

What do you know about Ethnicity in Pakistan?

Do you think its emergence as a serious threat to National integration of Pakistan? Explain your opinion with Reference to various Scholarly Evidence, and Suggest your Recommendations to deal with it.

Answer:

I

Introduction

There are various factors in breaking and patching nations together. One of those factors is ethnic diversification. The ethnicity diversification can be both a positive strength of a nation or a threat to its national integration. There are some certain factors that fuel ethnicity and result into national disintegration. These include: economic disparities, modernization and dwindling national resources, historical and culture factors and external factors. Moreover, the language problems, and diversified structures of Pakistan's federating units led to ethnic issues which became a serious threat to national integration. The religious factor can also play a role in this crisis of ethnic issues as several ethnic conflicts have raged around the world due to religious differences. Hence, there is a silver lining in every cloud, by some pragmatic measures the ethnicity can be a source of national integration, provided that these steps are followed: decentralization, promoting equitable distribution of resources and strengthening rule of law to resolve disputes.

II What is Ethnicity in Pakistan?

Pakistan is a garden of many flowers. It has different languages, cultures, and traditions. It has

four units, including, Punjab, Sindh, KPK and Balochistan, move over GB and Kashmir have their own ethnicities within. Ethnicity is a fact of belonging to a population group or a subgroup made up of people who share a common cultural background or descent. The ethnicity in Pakistan are majorly 4, Punjabi, Sindhi, Balochi, and Pashto. But there are also some minor ethnicities in Pakistan, including, Hinduwari, Brahui, Hazara and more. These are the ethnicities in Pakistan.

III Emerging threat of ethnic issues and national integration of Pakistan.

There is denying the fact that the ethnic issues are a serious threat to Pakistan's national integration. The current unrest and instability can be seen in KPK, Balochistan and in Sindh. These ethnic conflicts have severely hit the integration in Pakistan.

(a) Factors fueling ethnic issues and affecting national integration in Pakistan.

(1) Diversified structures of Pakistan's federating units

The four units in Pakistan federation have different structures. Punjab has been a province since 1900s. It has developed its structure very earlier. KPK got its provincial status in 1937 and Sindh became a province in 1935, moreover Balochistan became a province in 1970. The difference in the structures of federating units fueled ethnicity and leading to challenge national integration in Pakistan.

(2) The Demographic Factor

Pakistan is a country, which share its border with four different countries. The vast population living near these countries share many things with each other including, culture, traditions, and cuisines. Moreover, there is also a divide within Pakistan. According to Dr. Ali Mazrui in his article in Dawn, he mentioned that the culture and tradition of Pakistan are divided within. This division is by Indus river, the East Indus and the West Indus. The western Indus population includes Balochistan, KPK and CB, they share their ethnicity with Iran and Afghanistan. The Eastern Indus population is more affiliated with Indian culture. In this way the ethnicity conflicts occur and become a threat to national integrity.

(3) Economic Factors

The economic disparities among the units of Pakistan exacerbate the ethnic issues. The economic unjust leads to disintegration. The Baloch argue that their economic share is low, this fuel hate against the center and other economically stable units of Pakistan. Hence economic disparities are the driving factor in ethnic conflict which leads to disintegration.

4. External Factors:

The role of external factors is critical in fuel the ethnic conflicts. Indian influence in Balochistan, fuels the fire. The influence of Iran in promoting Shiaism in KPK region and the involvement of Saudi funding Sunni against Shia. Moreover the influence of Afghanistan is also noteworthy in assisting Taliban. These foreign factors raise ethnic conflict in

Pakistan which is lead to national disintegration in country.

IV. SWOT Analysis of Ethnic Issues in Pakistan

Strengths

- (1) Strong center
- (2) Perfect law enforcement agency
- (3) Plurality
- (4) Religious brotherhood
- (5) Strong love for Pakistan.

Weaknesses

- (1) multi-culture
- (2) political instability
- (3) Centralized politics
- (4) open borders
- (5) external influence

Opportunities

- (1) Enhance democracy: democracy is the soul of multi ethnicities
- (2) Diversification a tool for integration
- (3) Soft image of Pakistan having different ethnicities
- (4) Saudi's, Iran, collaboration in controlling sectarianism

Threats

- (1) unrest among the unity
- (2) Terrorism and extremism
- (3) Separatists sentiment
- (4) Divide in masses
- (5) image of countries gets effected

V. Way Forward: Pragmatic measures curbing ethnic issues and strengthening national integration.

- (1) Decentralization: in a practical way the powers among provinces and the centre should be divided. Hence the 18th amendment needs to be implemented in its true spirit.

(2) Promoting equitable distribution of resources:

The resources needs to be distribute on the bases of equity not equality. The 7th NFC award should be renegotiated. Moreover the resources of the unit should be distributed within the provinces then in centre and other provinces.

(3) Strengthening the Rule of law

The writ of the state must be ensured in each unit. The tribal and jirga system should be replaced with state's laws. Moreover the dispute among the masses shall be resolved under the said laws of Pakistan.

(4) Boosting Economy of the State.

The economic boost will itself curb alot of problems within the units. The main driving factor of ethnic issues is economic disparity if the economy gets stable the issues will gradually disappear.

(5) The External factors must be tackled.

Strengthening borders, and through diplomacy the external factors should be cut off to influence the masses in Pakistan. Once the external factor is dealt with, the ethnic difference will cool down.

(vi) Conclusion.

No doubt there is ethnic issue in Pakistan which is a driving factor in national disintegration. Pakistan is a bunch with colorful flowery. These difference can be the beauty of the state.

rather than a threat to national integrity. Implementing the true spirit of constitution of Pakistan, and promoting equity in distribution of resource may lead to national integration. Moreover the 7th NFC award and 18th amendment helped in centering ethnic issue. There is need in changing the policies and distribution mechanism to promote integration. Moreover, the external factors should be dealt with prudent diplomacy to stop influence of foreign factors. Hence ethnic diversity is a power to bring nations on one page rather to split apart.