

Name : Yasmeen

Date: _____

Father name : Abdus Rehman

Batch : 242

Mock Exam Essay paper

Essay: Youth Bulge in Pakistan: An Asset or a Liability

Outline:

1. Introduction

- (a) Reproduction: the strongest human urge
- (b) Global population trends: a history
- (c) Malthus' population growth model

2. Causes of high population growth

- (a) Decisions on household level
- (b) Youth bulge generates population growth inertia

3. Youth Bulge is a Demographic Bomb.

- (a) Boom in social sector in developing countries
- (b) Food shortage in developing countries
- (c) Unemployment is high because of low capital
- (d) Resource utilization is inefficient in developing countries
- (e) High population means high demand causing inflation with stagnant supply.

4. Major obstacles for Pakistani Youth

- (a) Absence of employment opportunities
- (b) Incapability to formulate a strategy

-that engages youth in civic and political activities

(c) Traditional mindset and social pressure

(d) The present education system fails to equip the young generation

5. How can Pakistan tap the potential of its youth bulge and convert it into an asset

(a) HEC vision 2025

(b) Development of technology

(c) Promoting entrepreneurship and tech-based education

(d) Role of state and government to bring out of school children into school

6. Conclusion

When it is said that the reproduction urge is the strongest human passion, Huxman F. Daly seems logical "Love is only a dirty trick played on us to achieve continuation of the species." Maybe he means reproduction as the end of our love. What, however, significant is that it is part of human biological needs disregard of the controversies among psychologists, evolutionists, and creationists. In simplistic terms, it means an upsurge in human numbers. With changes in technology and the availability of medicines, changes have also crept into the variables related to the growth of the population. For example, the introduction of medical science has decreased infant mortality rates and increased life expectancy rates, leading to a sharp decline in death rates.

The United Nations Fund for Population (UNFP) notes that it took hundreds of thousands of years to reach the first one billion, whereas, it took only 200 years to reach whopping (8) eight billion. Malthus, an English Social Economist, argued that the population of doubling in geometrical ratio takes over the resources growing in mathematical proportion, causing disruption in food supply and resource availability. This disproportionate Corollary could jeopardize the food balance, leading to an unexpected and

massive famines, he inferred. Apparently, this theory has failed, for the world is still able to support such a huge global family as most of the evidences suggested. However, it could prove otherwise as according to the Pakistan Economic Survey, in the fiscal year 21-22, the agriculture sector of Pakistan witnessed only 4.4% growth, while the population grew at the rate of 2.2%. It should be noted that Pakistan is already a food-insecure country. If this trend in population growth rate continues unchanged, there is a fear of an impending famine. It is because of the existing youth bulge that denotes that denotes a huge number of youths. In addition, global resources are not divided on an equitable basis in the world. Therefore, developing countries will be hard-pressed to meet the economic demands of the population. Though there are counter arguments that it would increase labor, yet it is also a fact that a huge labor needs to be streamlined to support the economy, which, if not streamlined, puts a heavy burden on the job market of a developing country, making economic policies crumble down.

• As far as the birth rate is concerned, it is domestic decision based on the

the household economy. Professor Michael P. Todaro, of New York University, in his book, Economic development argues that the countries where social sectors are crumbling tend to show high fertility rates. He adds that education also influences the number of children per household. In other words, educated women have a lesser number of children than that of the uneducated ones. The reason is that educated women forgo their earning opportunities when they have children. Therefore, a household economy decides the number of children, or better to say, the birth rate on the basis of socio-economic status of that household as well as the provision of social services in the concerned country.

• Whereas the youth bulge is concerned, it means the countries having a high number of youths, witness high growth in population. It also means that a quantity, having higher initial value than the other, witnesses higher final value, too. For example, if a country, whose population is 100, and has a growth rate of 10%, will have its population doubled in the next seven years. Moreover, population growth is linked with the number of young people, for they are to increase the ultimate birth rate. Therefore, the higher the number of youth is in the country, the higher the

Population growth it will witness.

• The third argument is that a crumbling social sector in the developing countries triggers a high fertility rate, transforming the existing youth bulge into a demographic bomb. It is also obvious that higher infant mortality rate leads to higher population growth. Professor Todaro has discussed this aspect, saying that the first child is a consumer good, while the second and the third are all the investment goods. It means that the first child increases the happiness of the family, while the rest secures the future of the family. In other words, the youth bulge in developing countries, coupled with the broken social sector, proves that this youth bulge is a demographic bomb.

• The food scarcity in the developing countries, too, triggers this youth bulge bomb in that if the existing food does not support the existing population, which is likely to drain up the existing food supply. According to UNFAO, a UN subsidiary that takes care of food and agricultural sector, most of the food insecure people live in the developing countries. It adds that 800 million people live in conditions where extreme hunger prevails.

have become part of their lives. Even Pakistan's **Economic Survey** has stated in its report of 2021-22 that while the agricultural sector grew at the rate of 1.91%, the population grew at highest rate i.e. 2.4%. If this huge gap in both trends continues, Pakistan is shortly going to face food scarcity issues. This simple difference seems supporting this argument that youth bulge is going to trigger a higher growth rate and resultant famine.

• Although the youth bulge makes up a good labor force, yet in the situation of the unavailability of capital, this bulge leads to mass unemployment. A classical English Economist, John Stuart Mills, argues that labor is useless unless capital complements it. In itself, it is entirely unproductive and only produces something of value. For example, a huge portion of the arable land in Pakistan is unirrigated. In addition, the unemployment rate in Pakistan stands at **6%** according to state Bank of Pakistan. To use this surplus labor in the unirrigated lands, Pakistan needs financial capital to build an irrigation system. However Pakistan lacks this fiscal space to build an irrigation system matching its needs.

Another important factor that impacts the youth bulge in developing countries like Pakistan is the issue of resource utilization, which is always less efficient or better to state, underutilized. When the resources stay underutilized, there is a less economic activity, and hence low employment level. As far as Pakistan is concerned, its agriculture sector is a classic case of the underutilization of resources, but the fact that has not become obvious is that it also means less food production. In other words, Pakistan is facing food scarcity in the face of bulging population and a shrinking economy.

Stagnant supply in the face of increasing population trends, also, tends to make this youth bulge into a demographic bomb. In fact, when population increases at higher rates, it means higher aggregate demand on the existing supply structure and increase in demands leads to high inflation in the economy, specifically when the supply structure says the same.

To start with, one of the major obstacles for Pakistani youth is the absence of employment opportunities. Pakistan has the 9th largest labor force in the world

which is increasing every year. According to labor force Survey 2017-18, the unemployment rate for the year 2020-21 has been estimated at 9.56 percent. The saddest part is that the unemployment rate among degree holders is three times higher than the overall unemployed people. Moreover, there is a lack of aptitude and assessment and career counselling prospects in Pakistan, even at the university level.

Another challenge to the youth detachment is the incapability of Pakistan to formulate a strategy that systematically engages youth in civic and political activities at the grass root level. Political parties are unable to engage around 25 million young voters in mainstream politics. Despite making tall claims, no prominent opportunities have been created for youth inclusion within the political structure. Even though the prime minister's Youth Programme was launched in 2013 for the development of youth that focused on granting loans, socio-economic development, and engaging youth in public policy making, this programme failed to achieve its goals.

Furthermore, the traditional mindset and social pressure related to the

Selection of subjects, career, marriage, and other life choices have made their issue grimmer. This dilemma has been further aggravated because of the unjust distribution of resources which has distinctly fragmented the Pakistani society into haves and have-nots. The dichotomy between the two such as ostentatious flaunting of wealth and power versus the laborious struggle to survive creates fragmentation and frustration in the young lot of society.

Moreover, the present education system also fails to include civic education to equip the young generation for an active and leading role in the current democratic setup. Also qualitative analysis of interviews in a survey shows that many recruiters and employers complain that the local education system is not producing quality skilled human resources to meet the challenges of the competitive job market. An article in a foreign magazine also pointed out the fact that the education system of Pakistan does not focus on learning outcomes and largely resorts to traditional means of employing education that focuses on cramming knowledge. Therefore, the form of Pakistan are incompatible with today's market requirement.

Pakistan Can tap the Potential of its youth bulge and convert it into an asset. Firstly, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, in its vision 2025, has begun emphasizing academia-industry linkage, encouraging projects involving sound real life issues, field exposure, and internships for the faculty and people alike. Following the co-op model of experiential learning, local university students are encouraged to initiate their start-up projects. Several leading national universities such as IBA, LUMS, and GIK institute of Science and Technology have already introduced the model. HEC is also looking forward to German style two-track education which identifies students abilities and aptitude and encourage them to opt either for a university degree or vocational training. This vision should be implemented on a priority basis.

Secondly, it is already included in the plan of HEC, but HEC should implement the development of technology parks diligently as soon as possible. Technology parks will create an enabling environment for young entrepreneurs to start their tech-based ventures. One such project at NUST has already been approved in consultation with the Malaysian Government,

Thirdly, the majority of experts argue that the future of Pakistani youth lies in promoting entrepreneurship and tech-based education that enables them to create self employment. However, everyone can not be an entrepreneur, therefore, Pakistan needs to inspire and promote youth to learn vocational skills and take up low profile jobs such as running machine.

Fourthly, the state and government should play a comprehensive role by bringing out of school children (OOSC). ~~removed~~