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Is SNC a Step in the Right Direction?

## OUTLINE:

### 1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: SNC is a step in right direction because SNC has ability to bring positive impacts in political, economic, social and educational areas; however, some might disagree with this notion, but this does not seem much convincing.

### 2. An Overview of the SNC

### 3. This Is How SNC a Step in the Right Direction:

#### a. Political Gains Due to SNC:

- i. Promotion of <sup>the</sup> democratic culture in the society
- ii. Prevalence of nationalism instead of provincialism
- iii. Discouraging relative deprivations of regions

## b. Positive Impacts of SNC in the Economic Center:

- i. Promotion of meritocracy and fair distribution of talent
- ii. Equal opportunities for all the individuals
- iii. More employment opportunities for the masses

## c. Benefits of SNC in the Social Domain:

- i. Promotion of tolerance
- ii. Establishment of cultural and interfaith harmony

## d. Educational Gains of

### SNC:

- i. Improvement in the quality of education
- ii. Enhancing educational and vocational skills of students
- iii. Curbing of division and disparities in education

## 4. Skepticism about SNC: An

## Opposing Yet, Unconvincing Stance:

- a. Impairment of center-province relations, however, they have solved many issues before:
- b. Issue of regional language education, however, everybody knows the national language
- c. Neglect of the rights of the minorities, however, otherways are possible

## 5. Conclusion

Ali and Hamza are the citizens of Pakistan. Ali, being a student of a well-reputed college, is going to apply for Stanford, but Hamza, being a student of lower-class college, submits his application in a local institute to pursue higher studies. In this way, non-uniformity in the curriculum has created a gap among the masses. In 2020, when government of Pakistan announced the SNC, it has become a ray of hope for the people of Pakistan. SNC will promote democratic culture in Pakistan. It will be a source for the prevalence of nationalism instead of provincialism. It will provide equal opportunities to the masses of Pakistan. SNC will also be a source to provide more employment opportunities to

the people of Pakistan. In the same way, SNC will promote tolerance in Pakistan. SNC can also enhance educational and vocational skills of the students. In fact, SNC is a step in right direction because SNC has ability to bring positive impacts in political, economic, social and educational areas; however, some might disagree with this notion, but this does not seem much convincing.

Before going into the details of the topic, it is pertinent to have glance at what is SNC. SNC was launched by then-prime minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, in 2020. It is a common programme of study in institutions that is designed to ensure nationwide uniformity of content and

standards in education. Its primary objective was to achieve national integration and social cohesion. It consists of three phases. Its key considerations include: teachings of Quran and Sunnah; vision of Quaid and Iqbal; outcomes based approach; focused on skills, values and inclusive education, etc.

To begin with, one of the important political gain due to SNC is the promotion of the democratic culture in the society. For a successful democratic state, curriculum is necessary. SNC includes such principles, which will be source for the development of democratic norms and values. Dr. Marium Chughtai - a member of SNC committee - said that our prime aim was to

establish democratic culture in the society. In this way, SNC is a source to develop democratic culture. Hence, SNC will play an important role in development of democratic culture in Pakistani society.

Similarly, SNC will be a source for the prevalence of nationalism instead of provincialism. SNC will promote the feelings of nationhood among individuals. Diversity in curricula leads to the development of sentiments of regionalism and provincialism, and working for national interest takes the back seat. For example, several appointments in the government departments of Pakistan go unallocated because candidates belonging to far and remote areas

are not able to meet the minimum criterion to be appointed. This becomes a source for the prevalence of provincialism. So, SNC will promote nationalism instead of provincialism.

Furthermore, SNC will be a source to discourage relative deprivations of regions. Due to different systems and standards of education in different regions, there is disparity in the country. In Pakistan, regions, like Balochistan, rural Sindh, tribal areas, etc. continuously feel more frustration due to increase in disparities towards them. Students coming from these regions are not able to secure good jobs and quality education because of



heterogeneous system of education that exists in Pakistan.

The introduction of SNC will bring individuals from this region in par with the individuals from the developed regions. Thus, SNC will discourage relative deprivations of regions.

Out of many positive impacts of SNC in the economic center, promotion of meritocracy and fair distribution of talent tops the list. SNC will ensure that everyone can participate in the society, based on meritocracy.

Talent will be distributed in a manner that is fair, equal and just.

This will result in the inclusive institutions. Such institutions will unify the nation for the prosperity of the country. The meri-

meritocracy and fair distribution of talent is very important for the development of a nation. Hence, SNC can play an important role in promotion of meritocracy and fair distribution of talent.

In the same way, SNC will provide equal opportunities to all the individuals. For the development of any nation, equal opportunities for all the individuals is most important. Diversity of the curricula does not allow the equal opportunities for all the individuals. Candidates with different education standards have different capabilities. This leads to the unequal opportunities to different candidates. For example, candidates, who graduated

From local institutions, cannot compete with the students of NUST or LUMS. So, SNC will provide equal opportunities to all the candidates.

Identically, SNC will be a source for the more employment opportunities to the masses.

In Pakistan, there is diversity in the curricula, which leads to the less employment opportunities. Either the employment opportunities are limited to certain students ~~and~~ with certain education standards or none is appointed because candidates with degrees from the remote and local institutions are not able to meet the minimum criterion. SNC has ability to end this. So, SNC

will become a source to provide more employment opportunities to the individuals.

The first benefit of SNC is the promotion of tolerance in the social domains. Lack of tolerance for other religious sectors and other cultures is common in the world. Middle East is the best example, where proxies wars are fought on the basis of religious sectors. Pakistan is also not free from this crisis. Different ~~see~~ religious sectors exist in Pakistan, which usually ~~some~~ show no tolerance to other religious sectors. Tolerance to other cultures is also not common in Pakistani society. This leads to disturbance in the society. ~~SNC~~ SNC

can reduce these tensions in the upcoming generation by providing common knowledge to students. Common knowledge will lead to the tolerance. Hence SNC will promote tolerance in the society.

In the same fashion, establishment of cultural and inter-faith harmony is also possible through SNC. One of the objectives of SNC is to educate the students about different culture in our society. Knowledge of the different cultures will create a sense of cultural connectivity. Besides culture, SNC teaches lessons of respecting other religions. Its aim is to create inter-faith harmony among the inhabitants. The objective is to achieve unity in

in the diversity. This ~~the~~ unity will lead to cohesion and integration. So, SNC is a tool for cultural and inter-faith harmony.

First educational gain, due to SNC, is the improvement in the quality of education. Quality of education is most important for the development of any nation. Unfortunately, quality of education is not good in Pakistan. According to Pakistan Education Statistics, 85% of children enrolled in pre-primary education, spend their time being drilled in song. This shows the quality of education in Pakistan. SNC can improve its quality because its one objective is to improve the quality of

education. Hence, SNC will improve the quality of educational in Pakistan.

Moving on, SNC can enhance educational and vocational skills of the students. In contemporary era, educational and vocational skills are key to success. Students of remote and far areas really lack ~~and~~ these skills. This makes them to take them a back seat in competition. However, considerations of SNC include: digital skills; programming; digital citizenship; algorithmic thinking and problem solving. In this way, SNC can improve the educational and vocational strengths of students. So, SNC is a source to enhance the educational

and vocational skills of students.

Finally, SNC can cater the division and disparities in education. Tri-parallel education system, i.e. private schools, public schools and mad-rassahs exists in Pakistan.

There is diversity in the standards of education. Usually, students of public schools and particularly of Mad-rassahs cannot compete with the students of private sectors. This leads to division and disparities in education. When curriculum will be uniform, then this disparity and division will not exist. Thus, SNC can cater division and disparities in education.



While SNC is a step in right direction, but some disagree with this viewpoint. They opine that SNC will cause impairment of center-province relations. According to them, after 18th amendment, federal government cannot implement it because education was devolved to provinces and making such policy is the violation of 18th amendment. In 2020, education minister of Sindh, Syed Sardar Ali, also rejected this idea. Nevertheless, education is devolved to the provinces after 18th amendment, but provinces and center have solved many issues before. For example, after 18th amendment, health sector was also devolved to provinces, but they gave this power back to center.

after few <sup>or</sup> years for more effective performance of the health sector. Thus, even if the education is devolved to provinces after the 18th amendment, but it can be implemented.

Similarly, they also opine that SNC will cause issue of regional language education. They think that books will not be <sup>easily</sup> available in local languages, and local or regional languages will also take a back seat. Nevertheless, Urdu is the national language of Pakistan. Every body knows it. Dr. Mariam Chughtai - a member of SNC committee - also said that SNC allowed the schools to choose their language of instruction. It can be English, Urdu, or

any of local languages. In this way, local languages will not take a back seat or books will be available to everyone. Hence, even if the issue of local language crisis, this issue can be solved by writing books in local or national language.

Lastly, they also opine that SNC will neglect the rights of minorities. According to them, SNC violates Article 22(1) of the constitution of Pakistan. This Article states that no lesson in any textbook that is compulsory to the students of all faith can contain material specific to any religion. SNC contains Quran and Sunnah's teachings.

However, constitution allows ~~to~~ every individual to learn teachings of his own religion. The individuals of other religion can exclude this portion, and they can learn their own religion. So, although SNC contains Islamic teachings, but other options are also available.

Having said this, it is quite evident that SNC is a step in right direction. SNC has ability to bring positive impacts. It can discourage relative deprivations of regions. It will provide more employment opportunities to the individuals. It will establish cultural and inter-faith harmony. It will also source of enhancing cultural and vocational

skills of students. Thus,  
the future of Pakistan  
is bright as it follows  
the SNC.