

RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM AS A THREAT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

OUTLINE:

1. Introduction:

Thesis Statement: Religious extremism poses severe threat to economic development. Religious extremist groups are nurtured due to illegal financial and moral supports from gullible followers. Religious intolerance can create social disparity and hinders human as well as financial investment needed for economic growth. The threat can be overcome by blocking illegal financial help, preventing youth from joining extremist groups and easy rehabilitation of former combatants.

2. Religious extremism as a threat to economic development
3. Causes of economic decline due to religious extremism
 - a. Illegal financing and smuggling to religious extremist groups hinders economic growth.
 - b. Foreign Investment in economy is prevented due to terrorism engendered by religious extremism.
 - c. Youth being the major economic driver gets prevented involved in extremist activities.
 - d. Major portion of country's finances are invested to counter religious extremism.
 - e. Religious extremists targets key strategic areas of economic growth.
 - f. Extremist groups incite masses to rebel and hinders economic participation.

g. Womens participation in economic development is halted due to shallow religious knowledge of extremist scholars.

4. Effects of Economic decline engendered by religious extremism.

a. People shift to illegal activities due to economic crisis.

b. It leads to social jeopardy and chaos due to religious intolerance and economic instability.

c. Poor economic development due to economic decline.

d. Lack of economic opportunities ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~area~~ creates brain drain from parent countries.

e. Economic decline creates class-disparity and extreme economic polarity.

f. It leads to injustice and unfairness.

g. People show pessimism and lose hope from the government.

5. The dangers of religious extremism on economic development can be mitigated by:

a. Blocking ^{illegal} financial support to extremist groups.

b. Religious clerics should be thoroughly screened for public sermons.

c. Facilitation and easy rehabilitation of former combatants.

d. Prevention of youth from entrance in extremist groups through social collaboration.

6. Conclusion.

MORAL DECLINE IN POLITICS: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

OUTLINE:

1. Introduction:

Thesis statement:

Politics shows a recent surge in moral decline. The causes for this moral decline are lack of ethical education, a tactic to cover inefficient progress and a way to gain cheap popularity. This results in deep political polarization, diversion from core issues and establishment of unabated cycle of political victimization.

2. Moral decline in Politics.

3. Causes of moral decline in Politics.

- a. lack of ethical education leads to moral decline in Politics.
- b. Politicians try to cover their inefficient progress by demoralizing others.
- c. A popularity stunt to be in headlines.
- d. Moral subjects are easy to malign and difficult to be verified.
- e. lack of tolerance for opposing ideas makes politicians ridicule their opponents.
- f. lack of strong legislation and accountability against accusers.
- g. Politicians witch-hunt and demoralize opponents to create space for incompetent and prevent white-collar respect man from politics.

4. Consequences of moral decline in Politics.
- a, Moral decline in politics leads to deep political polarization
 - b, Core social issues are pushed to the walls.
 - c, Destroys national integration and social structure
 - d, ~~Destroys~~ It results in never-ending cycle of national political victimization.
 - e, Moral decline in political system of any country has ripple effect in international politics.
 - f, Persecution of good politicians hinders their political efficiency and progress.
 - g, People loose hope from politicians for better change.

5. Moral decline in Politics can be countered by:
- a, Politicians should tolerate diverging opinions
 - b, Instead of political victimization, focus on issue based politics should be prioritized.
 - c, Transparent accountability of accusers in front of efficient and unbiased authoritative bodies.

6. Conclusion.

"The greatest danger to our political institutions comes from a moral decline in politics itself"
(John F. Kennedy)

A famous American president of cold war era was correct to judge that the greatest threat to political institutions comes from moral decline in politics. In order to cover their corrupt and inefficient political results, politicians demoralize their opponents. Lack of ethical education makes politicians to have low moral ethics. Politicians tend to gain popularity and temporary benefits by accusing others. Inability to tolerate opposite ideas create space for moral decline in politics. Politicians ridicule opponents due to lack of strong legislation and accountability. Witch-hunt of opponents prevent white-collar man to enter politics and makes easy for corrupt politicians to get their personal benefits. The moral decline in politics results in political polarization and victimization. It divert focus from main problems of society and destructs social integration. In international village, immoral politics in any country prevails cross borders and spread pessimism globally. Politics shows a recent surge in moral decline. The causes for this moral decline are lack of ethical education, a tactic to cover inefficient

progress and a way to gain cheap popularity. This results in deep political polarization, diversion from core issues and establishment of unabated cycle of political victimization. Political system is threatened by moral decline. Political institutions dated back to 1648, when treaty of westphalia was signed in order to have sovereign state with ultimate authority. States then established political system for better change, good governance and enhancement of moral capacity of citizens by providing them freedom, justice and due rights. Over the course of time, political institutions were over taken by elite corrupt leaders. They prioritized personal benefits over national interest, which makes them inefficient in the eyes of citizens. In order to cover their poor performance and get their popularity back, politician demoralize and ridicule their adversaries. The dangers of political demoralization can create social jeopardy, pessimism and political polarization. Thus, political system is threatened by immoral politicians, who prefer personal interests over national interests.

Politicians demoralize their opponents due to lack of ethical education. Ethical foundation is prerequisite for any good politicians. The education system around the globe mainly focus on theoretical and practical knowledge, ignoring basic ethical foundation. Due to this, most of people with enough knowledge and skills lacks moral ethics. Recent incidence at Kosovo parliament shows lack of etiquettes in politicians, when a minister throws water at Prime minister during his speech. Thus, ignorance of ethical foundation harbours moral decline in politicians.

Furthermore, politicians try to cover their inefficiency by demoralizing others. Corrupt politicians see easy way out by degrading opponents for their poor performance. Due to their inefficient political results, politicians mock each other and cover their inability to work for society. This can be demonstrated by surge in personal attacks and ^{calling} immoral names to adversaries. Despite an increase in inflation and poverty in the country, Pakistan's national assembly remains a power show of verbal confrontation and calling bad names to others. Minister Khuwaja Asif recently called "Garbage"

to one of his female opponent, while he was asked about his performance. This shows that politicians demoralize opponents to cover up their bad actions.

Moreover, immoral behavior could be a publicity stunt to remain in headlines. Nowadays, people tend to stick and follow controversial news and scandals. It is the reason why immoral behaviour of politicians and verbal accusations made to the news headlines.

The indictment against ex-President of America Donald Trump for exploitation of fair elections, through manipulation of social media, to gain popularity and vote bank. It is a classic example to show most of politicians use such tactics to gain public support and popularity. In addition to this, twitter trends have become a key factor for quick influence and popularity. The controversy regarding allocation of "Bots" for making twitter trends, by a famous political party of Pakistan (PTI) in order to achieve their electoral benefits and influence public perception is demonstration of cheap moves by politicians to be popular. Thus, immoral acts show their of politicians show their desperate need to remain in current news.

Moral subjects are difficult to be verified and thus easy target for politicians to malign. The categorization of morality in any person is subjective and cannot be quantified. Politicians victimize their opponents on the basis of moral principles, which are difficult to prove and satisfied. Many Politicians question patriotism, ~~and~~ honesty and truthfulness of their opponents. The jurisdiction lacks any basis to distinguish politicians based on their morality and ethics. The United States of America, which is known for its advocacy of basic human rights and morality lacks any moral-related laws for politicians explicitly. Thus, due to blurred nature of moral and ethic values in legal domain, politicians use immoral behaviour.

Furthermore, rise of moral decline in politics is due to lack of tolerance for opposing ideas. With increaseⁱⁿ freedom of expression around the globe, people express their various ~~opinions~~ opinions related to every subject. Politicians do not show tolerance to divergent ideas, instead backfire with unethical abuse. Due to deviant nature of famous Pakistani Politicians Imran Khan, who mostly express his ideas was recently banned by Pakistan Electronic Media regulatory Authority (PEMRA). Thus, intolerance

of ideas leads to political confrontation and moral decline.

The legislative authorities lacks any jurisdiction and accountable laws against accusers. Politicians who mock and ridicule their opponents get away from accountability due to poor and inefficient legislature. Many politicians either sugar-coat their previous remarks after court's involvement or hide away. No any constitution around the globe enlists any article related to the punishment for accusers who use unethical language explicitly mentioned for politicians. Politicians get easy way-out after accusing opponents due to lack of accountability.

Furthermore, un-ethical witch-hunt of politicians could be due to the need to create ~~of~~ space for incompetent politicians.

Incompetent and corrupt politicians prevent eligible and respected men from politics.

The regular verbal accusation and moral attacks makes politics a ground of filth, which can be handled by immoral and powerful politicians. Pakistan's politics shows similar situation, where electoral tickets are awarded to most influential and powerful politicians instead of their competency.

and political results. Furthermore, those indecent politicians then prevent credible representatives to participate in elections. The recent elections at local government level in Pakistan demonstrates the power of such politicians of Sindh, where they won elections unopposed. Immoral attitude and verbal abuse is a way to prevent white-collar respected people away from political mess.

This moral decline in politics has results in deep political polarization. The rage due to personal attacks paves path for politicians to stimulate public polarization based on conflicting political ideologies. The political parties faces such strong & political radicalization, which pushes them to headway to any level. The indecent events which occurs after political coup in Pakistan's democracy shows that diverging ideas can halt the democratic system and basic human rights. Moreover, this polarization is also vertically transmitted to the public. Many kinetic actions in the form of riots, violence and demonstrations were held among different political supporters. The massacre of 9 May 2023 is an example for stringent political polarization in Pakistan's history. Immoral politics leads to severe consequences of public polarizations.

In addition to this, many core social issues are ignored. Due to moral decline in politics, political parties shift their focus to victimize their adversaries, instead of addressing social problems. Pakistan is facing economic and social crisis amid political instability. The shift of government in 2022 creates many economic concerns such as depleted foreign reserves, unemployment, inflation, currency devaluation, interest rate hike, which makes the country at the verge of economic default. Furthermore, many core issues such as cross-border terrorism, climate change, pandemic, national disintegration and ethnic issues were pushed to the walls. The attack on political party (TUI-F) in Bajour results in more than 150 casualties, due to strengthening of terrorists in the country. Many social and economic crisis results due to ignorance of immoral politicians.

In this context, national integration and social structure faces severe bad consequences. The political persecution against opponents engraves seeds of resentment between various cultural, religious, and ethnic groups.

The resentment between different provinces of Pakistan due to different cultural, historical and linguistic backgrounds fosters amid

political polarization and immorality. The Baloch separatist movement, Sindhu desh movement and Pashtun Tahafuz movement halt national integration and fosters social instability in the country. Thus, irredentism and nationalism are evoked due to immoral politics which leads to national disintegration.

The political indignation due to immoral attitude creates a never-ending cycle of victimization. The political representatives take advantage of their authorities and victimize their opponents and faces the same treatment, when they are at the opposite side, and the cycle repeats. Many constitutional amendments before electoral process of Pakistan due in 2023 were initiated to narrow down the legal freedom of their opponent parties. The amendments in PECA bill, officials secret bill and Elections Act bill overpowers many basic human rights and freedom. Furthermore, powerful parties accuse serious crimes and illegal acts due to their personal rage. The chairman of PTI (Political Party of Pakistan) faces more than 150 charges right now, which includes murder cases, mutiny, corruption and terrorism. The political victimization due to personal grudges revolves in never-ending cycle.

Unfortunately, the immoral political behaviours do not recognize borders, instead it prevails in international community. The moral decline in any country has spill over effect on neighbouring countries. In the era of globalization, due to which political, economic and social strings are integrated between many countries, none of any problem within specific country is contained within boundaries. The personal politics of Power gain in Iraq was diffused to Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Lebanon, which led to execution of Saddam Hussain and US (United States) invasion in Iran. Thus, moral decline in Politics of any country will face similar consequences as middle east due to political diffusion in international system.

Furthermore, political persecution hinders political efficiency and progress of good politicians. The efficient and determined politicians encounters difficulties in their progress, due to several hinderances created by the powerful opponents. The foremost step to contain good politicians is through legal impeachments, which results in vacuum of political progress. Many elected representatives are held behind bars

for many decades in Pakistan, who struggled for their rights and core causes. Moreover, if their results are still not achieved, immoral politicians prevent their efficiency by taking their lives away. Many politicians in Pakistan faced similar incidents and accuse each other of attempt to murder. Such as Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Imran Khan, Ishaq Ali Khan e.t.c. Political struggle and progress is halted due to persecution of politicians.

The most dangerous consequences of immoral politics is pessimism felt by masses. The power dynamics between political parties decreases hope from politicians for better change. Many people migrates to foreign countries for social security and better opportunities. In a recent survey done by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) 62% of Pakistanis wished to leave their country. Moreover, people gets fed up of immoral politics and do not stand up against injustice and cruelty, otherwise they will face similar fate as weak politicians. After the riots of 9 May in Pakistan, many people lack the courage to stand by their principles, due to fear of military trial established for terrorists. Thus, lack of morality in politics results in lack of hope and courage in people.

To uproot immorality from Politics, politicians should tolerate diverging opinions. Politicians should create space for various ideas and manifestos. Political parties could create mutual understanding and establish a single platform to discuss issues instead of accusing each other on national media and social media. Charter of democracy is perfect example to address the integrated approach of various political parties to uphold democratic system of Pakistan. Furthermore, politicians should resolve their conflicts *tete-e-tete* instead of involving legal proceeding against each other. The coalition of Pakistan People Party and Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) despite history of extreme adversary in late 20th century, paved path for many solutions of the country against non-representative authorities. Thus, politicians should make space for different ideologies in their manifestos.

Instead of Political victimization, politicians should divert their focus on issue based politics. ~~Instead~~ politicians should prioritize social issues such as health, education, employment and inflation in their public meetings and agendas. Prioritizing education, politicians could change the

fate of the country. Around 22 millions children between 5-16 years of age are out-of-school (UNICEF, 2023). Furthermore, many diseases and morbidities can be hindered at initial stages with strong mutual determination. ~~For~~ The progressive and efficient response of Pakistan during COVID-19 demonstrates that many difficult targets could be achieved by mutual consultation of politicians and higher authorities. Politicians should set aside their personal grudges and work for social issues of people.

In addition to this, proper accountability of accusers should be held in front of efficient legislative bodies. The countries must adopt strong legislation and judicial proceeding to uphold justice and prevent social chaos. The legislative bodies should be excluded of any political influence or external inclination. Many judicial decisions due to biased investigations can harm the justice and accountability. Over the course of period many institutions such as NAB (National Accountability Bureau) and FIA (Federal Investigation Agency) are accused for political benefits and biased investigations. Proper and transparent accountability of confronters could uproot immorality in politics.

In a nutshell, moral decline in politics has severely threatened the basic ethics and conduct of politicians. Personal grudges and benefits overhaul principles of human rights and results in political polarization and unresolved disputes. The ignorance of social issues further creates social jeopardy and national disintegration. But, transparent accountability of accusers could prevent moral decline in politics. Furthermore, tolerant behaviour among politicians could create space for better politics and issue based politics. Moreover, focus on core social issues for better change will enhance the political progress and will put nail in the coffin for moral decline in politics.