

Introduction

"Population growth, not equipped with skills resulting in low Human development which is derailing the country's social progress, economic growth and institutional development"

Dr. Ishrat in his book: Pakistan The economy of an elitist State.

Pakistan's population is exponentially increasing and the successive governments have been unable to control it. Various factors such as religious concerns, illiteracy, lack of political will and many others act as a bulwark against it. It has caused numerous socio-economic impacts both in individual and state life. The need is to address this issue as soon as possible.

Population growth in Pakistan: An overview

Pakistan has been failed to put lid on the issue of population from the very beginning. The growth rate in today's era got momentum.

Reference: According to National House Survey Report 2023, Pakistan's population growth rate is approximately 2.3% which means we are adding more than 5-6 million of population per year which is equivalent to the population of Denmark.

3. Why Pakistan has failed to control it.

3.1 Religious and orthodox nature of Pakistan's Society act as a bulwark against population control.

Pakistani Society is highly religious and the people are highly influenced by religious norms. For example:

In Rural area of Pakistan, it is against the nature of human wisdom to use contraceptive or talk about family planning. Increasing ^{the no^o} population is a sign of religious duty for many in Pakistan.

3.2 Prevailing illiteracy ^{in among} society of Pakistan hinders population control.

Pakistani Society is very illiterate and female literacy rate is discouraging. Numerous reports have explored that Majority of women in Pakistan even don't know about Family planning methods.

3.3 Early Marriages practices in Pakistani Society.

Pakistani mindset is an early marriage mindset. That's why young boys and girls get marry from the very early age.

of their life.
For example:

repat age of 35

25% girls marry before the age of 18 in Pakistan.

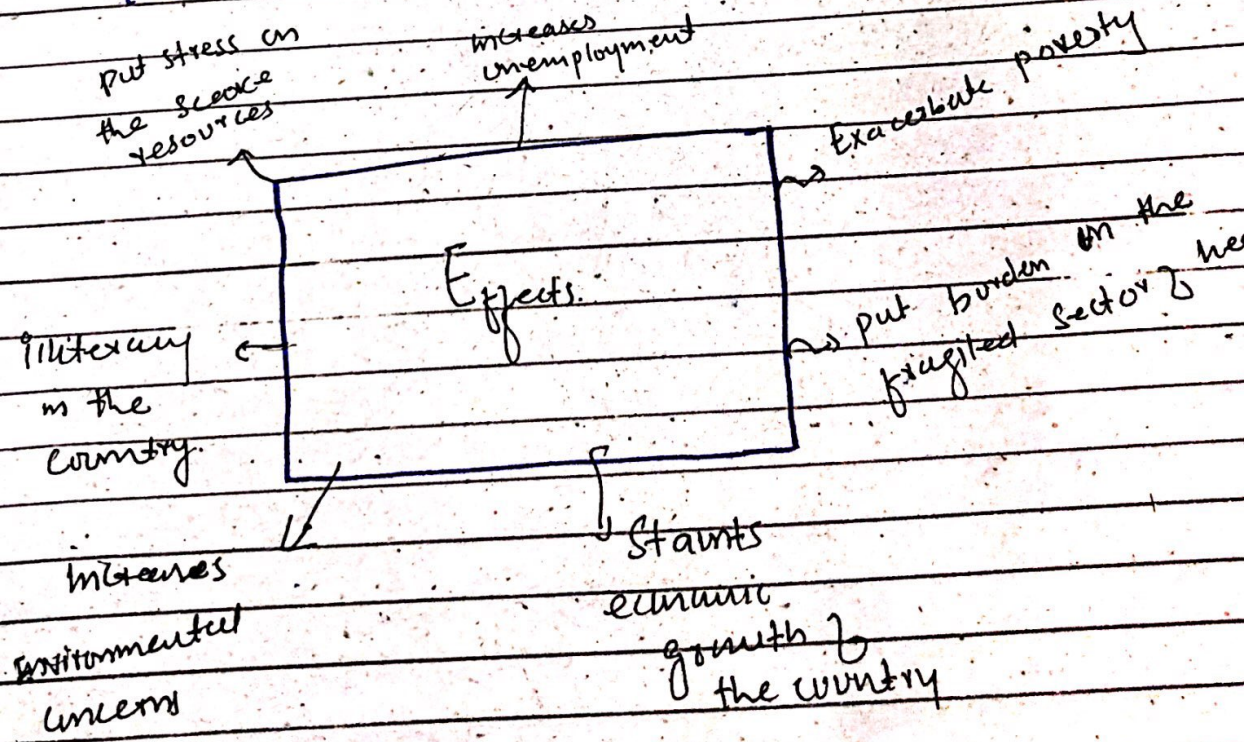
According to Economic Survey

Lack of political will to control this menace.

don't want to control this menace because of their political interest. Politician mainly

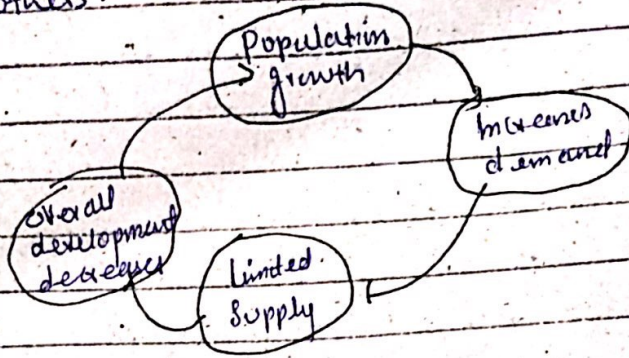
For Example: The more the population of an area is, the more the vote bank of the area.

4. Effects of Population growth on the social economic climate of Pakistan:

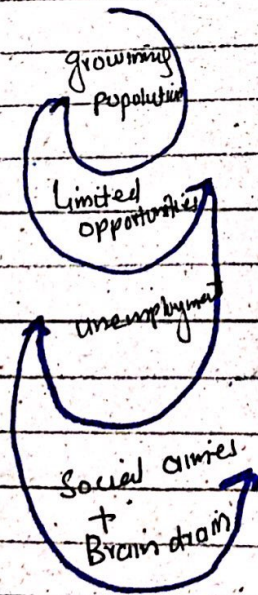


4.1 Population growth put stress on the limited and scarce resource of the country.

Pakistan's resources are depleting. Whether they are in shape of natural resources, water resource, agriculture or others.



4.2 growing population increases unemployment ratio in the country

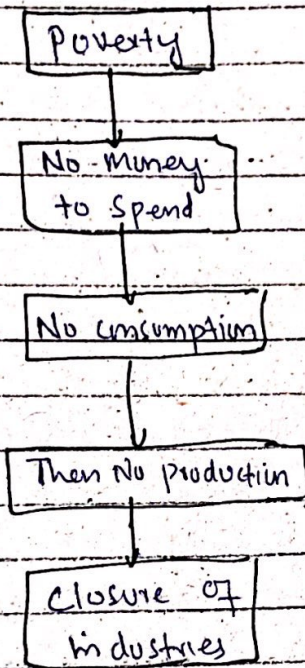


On one hand the population rate is increasing on the other hand there is limited or no opportunities for this growing

growing population which in turns create so many other repercussions.

4.3 Growing population further exacerbate poverty rate in the society.

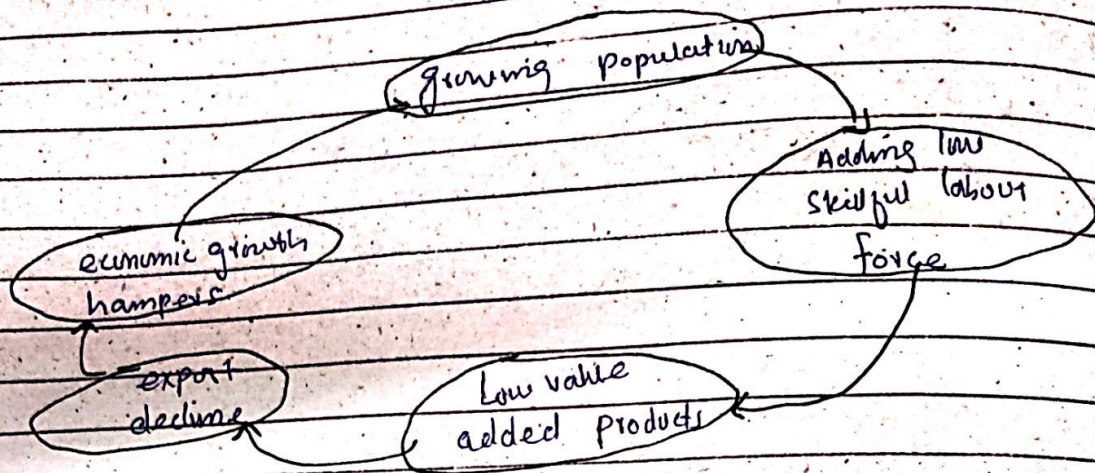
Pakistan is at peak. The growing trend of population further pushing the people below the poverty line.



4.4 growing population puts burden on the already fragiled sector of health.

Pakistan's health sector is fragiled and paralyzed. This system has unable to diagnose and cater the needs of the current population. The growing population further put the stress ultimately leading to its collapse and underperformance.

Growing economic growth \rightarrow population growth \rightarrow Stagnate the country.



Conclusion.

In short, Pakistan's population is growing exponentially and because of numerous reasons and causing so many negative repercussions on the every walk of both individual and state life. The need is to address this issue in both letters and spirit.

Introduction

"18th Amendment is a landmark step in the constitutional history of Pakistan in which center devolved power to provinces. However, provinces reluctance to devolve power to local authority will make this Amendment a 'worthless'"

Dr. Ishrat in his book: "Governing the Ungovernable".

Despite having made Pakistan a true federation, the 18th Amendment is becoming a source of concern for both center and provinces. As the former claims that the center hasn't performed upto the mark in the devolving subjects and that is why it has become a major cause of political strain in Pakistan.

How strong center is facing challenges from the autonomous provinces.

Provinces underperformance of the devolved subjects.

The negligence of provinces over the devolved subjects is a source of major concern. The center claims that the provinces have not capacity and capability to meet the demands of the public.

13.7 Center allocates major chunk of its revenue.

7th NFC, the share of provinces has been increased and it is upto 57.7%. The center alleged that they waste major amount of money and mismanage all the issues.

2.3 Low revenue collection of provinces

Despite having the power to collect revenues, the provinces are unable to generate as much revenue as needed which eventually causes constraint between provinces and center.

2.4 Climate related concerns, health and education of center over provinces.

Climate change, health and education are the subjects of provinces but provinces unfortunately do not perform in these areas and the cost of their underperformance is being borne by center.

4. How it has become an enduring cause of political strain in Pakistan.

4.1 18th Amendment has become a highly politicized issue.

National level parties are divided on the nature and characteristic of 18th Amendment. Parties like PMLN is against the 18th Amendment while PPP is support the nature of 18th Amendment.

4.2 Division among Military, bureaucracy and political parties is increasing on 18th Amendment.

Apolitical factions leans toward strong center and it favours to their interest while political parties want autonomy of provinces.

4.3 18th Amendment creates Center-provinces disharmony.

The increasing nature of debate on 18th Amendment is creating disharmony between Center and provinces. This will have far reaching implications for national level integration.

5. What is needed to be done.

→ Provinces must devolve power

to their local authorities

→ The transparency and accountability mechanisms must be strengthened so that provinces ensure good public services delivery

↳ Autonomy of provinces is a true spirit of federation which is aligned with the constitutional spirit of the country.

As Hamid Khan says:
The constitutional spirit was haunted by Gen. Zia and Musharraf via 8th and 17th Amendments respectively. The Fazlani government restored the constitution to its original spirit.

(Constitutional and political development of Pak)

Conclusion.

In short, Even though the 18th Amendment is become a battleground for the center and province, yet the flaws are not associated with the nature of 18th Amendment but deficiencies lies in provinces. The need is to strengthen the provinces in order to deliver the promises of 18th Amendment.