

Socio-economic disparity and NSP

Outline:

1) Introduction

Socio-economic disparity has been rooted in Pakistan for more than 70 years. Pakistan has faced a lot of challenges due to this. The newly developed NSP might pull out Pakistan from disparity if applied properly.

2) Can NSP remove socio-economic disparity of Pakistan?

3) Socio-economic disparities of Pakistan

- a) Political instability
- b) Uncontrollable corruption
- c) Prevailing stagflation
- d) Lack of implementation of policies
- e) Outdated educational system

4) Vision of NSP

- a) Shift from geo-strategic to geo-economic
- b) Counter traditional threats.
- c) Problems in the implementation of NSP on Balochistan and former FATA.
- d) Focuses on women's rights and religious freedoms.
- e) Controlling cyber and hybrid war in Pakistan.
- f) Entrenching poverty and unemployment.

5) Ways to implement NSP in socio-economic context

- a) Role of government in implementing NSP
 - b) Proper check and balance
 - c) Public awareness
- 6) Conclusion

Essay

"I believe that our national security lies not just in protecting our borders, but in bridging divides."

~ Joe Lieberman (Former US Senator)

As the quote mentioned, the national security of a country does not only focus on the traditional and non-traditional threats but also on the humans that are living within the borders of that country. NSP has been introduced for the 1st time in Pakistan that can pull out the homeland from socio-economic disparities. The country has seen numbers of socio-economic challenges since its birth. One of them is the political instability that has been observed since beginnings followed by uncontrollable corruption. Prevailing stagflation is yet another problem faced by Pakistan. There is also a

severe lack in the implementation of policies that are made for the people and their rights. Moreover, the education system is also outdated and is being dragged as such. In this situation, the NSP shines as the ray of light.

Its prime focus is not only limited to geo-strategic but geo-economic as well. ~~The~~ ^{At} ~~the~~ prime focus is always to counter traditional threats. It also focuses on human rights and religious freedom, can control poverty and unemployment and can bridle the cyber and hybrid wars in Pakistan. However, the implementation of NSP in Balochistan and former FATA can be taken as quite a task. Nevertheless, there are certain ways to implement NSP in socio-economic context. First is the role of government in implementing NSP which must be followed by proper checks and balance. And public should be made aware of the objectives and determinants of national security policy. Socio-economic disparity has been rooted in Pakistan for more

than 70 years. Pakistan has faced a lot of challenges due to this. The newly developed NSP might have pulled out Pakistan from socio-economic disparity if applied properly.

NSP has been issued on 14th January 2021 in the era of former Prime Minister Imran Khan. It is the first time in the history of Pakistan that National Security Policy of Pakistan was introduced. The NSP was designed in such a way that it does not only cater the traditional and non-traditional threats but also focuses on "HUMANS" that are living within. The prime focus of NSP of any country is defense and military strategies but Pakistan's NSP focuses on the civil interests as well. The current situation of socio-economics of Pakistan can be dealt meticulously if proper NSP is followed.

The socio-economic disparities are observed since the birth of the country and the foremost of all is the political instability. Political instability and polarization has been a huge hurdle to the homeland.

and its interests. Recently, a vote of no confidence against the former PM Inam Khan was carried out and he was ousted from his office. That did not only caused political turmoil in the country but also ~~leaves~~^{left} a negative impression on neighbouring countries.

Moreover, the government failed to implement already present policies for the betterment of people. Even if they are being implemented in some areas, the ratio is close to negligible. People are not fully being benefitted from the policies that are made for them. From educational to health policies, rights and laws, government has almost failed everytime to implement due to lack of resources or other reasons. The political instability is one of the cause that ~~made~~^{makes} them so indulged into politics, leaving the public's interests behind.

With that, corruption prevails in every government ~~at~~^{and} private

sector of the country. From pick-pockets to ~~robbers~~ white-collar or other high profile crimes, every kind of corruption takes place at all hierarchical levels. According to Corruption Perception Index, Pakistan is at the rank of 160 out of 180 countries. Thus, making Pakistan one of the most corrupted countries.

Not only corruption, ~~the~~ unemployment and poverty are also spreading uncontrollably at the same rate. Due to over population, even the graduates or highly educated people are unable to secure jobs. It gives a high rise to unemployment and ultimately poverty. According to a survey done by (macro trends net), the unemployment rate of Pakistan was always increased. The current unemployment rate of the graduated youth Pakistan is more than 4.35%. Thus, giving rise to poverty and stagnation.

Other than that, education system is yet another ~~for~~ socio-economic factor. Pakistan has faced so many educational crisis. Not only the whole education

System needs reformation. The course, teaching methodologies, infrastructure and educational resources

collectively make educational system. With the passage of time, countries or nation evolve their systems but Pakistan's educational system was not reformed accordingly.

Due to that, the ~~of~~ skill development was lagged behind and not learning was established. ~~It is~~ Moreover, the literacy rate of Pakistan is also something to ponder on. According to a survey made by a website (macroind.net), Pakistan's literacy rate is only 58% as of 2021.

The vision of NSP counters almost all the perspectives that nation is facing. First of all, it's shift is not only focused to geo-strategic but also ^{on} geo-economic scale. Pakistan is envisioned as an Islamic welfare state, internationally relevant and aligned with universal principles of justice, equality and tolerance. ~~NSP~~ NSP promotes good governance through strengthening of institutions, transparency, accountability and openness as articles of faith.

The prime focus of NSP is the defense of the country and to counter the national traditional elements of national security and proposes a whole-of-government approach to charting a cohesive, unified, and responsive security policy for the coming decade. While traditional security focuses on defence, territorial integrity, internal security and diplomacy.

It is not only limited to traditional or non-traditional elements but also focuses on human rights and religious freedom. NSP makes specific reference to the rule of law to be upheld for all the citizens, ensuring a responsive justice system that is impartial and holds all citizens accountable equally. It also gives free will to the citizens to follow their religions.

The NSP also focuses to contain the cyber and hybrid wars going in the country. The era today is different from the era when there used to be traditional wars. NSP comes up with efficient methods and

ways to counter the national security that is breached nowadays through cyber attacks. The recent leaked calls of people of ANLN party is the huge threat as ~~these~~ the confidential discussions could be leaked to people who only aims to harm the country and its sovereignty.

After the defense mechanism, another element of NSP is to look and entrench poverty and unemployment. These two factors are the major challenges in Socio-economic zone. NSP focuses to cater poverty by providing jobs. It also plans to come up with the schemes of employment and making spaces for the employed in the existing sectors.

NSP has many positive elements but what cannot be ignored is its effective implementation in former FATA and Balochistan. These two tribal areas have the history of terrorist attacks. Moreover, many terrorists have stayed at these areas and used that soil for their attacks. The implementation of NSP in such areas is a hard task but not impossible. To implement NSP there,

rigid policies should be taken into consideration. The task would not be easy yet the need of the hour is to implement radical changes to counter the national security and nation's sovereignty.

There are certain ways to implement NSP into socio-economic context. The top and foremost is the role of government in taking care of these policies. The government and cabinet should make sure the proper implementation. Several organisations or committees should be established for the check and balance of policies. The violation of policies at any level should not be tolerated.

In addition to that, public should also be made aware of the objectives and determinants of the newly introduced NSP. Special videos or documentaries should be made on its importance. People should know that how much this NSP is human and Pakistani citizen-centric.

In conclusion, it is said that "In matters of national security emotion is

no substitute for intelligence, nor rigidity for prudence. To act coolly, intelligently and prudently in perilous circumstances is the test of a man and also a nation." ~ Adlai Stevenson. NSP

of Pakistan is the equal responsibility of state as well as the citizen. Both of them together can implement and even improvise NSP if needed according to socio-economic context.

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