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Topic: Phase out of Fossil fuels and Arab Economies

Outline

1) Introduction = Phase out of fossil fuels is imperative for the world to counter drastic implications of climate change. It would create both opportunities as well as challenges for the Arab world. Arab economies should adopt policies for economic diversification, so they could lessen their over-dependence on fossil fuels.

2) Why phase out of fossil fuels is necessary?

A) Fossil fuels are major contributors to environmental degradation.

B) Over extraction has resulted in decline of reserves of fossil fuels.

3) Response of Arab economies over the phase out of fossil fuels

A) Stance of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Case in point: "Racial and Colonial" approach against the Arab world

B) Stance of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC)

Case in point: "Depriving many Arab countries from their basic energy sources"



#### 4) Opportunities for Arab economies through phasing out of fossil fuels.

A) Invest in renewable energy resources

Case in point: As per the report of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), renewable energy would create 220,000 jobs by 2030.

B) Promote tourism sector

Case in point: AI - Aqaba tourist city of Jordan

C) Foster agricultural sector

Case in point: Agricultural sector of Kingdom Saudi Arab

D) Strengthen education sector

Case in point:- Two-Track education system of United Arab Emirates

#### 5) Challenges for Arab economies through phasing out of fossil fuels

A) A death blow to already established economies.

B) Lack of modern technology

C) Threat to socio-cultural fabric

Case in point: Increase in Unemployment

D) Damage to diplomatic relations

Case in point:- Gap among the Western countries and the Arab world

#### 6) Way Forward

A) The Arab world should implement sustainable and resilient policies for economic diversification.

Case in point: Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030

B) They should limitize over-extraction of fossil fuels

Case in point: Egypt's Benban solar park

C) They should invest in modern technological advancements.

7) Conclusion



Environmental degradation has weakened  
have in the world. Ecosystem has been facing  
catastrophic challenges since industrial revolution,  
which has resulted into massive loss of biodiversity.  
Actually, changes in the world's climatic conditions  
are due to overwhelming utilization of fossil fuels.  
one cannot deny that for countering the drastic  
implications of climate change; it is imperative  
to phase out fossil fuels. without any reservation,  
it would not be an easy task for Arab  
economies, like Saudi Arab, United Arab Emirates,  
Kuwait, and Qatar because their economies are  
dependent on fossil fuels. Interestingly, phase out  
of fossil fuels would create both opportunities  
and challenges. Opportunities would be in the form  
of utilization of renewable resources, promotion of  
tourism sector, and investment in education  
sector. On the other hand, challenges would also  
hamper their economic growth, deteriorate their  
socio-cultural fabric, and impact their diplomatic  
relations. So, in order to get rid of excessive  
use of fossil fuels, Arab economies should  
adopt certain pragmatic measures. They should  
devise policies for sustainable and resilient  
economic diversification, limitize over extraction



of fossil fuels, and strengthen technology sector ~~with~~ ~~made~~ through modern advancements.

To begin with, fossil fuels, oil, coal, and gas - are major contributor to the environmental degradation. As per the report of International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 80% of green house gases emissions generates from fossil fuels. It means, fossil fuels are used excessively on the world, which produce emissions of carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ).  $\text{CO}_2$  particles contribute in increase in the global temperature and cause environmental degradation. Today, world is confronting with changes in global climatic conditions to save the mother earth, which is warming day by day and making life miserable for the inhabitants. Thus, phase out of fossil fuels is essential and inevitable to avoid global climate catastrophe.

Unfortunately, over extraction of fossil fuels would impact directly on the reserves of oil, coal, and gas. As per the report of United states Environmental department, 80% of the world's energy production is relying on coal and oil reserves, and majority of reserves are located on the middle eastern countries. Over extraction of fossil fuels could dwindle 3% of coal and



⑥

oil reserves each year by 2050. Regrettably, over extraction of fossil fuels would be responsible shortage of oil, coal, and natural gas. Hence, over extraction has resulted in decline of reserves of fossil fuels.

Actually, agenda of phasing out the fossil fuel was announced in 2023, at the platform of Parties of Conference (COP-28), in Dubai. After that, Arab countries reacted and responded ~~hard~~ criticizingly. Now, it is imperative to shed light on the response of Arab economies over the phase out of fossil fuels.

Initially, as the agenda of phasing out of fossil fuels was tabled, GCC countries started criticism. GCC countries, specifically Kingdom of Saudi Arab, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Qatar argued that agenda was "A Racial and Colonial" approach against the Arab economies. They were of the view that agenda was totally baseless that targeted the Arab economies and their resources of oil, coal, and gas. GCC members acknowledged the summit that Arab economies are only producers of fossil fuels, but they were not responsible for any climatic catastrophe. Actually,



7

it is the western approach to hegemon the global market through their renewable energy resources and put a death blow to the Arab economies. Therefore, a racial and colonial mindset against Arab economies would not be acceptable.

Furthermore, OPEC countries raised voice collectively against that agenda. As per the report of OPEC, 67.2% of the world's oil reserves are present in the middle east, and it is the main source of Arab economies. They were of the view that focus of agenda would be on the reduction of emissions rather on targeting fuel sources. This phasing out of fossil fuel would deprive Arab economies from their basic energy sources. Countries, specifically Iraq, Bahrain, and other members of OPEC criticized that agenda. Ergo, complete phase out of fossil fuel would severely impact Arab economies and their resources.

In above section, response of Arab countries over phase out of fossil fuel is highlighted. Now, it is apropos to discuss opportunities for Arab economies through the phase out of fossil fuels.

Initially, renewable energy resources could provide leverages to the Arab economies.



Arab economies, like KSA, UAE, Qatar, Oman, and others are rich in resources of renewables, such as vast area of deserts, abundance of water reservoirs, and wind energy. They should transform their economies from petro-dollar to clean and green energy projects. As per the report of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), investment in renewable energy would create 220,000 jobs by 2030. Fortunately, the Arab world could take leverages from their renewable energy resources in order to curtail their over-dependence on fossil fuels, which encourage environmental changes. In a brief, investment in renewables is a big opportunity for the Arab economies to foster their economies.

Moreover, promoting tourism sector is also a lucrative opportunity for the Arab world. They can get myriad benefits from tourism sector by providing environmental friendly environment at the tourist places. Interestingly, Al-Aqaba, tourist city of Jordan, is the most wonderful tourist cities in the region, which attracts tourists due to its friendly environment. Jordan is investing enormously in tourism sector for its economic boost. Similarly,



other Arab countries could bolster their tourism sector adopting tourism model of Jordan. Hence, promoting tourism sector is also good for the Arab countries to get rid of over-use of fossil fuels.

Furthermore, modernizing agricultural sector could also reinforce Arab economies. Arab economies should focus on their agricultural sector because agricultural sector is an asset for a country to strengthen its economy. Agricultural sector of Saudi Arab is the best example for Arab economies. The contribution of agricultural sector was \$18.77 Billion in 2023-24, and it is predicted that it would contribute \$24.14 Billion in 2029. Saudi Arab has underscored authorities to modernize agricultural sector by focusing on production of vegetables, fruits, livestock, and seeds. Arab economies should embrace same strategies for agricultural sector, so they could gradually phase out fossil fuels. In short, agricultural sector has potential to provide lucrative to the Arab economies.

Additionally, education system is also a big and beneficial opportunity for the Arab economies. Strengthening education system could be helpful for the Arab economies to compete with the western world. Arab countries should concentrate



more and more on education sector and lessen their over-dependence on coal, oil, and gas. For instance, **United Arab Emirates** has initiated **Two-Track education system**. Two-Track education system inculcates students and teachers about academics, but it teaches students that how to be good at hunting market jobs immediately after graduation. This system provides leverages to UAE's students to get job first in the market. It means, other Arab countries, such as **Oman, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait** etc should focus on their education sector, so they could easily and gradually transform their economies from petro-dollar. As a result, investment in education sector could lead Arab economies to compete western countries in the global market.

In above section, opportunities for the Arab economies through phasing out of fossil fuels are discussed. Now, it is pertinent to debate on challenges for the Arab economies through phasing out of fossil fuels.

Firstly, phase out of fossil fuels would impact severely Arab economies. Phase out of fossil fuel could be proven a death blow for them because their economies



(11)

are mostly sustained on the production of oil, coal, and gas. Oil, coal, and gas are assets for them because they export fossil fuels to the world specifically China, India, US, and others are European countries. Immediate phase out of fossil fuels could damage their established economies that is why they are not willing for immediate and complete phase out of fossil fuels. To cut in short, phase out of fossil fuels could be proven dangerous for the Arab economies.

Secondly, Arab countries are not so advanced in the modern technological advancements. They are dependent on the western countries for their sustainable and long term survival especially in the field of technology. They are not so advanced to transform their economies immediately towards green and clean energy. Green and clean energy requires skill and intellectuality for which, Arabs are not so well established. Arabs are rich in the production of oil, coal, and gas, but they are not good in modern technology. Therefore, phase out of fossil fuels requires more technology, which is a challenging task for the Arab world.

Thirdly, phase out of fossil



Fuels could create socio-cultural threats for the oil rich countries. As already mentioned that their economies are dependent on the production of fossil fuels, so immediate phase out of fossil fuels could enhance threats for people who are attached with fossil fuels. Phase out of fossil fuels would really be impactful for the jobs of people. Owing to loss of jobs through phase out, unemployment and inflation could be prevalent in the oil rich countries; possibility of socio-cultural threats could be increased. Thus, socio-cultural threats could be pervasive for the Arab economies through phase out of fossil fuels.

Last but not least, phase out of fossil fuel could be disadvantageous for the diplomatic relations between the Arabs and the western world. As the report of GCC, China and India import more than 70% of oil from GCC countries in the region. Immediate phase out of fossil fuels could settle down the Arab economies. Resultantly, loss of their export could create rifts between the Arab economies and the western world specifically USA. USA and its allies don't like China's dominance in the region through establishing trade agreements



with the oil rich countries. So, Arabs are of the view that phase out of fossil fuels is the western approach against Arab economies in order to deprive them from their natural resources. Ergo, phase out of fossil fuels could enhance diplomatic pressures between the Arabs and the western countries.

In above section, challenges for the Arab economies through phasing out of fossil fuels are highlighted. Now, it is aptly important to shed light on the way forward in the forthcoming paragraphs.

Undoubtedly, Arab economies should implement sustainable and resilient policies for their economic diversification. They should diversify their economies from petro-dollar to tourism, education, and renewables. For instance, Saudi Arab has planned "Vision-2030" to manifold its economy by focusing on the other institutions. For tourism purpose, it is going to build the world's largest 3D museum and also going to enhance the capacity of pilgrims from 20lac to 50lac. Similarly, in the field of education, it has committed to establish world's top ranking university. Saudi Arab's vision-2030 is a bench mark for other Arab economies to diversify their



economies from fossil fuels, so threats of environmental degradation could be minimized. In short, Arab economies should concentrate other institutions too.

Next to it, Arab economies should limitize their over-dependence on the coal, oil, and gas reserves. Over-extraction of oil, coal, and gas produces severe threats for the local residents and impact their health. So, they should take practical steps for clean and green energy projects. For instance, Egypt's **Benban Solar Park** is the best example for all. Benban solar park generates 1650 Megawatt electricity and fulfills demand of its adjacent villages. Other Arab economies should follow Egypt's clean energy projects by installing solar, wind, and hydal projects to decrease their over-dependence on fossil fuels for sustainable economy. To cut in short, excessive extraction of fossil fuels should be minimized for the betterment of inhabitants.

Lastly, Arab economies should concentrate on modern technology. They should focus on the Artificial intelligence to boost their economies. Similarly, they should invest in transportation sector in the form of electric vehicles. Today, AI has modernized the world through its unprecedented developments. **South Korea**



- a developing economy - is the best example for the Arab economies. It is investing excessively in the modern technology for its economic boost. Similarly, Arab economies, like KSA, Iran, UAE, Qatar, and rest of others should follow the technological model of South Korea and invest hefty amount in the modern technology as over-dependence on fossil fuels can be minimized easily. Therefore, technological investment would be an advantageous tool for the Arab countries to foster their economies.

To conclude, it is no denying that the earth's average temperature is increasing day by day due to increase in the concentration of emissions of green house gases. This change has enforced the United Nations to take practical steps against industrialization and over-extraction of fossil fuels. For which, UN decided to implement initiative of phase out fossil fuels in November last year, COP-28. The initiative was opposed by the Arab economies because majority of the Arab economies are dependent on the fossil fuels, but it is necessary to phase out fossil fuels to counter climatic catastrophes. Undoubtedly, phase out would produce both opportunities and challenges for the Arab economies. Opportunities would be in the form of renewables, tourism, and agricultural



sectors. On the other hand, challenges would be in the form of death blow to their established economies, threats for socio-cultural fabric, and impacts for diplomatic ties. Despite all these challenges, Arab economies should minimize their over-dependence on fossil fuels, diversify their economies, and focus on modern technology for the betterment of the lives of inhabitants and their long-term and sustainable economic survival. Similarly, Arab economies should implement UN's **SDG-13** for controlling climatic hazards. Surely, slowly and gradually transition from fossil fuels to clean and green energy steps would be fruitful for the Arab economies.



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Topic: Pakistani women have the same chances as men.

→ Outline

### 1) Introduction

Thesis statement: Pakistani women have not the same chances as men because they are considered inferior to men, so they don't entertain the same opportunities as men in social, economic, political, education, and health field.

### 2) A glimpse on Pakistan's current standing in the world on gender equality

### 3) How do Pakistani women not have the same chances as men?

#### A) Victimization in Social Field

(i) Patriarchal culture

(ii) Victim of domestic violence

Case in point: As per the report of UNFPA, 28% women aged between 15-49 years have experienced physical violence in Pakistan.

#### B) Discrepancies in Economic Field

(i) Wage difference

Case in point: As per the report of ILO,



average income of women is 16-3% less than that of men

(ii) less participation in workforce.

**Case in point:** As per the report of ILO, only 22.6% representation of women in workforce.

### C) Inequalities in Political Field

(i) Low political representation

**Case in point:** As per the ECP, only 16.2% representation of women in National Assembly of Pakistan

(ii) Insufficient number of women as political leader

**Case in point:** No women as chairwomen of any political leader

### D) Differences in Education Field

(i) Disparity in the enrollment ratio of male to female

**Case in point:** Men 78%, Women 51.8% at primary level (Pakistan Economic Survey 2022-23)

(ii) Huge gap of drop out ratio

**Case in point:** As per the report of UNICEF, 32% drop out ratio of girls and 21% boys dropout ratio at primary level.



E) Disparities in Health Sector

(i) Difficulties in access to health services

Case in point: As per the report of UNFPA, 186 deaths per 1,00,000 women due to pregnancy

(ii) No power to decide family size

4) Anti-Thesis

A) Women as political representatives

Case in point: Mainstream political parties

B) Article 25(A) = Right to Education

C) Women in Bureaucracy

Case in point: Civil Services of Pakistan

5) Rebuttal to Anti-Thesis

A) Representation only in mainstream parties

Case in point: Participation only in 3 parties out of 167 political parties

B) Failure of Article 25(A)

Case in point: As per the report of PES 2013-24, 26.2 Million dropout children in Pakistan

C) only 5% representation in Bureaucracy

6) Conclusion