

Name : ASADULLAH Batch : ISB - 08 - 050

LMS ID : 24061 - 050 - ISB - 08

Mock - 5

English Essay

4 - Youth Bulge in Pakistan : an Asset or a Liability?

Outline

Thesis Statement : π

The youth bulge in Pakistan, while potentially valuable, is currently a liability due to challenges related to the country's economy, politics, governance, education, employment, and social issues.

A - Introduction :

Youth bulge is a liability in Pakistan

B - Understanding Youth Bulge in Pakistan :

An overview on Pakistan's demographics

C - Youth Bulge in a Pakistan is a Liability (Thesis)

(a) The citizens of Pakistan have poor access to resources and facilities

(b) Economic crisis in Pakistan is because of overpopulation

(c) Strain on education and healthcare systems

(d) Unemployment is high due to over -

Population

(e) Increased brain drain and crime rates is because of overpopulation

D- Youth Bulge in a Pakistan is an Asset (Anti-thesis)

(a) Cheap labour availability helps in extracting resources and facilities easily

(b) Pakistan can achieved high economic growth, despite high population, like china

(c) Through investment in education and healthcare systems, youth bulge can become an asset

(d) High population means more labour force and global influence

(e) High remittances from overseas Pakistanis create more harmony and peace in society

E- Though Youth Bulge in Pakistan Can Become an Asset but still it is a Liability (Synthesis)

(a) Supply - demand gap of resources increase due to overpopulation

(b) Economic crisis in Pakistan cannot afford youth bulge

(c) Poor situation of healthcare and education system is due to mass illiterate population

(d) Issue of employability is its manifestation

(e) An educated and experienced minded people leaving the country in search of better

life lifestyle and career

F- Conclusion

Youth for any country is considered as blessing and assets. However, same is not the case with youth bulge. Like, for developed countries, where prosperity index is high such as USA, UK, and some European and Nordic countries, it is really an asset. But, in case of developing countries like Pakistan, it is a liability. As the country is faced with plethora of socio-economic and political crises, youth bulge is a curse in this regard.

The country population reaches 241.5 Million with a growth rate of 2.55% (percent) as the 7th digital census concludes (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 7th Digital Census, 2023).

Besides, according to United Nation and USA census Bureau, Pakistan has become the 5th most populous country of the world, while 45th largest economy of the world. This shows the grim picture of the country's situation.

Therefore, youth bulge, despite being valuable, is currently a liability due to challenges related to scarce resources, deteriorated economic conditions, political instability, poor education and healthcare systems, unemployment, brain drain and so on. These challenges have made youth bulge as liability for Pakistan.

However, there is another side of the coin as well, as few people consider it as a blessing like it provides cheap labour, more global influence, increase in

semittances and many more benefits. In fact, this is wrong view of towards the issue. Because the gap of supply-demand is still ^{increasing} increased; Pakistan is faced with unprecedented economic and political crisis; illiteracy and unemployment is very high; moreover, people are leaving the country for good career. Hence, youth bulge can become an asset, if Pakistan comes out of these challenges; otherwise, youth bulge is a liability and it needs a stringent measures to have control over this demographic bomb.

Youth bulge refers to the relatively increase in the numbers and proportion of a country's population of youthful age. Conventionally 16-25 or 16-30 years of age period. Pakistan population in 1947 was 32.5 Million, which has now reached to 241.5 Million. But, in ^{the} same time period, resources of the country's did not grow as much as the population increased. The country's youth are faced with educational challenges as high number of youth are illiterate and thus it leads to unemployment, which further creates social issues and discontent. Such youth are more susceptible to radicalization, extremism, and crime. On other hand, developed countries have population planning, and they

provide them facilities accordingly. However, such policies lack implementation in Pakistan, which led to youth bulge as a result.

Youth bulge for Pakistan is a menace and liability. The following paragraphs discuss it in detail.

Firstly, the citizens of Pakistan have poor access to resources and facilities. In Pakistan, urban areas are more developed than rural areas. So, mass number of people migrates and thus it puts a burden on city. Similarly, people residing in villages have no proper accessibilities to schools, hospitals and other basic necessities. This is all because of demographic changes and challenges. Food crisis is another issue created by bulge in population. According to Economic Survey of Pakistan 2020-21, agricultural sector grew at a rate of 0.8%, while population grew at a rate of 2.4%. And this gap is increasing with passage of time. Hence, it can be concluded that youth bulge is a liability as people lack access to resources and facilities.

The second factor that makes youth bulge as a liability is

the unprecedented economic crises in Pakistan. Currently, Pakistan owed more than 60 Trillion PKR (Pakistani Rupees) as a foreign loan. The inflation rate is as high upto more than 30%. Moreover, as population increases, pressure on the government and state machinery also increases. There is lack of resources and family planning in the country. An individual wish for male child sometimes reproduce 6-10 or 7 girls. Thus, a person is then unable to fulfill the needs of his own family. Resultantly, economic crisis prevalent not only on individual level but on national level as well.

Thirdly, youth bulge in a Pakistan is liability because it puts strain on education and healthcare system. Large number of students are out of the school. Almost 23.5 Million students are out of school in Pakistan and it is the third largest nation in the world (UNDP, OOSC, 2022 report). Also, these children are susceptible to diseases as there is no proper health care, education, and training. As a result, the situation of education and healthcare is ^{are} not improving due to illiterate youth bulge.

Fourthly, youth bulge in Pakistan is a liability as it leads to unemployment. Unemployment in a country increases when there is overpopulation. Pakistan, being the 5th most populated country is highly unemployed. According to a research report, unemployment in Pakistan may reach 40%. Undoubtedly, if the population grows at such rate then unemployment cannot be controlled.

Last but not the least, increased brain drain and crime rates shows that youth bulge is a liability for Pakistan. According to a latest report, 800,000 Pakistanis left the country in the first half of 2023; with at least more than 100,000 of them were being highly professional. Furthermore, the non-professional and unemployed individuals do crimes in a society. Thus, a surge in crime rate happened. Hence, it is the youth bulge that has led to increasing crime rates and brain drain.

As every coin has two sides, so, the other side of the coin tells that youth bulge is an asset, and it can be described in the following paragraphs.

First of all, youth bulge

provides cheap labour that can help in extracting resources and facilities easily. As more labours will be available, therefore it will be of a cheaper price. For example, the labour rate in developing countries is very low as compared to the developed countries. In other words, the increased labour supply is a blessing and it is an asset for developing countries like Pakistan.

Secondly, youth bulge is a blessing, as Pakistan can achieve high economic growth despite high population. Pakistan, in fact, can utilize its human power by making it more educated and skillful. For instance, China has achieved more than 10% annual economic growth from last several decades. And it has eradicated the extreme poverty in 2013, almost more than 100 million poor people comes out of poverty. Pakistan, as a matter of fact, can follow the Chinese model. Thus, youth bulge can become an asset for achieving high economic growth.

Thirdly, through investment in education and healthcare systems, youth bulge can become an asset. As more

than 23.5 Million children are out of school and unemployed. If proper mechanisms is set for their training and education, they can become more skillful and useful.

In the same manner, skill based and technical education can also be provided to jobless person. Hence, through proper investment on youth education and health care systems, the lot can become an asset for Pakistan.

Fourthly, youth bulge in Pakistan is an asset because its high population leads to more labour force and global influence. Availability of cheap labour force in Pakistan is due to its youth bulge. Several countries depends on Pakistanis man power. For instance, gulf countries such as Dubai, UAE, Oman, Bahrain, KSA, Qatar and so on have millions of Pakistani diaspora working there. Besides, in UK, USA, Australia and in other European countries, large number of Pakistanis working there. Likewise, huge remittances came to Pakistan due to these overseas Pakistani workers and professionals.

As a result, it had led to the increase in global influence of Pakistan. As Pakistan provides cheap labour. Thus therefore, youth bulge is an asset despite

high population.

Lastly, high remittances from overseas Pakistanis create more harmony and peace in society. In fact, the whole family lives in prosperity due to the foreign remittances of Pakistani youth. According to a report, almost 60% of Pakistan economy is service industry, which is mainly composed of remittances from abroad workforce Pakistanis. Billions of dollars income comes to the country due to such remittances. On other hand, Pakistan is faced with economic crisis, so, such facilities create peace and prosperity in the society. Hence, youth bulge is an asset as it provides high remittances to the country's & fragile economy.

The synthesis ^{part} of this argumentative essay describes and ~~pro~~ proves that youth bulge is a liability, despite it can become an asset. It can be explained in the following paragraphs.

First of all, supply-demand gap of resources increases due to the overpopulation. The resources of Pakistan grows linearly or does not grow either.

While the population of Pakistan is growing at exponential rate. Therefore, the demand for resources, jobs and facilities increases, while its provision is minimum as compared to its demand. As a result, inflation over the products is sky-rocketed. In a span of ^{just} one year from April 2022 to April 2023, the rate of Dollar to PKR rises from 168 to 300 PKR per US Dollar. Such rise in price is observed over every commodity. Hence, the demand - ~~for~~ supply gap increases due to youth bulge; therefore, it is a liability for Pakistan.

Similarly, youth bulge in Pakistan is liability because Pakistan is faced with severe economic crisis. The country is faced with huge deficit in trade and budget, sky-rocketed inflation, energy crisis, and so on. In such case, overpopulation requires resources and finances from the government to spend on ^{the} masses, which is not available to them. Moreover, take the example of developed countries, such as Nordic countries and European nations, their population is less and ~~are~~ also there is ^{not} such economic crisis as does exist in Pakistan. So, youth bulge can become an asset only if Pakistan manages

to come out of economic crisis successfully.

In the same fashion, worst situation of education and healthcare system is due to mass illiterate population, which is again the liability put forwarded by youth bulge. Overpopulation leads to illiteracy, which leads to unemployment, poverty, and crimes in a society. This cycle badly affects the health care system of the country. As people are illiterate, they don't exhibit a hygienic lifestyle, resultantly, diseases spread highly to a large population. Hence, huge chunk of illiterate youth bulge is a liability as it creates and leads to poor health care system in a country.

Similarly, youth bulge is a liability as it generates and promotes unemployment across the country. Most of the competent ~~ones~~ individuals did not get an opportunity to serve the country or do some business activity, because of lack of opportunity to them. Therefore, massive brain drain from the country occurs, which is harmful for its sustainable future. More labour force is not criteria of country development in 21st century, rather, a skillful population is the key to

progress for a country in future. Therefore, the issue of unemployment is the liability of youth bulge.

Last but not the least, an educated and experienced minded people leaving the country in search of better careers and lifestyle, thus left^{leaving} the country with ill-educated and less-experienced persons, which results in the under-development of the country. According to one^{of the} reports, that in first half of 2023, more than 100,000 highly skillful individual left Pakistan for good careers. Indeed, this will have a devastating effect on the country prosperity and development. Therefore, youth bulge in Pakistan causes brain drain and is highly a liability for this country.

To conclude, it can be said and accepted that the youth bulge in Pakistan, while potentially valuable, is currently a liability due to challenges related to the country's economy, politics, governance, education, health care, employment, and social sector. The threat due to youth bulge in Pakistan is looming and is an undeniable liability. Pakistan has become the 5th most populous country of

the world but remains at 45th position in terms of economy. On other hand, china and India are most populous country of the world, but they have developed economically. While, Pakistan economic growth is minimal as compared to its population growth. As a result, youth bulge, which could become an asset, is a liability for the country. Besides, there is a view that youth bulge is an asset for Pakistan and the arguments (counter view) for it included like availability of cheap labour force, more influence on global level, increasing remittance from foreign diaspora, and so on. All these aspects are short-term benefits, as ultimately the country will suffer in the long-term race. Therefore, it needs a meticulous planning and policies at state level in this regard. Our population must be according to our needs and resources. There should be proper family planning. As due to youth bulge, the country is faced with issues like increasing demand and supply gap of resources, prevailing economic crisis, poor situation of healthcare and education system, rising unemployment, and uncontrollable brain drain. These These all

Issues have put negative impact on Pakistan development and prosperity. And it is because of liability of youth bulge. Therefore, it is high time that government and other concerned department ^{must} frame policy and strategy in this regard, in order to utilize its population effectively. As it is said by one of American president Lyndon - B Johnson, "Yesterday was not ours to control, but surely tomorrow is ours to plan and control."