

Topic:-

Ethnicity in Pakistan: A threat to National Integration

Outline:-

A Introduction

Pakistan is an ethnically diverse country that accommodates various culture within its boundaries. Due to such variety there often leads to internal clash that threaten the country's peace.

Thesis statement:-

Despite of ethnic diversity, ethnic rivalry is a threat to national integration. As multifaceted challenges like political instability, unequal NFC award distribution threatens peace. Yet, by removing deprivation among provinces may ensure to develop national cohesion.

B How ethnic rivalry threatens Pakistan's national integration

- i) Fuels political instability by evoking multiple opinions.
- ii) Provokes extremist and anti-state narratives.

- iii) Provides opportunities to non-state actors in exploring national cohesion.
- iv) Threatens life, liberty and property of the subjects.
- v) Creates a vacuum for foreign interference.

C Why ethnic rivalry threatens Pakistan's national integration

- i) Centralization of power to the federal
- ii) Unequal distribution of resources among provinces.
- iii) Frequent political shift or oligarchic democracy frustrate the subjects.
- iv) Unresponsiveness and lack of accountability of state institutions.
- v) Lack of productive engagements initiatives for unemployed youth.

D Way Forward to strengthen National Integration

- i) Ensure political stability by producing mandate of the public.
- ii) Identifies irregularities in 18th amendments and ensure equal distribution of resources.
- iii) Guarantees responsiveness and transparency by state institutions.

iv) Initiates skill development programs to engage youth.

v) Promotes pluralism and inclusiveness among diverse culture.

E Conclusion

Ethnicity shapes the rich culture of Pakistan but the situation worsens when it becomes a threat to sustenance. But this challenge can transform into opportunity by comprehensive policing. This will move Pakistan towards prosperous future.

"We are all Pakistanis;
not Baluchis, Pathans,
Sindhi, Bengalis, Punjabi,
and so on. Let us be
proud of being Pakistanis"
(Jinnah)

The words of Muhammad Ali Jinnah abolish all the ethnic identities when it comes to single nationality. This shows to embrace all the difficulties as a ^{united} nation. Every nation has diversity which inculcates within the society and in the present day many countries especially

South Asian states are rich in culture. Also Pakistan is a country which is multicultural and multilingual state, having various identities and traditions. This variation not only shapes image of a country with colours but also a challenge for state's internal peace. This may be because of discriminatory distribution of resources, on the basis of race, caste or language rather than the origin and supply point of resources which is due to frequent shift of state leadership from one party to another political superiors. Despite of ethnic diversity, ethnic rivalry is a threat of national integration. As multipacified challenges like political instability and unequal resource distribution threatens peace. Yet, by removing deprivation among provinces may ensure to create national cohesion.

Ethnic diversity leads to ethnic rivalry when the top leadership of the political parties fuels the narrative of deprivation and marginalization among its subjects.

When the public feels that they lack funds, infrastructure and all other facilities because of their ethnic group belonging then this left the individual furious and ambiguous which leads to the long run rivalry. For instance, the Sindh government especially the Mayors of respective districts always manipulate and conceal their eligibility by creating a narrative of shortage of funds from the federal. This situation creates a discrimination among citizens of the same country. So, political parties should frame their narrative in a careful and responsible manner.

Along with this this ethnic conceit provides a room and opportunity to the non-state actors of the country to exploit the peace and prosperity of the country. When there is ^{already an} ~~an~~ political shift from one party to another leader then such actors move forward to take control of specific community, considering their lost interest on governance. It can be illustrated in Balochistan example where

the people show more obedience to their feudal lords rather than their governing leaders. The Musa Khail incident in which around more than ten passengers holding on identities of Punjab were kidnapped and murdered which further aggravates the situation. This portrays a negative image of Balochis for Punjab citizens and ultimately leads to cultural separation. Thus, through raising awareness such outcomes can be overcome.

Furthermore, it leads to threaten life, liberty and property of the country's individuals. Now it becomes equal to impossible for citizen to even travel freely from one provinces to another. People feel reluctant to go to some places of country due to raised hatred among them. As an illustration, the Pasni, Gwadar incident where a passenger bus was returning from Balochistan to South Punjab and brutally murdered all the natives of other province and snatched all their belongings. Not only this, the bomb

blast which further questions the basic needs of the citizens. This further results in ethnic disparity. It is required to ensure the basic rights of an individual for sustainable society.

Moreover, when a country is weakening internally then it ultimately attracts foreign interference especially from neighbouring countries. Because a strong bonding factor strengthens the country's roots but these roots are being eradicated then creates a vacuum which is ultimately filled by the opponent. For example, Raibhusan Thadav, an RAW agent, was arrested from Balochistan ^{after spending 602} almost six years stay in the same province. This shows that any opponent/spy can get the shelter from some places which worked as a safe target for their sustenance and accommodation. Also the arrest of Professor Usman Buzi from Balochistan on facilitating the Balochistan Liberation Party further reveals the grave situation of the province which should be considered

and resolved politically.

This may occur due to the centralization of power to the federal, which holds a upper hand on provinces' decision making power. Some of the provinces always complain on hindering the development of the particular area by the federal government. This is evident by an example that the military operation initiated under governance of General Musharraf in Balochistan, after the death of SAKBAR KHAN BUGHJE and missing person cases further sidelined the provincial authority. The leaders of respective province have no hold on the decision and reform making procedure of the province which is being controlled by the federal. Consequently, lost confidence and trust on their leaders and leads to ethnic deprivation.

Unequal distribution of resources is another reason behind such conflict. Like National Finance Commission award (NFC) is a constitutional sharing of revenue taxes

from federal to the provinces on the basis of population, poverty and the density of the concerned province. It is usually awarded after every five years and the numbers often fluctuate from the previous. Many provinces claimed that Punjab is ~~not~~ developed and advanced more because most of the funds is awarded to single province, even more than its justified share.

The backwardness of Sindh and Balochistan is being alleged due to the unequal distribution. This can be supported by an example, that Sui provides natural gas to the whole country but the natives of this province are themselves deprived of this facility which creates a difference among natives of same state which should be addressed timely.

Not only this, the frequent power holders shift from one party to another leads to a changing narrative more often. Every party and leader have their own policies and description, some followed

their party's manifestos while few of them frame their own opinion as per situation and mindset of the subjects. Many of the leaders develop a narrative considering "doctrine of necessity" and prioritize their personal gains over national benefit which can ~~will~~ help them to increase their vote banks on provincial level. For instance, the Asif Ali Zardari's famous words "Pakistan Khapay" in Sindhi attracts many other political leaders in ^{the} acknowledged positive manner but some creates a narrative that evoke ^{the} sense of marginalization due to their lingual difference which should be eradicated as a political parties official guidelines.

Also the unresponsive and lack of accountability of state institutions further speaks the ethnic divide within the country. The people have lost their trust and confidence on the law enforcement and decision making institutions of the country. This forces them to

take control of such significant departments on their own. For example, the Kono-Koni incident highlights the superiority of local indigenous people of that area who they were sure that they would never be held accountable on any court which ultimately proved wrong. Also the locals rely more on their judicials for decision making due to the delayed and often unresponsive judiciary of the state. This can be overcome when every institution and their holders respect the sacred premises and authorities of their institutions.

Moreover, the youth of our country is educated yet unemployed and it is an alarming situation which is being overlooked by the state holders. If the youth is not involved in any productive or healthy activity then it ultimately involved in some offence that would threaten not only an individual future but hinders country's prosper future also.

For example, the crisis narrative that was shaped through social media, framed by educated but unemployed youth which results into their apologetic on electronic and social media. So, it is necessary to protect the potential of youth and invest this energy in their skill development.

For this purpose, the political stable governance is required in the country that allows a party to atleast complete their tenure and deliver more effectively in a particular manner.

All other parties, especially opposition should avoid a non-confidential movement against any leader to ~~disrupt~~ ^{consider} the already existing challenges through which country is facing. And these crises further accelerates with the changing political dynamics of the country. For instance, political instability leads to many socio-economic and political crises which should be maintained by protecting the mandate of the people until the tenure

completion.

Also the eighteen amendment of the constitution that discourage the concentration of power in few or confined to federal. And initiated the decentralization and transfer many ~~authorities~~ to the ~~other~~ provinces but still it creates many loopholes in its implementation which actually hinders the development and decision making powers of the provinces. Also the equal distribution of resources should also be considered. Every province is a part of the country and they all should be treated equally. The resource rich Balochistan should be as much developed as other country. The CPEC projects that includes most of the Balochistan part should consider the consent of local and the provincial government that highlights the importance of their opinions and contributions in reforms making.

The institution of the country should also play their role in as per their

guidelines and constitutions. The Election Commission of Pakistan should conduct free and fair election. The Judiciary should provide responsive and justified decisions preserving the constitution rather than the doctrine of necessity. The law enforcement agencies should enforce law and order for every citizen and law maker should promulgate the law for the betterment and welfare of the country and its citizens. Also the accountable agencies like NAB, FBR should ensure transparency by exposing all the offenders under same framework.

As it takes time to create a surplus of jobs for unemployed graduates but steps should be taken to engage them in certain productive activities to enhance their innate skill and contribute in country development. The projects like TEVTA, PSDP and NAVTAC should be initiated nation wide that could be accessible for the youth of even tribal and rural areas. But a long term planning should also be introduced by encouraging

entrepreneurs to invest their resources and energies in developing their own business that provides them confidence by the state holders on line tax policies.

To conclude, ethnicity in Pakistan is not a threat to national integration. It shapes the rich culture of the country while ethnic rivalry actually threaten the bonding pattern of the citizens to strengthen national cohesion. This happens due to drastic shift of political regime that weakens the roots of peace and stability of the country. Also the involvement of non-state actors in controlling the responsibilities of institution further aggravates the situation. But it should be addressed timely.

"The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining"

However, with collective resolve and responsible governance, Pakistan can transform its ethnic challenge into opportunity to develop national cohesion and move confidently towards a

prosperous future.