

Q. What are the main causes of extremism in Pakistan, and how can Islam's message of peace and moderation be used to counter it? Provide suggestions in the light of Quran and Sunnah.

Ans.:

## A- INTRODUCTION

Extremism in Pakistan has been growing concern, deeply affecting social, political, and economical stability. The causes of extremism are multifaceted, involving religious misinterpretation, socio economic factors, political instability, and external influences. Islam, at its core, promotes peace, moderation, and tolerance. In the light of Quran and Sunnah, Islam's message can serve as a powerful

Counterforce to extremism.

## B- MAIN CAUSES OF EXTREMISM IN PAKISTAN

### 1. RELIGIOUS MISINTERPRETATION

Extremists often misinterpret Islamic teachings to justify violence. Lack of proper Islamic education leads to narrow-minded ideologies.

وَلَا تَلْبِسُوا الْحَقَّ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتَكْتُمُوا الْحَقَّ  
وَإِنَّكُمْ تَقْتُمُونَ - (2:42)

REFERENCE "And do not mix the

truth with falsehood or conceal the truth while you know it." (2:42)

### 2. Socio. Economic Inequality

Poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to education contribute to



#### 4. FOREIGN INTERVENTIONS AND PROXY WARS.

Historical and ongoing external interventions in Pakistan's geopolitical affairs have fueled radical ideologies.

##### REFERENCE

وان جنوا للسلام  
فاجتنب لهما ولو كل على الله انه  
هو السميع العليم. (8:61)

"And if they incline to peace, then incline to it also and rely upon Allah." (8:61)

#### 5. LACK OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

Sectarianism divides and lack of interfaith dialogue breed hostility between different groups within Pakistan.

REFERENCE تلك ايت الله تتلوها عليك  
بالمق وانك لمن المرسلين (2:256)

There shall be no compulsion in the (acceptance) of religion - (2:256)

# c- ISLAM'S MESSAGE OF PEACE AND MODERATION

## 1. PROMOTING TOLERANCE AND COEXISTENCE

Islam encourages tolerance towards all faiths, races, and ethnicities. This message should be at the <sup>fore</sup> front of educational and social campaigns.

REFERENCE يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا

ان اكر مكنم عند الله ان تكلم ان الله علم خير (49:13)

"O mankind, we have created you from a male and a female and made you into nations, and tribes that you may know one another." (49:13)

## 2. EMPHASIZING THE SACREDITY OF LIFE

Islam values human life and condemns unjust violence. Extremists manipulate

teachings on jihad, but Islam forbids killing the innocent.

REFERENCE "Whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption in the land - it is as if he had slain mankind entirely." (S: 32)

### 3. ENCOURAGING MODERATION

Islam is a religion of moderation (*wasatiyyah*) that discourages both extremism and laxity in religious matters.

REFERENCE "Beware of extremism in religion, for it destroyed those before you." (Hadith, Ibn Majah)

### 4. FOSTERING DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING

Open dialogue between religious scholars, youth, and diverse communities can help to reduce radicalization -

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REFERENCE "And argue with them in a way that is best." (16:125)

## 5. INVESTING IN EDUCATION

Providing balanced Islamic education rooted in the Quran and Sunnah will counter radical ideologies.

REFERENCE The prophet (PBUH) said, "Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every muslim." (Hadith, Ibn Majah)

## D. SUGGESTIONS TO COUNTER

### EXTREMISM

#### 1. PROMOTE INCLUSIVE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Develop curricula emphasizing the core Islamic values of peace, compassion, and moderation.

REFERENCE "Invite to the way of your lord

with wisdom and good instruction.  
(16:125)

## 2. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC UPRIFT:

Address poverty, unemployment, and inequality, which are often exploited by extremist groups to recruit followers.

REFERENCE "The upper hand is better than the lower hand (it is better to give than to take)." (Hadith, Al-Bukhari)

## 3. INTERFAITH AND SECTARIAN DIALOGUE

Initiate regular dialogues between religious and sectarian groups to foster understanding and reduce tensions.

REFERENCE "And cooperate in what is righteous and pious, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression" (5:2)

#### 4. PROMOTE JUSTICE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Address political corruption and promote justice, transparency, and accountability in governance.

REFERENCE "All commands justice, the doing of good, and liberality to kith and kin." (16: 90)

#### 5. MEDIA'S ROLE IN SPREADING POSITIVE MESSAGING

Utilize media to spread Islam's message of peace and counter extremist narratives.

REFERENCE The prophet (PBUH) said, "Whoever removes a worldly worldly grief from a believer, Allah will remove from him one of the griefs of the day of Resurrection." (Hadith, Muslim)

#### E. CONCLUSION

Countering extremism in Pakistan

requires a multifaceted approach that combines religious, socioeconomic and political strategies. Islam's message of peace, justice, and moderation, rooted in the Quran and Sunnah, provides a robust framework for addressing the root causes of extremism. By promoting tolerance, dialogue, and education, and good governance, extremism can be reduced, paving the way for a more harmonious society.

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