

PAKISTAN AFFAIRS

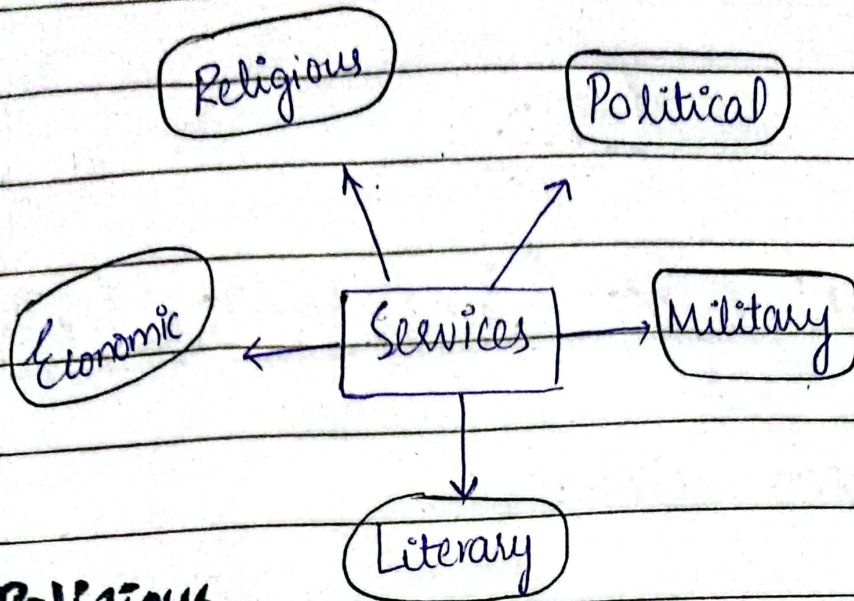
QNO-2

Services of Shah Wali Ullah:

Introduction:

Shah Wali Ullah was a great Muslim reformer. He was born in 1703 in UP, India. His father Sheikh Abdur Rehman was a renowned Islamic scholar. Shah Wali Ullah dedicated his whole life to uplift the Muslims. He rendered Political, Religious, Economic, Literary and Military related services to the Muslims. His services had a deep impact on the lives of Muslims and on the political movements of Muslims in subcontinent of India.

Shah Wali Ullah's Services:



(ii) Religious Political Services:

a) Translation of Holy Quran:

Shah Wali

Ullah came to realise that Muslims are deviated because of lack of access to the meaning of Holy Quran. So in 1738, he translated Holy Quran in Persian. Therefore Muslims became able to understand Quran easily.

b) Concept of Ijtihad:

Shah Wali Ullah

gave concept of Ijtihad to interpret new

problems of Islam. He also discussed the requirements of Mujtahid.

c) Call for unity among Muslims

Shah Wali Ullah

Stressed on Muslim Unity to achieve the goals of Islam.

2) **Political Services**

a) Hereditary Politics:

Shah Wali Ullah

was against the hereditary politics and emphasized on meritocracy.

b) Self Consciousness:

Shah Wali Ullah also

stressed Muslims to be self conscious for political consciousness and for their betterment.

3) **Military Services**

a) Letter to Ahmad Shah Abdali:

Shah Wali Ullah

wrote letter to Afghan King Ahmad Shah Abdali to tell him the condition of Muslims of subcontinent and to ask for help, against Marhattas.

b) Call for Jihad:

Shah Wali Ullah urged Muslims for Jihad to achieve their rights.

c) Weakened Marhattas:

Due to Shah Wali Ullah's letter to Afghan King, he attacked Marhattas and weakened them so Muslim empire sustained.

(4) Economic Services

a) Zakat System:

He urged Muslims to pay Zakat and to help the poor.

b) Controlling excessive taxation:

He raised voice against the excessive taxation of Raja and Maharajas for their lavish lifestyles.

(5) Literary Services

a) Famous Books:

Hujjatullah and Izalat al Khifa.

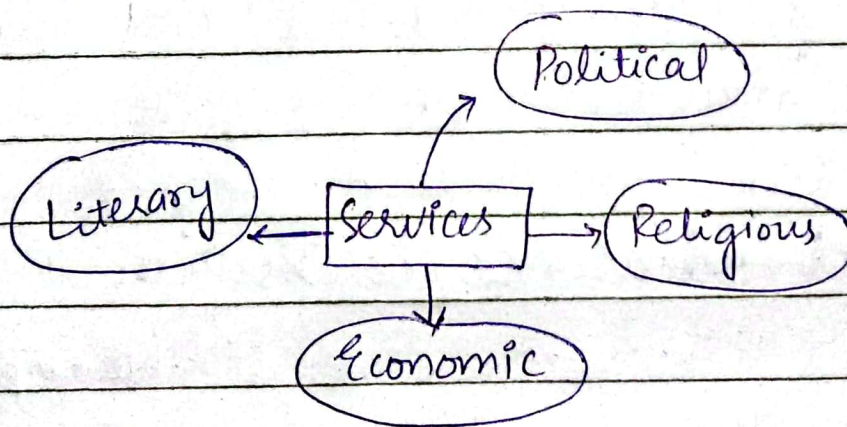
b) Letters : To Mughal rulers.
To Afghan King

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi

Introduction:

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi also known as Mujjadad Alif Sani was born in 1564 in Sirhind. He studied Hadith, Tafseer, Philosophy and was proficient in all. He dedicated his whole life to reform the Muslims of Subcontinent.

► Services of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi



1. Political Services

a) Two Nation Theory:

Sheikh Ahmad emphasized Muslims that they are a separate nation. They are not similar to Hindus.

b) Differences between Hindus and Muslims:

He highlighted the differences between Muslims and Hindus and urged Muslims to live according to their own Islamic principles.

2- Religious Services

a) Doctrine of Wahadad ul Shahood:

He gave this concept to challenge the doctrine of Wahadad ul Wajood. He stressed that "God and Creation are not same."

b) Strict adherence to Sharia:

He emphasized on Monotheism and simple life style. He urged Muslims to live their lives according to Sharia.

3- Literary Services

a) Muktubat-e-Imam Rabbani:

In which he described

the differences between Hindus and Muslims. He also wrote letters to many rulers and eminent personalities.

b) Islamic Books:

He wrote many Islamic books like 'Risalt-e-Nabuwat' and 'Tuheed-i-Shuhudi.'

4. Economic Services

Composition of Jizya:

He also urged the Mughal rulers to take Jizya from non muslims according to Islamic laws.

Impacts of these Reformist Movements

a) Rejuvenating Islamic System in Subcontinent:

These reformers infused a new spirit in Islamic system in Islam. As evident from

words of Allama Iqbal:

"Shah Wali Ullah is the first muslim to rethink of whole system of Islam." (Iqbal).

b) Sustainability of Muslim Empire:

Due to these reformists movements, the Muslim rule in subcontinent sustained.

c) Two Nation Theory:

These reforms laid the foundation of Two Nation Theory which became the reason for the establishment of Pakistan.

Conclusion:

Reformist movements in subcontinent played a significant role to uplift Muslims and then to achieve a separate homeland on the basis of their separate identity.

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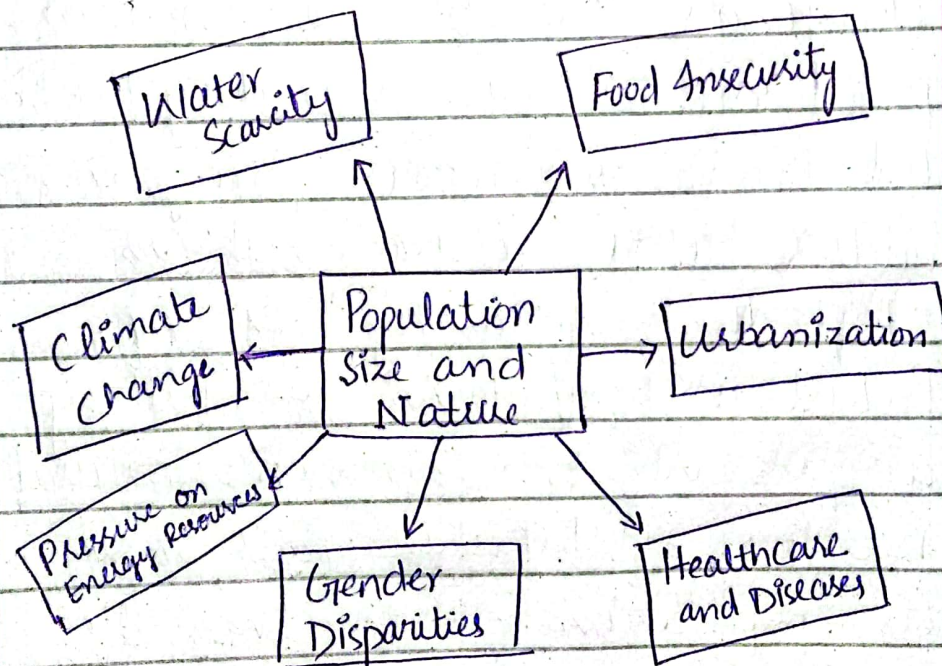
Population of Pakistan

Introduction:

The population of Pakistan is growing at a rapid pace. Pakistan being the fifth most populous country of the world is facing numerous challenges due to its increasing population. But unfortunately Pakistan has no sustainable policy to address this issue. That is why the increasing size of Pakistan's population is putting a pressure on Pakistan's natural resources. If Pakistan fails to overcome its population growth then this will affect the natural cycle and then nature will play its ~~role~~ devastating role which will increase deaths and losses across the country.

How population size and nature are linked:

As population increase has impacts on nature similarly nature also impacts population size. Nature can reduce the size of population but in that case the consequences will be beyond the power of mankind to control.



Population size of Pakistan and role of Nature:

As Pakistan do not take charge of its population size then this would

impact nature and then nature will respond with its devastation to reduce population.

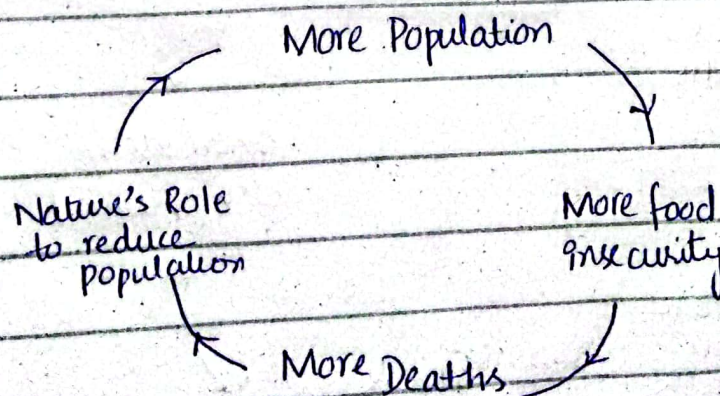
Pakistan's population of 241.47 million is impacting natural cycle and its impacts are as follows:

a) Food Insecurity:

The growing population of Pakistan is making Pakistan food insecure and the natural cycle of food has been disturbed.

"Pakistan ranks at 99 out of 126 countries on Global Hunger Index."

(Global Hunger Index Report 2023)



b) Water scarcity:

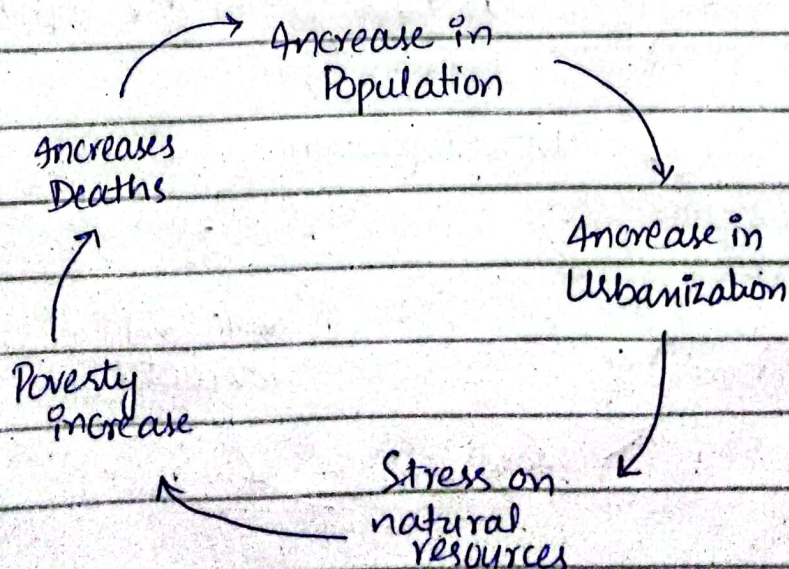
Growing population of Pakistan is also putting stress on Pakistan's water resources.

"Pakistan is world's third most water scarce country."
(World Bank)

More Population → More water scarcity → Increase in Death rate

c) Urbanization:

With rapid increase in the population of Pakistan, the urbanization in country is also taking place at a rapid pace causing huge problems for the country and its resources.



d) Climate Change:

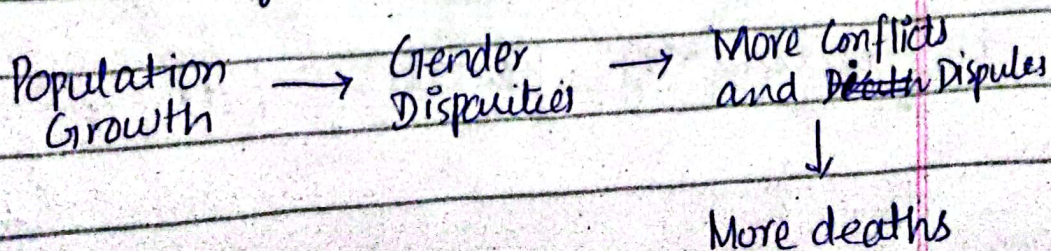
Increasing population of Pakistan has also brought climate disasters for Pakistan. Population has increased the use of fossil fuels and pollution is disturbing natural cycle. Floods of 2022 is a glaring example how nature can take charge of population size.

Floods of 2022 caused Pakistan a damage of \$30 bn and at least 1,739 people were killed."

(Center for Disaster Philanthropy)

e) Gender Disparities:

Population growth has brought many gender disparities in Pakistan. Naturally, gender disparities increases conflicts in country which lead to deaths.



f) Healthcare and Diseases:

Population increase has also impacted health sector of Pakistan. Pakistan's health sector is becoming more fragile due to growing population and is unable to serve a bulge of people. Therefore due to unavailability of health services people are dying.

Suggestions to Control Population :

a) Sustainable and Effective policies of Government:

Government can play a crucial role in this regard by making efficient policies and by effectively implementing them. Population can be reduced.

b) Reducing fertility rate :

Pakistan has

high fertility rate in the whole South Asia. Pakistan can reduce it by adopting the successful models of other countries.

c) Increasing use of Contraceptives:

Pakistan Government should take steps to increase and normalize the use of contraceptives to control population.

d) Including Islamic Scholars in policy making to reduce the religious taboos:

Pakistani Government should also involve Islamic scholars in policy making so that religious taboos ~~to~~ regarding population would be addressed.

e) Reviewing the NFC Award:

National Finance

Commission of Pakistan grants money to provinces with a big proportion of population.

NFC Award → 80% Population Percentage.
Due to which provinces do not care to control population. This NFC award should be reviewed accordingly.

7) Increasing awareness and role of media:

Awareness to reduce population can be spread among masses through efficient media campaigns.

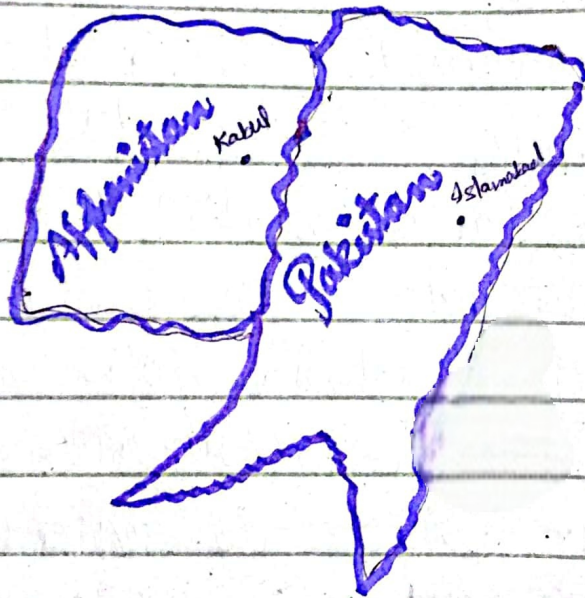
Conclusion:

Therefore it is evident from above discussion that if we do not take charge of Population size then nature will do it. Pakistan is bearing the brunt of population growth but efficient measures can save the country from the devastating effects of population growth.

Lack of consensus between

Pakistan and Afghanistan:

Afghanistan being a neighbour is very important for Pakistan as anything that happens in Afghanistan has impacts on Pakistan.



Now after US withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan is suffering a lot because Pakistan's problems are increasing and Taliban government is showing a non serious behaviour. This lack of consensus has brought many regional problems.

How the absence of regional consensus based approach between Pakistan and Afghanistan the instability and violence has increased in region:

The non serious attitude of Afghan Taliban Government and due to various issues of Pakistan there is a lack of consensus which is bringing regional problems as follows:

a) Regional instability due to uncertain security situation and terrorist attacks in Pakistan:

Since the Taliban Government took over Kabul, the security situation in the region is deteriorating. Pakistan accuse Taliban to provide safe sanctuaries to terrorists and they are using Afghan soil to conduct cross border terrorist attacks in Pakistan while Afghan Government denies all these allegations.

In a recent press conference caretaker Prime Minister warned Afghan Government and said:

“Choose Bilateral ties or Support Militants.”

(PM Anwar ul Haq Kakkar)

This situation shows lack of consensus between two neighbouring countries.

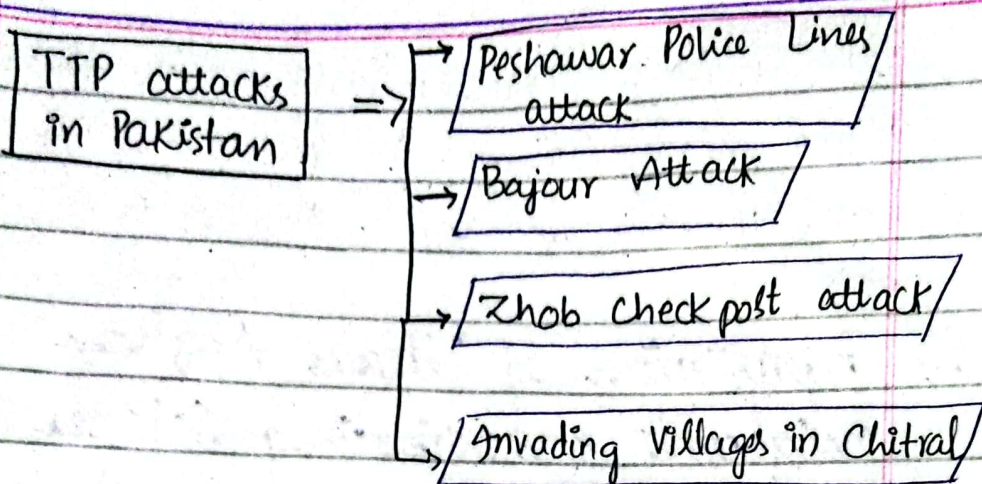
a) TTP issue is becoming chronic and heightening violence and instability in the region:

Tehreek-e-Taliban

Pakistan, a banned militant ~~organ~~ group which is present in Afghanistan and conducting terrorist attacks in Pakistan. Due to its terrorist attacks Pakistan suffered huge collateral damage.

“In 2023, Pakistan witnessed a 69% surge in terrorist attacks.”

(Report by Security Agency)



Because of absence of consensus, TTP is still unbridled and affecting the stability of the region.

c) Islamic State Khorasan (ISK) and Lashkar-e-Jihad Pakistan getting patronage from terrorist outfits working in Afghanistan:

In Pakistan's war on terror, it became successful to ~~over~~ handle various terrorist outfits but after Taliban return to Kabul terrorist groups like ISK and LTP are also active because of support from Afghanistan.

LTP attack → Mianwali Air Base

Afghan Government is reluctant to

take actions against them and Pakistan has also failed to put pressure on Afghan Government to control TTP.

d) Repatriation of illegal Afghan migrants exacerbating violence and instability:

After surge in terrorism, Pakistan decided to send back 1.3 million Afghan refugees to Afghanistan. This situation has created problems for Afghanistan as well as they have to accommodate million of people coming from Pakistan. This repatriation of Afghans living in Pakistan for decades shows lack of consensus among countries.

e) Lack of consensus and impacts on Afghan transit trade:

Due to the uncertain conditions the regional trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan is also hampered. Due to closing of Torkham border, million of people suffered losses and brought violence.

f) CPEC and Pak-Afghan relations:

CPEC has also failed to achieve all of its targets due to this lack of consensus between Pakistan and Afghanistan. This approach is affecting regional economics.

g) Failure of TAPI Gas pipeline and central Asia connectivity:

TAPI Gas pipeline project is also swinging like a pendulum due to uncertain conditions of Pakistan and Afghan because they lack regional consensus approach. This is also hindering Pakistan to connect itself with energy rich central Asian states.

h) Rhetoric of Pakistan and Afghanistan against each other affecting Islamic brotherhood:

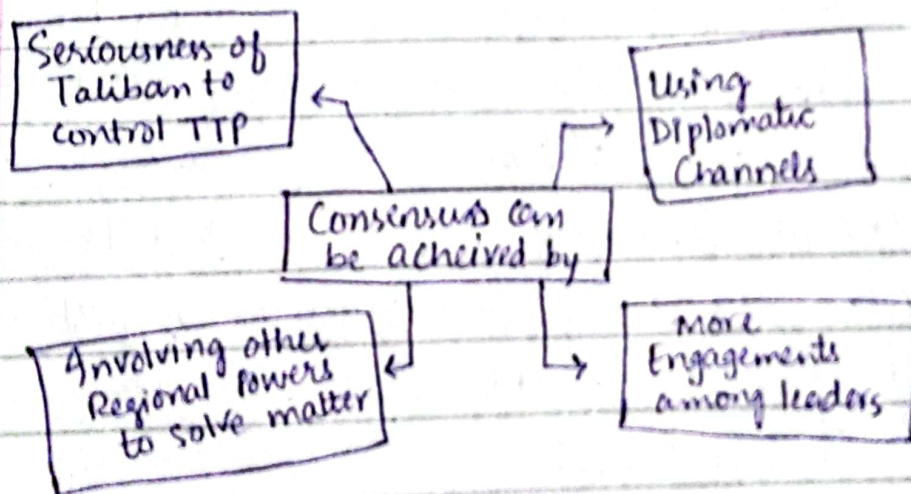
This blame game between Pakistan and Afghanistan is also hampering Islamic brotherhood. This situation can also impact the essence of OIC. Afghan leaders are also

Involved in rhetoric against Pakistan.

"They (Pakistan) should address their domestic problems instead of blaming Afghanistan for their failure". (Taliban Spokenperson Zabiullah Mujahid).

This shows lack of consensus which is increasing instability and violence in the region.

Way forward to achieve consensus:



Conclusion:

The lack of consensus between Pakistan and Afghanistan has brought instability and violence in the region. But seriousness of both parties and efficient steps can bring stability and peace in the

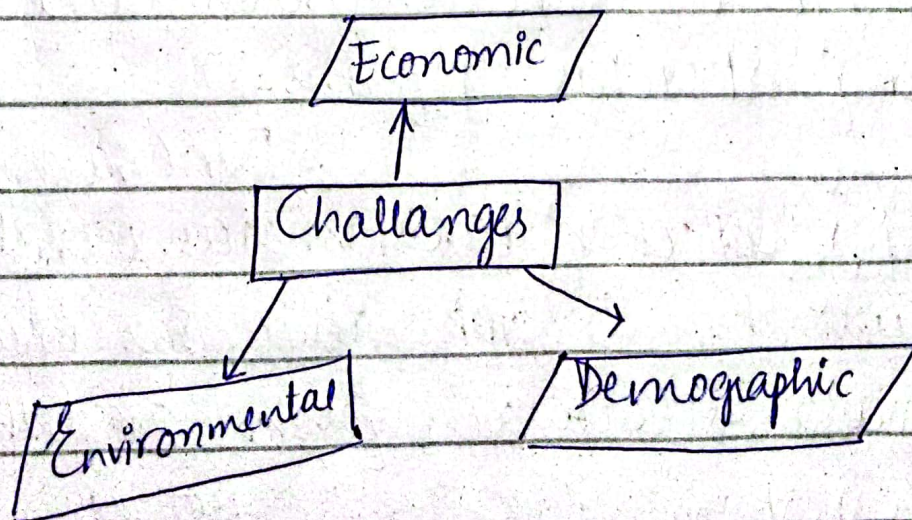
Q No. 8

Economic, Environmental and Demographic Challenges

Introduction:

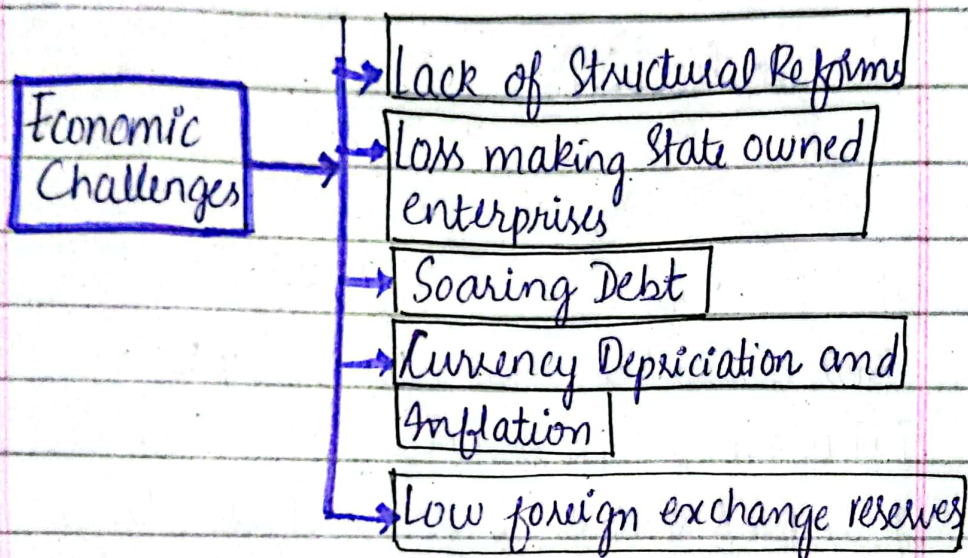
Pakistan is grappling with multifaceted challenges today. These challenges include economic, environmental and demographic. Pakistan is lacking sustainable policy measures to address them. Therefore these challenges are shaping a new future of Pakistan.

Challenges of Pakistan



Economic Challenges:

Economic challenges have deep entrenched in Pakistan's roots. These include:



(i) Lack of Structural reforms:

Pakistan's economic system needs structural reforms but Government is hesitant to take measures and to bring structure reforms.

For example in tax collection Pakistan has world's lowest tax to GDP ratio. This issue requires structural reforms and this can reshape Pakistan's future.

(ii) Loss making state owned enterprises (SOEs):

Another economic problem is that state owned enterprises are continuously making losses. For example:

"PIA is making loss of 750 million rupees daily."

These SOEs require privatization to shape future of Pakistan.

(iii) Soaring debt:

Pakistan's fragile economy is under the pressure of soaring debt.

"Total debt on Pakistan is \$130 bn." (Finance Ministry, 2023)

This debt can shape Pakistan's future.

(iv) Currency depreciation and Inflation:

Pakistan's currency has been severely depreciated against US dollar in the history of Pakistan. That is why inflation is at the highest rate.

"Inflation rate in Pakistan in FY2023 is 29.2%."

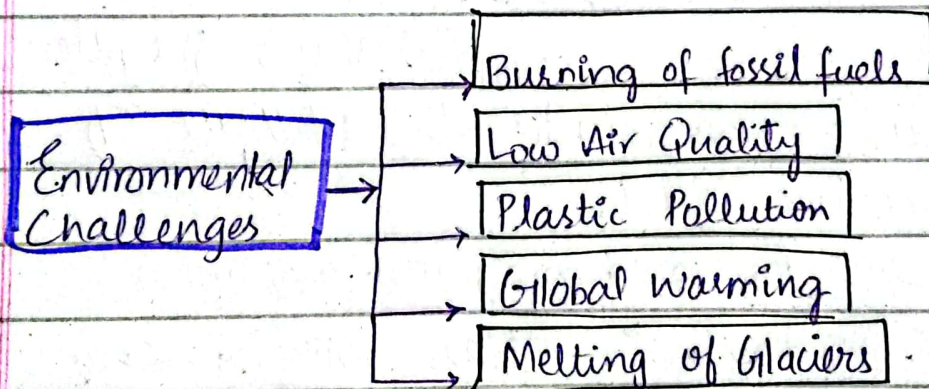
(World Bank Report)

(v) Low foreign exchange reserves;

In 2023, Pakistan

just averted a sovereign default because of low foreign exchange reserves which were at the lowest of their history. This situation coerces Pakistan to take more loans.

Environmental Challenges:



1. Burning of fossil fuels:

Pakistan's

energy sector is mostly based on the burning of fossil fuels which are the primary reason for environmental challenges.

Pakistan has reserves of coal which are burnt to generate power and are creating challenges.

(ii) Low air quality:

Pakistan is also grappling with low air quality. Due to vehicular emissions and smoke of brick kilns Pakistan's major city Lahore topped the list of most polluted cities of the world on the basis of air quality.

"If a person spends a year in Lahore his life expectancy will be reduced by 9 years."

(American Research)

(iii) Plastic Pollution:

Pakistan still uses plastic in daily activities a lot. This plastic when dumped in oceans, creates dangers for aquatic life. Plastic pollution has become a major challenge for Pakistan.

(iv) Global Warming:

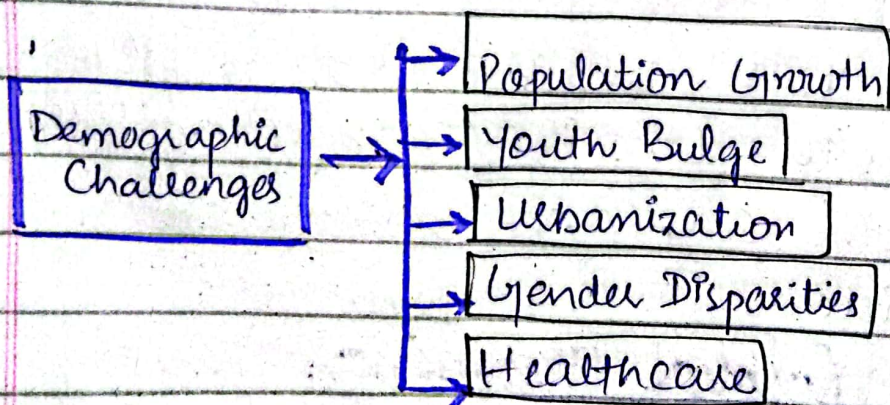
Pakistan is also experiencing global warming due to the emission of Green house gases. The temperature in

Pakistan is increasing with the passage of every year. Pakistan in 2023 experienced hottest days in the summer.

(v) Melting glaciers:

Pakistan is a home to some 7000 glaciers. Due to the rising temperature these glaciers melt and increase the flow of water in the rivers which increases threats of floods and cyclones.

Demographic Challenges:



(i) Population Growth:

The most prominent demographic challenge

Pakistan is facing today is the growing population of the country. Pakistan has become the ~~the~~ fifth most populous country of the world. According to 2023 census:

“Total population of Pakistan is 241.47 million.”

(National Statistics Bureau).

This growing population can reshape the future of Pakistan.

(ii) Youth Bulge:

Along with increasing population of Pakistan, the youth is also increasing. Youth makes 64% of total population of the country. This youth bulge can shape the future of country as it is evident from their political power.

“Youth makes 46% of electorate”

(Election Commission of Pakistan).

(iii) Urbanization:

Growing population has also brought the issue of urbanization as more and more people are moving from villages

to the cities and creating demographic changes.

For example: Election Commission of Pakistan took a long time for delimitation as previous constituencies have changed due to urbanization.

(iv) Gender Disparities:

Gender disparities are also increasing across the country.

"Pakistan ranks at 142 out of 146 countries on Global Gender Gap Index." (Global Gender Gap Report 2023).

(v) Healthcare:

Healthcare is another demographic challenge that is prevailing in the country and impacting fragile health system of Pakistan by bringing forward inequalities and disparities.

Conclusion:

All these issues have potential to shape the future of Pakistan. Therefore it is imperative for Pakistan to find opportunities in these challenges and to make structural reforms so shape its future in a better manner.