

Q: The people of South Asia had suffered because of missed opportunities for regional development, connectivity, and cooperation. Evaluate the performance of SAARC in the light of this statement.

Thesis Statement: Despite its (SAARC) foundation to promote regional cooperation, it failed to provide opportunities and development to the people of South Asia.

INTRODUCTION: Status Quo of SAARC in South Asia

Regional Organization have become vital in addressing shared challenges and fostering cooperation among member states. The creation of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) reflects a collective effort to enhance political, economic and social integration. They laid

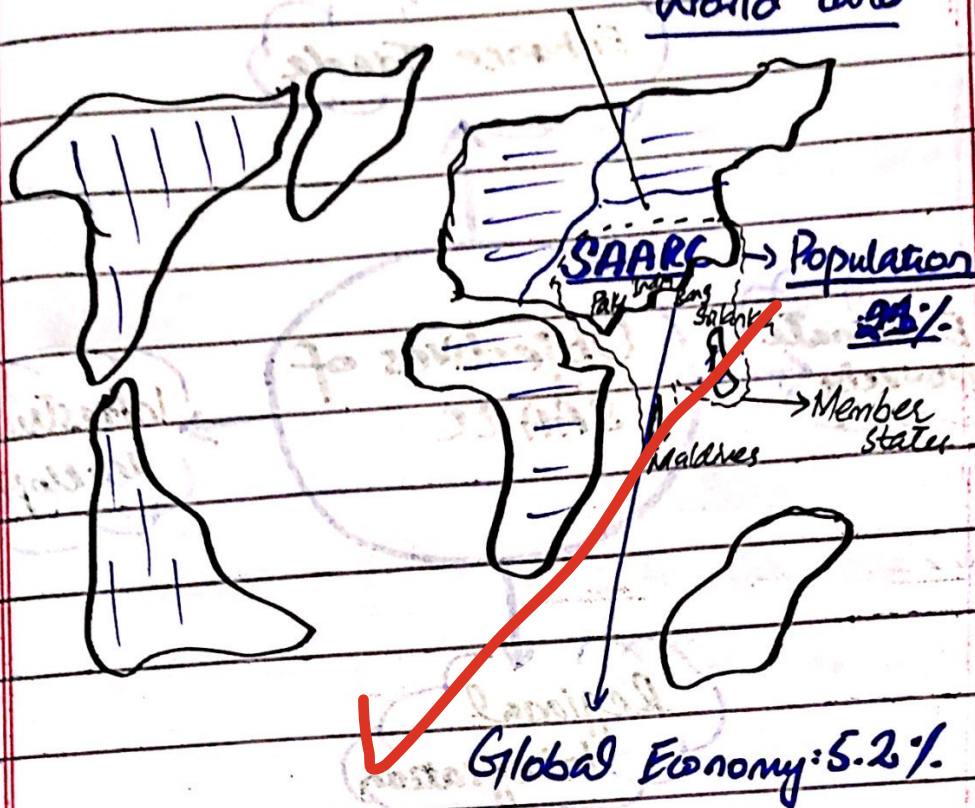
its foundation to counter their collective issues like intra-regional rivalries, poverty and the proxy wars. SAARC has played a significant role in initiating free trade via SAFTA, inauguration of South Asia University in Delhi. Moreover, it provided funds during COVID-19. Despite all these, the current regional conflicts, migration issues and centric posture of India are challenges for SAARC.

relate your headings and arguments to the qs statement.

(II) SALIENT FEATURES OF SAARC

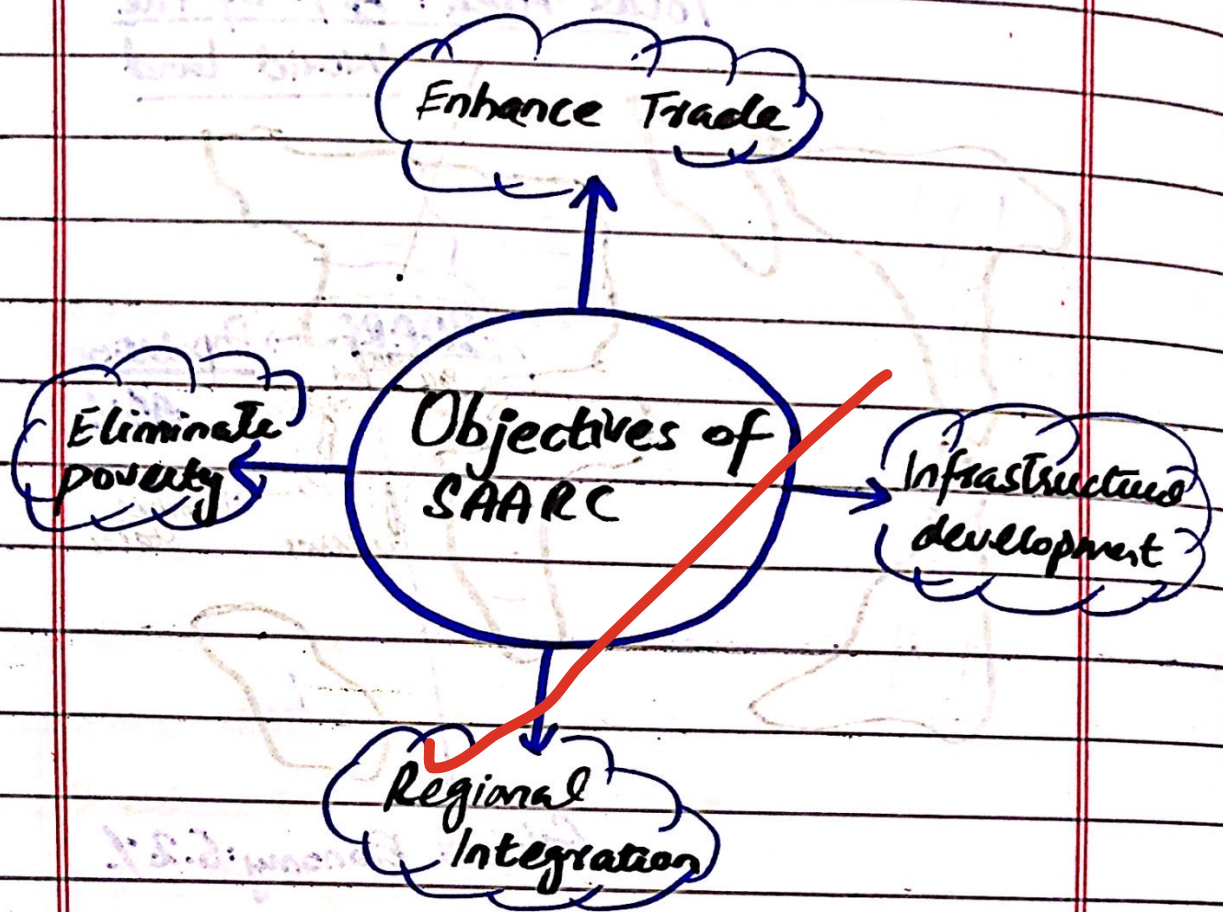
The project of SAARC was proposed by Zia-Ul-Rehman in 1977 and it was formed in 1985. Initially, it consist of 7 member states, after joining of Afghanistan in 2007, now it comprised of 8 member states.

Total Area: 3% of the World land



(III) OBJECTIVES OF SAARC

Back in 20th century, the South Asia region faced several challenges, For instance poverty, regional disintegration and trade issues. In order to counter them, it was formed to enhance regional cooperation and coordination and fight against common issues.



(IV)

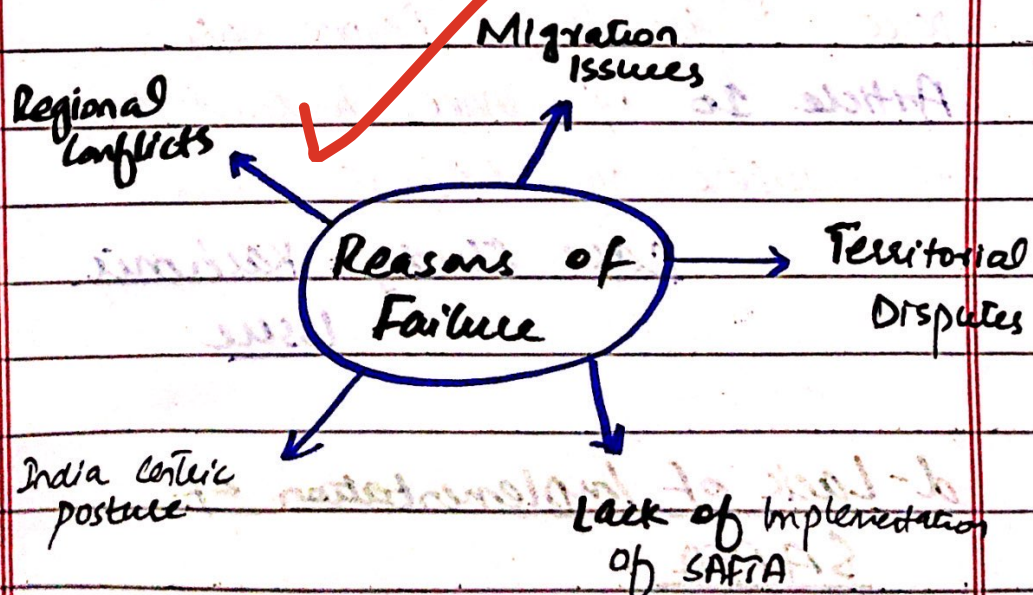
ROLE OF SAARC IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the prime objective of SAARC was to enhance regional development to eliminate poverty and create more economic opportunities. It seems like SAARC has failed in playing its role in regional development.

Kehkshan and Shujauddin highlighted these challenges in their research paper: A Study on SAARC: Objectives, Challenges and Prospects for regional cooperation.

(V.)
ROLE OF SAARC IN
ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY
AND COOPERATION AMONG
PEOPLE OF SOUTH ASIA

SAARC was formed to enhance coordination and cooperation among its member states. It has failed to bring such fruitful outcomes.



1- Regional Conflicts:

It has failed to resolve regional conflicts. The Kargil war and Gader spy attacks are testament of its failure.

2- Migration Issues:

Afghanistan and Pakistan are facing the migration issues. Recently, the Taliban government has returned thousands of Afghan Refugees back. This is further escalating the tensions between the both countries.

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.

C- Territorial Disputes:

It was formed to maintain peace in the region. Despite this, Article 30 of SAARC hindered SAARC to interfere in bilateral issues.

Case Study: Kashmir Issue

d- Lack of Implementation of SAFTA:

South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA)
was formed to promote free trade
among member states. Still these
countries are not engaged in sustainable
trade. A Pakistani trader exports his
99% of dry fruits to India via
Dubai.

e- India Centric Posture

India is creating its hegemony
in economic sector and influencing the
whole region. The purpose of SAARC
was to maintain cooperation among
member states.

(VI)

COMPARISON OF SAARC WITH OTHER REGIONAL ORGANI- ZATIONS

SAARC was developed after
ASEAN and EU to promote

equality, cooperation, ~~areas~~ it is established by them. However, the status of SAARC is quite alarming.

Organization	Global Trade	Inter-Regional Trade
EU	15%	60-70%
SAARC	2.8%	5-10%
ASEAN	6%	25-30%

Despite having 1.8 billion population, a much greater than ~~SAARC~~ EU and ASEAN, it has failed to equip them with ~~skills~~ ^{skills}. Although, some analysts do believe ^{that} they have potential to excel. Kailash Satyarthi has stated that

We need to have dynamic and strong Regional Organization. Europe has European Union, Africa has African Union. I do believe SAARC needs to be strong as well.

Conclusion:

SAARC was formed its counter the collective issues faced by South Asian countries. In contemporary era challenges faced by South Asian people showcased that SAARC has failed in the region unlike ASEAN and EU.

try and focus your answer around the qs statement; not the topic.