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## **Overpopulation:**

Pakistan despite all its many achievements and advances remain a third world country, both anatomically and spiritually. It means that in many regions of Pakistan, especially in my local region of KPK, the people still hold dear thoughts and ideals of ancient times, which are no longer relevant in these modern times. The old thought which I have chosen to shed some light on is the problem, cause and effects of overpopulations. It is more prominent in the Pashtun culture and societies, a sect of Pakistan to which I belong to.

<u>**Cause:**</u> Overpopulation is the unchecked growth of people in a region beyond a certain limit. These limits for any region are set based on the local economy of the region, and the maximum resources which a region can provide to sustain the population. Overpopulation is a problem which has a passive effect, and the main cause for overpopulation is neglect and lack of awareness by the people.

The majority of Pashtun households are joint families in which different members of the family contribute whatever they can to the overall care of the family. In such an arrangement women can afford to have children from three to nine and in some rare cases fifteen children. The care for the children is handled by the elder women of the household.

Such a system was important in the old days because in those days the lack of medicine or poor healthcare would unfortunately take the lives of two children out of four across all households. But now in due to the modern healthcare, and practices only two children die out of every ten children. But the idea of having more than six children stuck with a few societies and these people kept on reproducing way over the limit of the local region.

The problem of overpopulation for the government of KPK is not as a priority as it should be, and this has led to lack of policies regarding the crisis of overpopulation. The lack of such standards and polices has only contributed to the rapid growth of population and created many issues and crisis which we will discuss in the following topic.

## Effects of overpopulation and ways to control it:

The main effect of overpopulation on our society is the lack of resources to sustain such a mass of people. Food and the territory needed to grow crops may lead to violence and disruption of peace. But these are only minor threats compared to the global effects which it will have. Some of these are as follow:

- Over population will lead to dispute over territory. A main reason wars were ragged by old kingdoms and states.
- Overpopulation will lead to rapid depletion of natural resources like: Trees, Freshwater and such.
- Increased population means that less space will be available for industry and more regions will be dedicated to housing of people.
- Overpopulation means less opportunities for job, as many thousands of fresh workers flood the job market and over saturating it.

Now for my own personal ways to control overpopulation:

- First and foremost the government needs to establish laws and policies to control the rapid growth of people.
- Government ministries and private NGOs should be utilized to promote the awareness of overpopulation.

• Pakistan is blessed with a rich population of young people and so should be utilized by expenditure in both educational and industrial economy of Pakistan.