

Practice Essay

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Batch: D3

Topic: Pathways to Pakistan's ProsperityOutline:

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: Pakistan's prosperity is hindered due to significant vulnerabilities stemming from weak policies. This has led to stagnated growth. To overcome these obstacles, prioritizing the development of human capital and ensuring comprehensive social, economic and political reforms may lead the path to prosperity.

2. Problems that lag the country behind.

3. Social development as a foundation of prosperity:

a) Unequivocally enunciating education

b) Women Empowerment

- Case in Point: Marie Curie and Gender in Science

c) Gender Disparities

- Case in Point: Pay Equity and the Case of Lilly Ledbetter

d) Social Protection Programs

e) Local Government and Human Capital

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4. Economic Growth for Prosperity of Pakistan:

a) Structural Economic Growth and Challenges

b) Productivity and Growth of Agriculture

c) Role of industrialization in prosperity

d) Promoting tourism

5. Political Reforms and Prosperity:

a) Institutional reforms

Reference: (Book: "Why Nation Fails" by Daron and James)

b) Free and fair elections:

Case in Point: Autocratic Government of Sheikh Hasina.

c) Administrative Reforms:

d) Civil-Military collaboration.

6. Use of Artificial Intelligence for Prosperity.

7. Empowering Prosperity through Regional Cooperation

China Pakistan Economic Corridor

Iran-Pakistan Gas pipeline

Access to Central Asian Republic markets

8. Conclusion.

"The Essay"

"If you work together in a spirit that every one of you... is first, second and last a citizen of the state with equal rights, privileges and obligations there will be no end to the progress you will make." This statement by Quaid-e-Azam M. Ali Jinnah highlights the driving force needed for a country to prosper that is "Unity". Established in 1947, Pakistan, with abundance in natural resources and fertile land, yet grapples with significant challenges: Political instability, energy crisis, education and human capital to name a few. Pakistan's prosperity is hindered due to vulnerabilities stemming from weak and inadequate policies. This has led to stagnated growth. To overcome these obstacles, prioritizing the development of human capital and ensuring comprehensive social, economic and potential reforms will lead the country to prosperity.

To understand the steps to prosperity, it is essential to identify the problems that hold the country back. In the first place, is the democracy often serves the elite, for the elite, and by the elite which raises significant

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concerns about its effectiveness and inclusivity. That is to say that lack of civilian supremacy or because the "democratic system" has faced repeated interruptions by the military rule, has faced inconsistent policy doctrine. Which in return effect the economy, social cohesion, public services, governmental policies and international relations. Equally important is the lack of development in the human capital like education, healthcare and social skills. This results in poverty and unemployment. Furthermore, relations with bordering countries present both potential challenges and benefits. Addressing these issues is crucial for paving the way toward sustainable prosperity.

To begin with, social development of the country lays the foundation of prosperity. To achieve sustainable growth, it is imperative to unequivocally enunciate education, irrespective of the class, gender or society. According to the Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE), the number of out-of-school children in Pakistan has reached approximately 26.21 million out of which 14 million are girls. This percentage (39pc), highlighting the students not enrolled in school, have the higher rates in Balochistan. To tackle the education crisis in the country, the government

should improve the infrastructure and learning facilities. The implementation of Article 25A (free and compulsory education for children aged 5 to 16) is critical for addressing the high number of out-of-school children and ensuring equitable access to education.

Expanding on the importance of education, women's empowerment serves as a catalyst for country's overall growth. For instance, Marie Curie, a pioneering scientist in the field of radioactivity, faced segregation despite her scientific achievements. This case highlights the challenges faced by women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and the need for greater inclusion and support for women scientists. Likewise, Pakistan can utilize its skilled women for prosperity by expanding educational empowerment, promoting workforce participation and enhancing economic empowerment. It will reduce poverty and build resilience in women against disaster.

While women's empowerment is essential for fostering development, significant gender disparities persist in Pakistan. Overcoming these discrimination, as evidenced by stark difference in labor force participation

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and educational attainment between men and women, will create a pathway for nation's growth. As ^{it's also} emphasized by Napoleon Bonaparte quote, "Give me an educated mother and I shall promise you the birth of a civilized, educated nation."

Also, we can analyze the gender disparity through the case of Lilly Ledbetter "Pay Equity". She was being paid less than her male counterparts for the same job. She filed a lawsuit against Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., This issue of gender pay gaps is pertinent in Pakistan also. There is a significant need of policies that promote equal employment opportunities and enforce legal protections against discrimination to foster prosperity in Pakistan.

Having said that, social protection programs can help the country grow by reducing poverty and inequality. For instance Benazir Income Support Program, Ehsas Program and Sehat Card. These initiatives have profoundly boosted Pakistan growth by giving financial aid to vulnerable population. This has resulted in more education enrollment, feeding the poor by monthly stipends.

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Additionally, Sehat card is a health insurance that provides financial coverage for medical treatments to low-income families. What is more the Ehsaas Program has been praised internationally for its effective response to poverty. However, improving how these programs identify and support those in need is also crucial. Pakistan currently spends only 0.5% of its GDP on social protection, which is much lower than other countries in South Asia. Thus, it is important to reach more people and increase funding for these program for Pakistan's mobility to progress.

Next, the empowerment of local government is directly related to human capital development. This illustrates that representative selection and training will be investment in human capital. Furthermore, local leaders are better equipped to understand the actual problems within their communities or societies. With a deeper understanding of local need, empowered local governments can make targeted investment in human capital. This include various initiatives: improving

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access to quality education and vocational training, providing health care facilities, investing in skills development programs and supporting entrepreneurship. In this way local governments are more accountable to their constituents and responsive to their needs.

Hence, tailoring solutions to community need ultimately leading to enhanced social protection.

Now, exploring the role of economic growth for the prosperity of Pakistan.

To start with, structural reforms are sought for economic stability.

Pakistan has low Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of just 0.29pc in Fiscal year 2024, far below 5pc target.

The pressure of high external debt of 123 billion US dollars with 78 billion US dollars, needing to be paid by 2026 is impeding Pakistan's growth.

Furthermore, budget and trade deficit with lower tax-to-GDP ratio are endangering the sustainability of the economy. However, beneath the surface,

possible solutions are there to uplift its economy. First and foremost, International Monetary bailout packages are only short-term relief to the problem. Inclusive long-term structural reforms must be ensured.

Moreover, regressive tax policies should be reformed to adopt a progressive tax policies approach. Shadow Economies must be digitalized. According to World Bank report, "Shadow economies in Pakistan equals 40 pc of GDP." If it is digitalized it will effectively uplift the economy of Pakistan. That is to say, monitoring economies and implementing policies which protect the vulnerable population will lead toward the path to prosperity.

Next comes the importance of enhancing production of and growth of Agriculture in Pakistan. There were times when after independence, for two decades, Pakistan's export was do more than double the combined export of Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey, Thailand and Phillipines; there comes those times that Pakistan itself is importer of wheat now.

According to International Food Security Assessment, a United States based Agency, "In (2021-2031) years, 38 pc of Pakistan's population is going to be food insecure. To avoid such problems and to address government needs policies that addresses the following areas: irrigation issues, low

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crop yield, limited access to financing, outdated farming and regulatory challenges. Pakistan can implement policies to grow this sector from its current GDP 23pc to 40pc of GDP, Hence enhancing the Pakistan prosperity.

Equally important is the role of industrialization in Pakistan's prosperity. It creates employment opportunities, enhances economic growth and overall standard of living. In "Governing the Ungovernable", Ishaq Hussain highlight the fragile policy-making of government. Like Pakistan's economy is mainly dependent on agriculture and industry sector.

The input in agriculture sector is 45pc and its output is just 20pc, whereas input in industrial sector is only 19pc and its output is 30pc. This signifies that transitioning the economy from primarily agriculture base to a more diversified industrial framework will contribute significantly to Pakistan GDP.

Moreover, industrialization also aids in reducing regional disparities by establishing industries in less developed area, thereby promoting balanced economic development across the country. This helps in

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creating a more equitable distribution of resources and opportunities for a country to prosper.

Alongside industrial development, another vital sector that can significantly contribute to Pakistan's prosperity is tourism. Pakistan has natural tourist spots, that can lead to enhanced economy. According to "International tourism organisation (2023)", Pakistan is the second most beautiful country to visit. As an example of this Turkey, only from tourism in 2023, has earned 57 billion US dollars. Pakistan can also attract foreign direct investment (FDI) in this way. Most of economy of the countries like Maldives, Sri Lanka are dependent on tourism. Special acts and laws must be enforced for the protection of tourists in the country, such as Visa-on-arrival and exemptions on visa fees to boost inbound tourism. This enhanced economy is the reflection of prosperity and presents positive picture of Pakistan to the world. Security of tourists is the basis of this economy, requiring responsiveness from the government officials to protect and promote tourism.

Shifting our focus towards political reform for the Pakistan's stability and prosperity. The institutional reforms play remarkable role how the country will perform in its matter. In "Why Nations Falls" by Daron and James, trace the evolution of political and economic institutions around the globe and argue that nations are not destined to succeed or fail due to geography or culture, but because of "extractive" or "inclusive" institutions within them. Extractive institutions brings chaos in a nation. Whereas intrinsic inclusive institution builds trust of the public and promote social cohesion which fosters sense of responsibility in citizens. Strengthening democratic institutions and bringing awareness within public will aid in the structural reforms of political institution, thereby paving ways for country to progress.

After the refinement of structural problems in political system, free and fair elections must be conducted. This ensures smooth transition of government by the will of the public.

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Otherwise, as seen in the case of Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Autocratic government will only face wrath of the public. This emphasizes that autocratic government is bound to fall, affecting the country's development. The voices of people should be heard through parliamentary means and ensurance of fair electoral process indirectly means the path to the country's prosperity. Thus to avoid political instability government actions should be made accountable and transparent.

Along with the free and fair elections, administrative reforms are impactful and crucial for Pakistan's prosperity. Unfortunately, the Pakistan's public sector is plagued by issues such as corruption, inefficiency and lack of accountability. According to Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI) Pakistan ranks 133rd out of 180 countries. This indicates the high perceived level of corruption in the public sectors. The government policies aimed at better governance and effective enforcement of laws will yield positive results for prosperity.

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This to reduce red tap, and improve the overall effectiveness of government ~~issues~~ institutions. For example, anti-corruption steps and the New Public Management (NPM) model aimed to enhance the capacity of public sector organizations, enhancing Pakistan's prosperity.

The other important aspect of political ^{instability} sustainability is repeated interventions by military rule, or that elected government have not been allowed to complete their full term. This political turmoil has the only solution of civil-military collaboration on security and foreign policy challenges.

The military must be under the government. As said by Samuel P. Huntington and Morris that "Most effective civil-military relations need of efficacious civilian control of the armed forces." Through strengthening democratic institutions, promoting civilian oversight, cultivating civilian leadership and fostering political stability can reform political landscape in Pakistan for better progress.

Now, tapping into the power of artificial intelligence for achieving prosperity. Transformative Impact of AI includes economic growth and innovation, enhancing education and healthcare and improving decision-making. AI drives economic growth by optimizing processes, reducing costs and enabling the development of new products. Industries such as manufacturing, logistics and finance can be benefited from AI-driven automation and predictive analytics in Pakistan. Additionally, in education and healthcare, Pakistan may adopt the practice of AI enabled personalized learning experience adapting to individual student's need and in healthcare with significant improvement through AI. It enables early diagnosis, and the management of chronic disease. AI enhance accuracy and efficiency, improving patient outcomes. Specifically, AI can be used in decision-making process, providing insight that will help organization and governments make informed choices. Pakistan's government can use AI for public policy planning, urban development and national security, thereby improving service delivery.

Regional Cooperation plays a pivotal role in enhancing prosperity by fostering economic integration and collaboration among neighboring countries. For instance, China Pakistan Economic Corridor, (CPEC), no doubt it brings prosperity to country but practical and realistic policies should be implemented to avoid distress in local communities like #Gwadar KO Haq DO. The people of Balochistan wants their consensus in the project and job quota etc. Similarly, enhancing good relations with Afghanistan will pave the way to ~~Asia's~~ Central Asian Republic market which are rich in natural resources. Pakistan can boost its trade and curb the terrorist attack through collaboration with countries. Following its national interests, Pakistan can develop its economy and ensure security through balancing act between different nations. Thus, enhancing Pakistan prosperity.

In a nutshell, Pakistan has the potential to overcome its obstacles. By focusing on social, economic and political reforms, enhancing regional cooperation and

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leveraging technological advancements
Pakistan can create more
sustainable and inclusive economy.
Moreover, it is imperative to
establish a collaborative environment
where policymakers, economists and
leaders work together to
implement effective strategies. As
we navigate the complexities
of globalization priorities, a commitment
to transparency, accountability and
inclusive development will be vital.

Remarks