

ESSAY:

LACK OF CIVIC SENSE IS PUSHING THE COUNTRY BACKWARDS

1- Introduction

Thesis statement: Death of civic sense in the people of a country leads towards moral decline. Due to inadequate teaching of etiquettes and mannerism at early age, individuals develop inclination towards immoral acts. By inculcating civic sense in individuals as vital component of education, the country may prosper in civilization.

2- Civic sense sine qua non for country's prosperity

3- Individual's death of civic sense, is pushing the country backwards.

- a- Irresponsible dumping of garbage
- b- Violation of traffic rules
- c- Practice vandalism during protests
- d- Lack of participation in political activities
- e- Lack of consideration for elderly
- f- Incite brawls at public places.

4- Inadequacy of civic sense at professional and social life.

- a- Rampant smoking at public places.
- b- Unnecessary use of government electricity in offices.
- c- Workers doing gossips in working hours.

5- Impact of scarcity of civic sense on the country.

- a- Tarnishes the image of the country in the comity of nations.
- b- People become less tolerant of each other.
- c- Increased involvement in criminal activities and accidents.
- d- Tourism and trade can be affected.

6- Ways to develop civic sense in people.

- a- Initiate civic education.
- b- Promote active citizenship.
- c- Spread a civic awareness via social media platforms.
- d- Government should initiate civic reform programs.

7- Conclusion

Essay: "The first lesson in civics is that efficient government begins at home" (Charles Evans Hughes). It highlights the fact that civilized societies always flourish at a very basic level. An efficient government starts reforms in civility at local level and then progresses onwards. Similarly, individuals who get civic education at an early age, thrive later in life than those who remain ignorant of civics and manners. A lack of civic sense is one of the most troubling trends in our society. People are willing to disregard the law and put their interests ahead of others' interests. Individuals' inadequate civic sense leads to littering, irresponsibly breaking traffic rules and harming the public property and causing the death of brawls, ill-treatment with senior citizens and apathy from political affairs are responsible for a country's downturn. Nevertheless, it is not just individuals who are responsible for this issue. Many institutions have contributed to a culture of disregard for the law. In government institutes, workers kill their time in gossip and have no regard for government resources. These acts have serious implications for a country. It

damages the prestigious image of country in the international world. Besides, lack of civic sense paves the way for extremism and criminal activities. In order to restore a sense of civic responsibility, it is vital to promote public education about civics and civilized culture. Therefore, dearth of civic sense in the people of a country leads towards moral decline. Due to inadequate teaching of etiquettes and manners at early age, individuals develop inclination towards immoral acts. By inculcating civic sense in individuals as vital component of education, the country may prosper in civilization.

The word 'Civic' means of or related to a city or people who live there. It also refers to the duties and responsibilities of citizens, and the word 'Sense' means awareness about something. The term, therefore, literally means an understanding of the way how people should live and behave in a society. In other words, 'Civic sense' is a consideration for the norms of society. It includes respect for the law and show empathy towards others, while maintaining etiquettes. For example, when a person visits someone's house, ethics

demand to knock at the door, ask for permission to go inside and avoid visiting someone at the time of meals or rest. This shows that civic sense develops at the basic level and flourishes at the broader country level.

Cleanliness and maintaining the environmental conservation are included in the responsibilities of a citizen. This is where civic sense is demanded by the people. A wide range of populace throw litter and garbage in the neighbourhood, without thinking about the consequences. Dumping of solid waste in open public places adds to the environmental pollution. It deprives the natural environment of its beauty. The world produces 9-14 million tonnes of plastics every year and it is projected to increase by 23-37 million by 2040 if we continue with our unsustainable life patterns (UN Environment Programme, 2024). Besides, irresponsible throwing of waste in the surroundings shows a lack of citizen civic sense among the citizens of a country. Hence, individual's aloofness regarding environmental protection is associated with lack of civic sense.

Moreover, lack of civic sense in individuals is manifested by evading the traffic rules. A responsible citizenship demands obligation to the traffic rules and laws of the country. Keeping pace with the modern world and to practice follow-up-to-date fashions, youngsters often indulge themselves in illegal practices. **Over-speeding, overtaking, driving without license, negligence and carelessness** are some of the instances of rash driving prevalent in individuals lacking the civic sense. In addition to these, driving at night using faulty lights and one-wheeling are also included in irresponsible driving. Therefore, violation of traffic rules is widely seen in individuals indifferent to civic education.

Another widely popular practice among individuals in case of ^{any} chaos is seizing the public property. Amid protests, people already ~~are~~ incited, exude their anger over government's property. Vandalism of **Metro Bus Stations** in Islamabad during PTT Chairman's arrest in May 2023 is one such event. Similarly, sometimes, populace arson the governmental buildings to pressurize the governmental in order to fulfill their demands. In this way, besides

material loss, economic and humanitarian loss are grave. So, loss of infrastructure is also the consequence of uncivilized behaviours in some situations.

Besides, lack of involvement in political affairs shows the incivility of citizens. Without knowledge and information, meaningful participation in politics can be difficult. In more conservative societies, gender inequality is the basic hurdle in the way of civic education and information regarding politics. **Women** are the first victim and faces the deprivation of civic sense. Moreover, ~~the~~ countries in which political affairs are not openly discussed ~~through~~ through social media platforms, may suffer aloofness from politics. **China** is one such country where media does not have freedom to indulge in governmental affairs enough. In this way, large proportion of people remain unaware of current affairs of politics and hence, are socially isolated. Therefore, lack of civic sense leads to social isolation and apathy from politics.

Furthermore, treating women and elderly with respect come under civic awareness. Due to old age, senior citizens deserve respect at social level. Everywhere they

are treated respectfully and special reserved seats are these in transports for them. However, individuals not possessing enough civic sense display not regard for elderly. This is where the decline of a country starts in its moral obligations. Hence, having no consideration for senior citizens is due to scarcity of civic sense.

It is widely seen ~~that~~ nowadays that teenagers are loitering in the streets without having any purpose to do so. They linger on regularly, **smoking cigarettes** and **drinking alcohol**. When asked to leave by local police, they respond with threats and insults. In each of these cases, the individuals display a lack of respect for community and its laws. These attitudes could lead to conflicts and even violence if not corrected soon. The onset of brawls off and on damages the overall rapport of the community. So, owing to dearth of civic awareness, brawls and chaos are common.

Civic sense instills a feeling of ownership towards public property and concern for fellow human being. A person with civic

civic sense is always considerate towards others and takes care not to inconvenience them. On the contrary, a person unaware of civic sense bothers others by smoking at public places, spitting in public places, making noise and ^{↓ does not} respects the privacy of others.

Some people often associate illiterates with lacking in civic sense. However, this is not always the case. Many highly educated people ignite cigarettes in public places without considering others. Therefore, smoking at public places falls under the category of incivility in social life.

Furthermore, it must not be forgotten that rights imply duties. If government has the duties to provide amenities like drinking water, electricity, transport facilities etc, then it is the duty of every citizen to use these civic amenities carefully. It is often seen that employees often waste government resources and electricity with the impunity of government responsibility. There is a memorable quote that best describes ~~our~~ Pakistan's lifestyle: "Pakistan"

is facing problems because everyone here wants a hearty share from the temporal bounties for himself but is worried for the life-hereafter of others". So, wastage of government resources is more like a crime for employees.

Pakistan has been bestowed with natural resources. It has a highly fertile land and plenty of water. Moreover, its people are very intelligent and hardworking who have proved their worth and competence in every corner of the world. But the lack of civic sense is tarnishing the image as a respectable nation in the comity of nations. Besides, people consider the country an inhospitable place for both humans and animals. Instead of utilizing the abundant natural ~~so~~ and physical resources with care, these are being destroyed with impunity.

The scourges of extremism and terrorism are extreme manifestations of this lack of civic sense. Extremism has been resulted by the lack of due regard and tolerance for opponents and opposing ideologies. **Ethnic killings in Sudan** have left thousands dead since the start of the power

struggle between sudanese army and the **Rapid Support Forces**. This terrorism is the result of a callous and ruthless mindset which divides the world between "us and them". Therefore, a man having civic sense or regard for life, honour, peace and happiness can neither be an extremist nor terrorist.

In addition to the above, lack of civic sense can lead to criminality. Individuals having no civic education often indulge in criminal groups and activities. **Robbery and theft** are more common among them. If people do not care about their community, they may not report crimes or help others. This could lead to a community being less safe and more chaotic. Furthermore, it encourages other youngsters to involve in crimes as there is no proper system of investigation in the community. Hence, crimes are directly linked with death of civic sense.

Tourism and trade serve as a backbone for country's economy. Individuals lagging in civic sense creates a negative image on the world. In turn,

tourists and traders consider that particular country unsuitable for visit and trade respectively. For example, **Corruption Perception Index 2023** of Pakistan is 133 out of 180 countries. These figures show the incompetency of government and deceitful nature of citizens. Consequently, no country wants to ^{foster} expand economic relations with a corrupt country.

Notwithstanding, by developing civic sense in people, the consequences of ramifications may be curbed. This can be done via initiating civic education programs. Civic sense is the awareness of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. It is essential that children are taught civic sense from an early age so that they grow up responsible citizens. This can be done only when school curriculum includes the norms of civic behaviour and teach students how to behave. True change will come when everyone gets civic education and fulfills his responsibility to ensure a clean and liveable environment for everyone. As it is said: **"Be the change, you wish to see"** (Gandhi). So, civic education develops civility in individuals.

Furthermore, active citizenship may temper the excessive incivility in the people. This can be done by encouraging children to get involved in their communities and to participate in civic life through volunteering, voting, etc. This will help them to develop a sense of responsibility for their community and well-being. As parents, teachers, etc. must model good civic behaviours for children. This includes respecting the rights of others, obeying laws and rules, being tolerant and respectful of differences, etc. Therefore, active citizenship enhances the civic awareness in people.

Over and above, using social media as a news source may increase civic engagement. Some social media sites provide internet-based tools that individuals and groups can use to receive news, communications or share information and make collective decisions. Civic engagement is increased through a variety of ways. **Volunteering, attending a neighbourhood meeting, online and offline political participation** are included in it. The association of between social media use and political engagement may vary by experience of digital natives.

education. Hence, civic awareness ^{is} life through social media.

The government and civil societies should announce competitions on different aspects of civic sense. Like these include cleanliness, cooperation, courtesy, following the law, paying taxes, caring for others and tolerance. These competitions could be used to ascertain and reward the person with the best civic sense, in offices, departments and localities. Likewise, this competition could be used to determine the ^{best} cities, villages, wards and districts on any of the above aspects. Therefore, competitions on civic sense prove beneficial to inculcate civic awareness in people.

In a nutshell, it is concluded that lack of civic sense is a huge problem today. It includes littering, vandalism and aloofness from political affairs. It also creates an atmosphere of disrespect and lawlessness. Moreover, lack of environmental responsibility makes the cities and towns look dirty and run down. This lack of civic sense is detrimental to the community spirit and makes it difficult for people to work together. Besides, scarcity of civic awareness is often associated

with illiterates. However, ~~the~~ manifestations of incivility are indicated in the rich behaviours. Hence, it is better at teaching people the importance of respecting public places spaces and taking pride in their community.
