

QUESTION # 05

ANSWER:

INTRODUCTION:

The population of Pakistan is increasing at tremendous rate, making it 5th most populated state in the world. The population growth rate is estimated 2.5pc in recent census 2023. In accordance with this issue, if the people of Pakistan does not take charge of population size, then nature will take hold it. The increase mortality rate in neonates and infants, declining life expectancy of young adults show the natural phenomenon to revert the population explosion in Pakistan. Thus, several measures should be taken in the right direction.

NATURAL PHENOMENA TO REVERT POPULATION SIZE IN PAKISTAN:

i. Increase Maternal Mortality Rate:

Pakistan had 3rd highest mmr in 2020. Due to low nutritional diet of mother, increase fertility rate, several mother indulge in life threatening conditions like haemorrhage, hypertension, sepsis, and embolism. These complications ultimately lead to reduction in size of maternal population in country.

ii. Increase Neonatal Mortality Rate

The neonates are among those group of population who are at the verge of threatening conditions. Pakistan has 2nd most highest nmr in the world i.e

40 deaths in 1000 births. Thus increase in population size will reduce the capacity of the country to sustain the life of neonates through health facilities.

iii) Low life Expectancy:

Amid the huge population increase in the country, several diseases, and human-caused climate crisis reduce the life expectancy of its local population. According to United Nations, average life expectancy of people in the world is 72.16 years, while in Pakistan it is reduced to 67.7 years.

iv) Disease Burden:

The surge in different communicable and non-communicable diseases contribute to a natural phenomenon to reduce population size. Pakistan is 3rd largest population of Diabetes Mellitus with 33 million population as of 2023. Furthermore, it still struggles with Polio, Rabies, cholera which are non-existent in the western world.

v. Depreciation of Resources:

The increase in population of Pakistan also strains indigenous resources such as coal, gas and oil. The continuous decline in natural resources will have huge impact in reducing the population in the future.

vi. Increase Age Dependency Ratio:

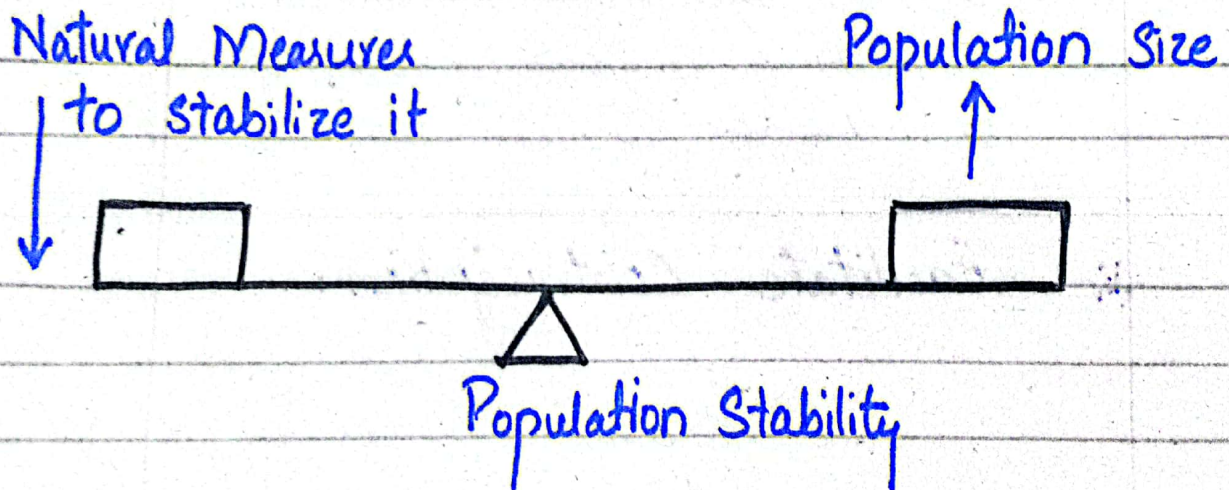
With the rise in population in the country, the young generation and elderly population will heavily depend on the working-age population. According to recent studies, the age dependency ratio in Pakistan is 69.03%.

vii. Humanitarian Crisis:

Population explosion in the country contributes to inequitable social welfare programs, leading to poverty, migration, unemployment, food hunger etc.

viii, Climate Crisis:

Increase human activities will contribute to regular pattern of climate woes. Recent flood of 2022 in Pakistan illustrates the natural phenomenon to lessen population size in the country.



∴ Diagrammatic illustration to show Nature take charge of population size.

MEASURES TO ADDRESS POPULATION SIZE:

i. Family Planning Awareness:

Population of Pakistan should be aware about family planning and address the possible positive implications of it on their lifestyle. The masses should be aware of minimum 2-3 years gap between conceiving another child.

ii. Facilitate Contraception:

Many couples in the country have hurdles in right choice of contraception. In order to take charge of population size, different forms of contraceptive measures such as condoms, vaginal ring, tubal ligation, oral contraceptive pills should be facilitated at the local groups.

iii, Collective Approach of Government.

Due to division of powers in the government after 18th amendment, collective approach of government at federal and provincial level is needed to address the population rise in the country.

iv, Concensus with Religious Clergy:

Pakistan faces huge trouble while opting measures for family planning in the country. Due to religious conflicts and difference of opinion, many measures get lag behind without any implementation. Thus, religious leader and clergy should go hand in hand for policy implementation.

v, Avoidance of Political Interests:

The political parties in the country prioritize political interests over national interests.

Increase proportion of NFC award given to population size pushes the parties to avoid any steps taken in the direction. Moreover, increase population also add into their electorate numbers, due to which many political leader avoid address population concerns. Thus, conflicts of interests should be thwarted for the country's progress.

CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, due to lack of efforts from the population of Pakistan to address population rise, nature would take charge of it. Thus, it is high time that government should take serious steps to counter population rise. The right steps will contribute to country's progress and prosperity. Collective and central approach towards this issue will remove any hurdles coming in the way.

QUESTION # 04

ANSWER

i. INTRODUCTION:

The BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) project is the revival of Silk road Economic Belt with an addition to 21st Century Maritime Silk road. CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) is that project which connects the both silk roads of land and sea. BRI envisions to build infrastructure, production chains and alternate trading link, which will reduce time-place consumption. It will not only improve economic development but also facilitate political, diplomatic and social interactions among various countries.

BRI's Vision of Building Infrastructure.

i. Roads Infrastructure:

BRI envisions to build roads across Asia, Africa, Middle East and Europe. The motorways (M1, M2, M3, M4, M6 e.t.c) build under CPEC project illustrates capacity of BRI to enhance roads infrastructure.

ii. Railway Tracks:

Many railway tracks are also enlisted in BRI project that will connect neighbouring country. These tracks will ease the ~~at~~ long distance and facilitate the trade

iii. Maritime System:

Furthermore, many maritime links have

been build in coastal countries to facilitate trade routes. Gawadar port of Pakistan is among the mainstream maritime infrastructure, which will reduce time of trade from Middle-East to China.

iv. Energy Power plants:

BRI also envisions to generate electricity through several energy resources all along the silk roads. CPEC project has already contributed to 3000mw of electricity in national grid as of 2023. Moreover, it also aims to utilise solar, hydel, wind and nuclear energy to transition to clean energy.

v. Industrial Zones:

Many Industries has been implanted in many countries under the BRI project. Special economic zones (SEZs)

have been created to facilitate investors to establish industrial infrastructure in key areas.

vi. Digital Infrastructure:

BRI also manifests to build long chain of fiber optics and 5G service to the member states. This digital infrastructure will facilitate human interaction and trade interconnectedness.

vii. Social Welfare Infrastructure:

China prospects to benefit local communities through BRI project as well. BRI will also be comprised of local schools, hospitals, vocational training centers and skill learning centers. This will not only contribute to infrastructural development but also help in social development.

BRI's Vision of Reshaping Production Chains and Trading

Links:

ii. Avoiding Malacca Strait:

China is major oil importing country in the world. 80% of its imports are shipped through Strait of Malacca. It is most dangerous choke point, due to which BRI project can provide alternate route and avoid Malacca dilemma.

iii. Connectivity Across Continents:

The BRI projects envisions to reshape conventional trading routes through sea. This project will also connect different continents i.e. Asia, Africa, Europe and Middle-East through land and sea.

(iii) Multi-directional Route:

BRI is a multi-directional route, conjointly benefitting each country. This project will provide alternate trading links to landlocked countries and facilitate economic trade through land and water.

iv. Multi-pronged Scope of Project:

The multi-pronged scope of the project includes alternate trading pathways, energy generation projects, utilizing skilled human resource, industrial growth and transition to new technological advancement through new methods of trade and production.

BRI Visions

- Energy Power Plants
- Road Infrastructure
- Industrial Zones
- Railway tracks
- Digital Infrastructure
- Maritime System
- Connectivity
- Avoiding Malacca Stra
- Multi-directional Route
- Multi-pronged Scope

CONCLUSION:

Thus, it can be concluded that BRI project will provide alternate trading links and production chains, build infrastructure. However, efficient policy implementation and collective efforts of countries can further increase the efficiency of this project. Moreover, wide scope of this project will mutually benefit every country, thus each country should align their national interest with this global project.

QUESTION # 07

ANSWER:

INTRODUCTION:

Lack of consensus between Pakistan and Afghanistan will contribute to regional instability and violence. Both countries are severely hit by militancy, political and economic destability. Furthermore, humanitarian crisis adds fuel to the fire. Thus, absence of regional-consensus based approach between both countries will ignite instability and violence. Thus, in order to counter this menace, both countries should end up consensual agreements for better world and progress of their respective countries.

CRITICAL EVALUATION OF REGIONAL CONTENTIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN.

i. Political Instability:

The recent contentions between both countries increase political disagreement on major regional key issues. The regular verbal disagreements by political leaders of both countries amid increase of terrorism in the region further ignites political instability in the region.

ii. Diplomatic Deadlock:

Both countries have been indulge in diplomatic deadlock for long time. Pakistan recurrently accuses Afghanistan for providing sanctuaries to

militant groups, while Afghanistan clearly deny any such actions.

Thus, these diverging acts contribute to regional instability and diplomatic deadlock.

iii. Economic Disruption:

The regular blockage of economic trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan due to recurrent militant attacks and security threats severely hampers economic development of the region. The Khyber Pass, which is key link for trade and commerce between both countries is closed due to security threats.

iv. Power Imbalance:

In geopolitical area of International system, both countries have tussle over power in the region. The new Taliban regime strives for International

recognition and dissent any hold of Pakistan at International platform. Thus, lack of consensus between both countries will destabilize power balance in the region. Furthermore, due to contention of both countries, India tries to take charge of the region. The recent development of India at every front transits power imbalances in the region.

v. Revival of Militancy:

Both countries accuse each other for rise in terrorism and militant groups.

After the withdrawal of US from Afghanistan, the terrorist attacks on security officials and civilians has raised since previous years.

Recent attacks in Malakand,

Daru, Waziristan alarmed the region over revival of violence in both countries.

ii) Rise of Dissented Groups:

Due to local unrest in both countries, there has been increase in dissented groups in Pakistan such as Balochistan Liberation front and Balochistan Liberation Army have risen their attacks on national sovereignty. Thus, lack of regional-based consensus between both countries has increased feeling of dissent and rage against the governments, leading to violence.

MEASURES TO AVOID THIS MENACE:

ii) Revival of Diplomatic Ties:

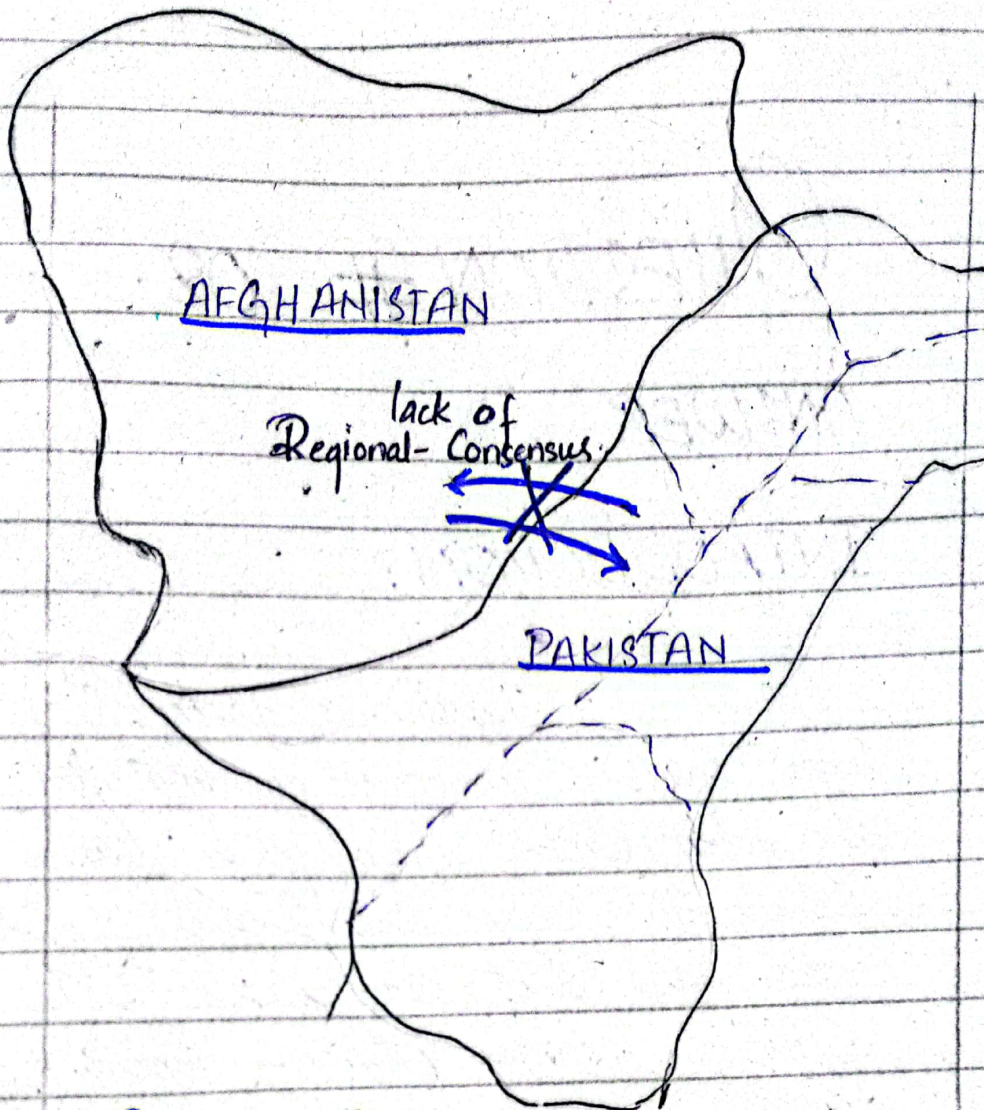
Both countries should take actions for revival of diplomatic ties. This will facilitate consensual cooperation for regional stability.

vii. Economic Continuity:

Despite serious conversations from both countries, economic trade and commerce should never be point of disagreement. Both countries should mutually overcome any hurdles in economic continuity and facilitate trade through their corridors.

viii. Social Integration:

Both countries should avoid to inculcate any hard feelings among their population. Recent step of Pakistan to repatriate Afghan refugee led to engrave harsh feelings among the masses. Thus, Pakistan and Afghanistan should work for social integration for the regional peace and stability.



CONCLUSION:

The lack of consensus between Pakistan and Afghanistan, severe instability and violence is incorporated in the region. However, positive steps in the direction for regional prosperity in political, economic, diplomatic and social fronts will bring peace in the region and bring harmony for both countries.

QUESTION # 08

ANSWER

INTRODUCTION:

Pakistan is facing huge crisis in economic, environmental and demographic field that can reshape its future. The heavy trade and debt crisis leaves little space for country's economic growth. Increase climate challenges and human activities creates environmental degradation. In addition to this, huge rural-urban migration, population growth, brain drain further threatens demographic stability. However, keen steps to avert these challenges with top to bottom collective approach will facilitate implementation policy.

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES OF PAKISTAN:

i, Debt Crisis:

Pakistan is facing huge debt crisis amid its economic challenges. The country has lend multiple debts from International and multinational banks. According to recent report of Economic Survey 2023, the debt has surged by 27% in FY23 to reach 77tn rupees.

ii, Trade Deficit:

Pakistan is also facing huge trade deficit. It has now been importing fossil fuels due to increase consumption and low generation capacity. Increase imports and decrease exports create trade deficit in the country. In the year 2022-23 the trade deficit of the country accounts for \$24B (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics).

iii. Declining Remittances:

In recent years, Pakistan faces huge decline in remittances. This severely impacts country's economy as it contributes to major share in country's income.

iv. Energy Crisis:

Pakistan is heavily dependent on fossil fuels and due to declining indigenous resources, the country imports hydrocarbons.

Major portion of the country's budget goes to energy imports creating economic imbalances.

v. Illegal Transactions:

Major diaspora of Pakistan send their finances through illegal means i.e. hawala, hundi. Strict banking systems and artificial manoeuvring of the ~~to~~ economy in the country pushes the people to opt illegal transactions, thus hindering economic growth.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES OF PAKISTAN:

i. Recurrent Climate Disasters:

Pakistan faced irregular pattern of climate disasters such as floods, drought, heat waves, wild fires, earthquakes and storms. Pakistan faced deadliest flood in 2023, contributing to \$30B economic loss.

ii. Lack of Renewable Energy Infrastructure:

As the world transitions to phase out of fossil fuels as illustrated in COP28, Pakistan lag behind in environment sensitive development projects. Lack of infrastructure in renewable energy such as solar, wind, hydel, nuclear resources create less capacity for the country to employ environmental policies.

iii) Overreliance on fossil fuels:

Pakistan heavily depends on fossil fuels for energy production. According to recent data thermal energy contributes around 58.8% in its energy mix. This further ignites environmental degradation in the country.

iv) Pollution:

The problem of air, water and noise pollution top the list in environmental challenges. The recent smog and unhygienic water issues raised concerns in the country. Lahore was listed as the most polluted city in the world in 2023. Moreover, the AQI index of Pakistan is also declining resulting in various health issues and diseases.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES OF PAKISTAN

i. Uprise in Rural-Urban Migration:

There has been increase in rural-urban migration in Pakistan in recent years. It is estimated that 50% of Pakistan's population will live in urban areas by 2025.

ii. Slums sprawl:

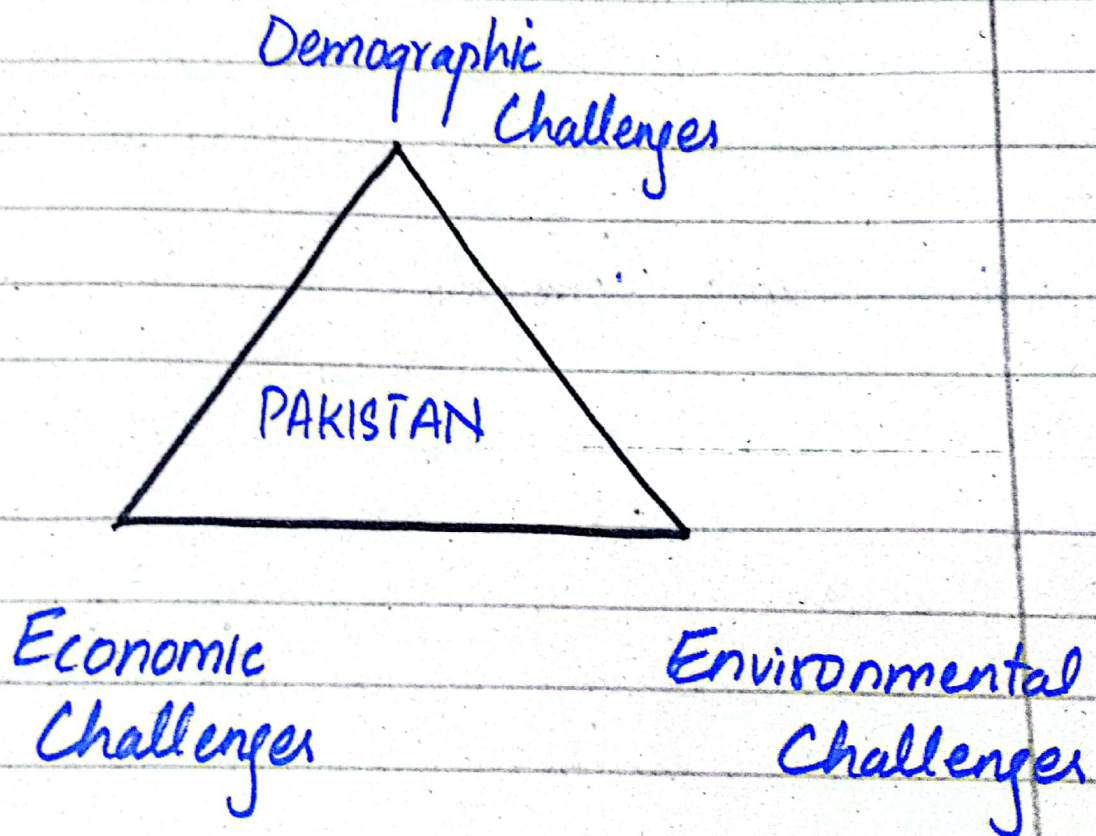
Due to less resources and facility in cities to migrated population, many people are forced to live in slums. This challenges demography of the country.

iii. Population Explosion:

The country is growing at the rate of 2.5% of growth rate. Recent statistics shows that total population of Pakistan is around 240 million people, making it 5th populous country.

iv. **Brain Drain:**

Due to weak economic, political and social conditions of the country, many skilled and educated youth is emigrating from the country for better job opportunities.



∴ FIGURATIVE ILLUSTRATION OF PAKISTAN CHALLENGES.

CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, Pakistan is indulged with many challenges at economic, political, environmental and demographic fronts. But right policies to increase exports, reduce trade deficit, focusing on renewable energy resources will improve economic condition of country. Moreover, decline in human activities and reducing green house emissions reduce environmental challenges in Pakistan.

In addition to this, proper facility of infrastructure, disaster resilient development projects will also improve demographic challenges of Pakistan.

