

## 9. SHIFTING THE PARADIGM: FROM OVERPOPULATION TO POPULATION MANAGEMENT

### OUTLINE

#### 1. Introduction

- Thesis statement: There is an exigency of shifting the paradigm from overpopulation to population management for a number of reasons. For that to achieve, pragmatic approach is the need of the hour, addressing everyone from young minds to old-limbs.

#### 2. Reasons to shift the paradigm from overpopulation to population management:

##### 2.1 Limited resources in the country.

- According to UNO, agriculture land has been reduced with respect to rising population.

##### 2.2 Overpopulation makes youth a liability.

- Example of sub-saharan countries in Africa.

##### 2.3 Deviance in the society prevails.

- Unaddressed population will find a way to keep the heads above the water.

##### 2.4 Labour exploitation becomes a norm.

- Unemployment leads workers to work in inhuman conditions. (Source: Labour Force Survey '21)

- 2.5 low human development in the country.
- 40 per cent children in Pakistan are stunted.
  - 26 million out of school children with no skills, etc.
3. Ways through which the paradigm can be shifted from Overpopulation to Population Management
- 3.1 Dynamic and sensitive education, legislation
- China's one-child policy.
- 3.2 Investment in human capital.
- "Human capital investments tell a position of state in the next 20 years" - Bill Gates.
- 3.3 Promote the culture of start-ups.
- Indian model of entrepreneurship to address staggering youth bulge.
- 3.4 Upskilling of youth to adopt with advance world.
- Inclusion of Artificial Intelligence, update curriculum - Singaporean model of upskilling.
- 3.5 Management of old-age population.
- American 'Great Deal' of 1920s - young pays for the Medicare of old people.
- 3.6 Lower down tariffs and counter Red-Tapism.
- This will attract more foreign direct investments (FDI); reducing unemployment.
- 3.7 Awareness drives all around the country.
- Bangladesh is the only Muslim country, where clerics teaches population control.
- 3.8 Promotion of meritocracy in the state.
- Denmark and Germany model of employment, encouraging youth to participate.

3.9 Gender equality in all walks of life.

- "For a nation to prosper, its women must walk side-by-side man" - Jinnah

3.10 Ethical consumerism needs to be adopted.

- People will not buy the products that are made on the unjust treatment of its employees.

3.11 Accountability and transparency for reducing wealth gap.

- 1 percent population of the world holds upto 40 percent of wealth - World Inequality Index.

4. Conclusion

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## SHIFTING THE PARADIGM: FROM OVERPOPULATION TO POPULATION MANAGEMENT

From 4 billion in 1970s to 6 billion in 1990s and 8 billion in 2023, humans are multiplying at unprecedented rate, defeating rats - notorious for reproduction. This has resulted in the overpopulation of the planet Earth, impacting its biome and biodiversity. A large population is good in many ways, but its exceeding is bad in many ways, too. Therefore, there is a need to shift the paradigm: from overpopulation to population management. Limited resources, youth bulge, societal deviance, labour exploitation, and low human development make population management a need of the hour. In ways through which this paradigm shift can be achieved are numerous. Dynamic and inclusive education, investment in human capital, promote start-ups, upskilling, addressing old-age citizenry, lower down the tariffs and counter protectionism are the steps of paramount importance. Along with these, awareness drives, meritocracy, gender equality, ethical commercialism, and accountability promotion are necessary ways to achieve population management for good. Now, it is evident that there is an exigency of

shifting the paradigm from overpopulation to population management for a number of reasons. For that to achieve, pragmatic approach is the need of the hour, addressing everyone from young minds to old-timers.

To start with, limited resources is the most evident reason to have a shift from overpopulation to population management.

These resources include the product of agriculture, marine biome and human-made product at the cost of planet's health i.e. industrial manufacturing. The last one has affected planet's ability to provide everyone because of climate change. Agricultural land has been decreased two-fold as compared to pre-industrial level according to UNO. This means there will be more food scarcity. According to AFP, 1.1 billion people sleep hungry every night. Such is the base of overpopulation. However, the critics weigh more on the economic unjust division and capitalism for this, but if that is true then why such exploitation was not present in the past?

After all, human greed is old as time. Hence, it is overpopulation that stresses the limited resources of a country making ~~overpopulation~~ <sup>paradigm shift</sup> a harsh reality.

Besides, overpopulation also turns a youth of a country into liability. Normally, youth-bulge is an asset for a country as it is in Japan, USA, S. Korea. However, if it is unaddressed, then it will become a burden.

The young people are energetic and willful,

and by that energy is not utilized properly, then youth will be direction-less. Such is the example of youth in sub-Saharan countries along with South Asia. They will do anything to achieve their goals. The illegal migration and boat tragedies in Mediterranean sea and Atlantic ocean are its example. Youth has the capability of diverting countries' fate but overpopulation made it ignored by the country. Therefore, youth bulge is also the issue of the need of paradigm shift to population management.

Talking of unaddressed youth and citizenry all together, deviance in the society is the prominent reason of overpopulation. Deviance is the societal concept, where a person feels fine to break a law for own good. An individual is not controlled by the goals set by the country and sanctions by the constitution. A deviant person will result in illegal activities. This includes crime, robbery or even murder.

After all, the unaddressed youth needs a way to keep the wolf away from the door. Deviance is common among young people because their concepts of morality and Ethics are not that strong. To put things in perspective, there are a lack of opportunities in developing countries since population explosions hence, there are more criminal activities e.g. compared to Nordic region. Hence, deviance is also the reason for population management.

Further, overpopulation drives labour exploitation. According to labour force survey (LFS) 2022: "Unemployment leads workers to work in inhumane conditions." These inhumane conditions are the product of overpopulation. To put things in perspective, when there are 100 people for 1 job - on average - then the owner or hiring company will pick the one who is ready to let himself exploit for the profit of the firm to utmost levels. Such is the case with South Asian countries such as, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. Their excessive population made its labour dirt-cheap. That is why, Europe and Middle-East is filled with brown labour doing menial jobs. Now it is evident that labour exploitation also drives the need of paradigm shift from overpopulation to population management.

Moreover, the low human capital is also a major reason for the need of the shift. Human Capital is the amount of money spent by the government for the betterment of population. It empowers people and it's closely related to human development. Countries with low human capital have overpopulation problem as well. For instance, 40 per cent children in Pakistan are stunted and 26 million are out of school (source: Pakistan Economic Survey). This must not be forgotten that the country

is 5th populous nation with 2.55% growth rate, highest in Asia. This results in low labour force and more dependency of young minds on the government. Hence, low human development make the paradigm shift a need of the hour.

Now, the ways through which this paradigm shift of overpopulation to population management can be achieved are numerous with ~~education~~ <sup>legislation</sup> being the first one.

Dynamic and inclusive ~~educat~~ legislation is important to achieve population management. Legislation basically provides a country to run over a set of principles for a certain period. Its dynamic nature will shift it as per the need of the situation while inclusiveness will help addressing every possible aspect of the problem. China's one child policy is its manifestation. China was a poor state with rising population, its one-child policy not only halt the growth of citizenry, but also gave government enough time to deal with the problem. Today, this policy is relaxed to have more children as the economic prosperity has been achieved through management of population. Therefore, dynamic and inclusive legislations are necessary for the paradigm shift.

Also, there is a need to invest in human capital for achieving population management. Capital investment will empower workforce. This investment could be invest in trainings, technological



adaptation, learning new skills and vocational training. Human investment increases one's chances of earning good amount of money. In this way, the whole nation is transformed as it is a long-term approach. Bill Gates has aptly said, "Human capital investments tell a position of state in the next 20 years."

This shows that human capital is not a short-term goal, but it is a step-by-step process to achieve bigger ends. Hence, human capital investments are essential for the population management.

Along with it, culture of start-ups is important to introduce in order to manage a population. When a population rise, majority of it is its youth that dominates the population. To address, youth-budge it is important to provide them livelihood ways of modern times. Promoting entrepreneurship programs by governments is an essential step to manage its youth. The Indian model of Entrepreneurship is its example. Indian government launched multiple schemes to provide funds to youth on easy conditions for businesses. It also encouraged private investors; SharkTale is its manifestation. Through this, the youth of India is empowered. To put things in perspective, in December to July, 2023, Indian start-ups raised \$ 65 billion. This shows power of youth through start-ups. Developing countries also need to achieve it in order to have a population management.

Furthermore, youth of the country or general citizenry must be taught skills to adapt with the world. Upskilling is an important step to curbing an overpopulation. It will make the people, especially youth, to compete the changing environment. Franklin D. Roosevelt had once said, "we cannot make a future adaptable for our youth, but we surely can make our youth capable enough to adapt the future". This statement clearly explains that youth must be empowered with new knowledge of the time. For instance, AI must be taught in curriculum. Singapore adopted this strategy when their leader Lee preferred to upskill its population rather than providing the world cheap labour. Today, Singapore is the richest country after Luxembourg. Therefore, upskilling is important for population management.

Talking of the citizenry, how can one forgets the "old-age" people. Old-age people are the essential elements of society that may not provide country materialistic benefits, but surely does moral benefits in the form of wisdom, and as elders of families. These people must not feel dependent as they were once an asset of the country. For this, American Great Deal of 1920s is important to consider. USA was facing trouble managing its old age population,

so they formed a policy where young will pay for the old and the cycle continues. For instance, 1.25 per cent of everyone's salary goes to Medicare for the old Americans. In this way, the old population was prevented from becoming an onus on state. That is how old-age people can be managed as well to have population management.

Over and above, the tariffs need to be cut-downs along with red-tapism. Lowering down the tariffs will encourage more countries to invest in the country. For example, Singapore did that, allowing low-tariffs for decades. In return, Singapore became a leading country for FDI in S. East Asia. Also, red-tapism needs to be cut-off, otherwise, the investments will never benefit the country. For that, Singapore made their corruption prevention department independent. This made Singapore leading in ease-of doing business list. Developing countries struggle for FDI due to a lot of paper work such as in Pakistan that stands at 108 in the same list. Ultimately, lowering-down tariffs and curbing red-tapism is the way-out for the paradigm shift of population management.

In addition to this, awareness drives must be promoted to control overpopulation. Many countries, including Brazil, Mexico, India, China,

and Bangladesh are its example. Bangladesh had growth rate highest in S. Asia in 1970s, but it now has it under 2 percent. This is mainly because of the holistic approach of the Bangladesh. The country had managed to convince its clergies even to ~~have~~ support in this cause. Today, it's the only Muslim state where clergy teaches the family planning. In result of this, the population of Bangladesh is quite managed today, promoting economic aspect of the country. Countries like, Pakistan needs to engage its NGOs, provincial governments and other state actors too for such achievement. It's clear now that awareness is the key to have population management.

Further, the culture of meritocracy also needs promotion. Unemployed youth even if not deviant is useless for a country. For this reason, Denmark and Germany managed their population through out-of-the-box approach. In both of these countries, government pays individual in case of unemployment in return of sending him jobs notifications, encouraging one to have a job. Also, industries favour such people. This approach prevents one to feel alienated. The suicidal rate was decreased drastically and this initiative. In this way, their youth remains intact with community. ~~Here~~ Also, there

Countries top in 'no corruption countries', making meritocracy an obligation. According to survey, 90 per cent population of Denmark believes in 'right person for the right job.' This shows the management of population rely heavily upon meritocracy.

Along with this, gender equality is important for a population to be managed well. As Mr. Jimmah said, "For a nation to prosper, its women must walk side-by-side man." According to World Population Review, women are as equal to man with respect to population, but their contribution in society is negligible. To put things in perspective, 49 per cent of Pakistanis are women but their role as organization or economic participation is 7 per cent as per Global Gender Gap Report. This shows that women need to be a part of state's policy for a population to be managed well. China is its example with equal labour force as man, and it is prosperous despite having a billion population. Hence, gender equality is essential for population management.

Furthermore, ethical consumerism is also important for population management. Ethical consumerism acts like a butterfly effect. It is the way of consuming e.g. energy, product or commodity, if it's manufactured ethically. For instance, ABC company is notorious for child labour,

product of such company will be boycotted. In return, home-grown industries will flourish. This was seen in the recent times as Pakistanis boycotted Pepsi and KFC, in result of which Cola Next and Kababji came along. This contributes in population management as home-grown industries contribute more in the economy of the state from employment to profits. Hence, ethical consumerism also makes a managed population.

Lastly, accountability and transparency is essential to decrease the wealth gap in the world. Wealth gap leaves majority fulfilling only needs while minority enjoys every pleasure. This basically is the result of capitalism, that can be countered through transparent system. To put things in perspective, only 2 percent of the population of the world holds upto 40 percent of wealth according to World Inequality Data or Index. This shows the poor division of wealth. This also results in absolute poverty in mass. Nordic Region and China both managed to counter it. Poverty in China reduced to single digit by many means, one of them was promoting accountability for reducing wealth gap. Today, their population is aptly managed and satisfied. Therefore, to achieve population management out of overpopulation, tenets of accountability to reduce wealth-gap is necessary.

In a nutshell, the issue of overpopulation needs a paradigm shift to population management. Everyone either young or old, male or female, need to be addressed through practical approach for this. For this, tenets of transparency, ethical consumerism, gender equality, meritocracy, countering red-tapism and ~~low tariffs~~ are the steps essential for achieving results. Besides, old-people along with youth must also be addressed, either through legislation or practical examples around the globe. Otherwise, the low human development, labour exploitation and social deviance will engulf the concept of just society. Overpopulation even turn youth into a liability and resources limited. Hence, it needs a paradigm shift towards population management as it will turn the tide of time in favour of countries struggling with their overpopulation.

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