

## July 2023 Mock Pak affairs

Q4 Over population is a root cause of all the environmental issues. If you can control the population, you can control almost anything. Discuss the statement with reference to Pakistan.

### Introduction:

Overpopulation is intolerable for any country in the world. As far as Pakistan is concerned, there is rapid increase in population. People are paying no attention to this unbridled growth of population. Twenty-first century is the age of science and modern technology. Gone were the days, when states required manpower to defeat the enemy states. Quality not quantity matters in this modern era. But the situation is reverse in Pakistan. As a result, there a report, five to six children are born after every single minute in Pakistan. As a result, there is a huge gap between demand and supply of different necessities of life. Energy is not available as per needs of the country. Unfortunately, people are more and resources are scarce. Pakistan is the sixth most populated country in the world. It is an alarming situation. Standard of life is going down. State is

unable to provide education to such a huge chunk of population. More than 40% population of the country is living below poverty line. Perhaps, people are unaware of the fact that country needs useful citizens not useless. Government has an effective role to play if it wants to curtail ever rising monster of over-population. If effective steps are not taken in this regard, it will become difficult for Pakistan to become a developed country.

Overpopulation is the root cause of all ~~environmental~~ environmental issues.

#### a) Unavailability of basic necessities of life:

There are many effects of overpopulation. Its major effect is unavailability of basic facilities of life. A country like Pakistan cannot entertain ever increasing population. There are fewer educational institutions but people are more. As a result, six million children are out of school as per Economic Survey of Pakistan (2014-15). There are a few hospitals in the country. The staff of these hospitals can provide services to a limited number of people. Consequently, common man faces a lot of problems when he suffers from particular diseases. Pure drinking water has become a rare commodity owing to which people are suffering from water-borne diseases.



## b) Over population has led to pollution in the country.

Overpopulation has led to pollution in the country. There is rapid industrialization and urbanization in the country. This scenario has badly impacted the country's weather pattern. There are a large number of vehicles which burn fossil fuels. Industries discharge poisonous gases and hazardous waste material. Urbanization causes deforestation. All these factors contribute in abrupt weather changes in the country. Temperature in summer goes upto  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$ . This may also result in melting of glaciers and unprecedented rains. Unfortunately, the country has to confront with heavy floods.

## c) Overpopulation breeds terrorism and extremism in the country.

Overpopulation breeds terrorism and extremism in the country. Overpopulation and poverty are directly proportional to each other. It is rightly said that poverty is the death of ~~type~~ exceptional skill and talent. Poverty is the root cause of all social evils. When people are unable to fulfil their wishes through fair means, they get involved in negative activities. They commit crimes and snatch other's right. It is much easier to brain wash a poor one than a rich one. Terrorist exploit poor masses to get their vested



interest. Some of the deprived ones even get ready to become suicide bombers.

## d) Overpopulation gives birth to child labour and slavery -

Overpopulation gives birth to child labour and slavery. As stated earlier, most of the people are illiterate. When heads of the families are unable to meet the needs of their family members, they send their children to work. First of all, it is against the law of state. Secondly, it is against humanity to force children for hard labour in their early age. Children are exploited sexually when they are at work. They have to survive in hostile working conditions. Children are forced to work beside heavy machinery which is a threat to their life. They get less remuneration as compared to young ones. All these factors bring child labour and slavery in the country. There is a sense of deprivation and frustration in people as a consequence of overpopulation.

Controlling the population can control almost everything.

## a) Education as a real panacea:

It is rightly said that education is a real panacea to socio-economic problems of society. Government needs to allocate more



funds for education sector. The education system of Pakistan requires complete overhauling. An educated person can easily differentiate between good and evil. He can understand that overpopulation is not in favour of Pakistan. A literate one is well aware of the consequences of overpopulation. An educated one is useful while an uneducated one is a burden on national resources. Education can help Pakistan solve this problem on pragmatic grounds.

### b) Media as a power in the modern world:

In the same way, media has become a great power in the modern world. Media can influence people to a large extent. Certain channels and newspapers have high rating in Pakistani society. They can throw light on threats of overpopulation. News anchors and writers can guide people how to control overpopulation. Many programmes can be broadcasted to highlight the destruction and ruination caused by overpopulation. One can say that media has instrumental role to play in tackling this issue.

### c) Law to curb overpopulation

Currently, there is no law in the country to curb overpopulation. Law can be introduced to nip this evil in the bud. Those people who are responsible for overpopulation despite having big resources can be punished. A particular amount of fine can be imposed



on them. It is also inevitable to introduce a term of four to five years of imprisonment. These steps may seem harsh apparently. But when it comes to reforming society, some strict steps become unavoidable.

### Conclusion:

To conclude, it can be said that population has reached an alarming stage in the land of Quaid. Overpopulation has kept Pakistan away from becoming a self-reliant country. Great nations have progressed by leaps and bounds after solving their issue of overpopulation. Contrary to this, in Third World Countries like Pakistan, overpopulation has added to the miseries of people. People are unable to get education. There is poverty, corruption and instability. This problem needs immediate attention, if Pakistan wants to become strong and great. Common man, civil society and intellectuals can play pivotal role in this regard. If Pakistanis have the courage to fight this issue, their posterity will have a bright future. If serious efforts are not taken to root this issue out, it will become a threat to the survival of country.



Q6 Pakistan has important strategic endowments and development potential. The increasing proportion of Pakistan's youth provides the country with a potential demographic dividend and a challenge to provide adequate services and employment. Discuss.

### Introduction:

There may not be a simple causal relationship between demography and security but evidence shows that high population growth is a major destabilizing factor in the least developed countries. There are many examples to show that tensions leading up to conflict may have been heightened by demographic pressures.

**Pakistan is experiencing severe economic challenges reflecting long-standing structural weakness.**

Pakistan made significant progress towards reducing poverty between 2001 and 2018 when the expansion of off-farm economic opportunities and increased inflow of remittances allowed over 47 million Pakistanis to rise out of poverty. However, this rapid poverty reduction has not fully translated into improved socio-economic conditions, such as human capital outcomes have remained poor and stagnant, with high levels of stunting at 38 percent and learning poverty at 75 percent. In addition, reflecting



a consumption-driven growth model, with limited productivity-enhancing investment and exports, strong economic growth and often comes at a cost of economic imbalances and frequent macroeconomic crises. Long term growth of real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita therefore has been slow, averaging only around 2.2 percent annually over 2000-22.

Pakistan's economy is currently under severe stress with low foreign reserves, a depreciating currency, and high inflation.

With high public consumption, economic growth increased substantively above potential in FY22 that led to strong pressures on domestic prices, external and fiscal sectors, the exchange rate, and foreign reserves.

These imbalances were exacerbated by the catastrophic flooding in 2022, surging world commodity prices, tightening global financing conditions, and domestic political uncertainty.

Furthermore, distortive policy measures, including periods of informal exchange rate restrictions and import controls, delayed the IMF EFF program, and contributed to creditworthiness downgrades, lower confidence, high yields and interest payments, and the loss of access to international capital markets.

## **Burden of Huge Youth Bulge.**

One of the highest population growth rate and a huge youth bulge have created



an extremely dangerous situation for Pakistan. We could have used our demographic power to turn around country's economy, but with little investment in education and slow economic growth, youth bulge is fast becoming a liability and serious threat to country's internal security. The state inability to productively utilize a large young generation has already turned country into a breeding ground for violent extremism, and could cause further social dislocation and conflict.

### Failure of state to turn young into productive citizens:

Indeed, there are multiple domestic and international reasons that are responsible for existing violent extremism in Pakistan. But it is not just religious fanaticism that drives young men to resort to violence. It also has much to do with failure of state to turn this young population into productive citizens.

### Pakistan as potential Demographic Disaster.

Pakistan is sitting on a potential demographic disaster with more than 120 million of its population under 25 years of age.

This high number of young people is the face of today's Pakistan. This new generation is also at center of an unresolved ideological struggle about what sort of country Pakistan should be. With an extremely low literacy rate and bleak job



opportunities, the future prospects of young generation are uncertain and dark.

### Illiterate younger generation

Growing frustration among the youth makes them vulnerable to prejudices and extremism.

The gravity of situation can be assessed by fact that 32 percent of all young generation is illiterate and the majority of others are school dropouts. Enrolment rates are the lowest in South Asia. Pakistan's

spending on education is around 2 percent of GDP about half that spent by India. The poor quality of education hardly equips youth to face challenges of globalized world they live in, further pushing them towards isolation.

### Emergence of Restlessness among the Youth:

This runaway population growth has created vast ranks of restless young men with few prospects and little to lose. Their frustrated ambitions can be an explosive force. More troubling is that there is no realization about this lurking threat. A study conducted by Population Action International shows that about 80 percent of world's civil conflicts since 1970s have occurred in countries with young, fast growing populations. Pakistan is a stark example of that thousands of people have been killed in militant and extremist violence, earning the country dubious distinction of being



one of world's most violent places -

## Danger of Extremism among the Youth:

Furthermore, widening social cultural and economic divide has made less advantaged youth receptive to extremism and violence. It has created a mindset that facilitates a militant agenda. Many studies have shown that there is a direct link between religious extremism and social and economic marginalization. The instability resulting from severe demographic pressures had led to civil war in many countries. Pakistan will not be ~~at~~ too far away from such a situation if its present drift continues. In fact we are already in the midst of one. The growing alienation of young generations and their feelings towards government and state have been illustrated in some recent surveys. The youth's despair is deep-seated in the present conditions. With little or ~~no~~ <sup>no</sup> education as well as lack of economic opportunities, they have not much ~~to~~ to look forward to - few are hopeful of getting jobs. The continuing downside of economy indicates that things are not getting better. Pakistan's population has doubled over the past few decades.



## Conclusion:

There is a huge economic opportunity for Pakistan if reforms are enacted. Pakistan is committed towards a paradigm shift to bring back manufacturing and agriculture sector's lost weightage in the GDP. Sustained growth is certainly the most desirable option for Pakistan to harness its massive untapped economic potential. It is, therefore, essential to make industrial and agricultural development the top priority in the overall economic growth strategy. This strategy should be a blend of expansion of exports and creation of domestic demand. It needs committed and sincere applications of policy measures to realize the economic potential for economic prosperity and to emerge as one of the fast growing and promising global economies.