

5- Conclusion:

Energy crisis in Pakistan has multiple factors, particularly over-dependence on fossil fuels and weak infrastructure.

However, with concerted efforts, Pakistan can mitigate energy shortage.

Q#6

1- Introduction: Shrinking Space Of Women In Developing States:

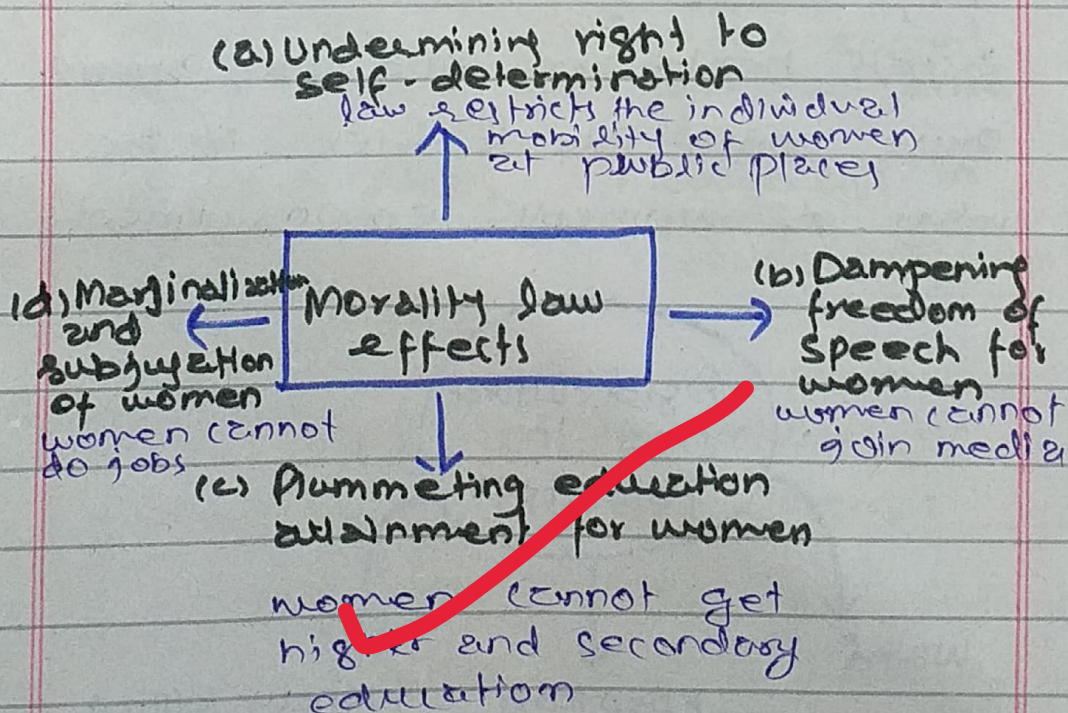
Gender apartheid is a pressing issue, particularly dominant in developing states. Multiple factors are responsible for widening gap between men and women such as hidebound ~~cultural~~ norms and patriarchal system. It led to suppression of women in every sector such as political, economic and social. It calls for immediate

actions at societal, institutional and individual level.

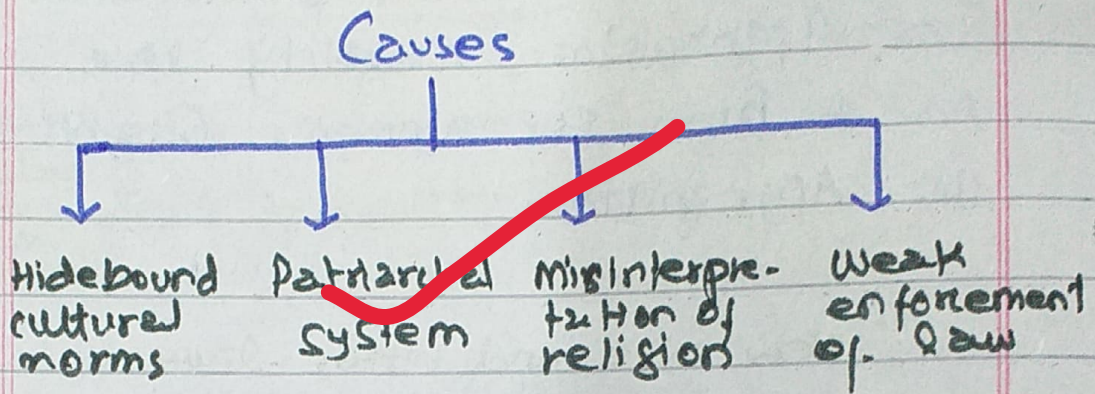
2- Oppressive Measures Against Women In Afghanistan: Morality Law As A Blow For Women's Rights In Afghanistan:

"New vice and virtue law in Afghanistan is a repressive measure that further suppress women's rights"

- ~~Markes Turk~~, United Nations Human Rights Chief



3- Shrinking Space For Women In Developing Nations: Factors leading to women subjugation:



(3a) Hidebound cultural norms restrict women's freedom:

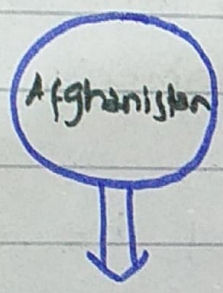
Women are forced to stay at home, leaving them vulnerable. They cannot get education, access healthcare and employment. These norms are barriers in the way of women's empowerment.



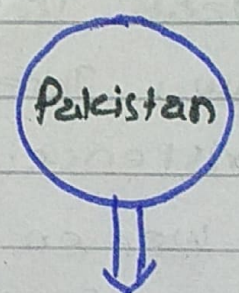
(3b) Patriarchal and feudal mindset:

Glass ceiling for women's empowerment:

Social constructions and stereotypes against women are so deeply entrenched in developing nations that they prevent women from free movement and getting employment.



- women cannot travel alone
- they cannot raise their voice, particularly at public places



- Men are breadwinners of home
- Women cannot join managerial jobs
- Women only in teaching and doctors profession

(3c) Lopsided interpretation of religion further shrinks

Space for women:

In most of the muslim countries, religion are politicized

to gain personal interests. It further marginalizes women and undermining women's rights.

For instance, rigid interpretation of Sharia law and justification of oppressive measures by using this law is common in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

(3d) Weak implementation of law: Threat to women's existence:

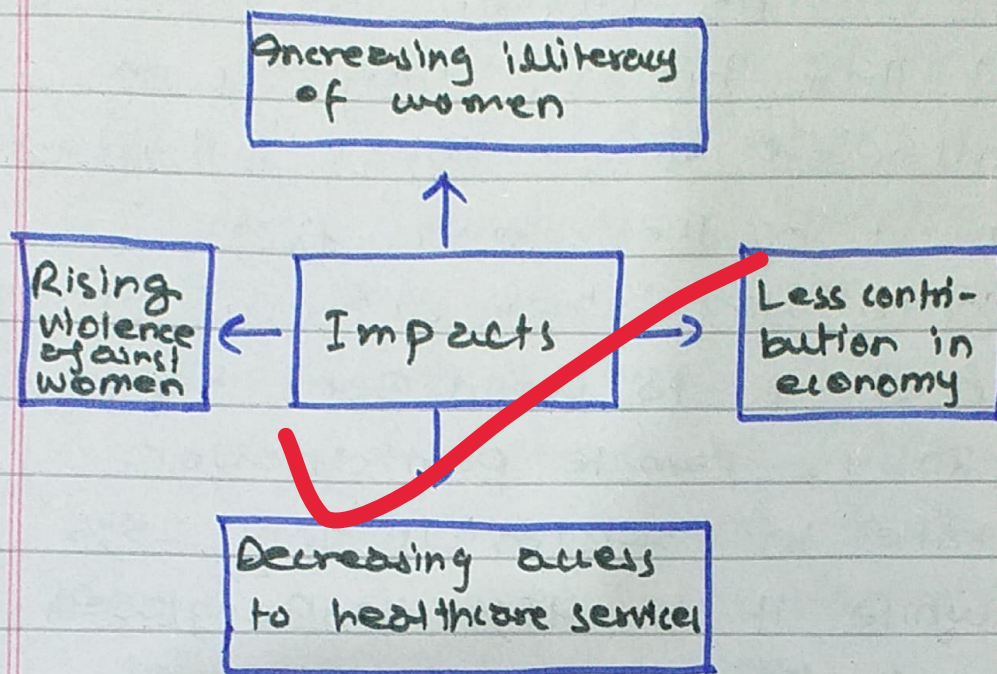
Women can only be safeguarded through rigid implementation of law. Despite having laws to curb discrimination against women, States failed to implement them in true letter and spirit.

Article 25 of Constitution of Pakistan 1973: This Article mandates equality of citizens and no discrimination on the basis of sex, caste or religion.

Also discuss the measures which led to this situation

17

4- Impacts of Regressive Measures Against Women In Developing States:



(42) Women's illiteracy rate is widening due to shrinking space for women:

In both countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, women's literacy rate is low than men.

Literacy	Pakistan	Afghanistan
Boys	48%	40%
Girls	48%	18%

Source: UNESCO report 2023

(4b) Decreasing contribution of women in economy:

As women are restricted at their homes, they are not allowed to do jobs. It hindered most of the women from contributing their share in economy.

According to World Bank report 2024, female participation rate in Pakistan is only 25% while it is 48% in Bangladesh and 52% in Malaysia.

(4c) Alleviating access of women to healthcare services:

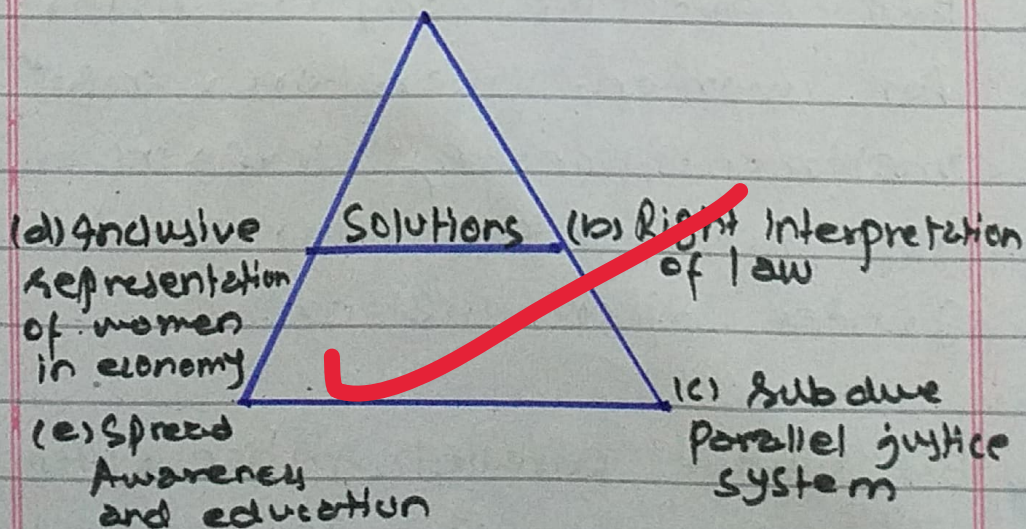
Most of the women in developing states, particularly in far-flung areas are unable to get healthcare facilities, leading to high mortality rate of women during child birth. In every 50 minutes, one woman dies during delivery owing to pregnancy complications in Pakistan according to World Economic Forum.

(4d) Staggering Cases of violence against women:

Lack of women's empowerment has exacerbated cases of violence against women. The study of Pakistan's Demographic Health Survey and UN population fund paint a grim picture. Almost 39 percent women in Pakistan has faced abuse and 80% married women face domestic and physical violence.

5- Suggestions To Empower Women In Developing States:

(a) Robust implementation of law



(5a) Need stringent implementation of law to curb violence against women:

Social Safety nets should be established that can ensure enforcement of law in true letter and spirit. Developing states can emulate developed states such as Scandinavian countries which continue secure top ten positions on Global Gender Gap Index.

(5b) Involving progressive religious scholars for right interpretation of law:

Islam is the first religion that advocates complete rights for women. Therefore, right implementation by involving progressive mindsets can alleviate gender discrimination.

(5c) Subdue parallel justice system:
Involve civil society leaders

and tribal leaders to subdue parallel justice system, hampering gender violence.

(5d) Spreading awareness so that women can challenge patriarchal systems:

Through education campaigns and integrating women's education in education system, the patriarchal mindset can be changed. Moreover, it will provide awareness to women about their fundamental rights.

6 Conclusion:

Women are highly subjugated in almost every arena of life. There are plethora of challenges that hinder the progress of women in developing states. Nevertheless, through societal will, institutional commitment and individual effort, women can be empowered.

Q #3

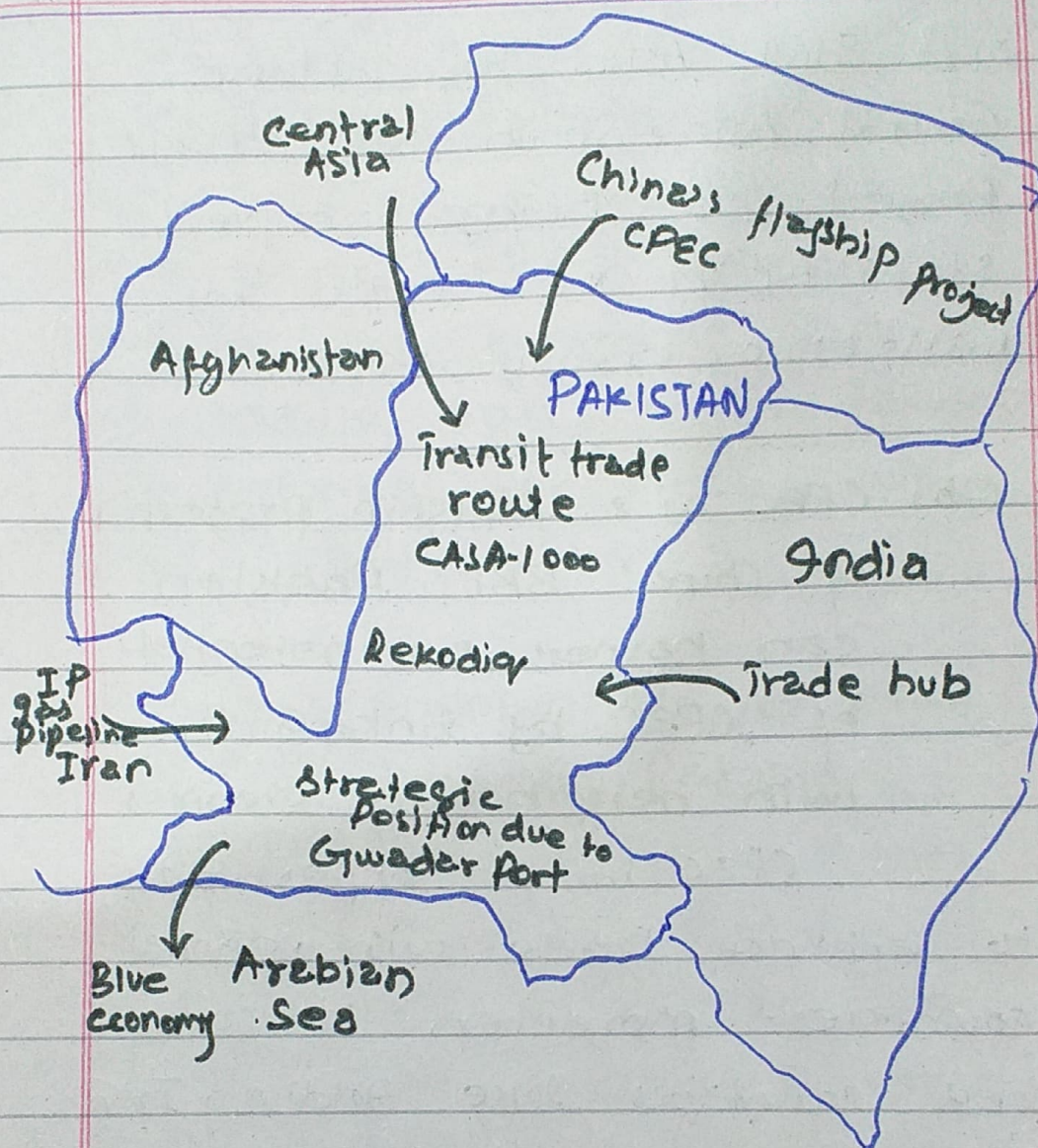
1- Introduction: Pakistan's Geo-Economic Pivot:

Pakistan has a geo-strategic location. Nevertheless, it encounters several challenges that impede its geo-economic development, including political instability, security issues, regional rivalries and mounting debt. Pakistan can leverage its geo-strategic location to turn these challenges into opportunities. A range of geo-economic opportunities the country can harness, encompassing EPEC, transit trade and blue economy potential.

2- Opportunities To Pakistan's Geo-Economic Significance:

"The geography of any country determines its economic strength"

- Richard Cooper



Map showing geo-strategic location of Pakistan

(2a) Pakistan is at the crossroads:
 Can leverage its geo-strategic position as a trade hub:

Pakistan can serve as a trade route between central Asia, middle southern countries

and South Asia. For instance, Central Asia - South Asia Energy Project can bring economic stability in the region by mitigating energy crisis.

(2b) CPEC as a flagship project of China's BRI: Pakistan can harness the potential of CPEC by linking it with neighbouring countries.

CPEC is an opportunity to enhance trade with regional countries. Moreover, it can link countries like India, Iran and Afghanistan for boosting economic ties. The modern transportation road and rail links in Pakistan can serve as a transit-trade route.

(2c) Strategic position of Pakistan due to Arabian Sea:

The long coast of almost 2046 km of Pakistan

with warm water Arabian Sea can enhance its potential in global economy. As almost 30% trade passes through Arabian sea between Asia and middle east, it can harness its potential for linking with global alliances.

(2d) Huge potential for blue economy in Pakistan:

While Pakistan shares a long coast with Arabian Sea, it can extract its resources and establish fishery economy in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ). It will enhance its bilateral ties and foreign investment with other countries.

(2e) Presence of gwader port enhances geo-economic significance of Pakistan:

Several projects have been initiated to develop

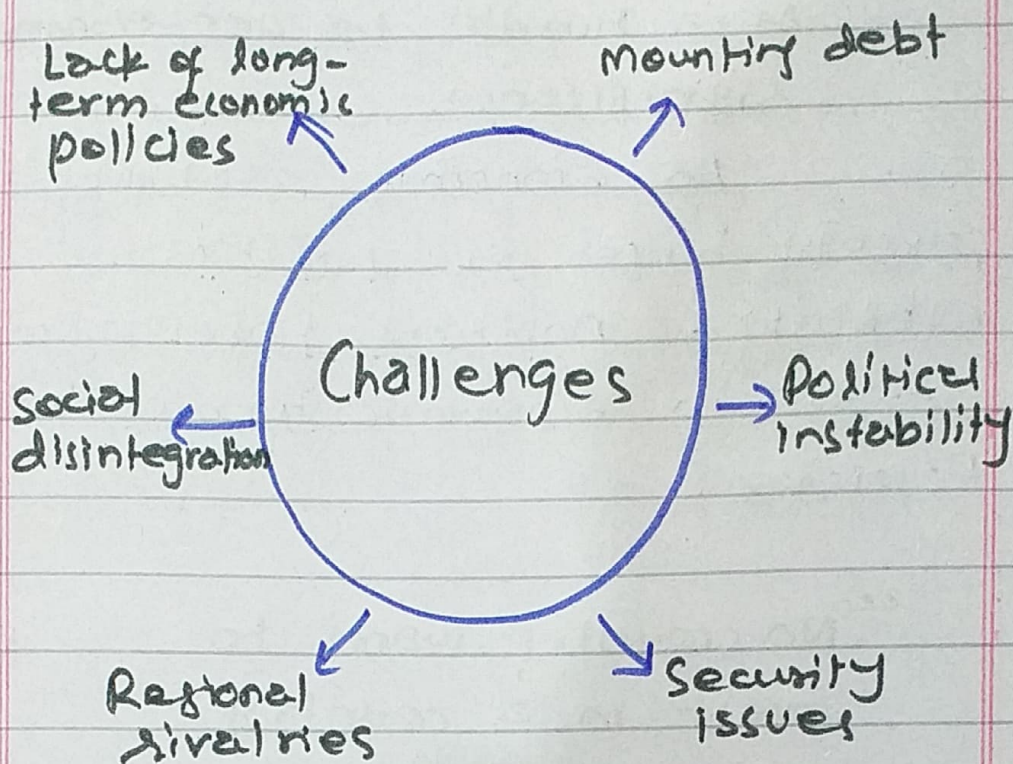
Gwadar port under CPEC such as international airport, hospitals, vocational training institutes, power projects, etc. It increases Pakistan's strategic position in global market.

(2f) Enriched natural resources in Pakistan:

The untapped potential of Pakistan in the form of its indigenous resources is its strength. Pakistan should exploit its resources through long-term planning and development. For instance, Rehman dig project highlights the potential of Pakistan in energy sector.

3- Challenges To Pakistan's Geo-Economic Pivot:

"No country can strengthen itself with out until its strong from within"
- Richard N. Haas



(32) Over-reliance on international financial institutions = vicious cycle of debt trap as a challenge for Pakistan's economy:

The moribund economy of Pakistan compels it to over-rely on IMF and WB for loans. Almost Rs 67 trillion foreign debt Pakistan has to pay according to IMF. It poses great threat to the geo-economic pivot to Pakistan.

(3b) Entrenching political polarization is a hurdle to geo-economic significance:

As economic stability largely hinges on political stability, political polarization leads to economic turmoil in Pakistan.

“No country wants to invest in a country with uncertain political environment”

— ‘Pakistan Beyond the Crisis State’ by Maleha Lodhi

(3c) Resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan: Inhospitable environment for economy:

The worsening security situation in Pakistan further stifles its economic growth. It is one of the biggest hurdles for geo-economic position of Pakistan.

For instance, only in August 2024, 84 attacks launched in Baluchistan according to World Bank report.

(3d) Inter-provincial discords in Pakistan as a hurdle to geo-economic pivot:

Due to unequal distribution of resources, disintegration among provinces pose challenge to its economy. It further destabilizes its position. Its stark example is the Baluchistan crisis in Pakistan.

(3e) Regional hostilities create hindrance in way of economic development:

Unstable regional bilateral ties, particularly with India and Afghanistan hampers Pakistan to leverage its geo-strategic location. For instance, refugee crisis issue with Afghanistan and Kashmir issue with India.

(3f) Lack of long-term economic policies and its enforcement:
A dilemma for geo-economic pivot to Pakistan:

Frequent regime changes in Pakistan leads to inconsistent policies. It exacerbates economic fragility in Pakistan. For example, hurdles in completing CPEC project due to coherent policy framework is a reflection of state's failure.

4- How can Pakistan Overcome Challenges In the way of Geo-Economic Sustainability?

(4a) Boost bilateral ties with neighbouring states through regional platforms such as SCO and SAARC.

(4b) Build consensus among provinces for sustainable growth and integration.
For instance, Article 153

mandates using Council of Common Interest CCI for resolving conflicts between federal and provinces.

(4c) Collaboration of regional countries to eradicate terrorism. It can be done by leveraging SCO platform.

5- Conclusion:

Although Pakistan's geo-strategic location presents multifaceted opportunities to strengthen its economic position, many challenges dismantle its capacity to harness the potential of its location. However, through holistic strategy, Pakistan can turn the trajectory of its growth and development.

PART-II

- Q.2** Pakistan's energy problem has become one of the biggest challenges for economy and society. Explain factors responsible for energy challenges and long-term strategies to manage it. (20)
- Q.3** Evaluate the opportunities and potent challenges to Pakistan's Geo-Economic Pivot (20)
- Q.4** Pakistan's dependence on Arab Muslim World has deepened in the wake of economic crisis. Explain its impacts on autonomy of Pakistan's Foreign Policy choices, regionally and globally. (20)
- Q.5** How upcoming State Assembly elections in Indian Occupied Kashmir, will impact the resolution of Kashmir Issue? What should be Pakistan's Kashmir policy in the context of these elections. (20)
- Q.6** Recent morality law in Afghanistan has imposed restrictions on society, especially against women. Explain the shrinking space of women in developing states especially in Pakistan and Afghanistan. (20)