

"Religious Extremism As A Challenge to Economic Development"

Outline

I. Introduction:

Economic development and religious extremism share an inversely proportional relation. Religious fanaticism continues to impede economic growth in contemporary times; however, fostering a pragmatic approach could abate this menace.

II. Contemporary religious extremism - an overview

III. What are the causes of religious extremism?

- a) Sectarianism and vested interests
- b) Disparities of socio-economic nature
- c) Lack of intellectual knowledge

IV. How does religious extremism pose a threat to economic development?

- a) Protests led by religious zealots disrupt day-to-day economic activities
- b) Failure of a state to curb religious extremism repels potential Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs)



- c) Rise in mortality rate due to religious fanaticism leads to loss in human capital
- d) Affected states allocate burgeoning budget for security expenditures rather than for economic ventures
- e) Decline in tourism industry owes to active religious vigilantism
- f) Religious extremism discourages sports industry hampering potential capita generation

V - Case of Pakistan

vi - How could religious extremism be abated and economic development be ensured?

- a) Adopting potent policy against religious vigilantes
- b) Fostering dialogues amongst clergymen of different sects to contain sectarianism and bolster development
- c) Overcoming social disparities through adoption of human resource development
- d) Building positive image perception in international community through decisive foreign policy

vii - Conclusion

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Essay

Religious extremism poses serious challenge to economic development, disrupting societies and undermining progress. This scenario can be linked to Shakespeare's play "Hamlet". Prince Hamlet's obsession with avenging his father's death leads to widespread chaos and the eventual downfall of the Denmark Kingdom. Similarly, when religious extremism takes roots, it fosters an environment of fear and instability, diverting resources away from productive economic activities towards security and conflict resolution. The causes of religious extremism are multifaceted with a multitude of outcomes hampering economic wheel. It contributes in disrupting day-to-day business activities, repelling FDI's, disappearing human capital, ballooning security expenditures, and hampering capital generated by tourism and sports industry. The situation in Pakistan is alarming; it continues to fall victim in the hands of religious extremists. However, the pathways to prosperity, for states in general and Pakistan in particular, lies in adoption of stern and effective policy measures. An amalgamation of holism and pragmatism would abate this menace.