

NOA MOCK

(Pakistan Affairs)

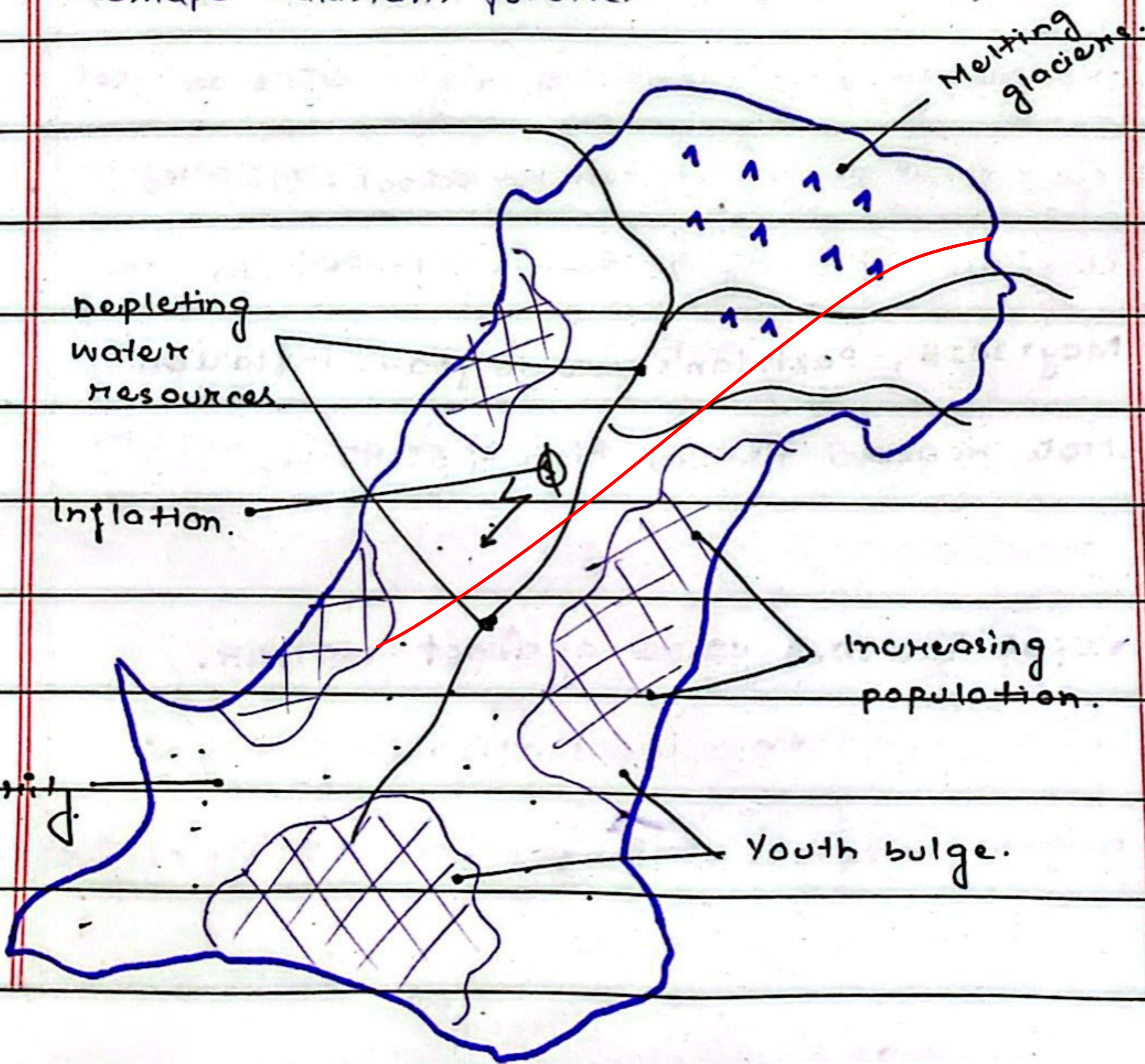
Good
Enough length
Enough headings
Relevant content
Attempt 4th question too

Question no 8.

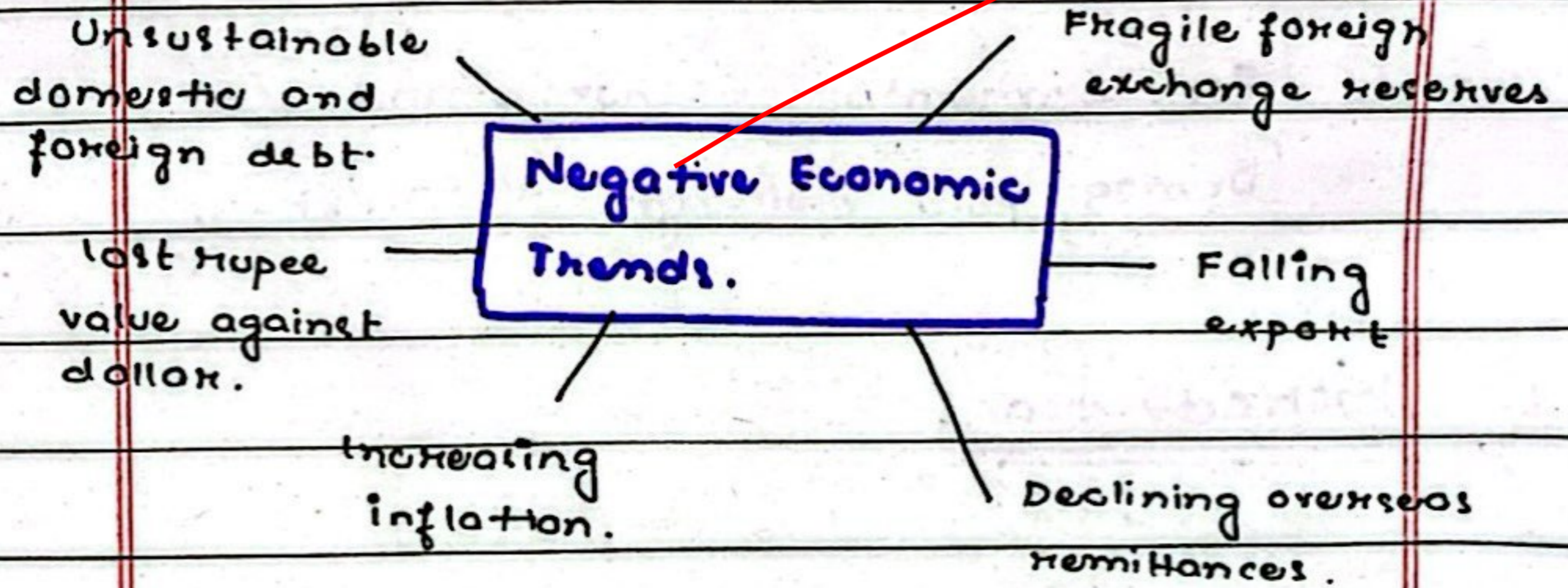
Environmental, Economic and Demographic Challenges of Pakistan.

1. Introduction.

Pakistan sits at a critical crossroads and grappling with potent cocktail of economic, environment and demographic challenges. If they are not addressed adequately they have the potential to reshape Pakistan's future.



2. Economic Challenges faced by Pakistan.



i- Historic High Inflation.

Pakistan is grappling with historic high inflation in recent time. This has significantly impact citizens lives. They are unable to pay electricity or gas bills or even send their children to school. Middle class is especially hit by this inflation. In May 2023, Pakistan's year to year inflation rate reached record high of 37.97%.

ii-

Rupee has lost value against dollar.

Currency devaluation is another major economic challenge. This has increased

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the cost of imported goods. eventually impacting prices of commodity. Petrol hike is a major struggle in this context. By today, 1 dollar stands at 281.31 Pakistani Rupees.

iii- Falling exports has been another challenge.

Pakistan exports have been on downward trend raising concerns about economic stability and growth. The ongoing global economic slowdown has decreased demand for exports.

Similarly rising production costs make Pakistani exports less competitive in global market.

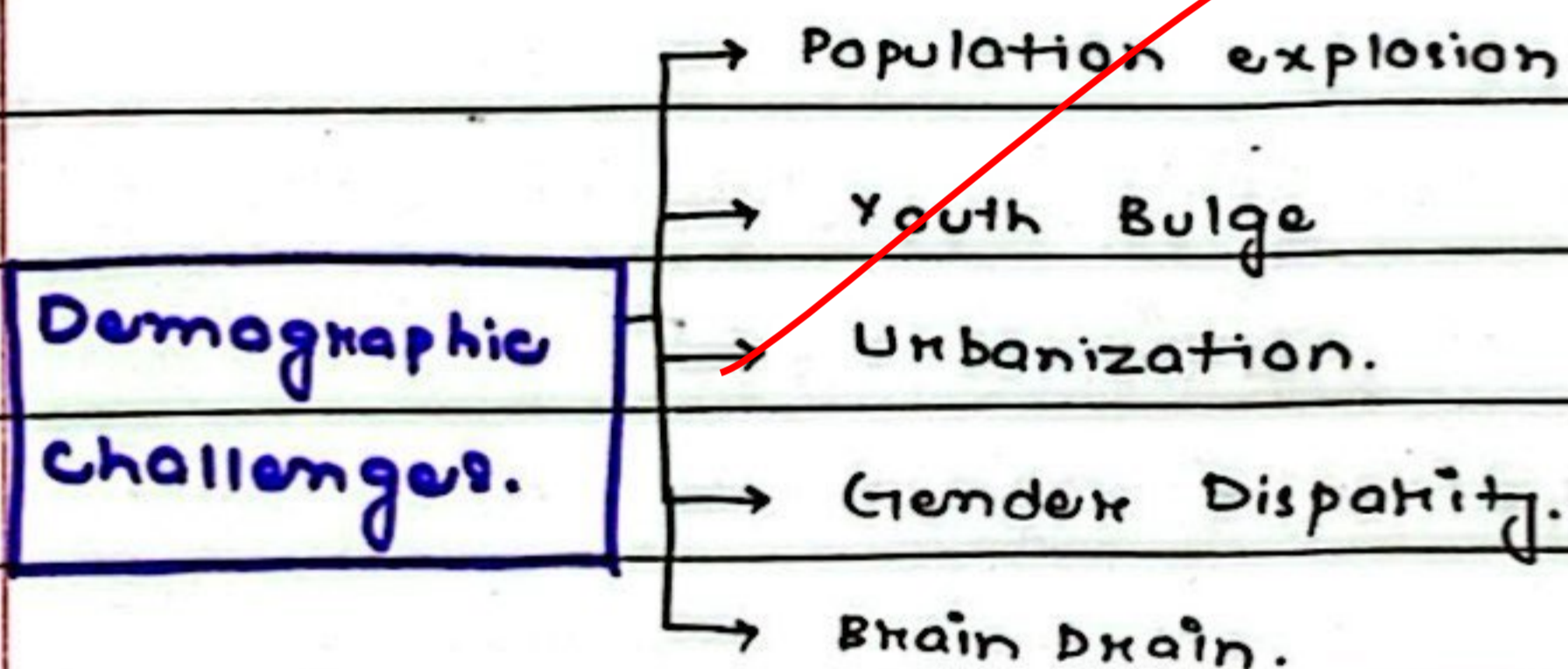
Textile sector saw significant drop of 15 percent in fiscal year 2022-23 according to Pakistan Bureau of statistics.

iv- Declining overseas remittances.

Remittance play a huge role in contributing to Pakistan economic growth. Pakistan has a huge diaspora especially in Middle east and West that send remittances every year.

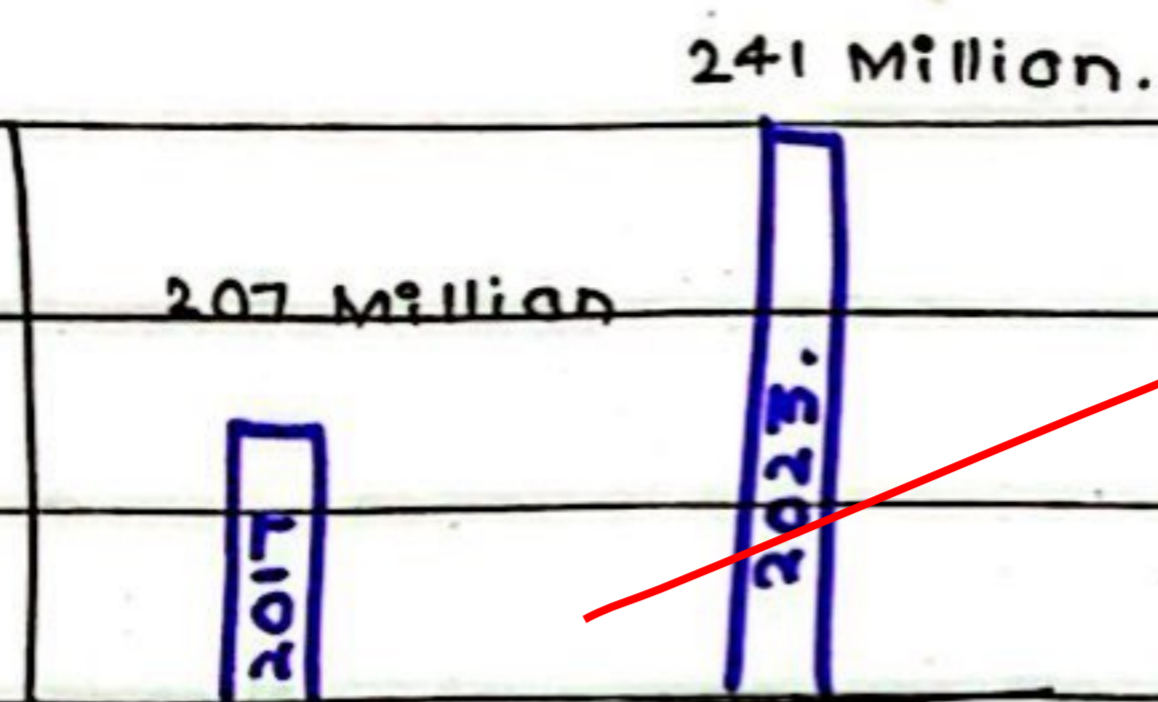
However there have been decline in this trend affecting Pakistan growth. Pakistan's remittances in FY 23 contracted to a little over 14%.

3. Demographic challenges faced by Pakistan.



i- Rapid Population growth.

Pakistan's population is one of the fastest growing globally. This growth puts immense pressure on resources, infrastructure and public services. According to 2023 census, Pakistan's population has increased 33 percent since 2017 adding 6 Million population every year.



Pakistan's population explosion.

ii. Increasing rural to urban migration.

Increasing urbanization is another negative trend in Pakistan. This rural to urban migration put huge pressure into cities turning them into concrete jungle and hub of problems.

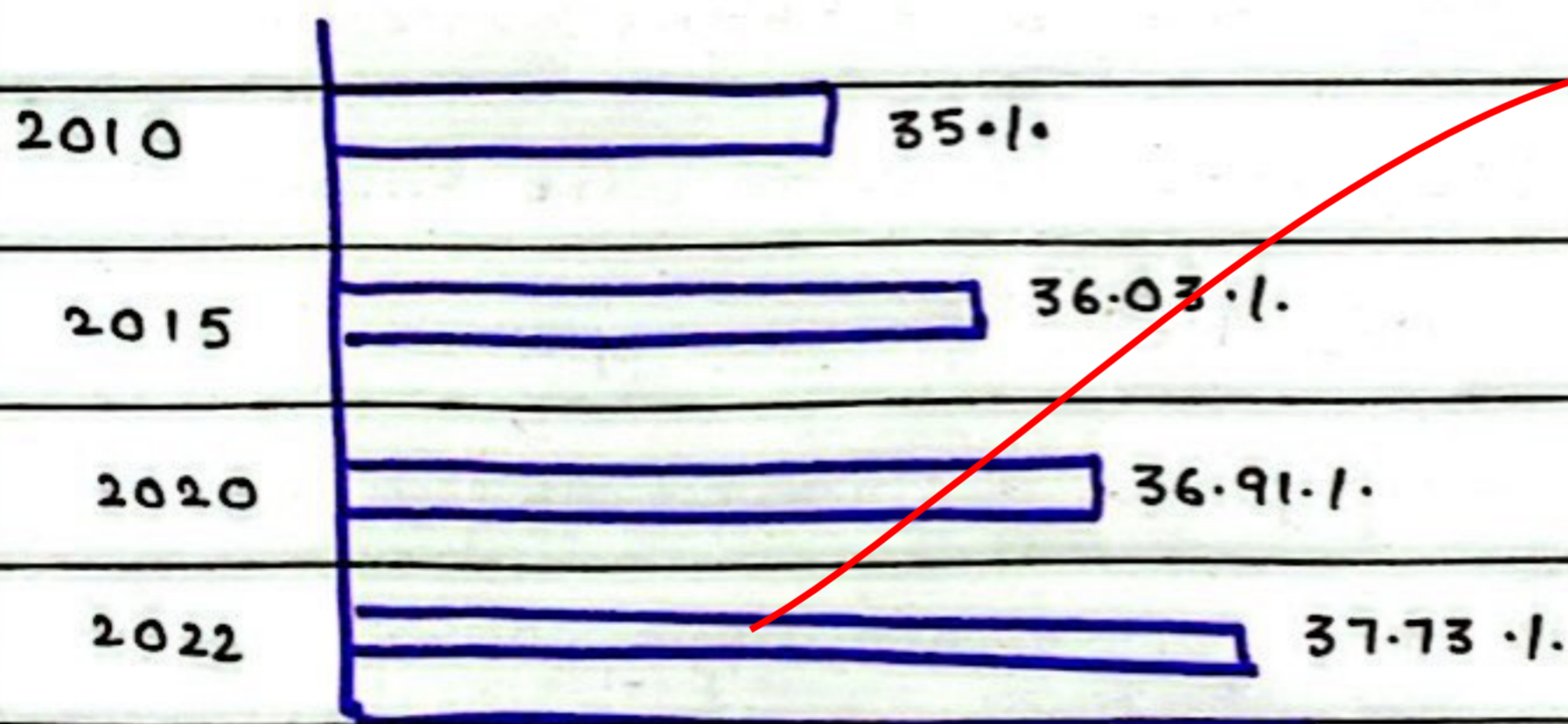


fig: Share of urban population in Pakistan (source: statista)

iii. Large youth bulge is becoming a liability.

A large young population presents both

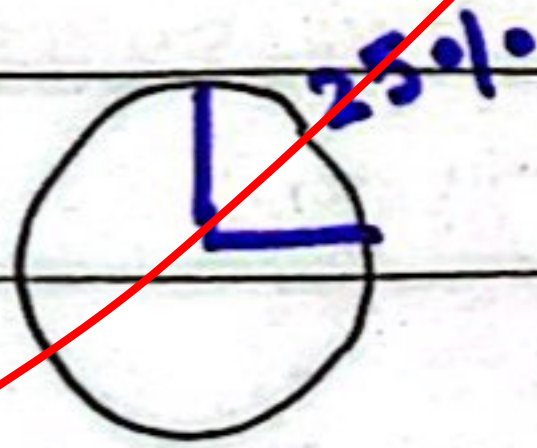
opportunities and challenges. If equipped with skills and job they can become an asset and drive economic growth. But if remain unskilled they can become a liability. Pakistan currently holds highest proportion of young people i.e. 64% above 30 years. 17 Million population is either idle or unemployed (Dr Hafiz A. Pasha calculations). This is huge challenge for country.

iv- Gender Disparity :

Gender inequality hinders human capital development and economic potential. Pakistan has lower female education and labor force participation rate that is a huge challenge for country.

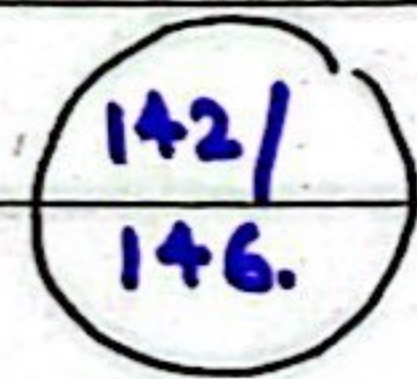


Female literacy.



Female labor force participation

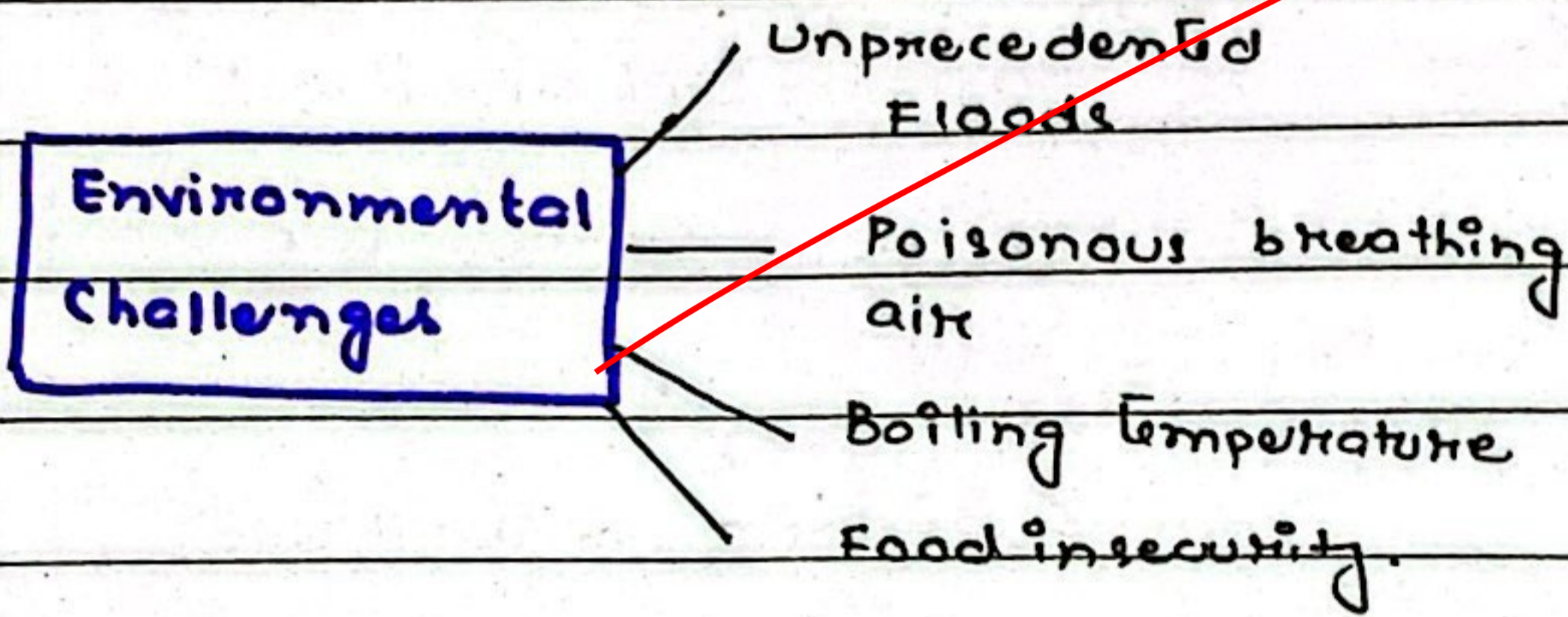
(Source: ILO)



Gender Inequality Ranking

(Source: Gender Inequality Index 2023).

4. Environmental woes of Pakistan.



i- Pakistan has been witnessing unprecedented floods.

Pakistan recently witnessed floods in 2022 that caused unprecedented damage. These floods have been recurring every year and hit mostly least underdeveloped region of country that don't have capacity to restructure themselves. UN Security General said at UNGA 78,

"I will never forget climate related carnage I saw after apocalyptic flooding submerged a third of Pakistan."

ii.

Pollution Woes:

Air and water pollution are rampant, posing serious health risks and hindering tourism and other sectors. Pakistan's biggest city is turning into hub of poisonous breathing air. According to Air Quality Life Index report, lives in Lahore, Shikhpura, Rawalpindi and Peshawar have been shortened by 6-8 years due to bad air.

iii.

Resources scarcity and food insecurity.

Water scarcity is a looming threat in Pakistan. Also due to subpar rainfall, drought conditions are a threat to livestock, agriculture and water availability.

PMD

AUGUST - 2nd driest month in Pakistan in 63 years.

Deficit in rainfall - 65.9 percent.

5.

Conclusion.

By taking decisive action on these challenges, Pakistan can write a brighter

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story of sustainable development, social well being and environmental resilience. However finding solutions require ongoing collaboration and dialogue among various stakeholders.

Question no 6 :

Constitution of Pakistan and National integration, identity and democratic values.

1. Introduction.

As Pakistan's constitution celebrates its 50th anniversary, reflecting on lesson learnt is very crucial. Pakistan faced many challenges of national integration, national identity and democratic values and it is important to address those challenges and learn from them.

2. National Integration.

Despite Constitution's emphasis on Pakistan's

common identity and unity, challenge remain. Pakistan should learn lesson from those challenges to address them adequately.

i- Challenges to National Integration.

a) Diversity and Disparity.

Pakistan has numerous ethnicities, religions and languages. Achieving a sense of unified national identity is difficult.

b) Sectarianism and Religious Divisions.

Religious intolerance and extremism has been fuelling sectarian violence in Pakistan that undermines social cohesion.

c) Political turmoil and instability.

Frequent political unrest, military interventions and lack of strong democratic institutions have politicized and polarized the political culture of Pakistan.

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ii. Lessons learned in National Integration.

a) Require more efforts like National Action Plan and unity against terrorism.

National Action Plan was developed to combat terrorism and sectarian violence.

Such efforts can help foster a sense of shared and unity against common threats.

b) Continuous dialogue and understanding to address grievances.

Open and honest dialogue between diverse communities is crucial for addressing grievances. Pakistan has a history of

not addressing Balochistan reserves which led them to held a protest in capital.

Different perspectives should be understood to build trust.

c) State Building and Institution Strengthening.

A strong and transparent democratic

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system is required. Upholding the law and ensuring equal participation in political processes are vital for long term integration

Ronag Jahan wrote in Book "Pakistan: Failure in National Integration";

"From very start, political leaders failed to develop national political institution... dire absence of national ideology."

3.

National Identity.

The constitution defines Pakistan as an Islamic Republic, but the interpretation of this identity has evolved over time. Debates and discussions on what constitutes a "Pakistani identity" continue reflecting the country's complex history and diverse population.

1) Challenges to National Identity.

- Confusing history: Affiliations with Arabs, Ancient civilisations, Mughal Empires, colonialism and British Raj

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- Balancing religious identity with other aspects of national identity.
- Diversity: language, ethnicity and regional variations remain challenge.
- Religious extremism and intolerance: hurt the sentiments of national cohesive identity.

ii) Lessons learned for national identity.

a) Promote tolerance and inclusivity among society.

Due to vast ethnic and religious variations, Pakistani society has become intolerant of different ethnic groups. Bangladesh got separate from us due to the intolerance of other ethnicities. Hence it is important to promote inclusive national identity.

b) Sense of shared values and aspirations.

Each province and region in Pakistan

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has a different history. Hence sense of shared values and aspirations should be developed to promote inclusivity.

c) Celebrating common cultural heritage.

Embracing and celebrating rich history of traditional music, dance and literature or cuisine from different regions and ethnicities within Pakistan, can strengthen national identity.

d) Education and civic engagement.

Integrating diverse perspectives and histories into school curriculums can promote understanding between different groups. Encouraging citizens to participate in community development initiatives and cultural events can foster cooperation.

4. Development of Democratic Values.

i- long evolutionary process of democracy in Pakistan.

- Amendments
- three constitutions adopted
- Dictatorial authoritarianism
- Mid term elections.
- Dismissal of popular governments
- vote of no confidence against sitting PMs.

Allan McEyth wrote in his book,
"The destruction of Pakistan's democracy",
"How decade immediately
after independence, Pakistan
went from democracy to
military government."

This was the big factor that hurt
the democratic sentiment of Pakistan
and didn't allow democratic process
to evolve smoothly in last 77 years.

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ii- lessons learnt from development of Democratic values.

a) Focus on real debates and policies implementation.

Pakistan society has been polarised in term of political culture. This has shifted debate from talking about real issues and policies to petty issues like Which party is the best and why. This focus should be shifting to real debates and policies adoption of political parties

b) Strengthen democratic institutions and separation of powers.

Politicisation of judiciary and judicialisation of politics is a big dilemma of Pakistan. Each institution should operate independently by ensuring complete separation of powers

c) Party Reforms that promote internal democracy.

Dynasty Politics is a big challenge

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for Pakistan. According to Research by Dr Fiazurrahman, published in PIDE, 52% of public offices are occupied by political dynasties. Political parties should bring reforms and should introduce internal democracy and transparency.

d). Bridge gap between Political parties and voters.

Bottom up consultative process should be introduced. Manifesto should not be mere wish list while parties should develop informed manifestos. by monitoring progress regularly.

5. Conclusion.

Constitution of Pakistan has played a significant role in shaping country's identity however journey towards full national integration, a cohesive national identity and robust democratic values remains ongoing. Lesson learned from past 50 years could guide future.

Question no 5.

Pakistan's population growth and Nature's grip on it.

1. Introduction.

Pakistan has one of the fastest population growth. This population explosion is not addressed, it will have harsh consequences on resources, environment and socio economic conditions of country.

2. Pakistan's Population Pressure:

Pakistan is the 6th most populous country and this explosion is breeding a silent crisis in Pakistan.

i. Unsustainable growth rate

a) India - 1.10 pc

b) Nepal - 1.25 pc

c) Bangladesh - 1.26 pc

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d) Sri Lanka - 0.83 pc

e) Pakistan - 2.55 pc *

All the nation in South Asia has relatively sustainable growth rate but Pakistan is rapidly increasing in unsustainable way.

ii - High Fertility Rate.

With current fertility rate of 3.6

births per women (one of highest in

South Asia) Pakistan is projected to

reach 350 Million by 2050. putting immense strain on resources.

3. Nature may intervene with harsh consequences.

If Pakistan doesn't actively address its population growth, nature have to intervene with harsh consequences

a) This can lead to more frequency natural disasters.

Pakistan is already grappling

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with extreme consequences of 2022 floods.

According to Risk Modelling Firm, this was the

"10th costliest disaster in a decade?"

Although it triggered by climate change

but under preparation exacerbated it.

The more the population growth, the more will be inability to deal or prepare

for disaster and the more will be

deconstruction due to natural disasters

b) Increase in Pandemics and diseases.

Overcrowding and poor sanitation

increase the risk of infectious disease. Cities

in Pakistan are getting overly crowded

and due to lack of healthcare access disease

are becoming preventable.

According to UNICEF, one

in every ²² children dies before

their 5th birthday due to lack

of healthcare

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b) Cities will be inhabitable due to poisonous air.

Air pollution is already a biggest challenge for Pakistan. Lahore's smog has made the city inhabitable. Lahore remained mostly 'top polluted city' in 2023 according to world air quality report.

According to study by Urban unit of Punjab;

- 6 Million foul emitting vehicles contribute to 80 percent air pollution?

d) Competition for dwindling resources.

More population growth means more pressure on resources. Resource scarcity can lead to competition among individuals.

This can lead to social unrest, ethnic tensions and violent conflict. Pakistan is

classified as water stressed with per capita water availability falling below 1000 cubic meters per year.

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This water scarcity has already fuel urban rural divided and heightened conflict between provinces especially Punjab and Sindh. Such conflicts will only increase if unaddressed.

e) Extreme temperatures would lead to food insecurity.

Pakistan is among the 10th most climate vulnerable country. Climate vulnerability has increased the temperature of region to extreme levels. Extreme levels mean more droughts due to less rainfall which ultimately increase the food insecurity. Because rapid population growth will not have efficient or enough resources to cater for it.

f) Social repercussions due to socioeconomic challenges.

The socioeconomic challenges mentioned above could snowball into

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increased crime, political consequences, instability and conflict. This represents another form of 'nature taking charge'

g) Urbanization and Infrastructure Problems.

Rapid urbanization strains urban infrastructure and services like housing, transportation, healthcare and education. This can lead to a crisis in human development. World Bank calls it a "silent deep human capital crisis."

* Mitigation Measures.

- Family Planning and Reproductive health
- Empowering women on family planning
- ~~to~~ Access to contraceptive methods.
- Addressing poverty and inequality reduce need for large families as source of labor.

