
Chapter 11

Issues of Pakistan

Our country is already afflicted by social and economic challenges but we shall discuss some of the problems which do specially belong to rapid growth in population.

Population of Pakistan

The current population of Pakistan is 194,670,252 as of Sunday, December 25, 2016, based on the latest United Nations estimates. Pakistan population is equivalent to 2.57% of the total world population. Pakistan ranks number 6 in the list of countries (and dependencies) by population. The population density in Pakistan is 250 per Km² (648 people per mi²). The total land area is 770,998Km² (297,684 sq.miles). 38.6% of the population is urban (74,986,621 people in 2016) The median age in Pakistan is 22.7 years.

Basic Facts of Increase in Population and Development

- ❖ The total population of Pakistan is 796096 sq kilometer which is the 0.67% of the total world.
- ❖ Pakistan was 14th nation of the world in 1950 which is now 6th in 2004.
- ❖ The mortality rate of children is 83 per one thousand.
- ❖ The mortality of women in maternity is 350 per Lakh.
- ❖ Women are 48% and men are 52%

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The fast growth of population is also putting pressure on agricultural land, there were 4.1 million agricultural farms in 1980. Due to fragmentation their number had risen to 6.2 million in 2000.

Pakistan's rapid population growth is one of the main impediments in way of government efforts for achieving the overall National Development Goals and Sustained Socio-Economic growth. It is imperative to stabilize population so that burden on existing infrastructure is reduced and the reward of economic growth is not diluted by rapid increase in population.

The recent improvement in the micro economic indicator of Pakistan and its trick down effect would not be shared by a larger segment of population due to high population growth. A high level of poverty is an indication that even the process of urbanization has not helped; rather it has added a new dimension to economic and social challenges. Urban population was doubled between 1951 and 1998.

Pakistan will be facing serious shortages in the years to come if the present rate of natural population increase persists. Just to maintain the current per capita levels services in various sectors, the nation in 2010 will need 3,057 additional health facilities, 4.6 million housing units and 8.6 million employment opportunities over those in the year 2000, besides essentials like food, water, transport etc. in which Pakistan is already deficient. A large part of the fruits of development are consumed by backlog of shortages and the additional population of about 2.9 million per year, curtailing resources for development by that volume, advancement social change

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check high fertility. As such enhancement of education, health, housing facilities and the resolve to maintain population control measures can pull the nations out of the maelstrom of high population growth, which has been slowing down the pace of social and economic development.

Education

Currently, the literacy rate is 53 per cent which is much below the targets set to be achieved in 2005 and far away from reaching the Millennium Development Goals target of 80 per cent literacy till 2015. Looking at the gender disaggregated data for overall literacy, 65 per cent of males and 40 per cent of females were literate in the year 2004-05. The key impediments to the progress in reaching a higher level of literacy in Pakistan are the low enrollment rates and poor quality of education provided by the public sector.

The condition of Government schools all over the country and quality of education being imparted, are going from bad to worse, day by day. Government and the concerned Education Department have no check and balance over quality of education. Government schools are overcrowded because of increased population, due to limitation of the economic resources and budget constraints. Due to these reasons, it raises the problem of overcrowding in classrooms. With the passage of time it becomes one of the major problems of our education system. The average number of students in most of classrooms ranges from 70 to 120. It creates many problems for both, teachers and students in teaching-learning process.

Health

Pakistan is attributed to the lack of access to basic health care services, poverty, lack of health infrastructure and personnel, illiteracy, women's low status, inadequate water supplies and sanitation due to increase in population. In the urban areas, access to health care clinics and facilities is attaining a shape of problem, and the general state and quality of public services is very poor. On the other hand, in the rural areas, people live far from hospitals and basic health care units. It is difficult for the government to provide all the basic health facilities to an ever increasing people. Due to the same problem women give birth at home with the assistance of a midwife or lady health worker. Illness pushes people into poverty through lost wages, high spending for treatment and recurring treatment for their illnesses. One of the main causes of illness in the rural areas of Pakistan is the explosion of population.

Importance and Utility of Pakistan's Agriculture

Pakistan's principal natural resources are arable land and water. About 25% of Pakistan's agriculture accounts for about 21% of GDP and employs about 43% of the labour force. Agriculture sector plays a vital role in the economic development of a country.

Importance of agricultural sector can be shown as below:

1. Increase in Per Capita Income

Per capita income is the annual average income of the individuals of a nation. We derive it by dividing national income on total population. Agricultural sector

provides more jobs to unemployed people. It increases the individuals as well as national income. Agricultural sector is essential to increase the PCI, which is \$ 1254 at present.

2. Major Source of Employment

Agriculture sector provides employment to major portion of our labour force. More than 45.0% of our labour force is directly involved in agriculture sector, while 66.7% of our rural population is dependent on agriculture. This is the major sector, which provides employment to a large portion of our population. Agriculture sector is helpful to reduce the unemployment and disguised unemployment.

3. Reduction in Poverty

Agriculture development has significant impact on rural development. If productivity increases in agriculture it reduces poverty and stimulates non-farm employment, too. They are able to get basic services of life such as water supply, sanitation, provision of health and educational facilities. About 21.0% population of Pakistan is much poor.

4. Supply of Food

Food is the first in basic necessities of the life. The agriculture sector is the sole provider of all type of food like wheat, rice, corn, sugarcane vegetables and fruits etc., to the population engaged in various sectors of the economy. Agricultural sector also provides food to those animals that provide milk, cheese, butter and meat to population to maintain the efficiency. According to economic survey of Pakistan, exports of food group are \$ 2007.3 million.

5. Source of Forex Earning

Agriculture sector is the main source of foreign exchange (forex) earning which is used to import capital goods. Total forex resources of Pakistan is \$ 17.1 billion out of which share of agriculture is \$2007.3million. Major cash crops of Pakistan are cotton, rice, tobacco etc. that is helpful to correct the balance of payment.

6. Supply of Surplus Labour

About 61% population is living in more than 50,000 villages in Pakistan. This sector is the major source for supply of labor force to industrial sector due to farm mechanization and disguised unemployment. In this way an increase in the income of the people leads to improved living standard.

7. Source of National Income

At the time of partition, contribution of agriculture sector to GNP was 60%, which decreased to 29.4% in 1980-81. Now its share to GDP is 20.9% in 2010-11. Accordingly, agricultural sector is the major contributor to Pakistan's national income.

8. Supply of Raw Material

Agricultural sector provides not only food but also provides cotton, sugarcane, tobacco, rice, oil-seed, meat and milk to various agro-based, small scale and large scale industries as a raw material.

9. Development of Industrial Sector

There is inter-dependence and inter-relationship between agricultural and industrial sector, both are helpful to develop each other. Due to use of modern techniques of production in agricultural sector, when income of the agriculturists increases, they will demand for industrial articles, like threshers, harvesters, tractors,

tub-wells and various other consumer goods, which results in industrial growth and development.

10. Balance of Payment Position

Promotion of agriculture sector will provide surplus production for exports and our foreign exchange reserves will be increased. This will be helpful in the improvement of balance of payment. At present Pakistan is facing a deficit of \$8.3 billion in its balance of payment.

Agricultural Issues

1) Limited Cultivable Area

The total area of Pakistan is about 79.6 million hectares, out of which only 23.7 million hectares (28%) area is used for agricultural purposes. About 8 million hectares area is idle and un-utilized. There is vast subdivision and fragmentation of land holdings, as a result modern technology cannot be applied in agriculture sector.

2) Water Logging and Salinity

Water logging and salinity are twin problems of agricultural sector due to salinity, deposits of salt in land have appeared on the surface of land and they have adversely affected the performance of agricultural sector. Water logging and salinity affect about 0.10 million acre of land in every year. It is not only waste of land but also reduction in productivity.

3) Slow Growth of Allied Products

Allied products refer to those productions, which are not agricultural but indirectly, help the farmer to improve his living standard. Pakistan is in-sufficient in the production of fruits, milk, poultry, fisheries, livestock and forestry. As a result not only our food quality is poor but also industries such as furniture, textiles and dairy cannot be developed.

4) Low Per Hectare Yield

The most important problem of agriculture is its low yield per hectare for almost every major crop. 45.0% of labour force is engaged in this sector in Pakistan while it is less than 5% in developed countries. But, other countries of world are getting higher yield per hectare due to use of modern technology and trained labour.

5) Inadequate Infrastructure

Rural infrastructure like, roads, storage facilities, transport, electricity, education, sanitation and health facilities etc. is inadequate to meet the requirement of growth of agriculture. Total length of farm-to-market road is not only shorter but their condition is also poor. Many villages have no metal-led road at all. Electricity is available to only 3/4 rural populations.

6) Uneconomic Land Holdings

Due to increasing population and division of land under the law of inheritance, landholdings are subdivided over and over again. The result is that very large number of farmers has less than 2 hectares of area. Moreover holdings are scattered. It is difficult to use modern machinery on small pieces of land.

7) Old Methods of Production

No doubt, mechanization of agriculture is increasing in Pakistan, but in most of the areas, the old implements are still being used for agricultural production. Old and orthodox techniques of production cannot increase the production according to international levels.

8) Inadequate Supply of Agricultural Inputs

The supply of modern inputs like high yielding variety (HYV) seeds, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, mechanized machinery etc. not only costly but also

inadequate and irregular in Pakistan. Numbers of fertilizer producing units are just 10 in Pakistan.

9) **Lack of Irrigation Facilities**

Shortage of irrigation facilities causes a serious limitation in the expansion of crop area in Pakistan. The lower water supplies, losses from water course in the fields are the serious problems of farm sector. Actual surface water availability is 91.8 million acre feet.

10) **Inadequate Agricultural Research**

The average crop yield in Pakistan is very low as compared to the production levels of the advanced countries of the world. In order to raise the potential of agricultural production, there should be continuous improvement in the research for agricultural growth. Total agricultural universities and colleges are only 16 in Pakistan.

EXERCISE

1. Choose the correct answers from the given options.
 - i. The population of Pakistan was in 1947.
 - ii. In 1950, Pakistan was on the number on the basis of population.
 - iii. Statistics show that these many people are job less.
 - iv. According to statistics, how many people have the services of a single doctor?
 - v. According to 2014 presumptions, Pakistan's literacy rate is:

ANSWERS

i	33 million	ii	14th	iii	56 lakh
iv	1400	v	58 %		

2. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words.

- i. The total area of Pakistan is _____ square kilometer.
- ii. Currently, _____ many people are added to the Pakistan Population annually.
- iii. In 2004, Pakistan was on _____ number in terms of world population.
- iv. _____ % primary school children could not get admission.
- v. According to 2014 presumptions, Pakistan's literacy rate is _____.

ANSWERS

i	796096	ii	2.9 million	iii	6th
iv	15	v	54		

3. Answer the following short questions.

1. Evaluate unemployment in the country.

Ans. See answer at previous pages

2. How does the increasing population affect the economic development?

Ans. See answer at previous pages

3. Which issues have surrounded our agriculture?

Ans. See answer at previous pages

4. Write a note on the sources of environmental pollution.

Ans. See answer at previous pages

Additional Questions

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Select the most appropriate options.

1. Pakistan's population in 1947 was millions:
 - a. 33
 - b. 43
 - c. 53
 - d. 63
2. Pakistan's population is increasing with a rate of %:
 - a. 1.9
 - b. 2
 - c. 2.9
 - d. 3
3. Pakistan's area is sq kilometer:
 - a. 700000
 - b. 750000
 - c. 796096
 - d. 800000
4. Pakistan is the Percentage total world's area:
 - a. 0.55
 - b. 0.60
 - c. 0.65
 - d. 0.67
5. Pakistan in 1950 was a country in terms of population.
 - a. 10th
 - b. 12th
 - c. 14th
 - d. 16th
6. Now, Pakistan is a country on the basis of population.
 - a. 3th
 - b. 4th
 - c. 5th
 - d. 6th
7. In 2014, the literacy of Pakistan was %:
 - a. 54
 - b. 56
 - c. 58
 - d. 60
8. At the time of genesis, in cities the people were living %.

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- ## ANSWERS

1	a	2	a	3	c	4	d
5	c	6	d	7	c	8	a
9	a	10	b	11	d	12	b
13	b	14	b	15	d	16	b
17	d	18	b	19	a	20	a

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