

Pakistan Affairs Jan Mock

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QUESTION NO: 08

Pakistan stands at a crucial juncture, facing economic, environmental and demographic challenges that can reshape its future. Explain.

INTRODUCTION:

Pakistan finds itself at a crossroads, where the convergence of economic, environmental and demographic challenges stands as a formidable force to reshape its nation's future. The intricate interplay of these factors not only complicates the Pakistan situation but also provides a breeding ground to draft a comprehensive policies to reshape its future. Because, the economic uncertainty and environmental degradation along with the growing population exacerbate the current situation and highlights the urgency of strategic intervention. Also, the decisions made in the coming years will undeniably influence the Pakistan's future. In this context, a nuanced exploration of economic capabilities, environmental certainties and demographic landscape is imperative to comprehend the challenges at hand and pave the way for a resilient and sustainable future for Pakistan.

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACED BY PAKISTAN:

Pakistan is facing acute

crisis in its economic sector. A few challenges are highlighted below:

01) Balance of Payment Crisis:

One of the major challenges faced by Pakistan is balance of payment crisis. It has no enough reserves to pay for the imports and duties. The reason behind this is its imbalance between imports and exports sector. According to Finance Division of Pakistan statistics, the trade deficit reached at \$24.1 bn doll in fiscal year (FY) 2023.

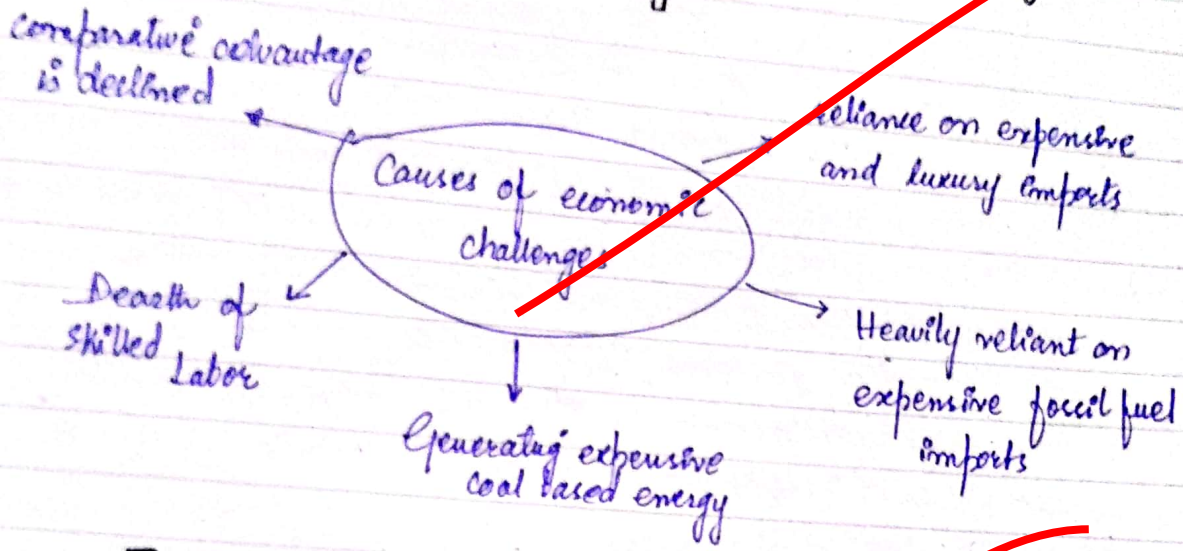
02) Current Account Deficit:

Another challenge to the economic sector of Pakistan is the current account deficit. Since its inception, it has heavily reliant on foreign aids and loans. It took 23rd bailout packages from International Monetary Funds (IMF), highest among all states. According to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) October 2023 states the current account deficit reached at 74 million dollars.

03) Dwindling State of Industrial Sector:

Pakistan is famous for its textile industry and cotton industry. Almost 20% export was done last year, which was approximately 16.5 billion dollars (The Economic Times, Oct, 2023). It raised

concerns for the country that its comparative advantage has been struggling, which hinders the economic growth and development of the country.



ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACED BY PAKISTAN:

Due to rapid industrialization, Pakistan is facing hurdles and challenges in their surrounding. Pakistan, on the other hand, has affected more than any other state. A few challenges are given below:

01) Looming threat of Water Scarcity:

Pakistan is facing the challenge of water scarcity from the last a few years. It is caused by the rapid change in climate which has caused droughts. It becomes a hurdle in environment stability because the plants and other herbs

are not taking enough water and they become dry. Ultimately, there are less carbon capture resources in the country.

02) Air Pollution due to harmful release of Gases from Industries:

Another environmental challenge is the harmful air pollutants. They emerge from industries, plants fertilizers and other chemicals. Pakistan has no enough industries to clean the air, therefore, as a result the air becomes harmful and causes environmental and health crisis.

03) Rapid Deforestation: a critical concern

Environmental concerns have reached a critical point in Pakistan. The issue of rapid deforestation, due to increasing population and advance infrastructure, is posing a threat to the country's sustainability. Hence, deforestation poses an environmental challenge for Pakistan.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES FACED BY PAKISTAN:

Since the inception of Pakistan, it has faced huge population crisis because of no particular framework to address this. A few demographic challenges are highlighted below:

01) Rapidly Growing Population :- Strain on resources

The major demographic challenge is the rapidly growing population. It alters the existing landscape of the society due to high demand to sustain the lives of many. It becomes a strain on the resources as well.

02) Refugees Crisis :

The strategic location of Pakistan provides a few disadvantage to it. It is sharing a long border with Afghanistan, a region which is already facing humanitarian crisis and instability. The masses opt to migrate in Pakistan because of sharing culture and religion. This huge influx of refugees further exacerbate the demographic issues.

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS TO RESHAPE ITS FUTURE AMID MULTI-FACET CHALLENGES:

01) Urgency of Pragmatic Policy Reforms:

To resolve these huge challenges in various sectors, Pakistan needs to draft a comprehensive policy reforms. Such as, to sustain demographic ban the influx of refugees and propagate the awareness of family planning.

02) Comprehensive Economic Charter:

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Pakistan initiative of Special Investment Financial Committee (SIFC) must be utilized in its true mandate. For the next elected government in February 2024, they must adopt the SIFC as its economic charter to attract investment and create jobs.

03) Utilize the Loss and Damage Fund granted by Many States and will grant:

In COP-28, it was made a historic deal. The wealthier nations will provide loss and damage fund to affected countries. Also, amid the 2022 floods, many institutes and states granted funds and aids to Pakistan. All these aids and funds can be utilized to enhance the infrastructure and curb the environment challenges.

CONCLUSION:

In essence, Pakistan is facing a multi-facet challenges in its various sectors which requires a strategic intervention. The economic, environment and population growth exacerbate the current situation of Pakistan. Therefore, there is an urgency to address the challenges and pave ways to reshape the country's future for prosperity and stability.

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QUESTION NO:05

If we do not take charge of our population size, then nature will do it for us. Explain this phenomenon in context of Pakistan. Also suggest measures to address it.

INTRODUCTION:

Population is increasing at a rapid rate. There are no any policies and frameworks to address the menace of growing population. It is becoming a threat for the nature as well. Such as, the increasing population size requires infrastructure to live which leads towards rapid deforestation. Also, they require enough food and other commodities to live a healthy life, which strain the natural resources, which are already decreasing. Therefore, to address this issue, Pakistan needs to follow a viable path to make a comprehensive framework to fulfill the needs of the existing population and control the fertility rate of the country. This is necessary because if the nature itself takes the charge, it will provide a devastating situation which becomes an issue for the masses to sustain.

CHALLENGES POSED BY POPULATION SIZE:

The population is increasing at a large scale and posing challenges to the

environment and the country. A few are highlighted below:

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01) Environmental Challenges:

According to the recent census, according to Council of Common Interest (CCI), there are Pakistan's population has increased to 24.29 million with annual growth of 2.55%. This posed a heavy challenge to the environment.

a) Rapid Deforestation:

When the population size increased, it requires an infrastructure to live their lives. Pakistan, a developing country and faced multiple challenges, is struggling to provide houses in a small land. It moves the state to cut down the forests or trees to make infrastructure for masses. Ultimately, it leaves towards environmental challenges.

b) Booming threat of food scarcity:

Huge and unskilled population become a liability for the country. They demand a healthy food and commodities, which is impossible for the developing country to provide. According to UNICEF, after the 2022 floods, almost 3.4% children are malnourished and facing food insecurity.

02) ECONOMIC CHALLENGES:

The population size may also contribute in economic challenges. A few economic challenges posed by population are explained below:

01) High levels of Unemployment:

A large population size can lead to high levels of unemployment if the country is economically unstable. And, Pakistan is facing dwindling state of economy and it is unable to create job opportunities for masses across the country. Therefore, huge population size stresses the economy of the country.

02) Strain on available Resources:

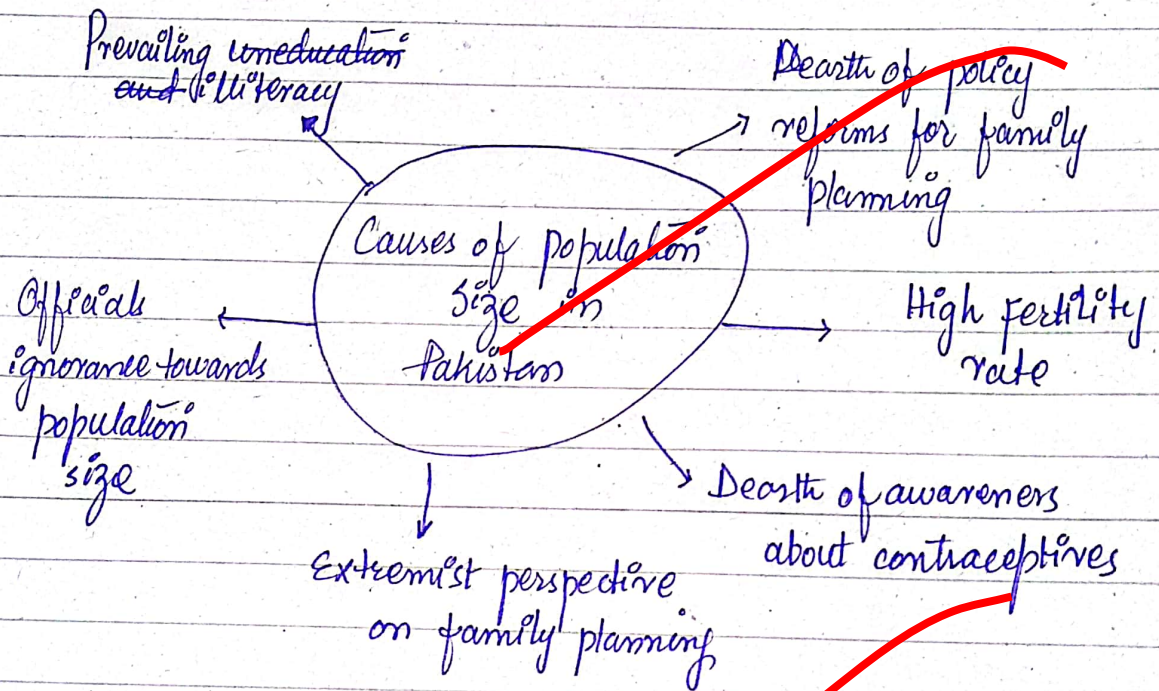
A large number of people requires enough resource, such as infrastructure, food and daily need commodities. It strains the available resources of the country, which is already in a fragile state to provide any resource and fulfil their nation's demand.

03) Increased Dependency Ratio:

A huge population size is proportional to the high ratio dependency ratio. There is a disparity in workforce and the one's who are dependent on that. There

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are huge number of children and elderly who are dependent on the working person of a family. It posed a challenge for on the economic productivity and pressure on government finances.



SUGGESTIVE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE MENACE OF GROWING POPULATION:

There is a need to delve into this issue seriously to resolve it before the nature can intervene. A few workable remedies are given below:

- 01) **Comprehensive Family Planning Reforms:**
Pakistan needs to seriously

think about the increasing population size. They have to draft a viable family planning by taking lessons from Iran family planning program to resolve the huge population issues.

02) Propagate Awareness to the masses about Negative Aspects of Population:

Another important measure can be propagation of awareness among masses. It can be done by the help of social welfare institutions and non-governmental institutions (NGOs) to spread about the negative pros implications of the huge population.

03) Enhance Economic Capabilities to address the existing population needs:

Pakistan needs to enhance its industrial and agriculture sector, a comparative advantage of the country, to create job opportunities. It is necessary to address the existing 24 million population needs and demands.

04) Enhance Education Quality for Skilled and Literate Masses:

Education becomes an achilles

heel for Pakistan because of poor quality of education at primary and secondary level. Therefore, work on enhancing education quality will create skilled and literate masses who are aware of the consequences of huge population and how to control it.

CONCLUSION:

To sum up, Pakistan is not giving significant importance to the rising population. It becomes a strain and liability for the country along with a danger for the country's environment and nature. Hence, a pragmatic framework of family planning will help in curbing the menace of huge population.

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Question no 07

In the absence of a regional consensus-based approach between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the region's future may be characterized by instability and heightened levels of violence. Critically evaluate.

Outlines

1) Introduction

2) Historical background of Pak-Afghan relations.

3) Analyzing current situation of Pak-Afghan relations ~~amid absence~~

a) Escalation of tensions: ~ strains historical relations ~

b) Increased frustration of Pakistan amid rise in TTP attacks.

c) Border skirmishes between Pakistan and Afghan

d) Humanitarian crisis at northern border

e) Shadow government installed by TTP in northern areas: ~ Pak wants Afghan to talk TTP

f) Pakistan aggressive diplomacy towards Afghan Taliban

4) How ~~of~~ absence of a regional consensus impacts the Region's future:

a) Escalation of TTP attacks across the South Asia

b) ~~Interference of non-state actors~~ Finance of non-state actors to TTP and ISKP brings tensions among various states.

c) Looming threats of unrest across the SA.

- d) Threats of increasing proxy warfare in the region.
- e) Intervention of international institutions exacerbate geo-political tensions.
- f) ~~Death of regional consensus lead to regional isolation.~~

5) Suggestive measures to resolve the issue:

a) Empower and reinvigorate the mandate of SAARC

b) ~~Build diplomatic Pak-Afghan needs to sit on one table to resolve issues.~~

c) ~~Intervention of neighbouring states in Pak-Afghan heightening tensions to curb regional instability.~~

d) ~~Collective Response regionally to stop terrorism~~

e) Conclusion

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