

(Q)

There is crisis of national integration in Pakistan since its creation. What measures do you suggest for the promotion of national integration of Pakistan?

INTRODUCTION:

"Pakistan does not face constant clashes related to civilization. Instead, the bigger issue is of interpretation of its ideology and Islam which hinders national integration"

~ Stephen P. Cohen.

Pakistan has faced a history of economic instability, political polarization, military coups and ~~and~~ socio-economic barriers. These problems have led to national disintegration and people have lost their confidence in the country's future. Today's political landscape of Pakistan hinders national cohesion and there is a dire need to inculcate the spirit of national cohesion among

people to avoid ~~the~~ from letting the nation to fall apart. Thus, serious efforts should be made to bring national integration.

MEASURES TO PROMOTE NATIONAL INTEGRATION:

Following are the measures which need to be taken to bring the people of Pakistan closer to one another.

Reduce Extremism in the Country:

Extremism is a very porous factor which is leading Pakistan to the brink of national disintegration. In the book, "Pakistan Beyond the Crisis State", it has been written that the 'madaras' education is causing spread of unchecked extremism under the umbrella of education. Thus, Pakistan needs to empower its law enforcement agencies to deal with extremism from grass root level.

Law Enforcement Agencies



Capacity Building + Empowerment



Elimination of Extremism

Invest in Education:

In Pakistan, education has become a crisis. According to United Nations Development Programme, 22.6 million children are out of school (OOSC).

Therefore, the government needs to provide adequate education to its children to increase their trust in the state. The future generation will own their country in the future while infusing true spirit of national unity among other people.

Increase Inter-Provincial Internship Programs:

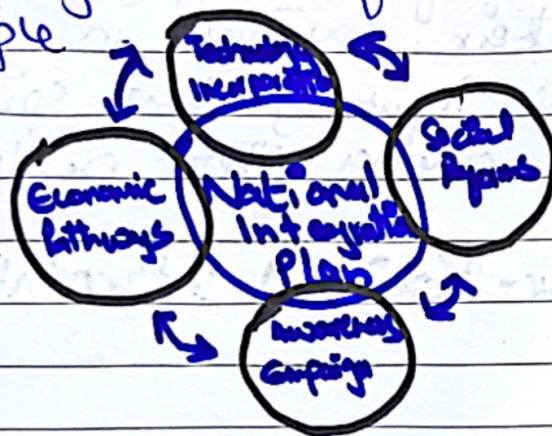
The government needs to introduce inter provincial internship programs to increase youth's interaction with other ethnicities. Quaid-e-Azam has rightly said:

"We are Pakistanis - and not Baluchis, Sindhis, Punjabi or Pathans".

These internship programs will empower youth and create harmony between the people.

A CASE STUDY OF MALAYSIA:

Malaysia introduced its "Integration Plan 2004" which was solely developed to create national integration among the people. Through this plan, the government introduced social, economic plans along with an awareness campaign to infuse unity among people.



The program facilitated a large number of people and created around 70,000+ jobs.

A Closer Focus on Balochistan:

Balochistan has become a hub of militancy. The reason is that the state has not been able to provide the people with their constitutional and basic rights. According to Business Recorder, there are only 10 universities in Balochistan province. Moreover, there are a number of militant groups formed in Balochistan.

which are causing serious damage to the state infrastructure. Hence, Pakistan needs to empower the people of Balochistan through economic reforms, scholarships, social reforms and inclusion.

Awareness Campaigns:

In the post-truth era, social media has a pivotal role to play. Thus, Pakistan needs to launch awareness campaigns on social media to bring national integration. This can be done through different government bodies as well as Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) to let the people know that national integration is need of the hour.

An Example of Centre for Research and Security Studies:

Similar to the situation of national integration, CRSS launched a program to promote Pak-Afghan both dialogue to bring national integration. It aimed to make Pakistanis and Afghans interact personally to know each other's grievances.

Inclusivity in different job positions:

Unfortunately, there exists a cultural barrier which stops women from acquiring education and getting a job as well. The government needs to bring religious clerics to talk about the importance of girl women education through the lens of Islam and Sunnah.

Reducing the role of feudalism in Pakistan:

Aratul Liewen says in his book, "Pakistan A Hard Country" that the people of Pakistan cannot remain very much inspired by their political leaders because they usually seek their personal interests instead of national interests and the political culture in Pakistan is dominated by **chiefdom, feudalism, tribalism**. Such culture leads to national disintegration in Pakistan because power is confined within the hands of feudalists and tribalists. Thus, Pakistan's public should talk about ~~inclusivity~~ **reducing feudalism and** ~~in~~ **create inclusivity** by giving a chance to other political factions to take a

CONCLUSION:

Therefore, the issue of national integration is a serious problem in Pakistan as people are losing hope for the future of their country. Capacity building, empowerment, ~~create~~ imparting education and other crucial steps must be taken to lead the people out of darkness and create national unity among them.
