

Brain drain in Pakistan: causes and consequences:

Outline:

A. Introduction

- a. Barack Obama on brain drain
- b. Brain drain as a problem in Pakistan.

B. Causes of brain drain in Pakistan

a. Economic factors

- I. Low economic returns
- II. Pay gap
- III. Closure of markets and businesses

b. Political turmoil

- I. Numerous governmental transitions
- II. Power conflicts

c. Poor education system

- I. Inadequate research opportunities
- II. Limited access to quality education
- III. Insufficient scholarship opportunities

C. Consequences of brain drain in Pakistan

a. Depletion of human resources

I. Drain the nation of its trained and professional individuals from several sectors . . .

II. Impedes scientific advancement.

b. Economic loss . . .

I. Reduce tax base

II. Loss of investment and reduce entrepreneurship . . .

c. Dependence on foreign experts

I. Dependence on foreign aid and assistance . . .

D. Conclusion

Essay:

Barak Obama on brain drain

says, "The brain drain is a symptom of a larger problem - lack of opportunity, a lack of investment in education and research." Brain drain is a concerning challenge for developing countries as their skilled and trained people migrate to developed countries to pursue their career. Also, the developed countries have been facing brain drain. Pakistan, like other countries, is suffering severely from this phenomenon as a result of economic crisis and political instability. Additionally, the unsatisfactory education system and socio-cultural factors are also contributing to the outflow of professionals and skilled youth. Along with this, terrorism and extremism are posing threats

to life and career of the people. As a result of such environment in Pakistan a huge portion of people is shifting abroad in order to obtain jobs, quality education, business ^{incentives} and for safety. Moreover, brain drain is also resulting in economic problems and increasing dependence on remittances, making the country (open) vulnerable to external ^{economic} shocks. Therefore, it is evident that worst economic, political and education conditions along with other factors are resulting in the outflow of intelligent, skilled and educated youth from Pakistan, leading to reduction in human capital, domestic investment, vulnerability to external shocks and other serious impacts. To begin with, businessmen, labourers and workers are not satisfied with the economic conditions in Pakistan.

There are low economic returns for the labourers from which they can't fulfill their needs. Mostly, there are no proper mechanisms to be implemented to protect labourers rights. Also, throughout Pakistan, especially in rural areas, laborers are not paid wisely, specially by landlords. Along with this, there is a big pay gap, gender wise in Pakistan. Pakistani society is based on patriarchal system and there is a high ratio of gender discrimination. In the same way gender discrimination is carried out while paying wages or salaries. For example, in the national level sports, i.e. cricket, hockey and other sports where a huge amount of salaries, privileges and protocols are given to the male sportsmen while a small amount of salaries are given to the women athletes. Along with

this energy crisis and poor government incentives are forcing the business class to transfer their business abroad, worsening the situation even more. Hence, to fulfill their economic needs Pakistanis are moving abroad. Secondly, political instability is also fueling brain draining in Pakistan. Because of frequently changes in governments the policies of the previous governments remain halted as the new governments rarely pursue them. This leads to decrease in development and economic growth. As in 2018 and 2019, government provided loans for small businesses but the other government did not continued this policy. Furthermore, politically motivated protests, vandalism and blockages of roads and highways stop business activities and encourage businessmen to save their assets abroad. The power

conflicts, especially starting from 2018, has led to an uncertain environment for local as well as foreign investors. Therefore, political turbulence is motivating the youth and business class to look for opportunities with safe ~~envi~~ surroundings outside of the country. Thirdly, the quality of education in Pakistan is not satisfactory in order to assist the skilled and educated individuals. The scope of research is also too limited and quality research is only conducted in some of the top universities, ~~which~~ which are out of the access of common man. Along with this, quality of education is not available to about 90% of the students childrens in Pakistan. Apart from them, only 10% of childrens are able to acquire standard

education as they study in top private schools. The curriculum and the teachers of most of the government schools and colleges are not according to the standards of the modern day educational requirements.

The teachers are not trained and students are required to just cram the syllabus. The syllabus is also not updated timely and is old. Moreover, scholarship opportunities are extremely limited and a very little amount is awarded to the deserving ones.

In 2018 the student scholarship programs were started but later in 2020 they were cancelled and were declared burden on the treasury. Hence,

inefficient education system is also contributing to the brain drain in Pakistan, a people, for standard education,

conduction of research etc, are migrating to education friendly countries. Unfortunately, Pakistan is facing the problem of Brain drain due to economic instability, political turmoil, and poor education system. These causes have drastic consequences such as, depletion of human resources, economic loss and dependence of foreign experts.

To start with drain is reducing/depleting human resource in Pakistan. It is draining out experienced and skilled people from Pakistan from different sectors. Doctors, educationists, engineers and even labourers are migrating abroad to live a comfortable life. Mostly, engineers prefer jobs in the middle eastern and some other developed countries and the same is the case with doctors. This is leading to

the depletion of these skilled and educated human resource in Pakistan, hampering development. Also, ~~this~~ this flooded outflow of such educated and intelligent minds is hindering scientific and technological advancement in Pakistan. Resultantly, Pakistan is suffering in many ways due to the decrease in human resources because of brain drain. Another major blow is economic loss to Pakistan because of brain drain. Brain drain is declining government revenue severely as it reduce tax base. Pakistan's economy is highly dependent on tax, and the current tax to GDP ratio is 10%. So, it is making it difficult for the government to achieve this target. In 2022, roughly 83,000 skilled individuals

migrated from Pakistan for a better life. Roughly 21% left Pakistan for employment, according to paradigshif.com.pk. Along with this, this high level outflow of individuals is leading to reduction in investment and also reduction in entrepreneurship. Most of the Pakistanis are moving to Malaysia, UAE and USA for investment, in profitable environment as there are incentives and safe investment conditions. These countries are also useful for entrepreneurship as compared to Pakistan and this is leading to the shifting of business from Pakistan to there. Because of brain drain, Pakistan is becoming highly dependent on foreign experts as the local or domestic experts have moved abroad.

The government of Pakistan have failed to provide an inhabitable climate for experts and experienced individuals domestically. This has created a gap of experts in many sectors. Therefore, dependence of on foreign experts in many sectors has been increased. Furthermore, this situation has made Pakistan's economy vulnerable. In order to overcome economic crisis, Pakistan has been highly dependent on foreign aid. Pakistan is now looking for 27th bailout from IMF. Therefore, brain drain has made Pakistan dependent of the expertise of foreigner individuals and organizations also. To conclude, brain drain in Pakistan has been caused by economic instability, political

instability and poor education system. which ^{is} has unfortunately resulting in economic loss, human resource depletion and dependency on foreign experts. Young and talented individuals of Pakistan are migrating to foreign countries for the sake securing quality education, employment, business opportunities, safety and high standards of life. The outflow of people is hitting the country's economy badly due to which Pakistan dependence of international and regional organization is increasing and Pakistan can be trapped for too long time in the clutches of such foreign dependency if the migration of skilled, innovative and experienced individuals remain continues. There ^{is} need of

for the government to change its priorities and provide better educational and business facilities to the citizens in order to direct their attention ^{back} towards their own country.