

Expository Essay

Religious Extremism as a Challenge to Economic Development.

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: The issue of religious extremism and its negative influence on the socio-economic development is decades old. Presently, religious extremism is posing threat to economic development in various dimensions. Effective policies can be adopted in order to cope with the menace of religious extremism and its devastating consequences for economic development. (4A)

2. Inter-relation between Economic Development and Religious Extremism.

3. Factors Fostering Religious Extremism.

(a) Insufficient role of mass media

- to highlighting religious issues
- (b) Spread of misinformation by adversaries.
 - Case in Point: Indian media exaggerating sectarian rifts in GB.
 - (c) Lack of Inter-faith harmony.
 - Case in Point: Jaranwala Incident, Babri Mosque Incident, 1992.
 - (d) Lack of constructive debates among different religions and sects.
 - (e) Rise in Xenocentric approach in society.

4. Religious Extremism as a Challenge to Economic Development

- (a) Decline in Foreign Direct Investment
- (b) Threat to foreign skilled labour.
 - Case in Point: Lynching of Sri Lankan manager in Stalkot, 2021.
- (c) Immigration of minorities results in brain drain.

→ Case in Point: Decline in minority population in Pakistan since 1947 till date.

(d) Religious Extremism curbs innovative ideas

(e) Religious extremism is a threat to democracy which in turn hits economy

(f) Religious extremism resists women participation in workforce -

(g) ~~Government spends re~~

Case in Point: Afghan Taliban anti-women policy and its repercussions on Afghan economy.

(g) Government spend resources to deal with repercussions of the religious extremism instead of economic development

(h) Religious extremism hits the bilateral ties among states.

Case in Point: ↑ Saudi - Iran Relations
Trade and Investment Agreement 1998

(ii) Religious extremism results in loss of revenue for media industry.

Case in Point: Series of movies and dramas banned in Pakistan and other countries due to religious extremism.

5. Measures that can be adopted to deal with religious extremism

(a) Effective legislation and its implementation to protect the rights of minorities.

(b) Educational institutes should teach tolerance, pluralism and peaceful coexistence.

(c) Effective use of mass media to counter misinformation

(d) Providing equal opportunities to all irrespective of religion and sect

(e) Promote inter-faith harmony by constructive discussions.

(f) Extremist elements in society should not be spared.

6. Conclusion.