of medical service providers and educational institutes. This increase of population in terms of youth means that more of the population will be needing these facilities for longer periods of time as the youth is expected to live for longer periods of time and Pakistan does not have the capital to support this Youth bulge.

The increase in population in form of youth also gives rise to Political and social instability in Pakistan as this Youth is being indoctrinated by different factions and their hyper-activeness often incites them to take radical actions against those who do not conform to their own socio-political views. This in turn creates security problems in the country which leads to more instability in the country which discourages foreign investors from investing in Pakistan.

If the youth in Pakistan can be utilized as an asset it requires an excellent education system which can impart in it both the knowledge and skill set to compete in the

extremely competitive workforce of the world but unfortunately the education system of Pakistan is not upto the mark as Pakistan's education system ranks on 50th position in the world.

It becomes a challenge for education system of Pakistan to provide quality education and vocational training to the youth of Pakistan and if this issue cannot be resolved more and more youth becomes dependent on the government of Pakistan to fulfill it's needs for survival which in turn causes the further collapse of already collapsing economy of Pakistan. in order to improve the education system of Pakistan more capital and infrastructure is required for improving the education system.



of Pakistan so that this youth bulge can be transformed into an asset of Pakistan.

Youth bulge and economy of a country have a direct relationship with each other; However this relationship is beneficial only when the youth of a country is educated and skilled enough to compete with the rest of the world. Unless it is not skilled just like any other commodity a country possesses it will turn into a liability for that country.

Policies need to be made to leverage this Youth bulge to boost economy of Pakistan. This can be done in a number of ways such as Improving transfer channels for youth

so that it can go and work in developed countries through proper government channels and then send back the money it generates through government channels back to their families this will only happen when they get favourable currency exchange rates. Such policies need to made and then implemented as soon as possible in order to utilize this youth buldge that Pakistan possesses.

Job creation opportunities should be made inside the country by doing industrialization on massive scale in the country. Industries should be established in areas of comparative advantage such as textile and also these industries need to be established which can serve as import substitution for those sectors in which Pakistan imports heavily.

In conclusion, the youth bulge in Pakistan stands at a critical crossroad as it embodies the potential for transforming the country into a developed country with a thriving economy and continuous improvement but it is only possible when education sector of Pakistan is improved along with massive policy reforms to support the youth so it can effectively work towards improving the economy of Pakistan. According to the current scenario the youth bulge is serving as a liability for Pakistan's strained economy and in the future will be cause of further deterioration of Pakistan's resources as this youth will be dependent on the government to fulfill its own needs.