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Q NO: 01

Define and explain the anthropological concepts of 'race' and ethnicity'. Critically examine the social and political implications of racial and ethnic categorizations, providing examples from historical and contemporary contexts. What are the implications of ethnic and racial discrimination in Pakistan's society?

(1)

Introduction: Understanding the basic concept of Race and Ethnicity:

Ethnicity and race are two distinct and different concepts. Both are socially constructed phenomena. However, growing nationalism all across the world has fueled the superiority of race and ethnicity across different societies, leading to a cycle of disasters including

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ethnic based violence, and structured discrimination) is a society. Here the words of Franz Boas affirm perfectly,

"There is no scientific basis for 'Race superiority'."

As it luck would have it, in some societies, still ethnic based and racial discrimination are at its peak: Pakistan, India and the US. Ultimately, to understand the structured discrimination in societies, this question will explore the theories which explain and criticize the concept of race and ethnicity.

(2)

Explaining the term of race and ethnicity:

Ethnicity:

Ethnicity refers to the concept of shared culture, language and identity.

Race:

Race refers to the grouping of people based on their physical features.

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Ethnic Boundary Theory
by Fredrick Barth and
Social ~~Sta~~Construction explains the concept
of race and ethnicity:

(a)
Ethnic Boundary Theory (Fredrick Barth)

Ethnic boundary theory explains that
ethnicity does not related to
culture, however, related to
a boundaries created by people
from groups.

For example, Balochi, Pashtoon,
punjabi, and Sindhi live together,
but maintain their traditions.

(b)
Social Constructionism by
Benedict Anderson

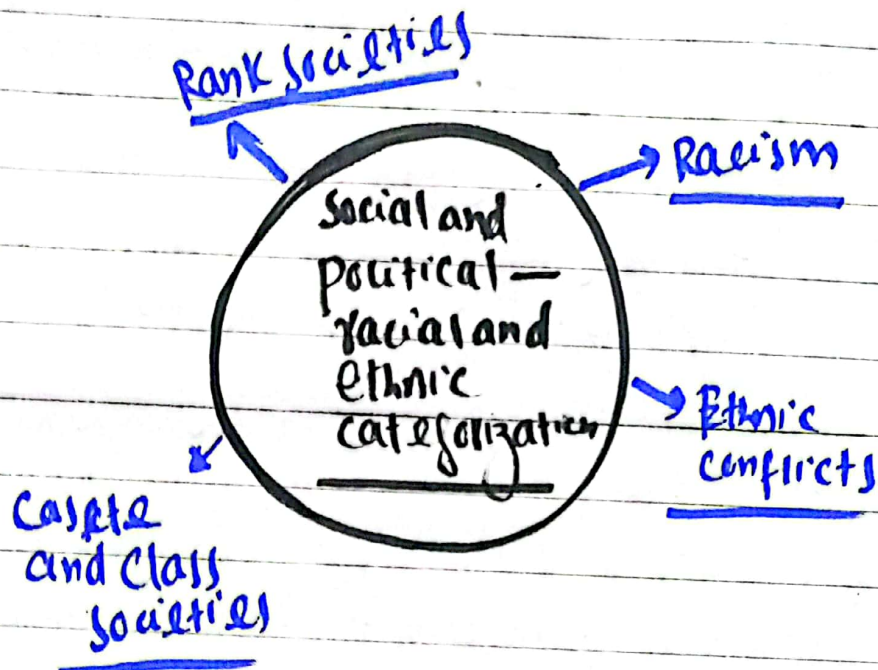
This theory explains that race and
ethnicity are not biological, but
social.

For example, "pakistani" is a national
identity, imagined by people, which
did not exist before 1947.

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(3)

Critically Examining the social and political implications of racial and ethnic categorization.



(i)

Rank societies are the implication of political and social categorization.

Rank societies are the utmost result of political and social categorization.

For instance: Tribal chief in Balochistan (contemporary example); having most power on resource, etc.

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(ii)

Racism is planted by
political and social
categorization:

Indeed, political and social categorization
fueled the concept of racism across
different societies

Contemporary example: Rohingya
muslims in Myanmar.

History example: Nazi superiority
complex (Aryan civilization).

(iii)

Caste and class societies
result of political and
social categorization.

Marxism also criticized the class
societies. However, it is the result of
categorization; its implications
can be seen in the contemporary era even.

Contemporary example: Dalits in India.

Historical example: British introduced
class system in India. (Aryan and Dravidian)

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(iv)

Ethnic conflicts are the result of political and social categorization!

Ethnic conflicts can still be manifested across the different regions of the world; this effect can be seen in historical period too, due to political and social categorization.

Contemporary example: Balochistan insurgency - killing on punjabbi people.

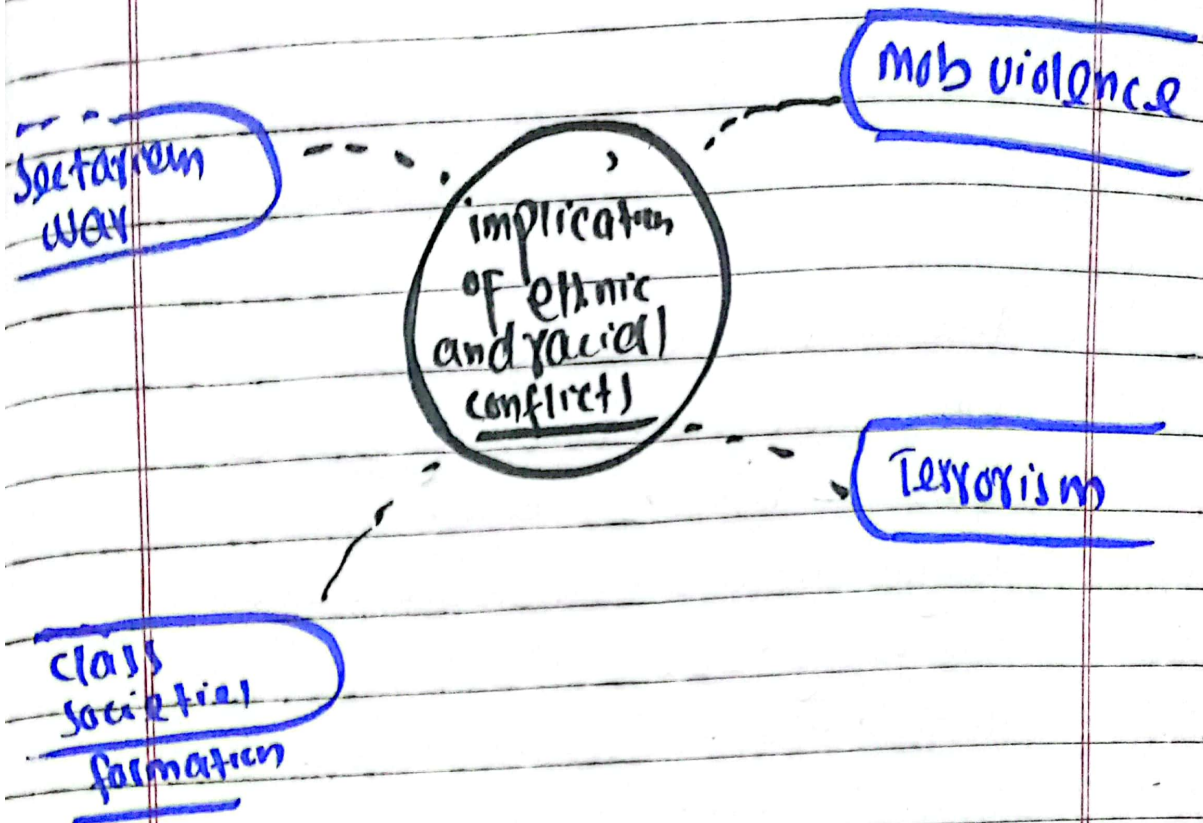
Historical example: hindu and muslim conflicts during subcontinent period.

(4)

Analyzing the impacts of ethnic and racial discrimination in Pakistan:

A number of deteriorating impacts can be seen due to ethnic conflicts across Pakistan:

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(i)
mob violence is the result
of ethnic and racial
discrimination:

Recently, in Janwara, a mob attacked a church, killed and injured the christians. Consequently, leading to the environment of instability for minorities. Similarly, in 2024, Ahmadiya community two people was killed by a children due to a racial mindset.

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(ii)
Ethnic and racial discrimination
result in terrorism!

Terrorism is the ultimate cause of ethnic favoritism. Recently, ethnic violence between Baloch and Punjabi through insurgency of Balochistan can be highlighted. **Example: In 2024, in Musakhail - Balochistan - 11 Punjabi were killed by Baloch insurgents.**

(iii)
Sectarian war among
Sunni and Shia is the
Result of superiority complex

Sectarian war in Pakistan becomes an Aryan stable for society stability. **For example: In 2024, a rise in sectarian conflicts between Shia and Sunni can be seen in Peshawar.**

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(iv)

Class societies formations
the result of ethnic and
racial discrimination:

Racial discrimination is the utmost reason
of class societies. For instance,
In Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab
and KPK, concept of Chudary,
Malak, Sardar, Nawab ultimately
create class societies.

Conclusion

Race and ethnicity superiority have
become major problem for the world.
This problem need to be controlled;
it has the potential to destroy the
existing pillars of the society's order.
Islam answer the superiority of
race and ethnicity in following words.

خَلَقَ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ!

"And, we have created man from single soul"
Al-Quran