

15. POPULATION EXPLOSION....

Pakistan adds millions of NEW-BORNs each year at an **annual growth rate of roughly 2% to 2.5%**. BUT every successive government, civil or military, adopted positive approaches to tackle this menace till year 2010 when after 18th Amendment in place, ***the subject landed in the provincial domains where it was totally ignored & neglected with ZERO funding from governments for it.***

The Government Policies

LONG AGO; Pakistan was actually one of the first South Asian nations to recognize the dangers of overpopulation, initiating state-backed family planning efforts as early as the 1950s. However, the political instability, shifting priorities, and a frequent lack of sustained administrative will of some governments accumulated to catastrophic situation today – and RE SOURCES CONTINUALLY DEPLETED.

- During 1960s, Gen Ayub Khan regime launched the first aggressive, state-sponsored national family planning program as part of its economic modernization agenda. While well-funded, ***the approach faced severe backlash from conservative and religious factions.***
- The subsequent government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in the 1970s tried a different strategy called the **Continuous Motivation System**, deploying local male and female worker teams to distribute contraceptives directly to

households. However, this system was heavily disrupted by the political chaos of the late 1970s.

- The approach shifted dramatically in the 1980s under the military regime of Gen Zia. To soften fierce religious opposition, the government rebranded '**Family Planning as Population Welfare**' and focused on clinic-based health setups BUT this shift heavily slowed down the progress of population control.
- A major breakthrough occurred in the 1990s during the Benazir Bhutto's regime with the launch of the Lady Health Workers (LHW) program to deliver primary healthcare and family planning directly at the doorsteps of rural families. The LHW model became globally praised for its grassroots effectiveness, **but it frequently suffered from funding bottlenecks and unequal distribution of the resources.**
- In 2010, the landscape changed with the passage of the 18th Constitutional Amendment. Devolution of funds into FOUR provinces created a fragmented system; Punjab and Sindh advanced their programs but others kept inactive due to lack of local funding and weak institutional capacity.
- Currently, the state is trying to fix this fragmentation through the **National Population Stabilization Plan**. Operating through a unified national secretariat, this strategy aims to slash the population growth rate down to 1.25% over the next decade. Unlike older, purely medical approaches, the modern framework tries to

tackle the root causes by ***linking family planning directly to female literacy*** and financial inclusion for women.

Key **Social & Cultural Factors** responsible for this **OVER-GROWTH** remained:

- **Gender Preference:** A strong cultural desire to have male children often drives couples to keep having more children until a son is born. BUT in rural areas now, the illiterate parents don't mind because the under-15 girls are in great demand in METROPOLISES, BIG CITIES and TOWNS as in-house MAIDS / SERVANTS.
- **Early Marriages:** Marrying at a young age lengthens the time a woman can have children, which raises total family size. It's all off the record in Pakistan bcz the legal age is 18. However, ***China had described it 23 for ladies and 25 years for men to marry when it had launched its ONE-CHILD program in 1979.***
- **Low Literacy Rates:** Poor education levels correlate with a lack of awareness about the downsides of large families and slower uptake of modern contraceptive methods. It remained the main cause in Pakistan bcz ***the Landlords & FEUDAL in rural areas MOSTLY DISCOURAGED building schools in their electoral jurisdictions*** [reasons known to all].
- **Declining Death Rates:** Better medical care, immunizations, and modern health technologies have lowered the mortality rate and increased life expectancy.

- **Religious and Fatalistic Beliefs:** Misconceptions or traditional beliefs—such as the idea that family size is unescapable and pre-destined by '**TAQDEER**' or that **every child brings one's own TWO HANDS for sustenance**—played a NEGATIVE ROLE and discouraged the birth control.
- ***Since Gen Ayub Era of 1950s, the JAMAT e IS-LAMI [JI] is using this above slogan to counter every govt's programs & plans.***

Economic Effects: The economic impact of Pakistan's population growth behaves like a multiplier of existing financial vulnerabilities like;

- **Diluted Per Capita Income:** Economic growth is continuously diluted because GDP gains are distributed among an ever-expanding denominator of over 250 million people.
- **The Workforce Crisis:** Pakistan adds roughly 1.8 million job seekers annually. Its market cannot generate enough formal employment, fueling extreme underemployment and hunger.
- **Suppressed Savings and Investment:** Large family sizes create high dependency on FOODS & SHELTERS. Most household income goes entirely toward basic consumption, leaving minimal capital for bank savings or even small investments.
- **Resource Depletion & Import Strains:** Rapid urban expansion swallows agricultural land. Pakistan has

transformed from a food-surplus country into a ***heavy importer of wheat and essential commodities NOW***, worsening the trade deficit.

- **Severe Human Capital Deficit:** Skewed budgets prioritize basic survival over quality. This has created a ***massive backlog of over 26.2 million out-of-school children***; UNICEF report for 2025 is referred.
 - Pakistan has the second-highest number of out-of-school children in the world.
 - Girls make up 53 percent of the children who do not attend school.
 - About 10.77 million children aged 5 to 9 are missing out on primary education. This includes 5.80 million girls and 4.97 million boys.
 - **In Punjab:** Around 9.7 to 10.4 million children are out of school.
 - **In Sindh:** Around 7.4 million children are out of school.
 - **In Khyber PK:** Around 4.5 to 4.9 million children are out of school.
 - **In Balochistan:** About 45 percent of the school-age population is out of school.

THAT's why we've planned that all proceeds from STATE-AUCTIONS ONLINE will go for clearance of FOREIGN DEBTS AND FOR 100% LITERACY RATE.

CHINA'S POPULATION CONTROL

China implemented the **One-Child Policy** in 1979 to curb rapid population growth. The government used a system of mandatory birth quotas, strict surveillance, and heavy financial fines for unauthorized children, and severe administrative measures including forced abortions, sterilizations, and mandatory use of intrauterine devices to enforce compliance.

Pakistan cannot afford to follow China's Population Control Policy of 1979 IN TOTO because:

- Under the head **State Surveillance**, China had tasked their Local Neighborhood Committees and Work Units; in Pakistan we don't have any such system. The successive governments have **NOT done their Local Bodies Elections for the last TWO DECADES, thus NO STATE SURVEILLANCE** is possible here.
- Under the head **Physical Interventions**, Chinese authorities used forced sterilizations, forced abortions, and mandatory insertion of IUDs to prevent unauthorized pregnancies – BUT in Pakistan no government can implement the said steps due to cultural and religious constraints & OTHER LIMITATIONS.
- Under the head **Financial Penalties**, the Chinese families who had a ***second child without permission faced massive 'social maintenance fees'*** that could ruin them.
 - This model can be adopted in Pakistan NOW but with a different methodology – we'll numerate the steps in next paragraphs.

- Under the head **Job and Social Penalties:** in China the violators risked losing their jobs, demotion, or denial of public schooling and social services for the extra child. This strategy is workable in Pakistan and in the following paragraphs, see some details.

Although China made a shift in its ONE-CHILD (1979) Program later in 2015 but till then the country had achieved its pre-determined goals, mainly taking the country to world's No:1 position in Industry, Educational Excellence, Research, Engineering Distinctions in all types, Trade & Businesses etc

In 2015, China changed the policy and **PROVIDED RELAXATION FOR TWO CHILDREN** – rest of the permissions and policies remained the same.

In 2021, a further change in policy allowed the Chinese people to go for **THREE CHILDREN for some categories** of its population but again the terms and conditions remained unchanged.

Can Pakistan learn some positive steps from the Chinese Policy of POPULATION GROWTH with sincere commitments? Let us ponder upon the following:

NEW STRATEGY FOR PAKISTAN:

Successive Pakistani governments, since 1950s till year 2010, introduced various policies to curb this menace but couldn't succeed because of TWO MAIN HURDLES / REASONS:

Firstly the **ILLETRATE ULEMAS & IMAMS IN PAKISTANI MOSQUES; especially the RURAL AREAS.**

Secondly the **LACK OF EDUCATION; especially the RURAL WOMEN.**

It's the researched observation that in Pakistan, the EDUCATED PEOPLE have 2-3 children, boys or girls – normally living in cities and urban precincts; whereas, the illiterate or less educated population, mostly living in rural areas or less-developed towns – normally have 5-6 children in Punjab, Karachi and Hazara Division of Khyber PK.

Inhabitants of Pakistan's NORTH, TRIBAL BELT, RURAL SINDH and Balochistan, mostly comprising of Pakhtoon & Afghani-origin tribes and Rural Balochi clans generally keep 8+ children in their families.

Like China's Birth Control Program of 1979, Pakistan will also use, FROM NOW ONWARDS, the **INDIRECT FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS**. There is no time to leave this important economic drag in the hands of *certain Ulemas & Imams* of far off villages NOR *with Pirs and rich Land-Lords* who don't allow building SCHOOLS in their respective electoral jurisdictions.

*However, Pakistan will start its Population Control with **TWO CHILDREN** as against CHINA's ONE CHILD program of 1979.*

FOR ALL POPULATION OF PAKISTAN, **ALL GOVERNMENT SERVICES & FACILITIES AT ALL PLACES OF THE COUNTRY WILL BE LIMITED TO FIRST TWO CHILDREN, BOYS OR GIRLS WHATSOEVER.**

Strictly by using **CNICs & NADRA's CRC [Child Registration Certificate]** - FORM 'BEY' in Urdu as previously known:

- NO THIRD and subsequent CHILD / CHILDREN will be eligible for **FREE EDUCATION** in any state-school, college or university;
- **NO FREE MEDICAL FACILITIES** for 3rd or subsequent child(ren);
- **NO STATE EMPLOYMENT** (in Federal, provincial, Corporate or Municipal Departments / offices) for 3rd or subsequent child(ren);
- **NO ELIGIBILITY FOR ANY PUBLIC OFFICE** like in the Parliament, Provincial Assemblies, Local Bodies or Municipal Elections for 3rd or subsequent child(ren);
- **NO ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIAL OR PROFESSIONAL LICENSES** like Lawyer's or Doctor's for 3rd or subsequent child(ren);
- **NO ELIGIBILITY TO SIT IN COMPETITIVE EXAMS** like CSS, PCS, POLICE, CIVIL JUDGES' EXAMS for 3rd or subsequent child(ren).
- **CHILD / CHILDREN in the above phrases means UNMARRIED OR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.**
- **MARRIED CHILDREN WILL BE TREATED AS A SEPARATE FAMILY.**
- PARENTS, or individuals, will **NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR FRESH STATE-JOBS** IF THEY HAVE 3rd or subsequent children.
- There will be **HUGE HUE & CRY**, more from urban areas and well-to-do families in the name of Humanity, Human-Rights Violations, Constitutional provisions of EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL, and

Violations of UN Charter etc – But the government will tolerate such pressures for the **WHOLE NATION's collective welfare.**

- ***SUCH DISSIDENT VOICES WILL, IN FACT, CONVEY THE COMPLETE MESSAGE OF THE STATE TO EVERY PERSON & EACH HOME.***
- ***WHEN THE PEOPLE WILL START THINKING OVER SUCH HARSH STEPS, ACTIONS WILL BE PLANNED IN EACH HOME – and THAT's where the GOVT's PURPOSE IS ACHIEVED.***

The major QUESTION argued by the urban people will be that:

'The 3rd or subsequent child's birth was the PARENTS' WISH OR MISTAKE, WHY THE CHILD SHOULD SUFFER – be deprived of Education, Health Benefits or EMPLOYMENT plus other state-profits?'

The ANSWER: The whole scheme is about:

FIRSTLY, CREATING SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY IN ALL NATIONALS; AT LEAST EVERY HOME IN THE COUNTRY WILL TALK ABOUT THE PROBLEM AND START THINKING & PLANNING THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN – THUS, **GOVT's OBJECTIVE IS ACHIEVED.**

SECONDLY, that ONLY State-facilities are being withdrawn for 3rd+ children; **ALL THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS OPEN FOR THEM – GO, TRY, SPEND & ENJOY.**