

There is crisis of national integration in Pakistan since its creation. Suggest measures for its promotion.

## Introduction:

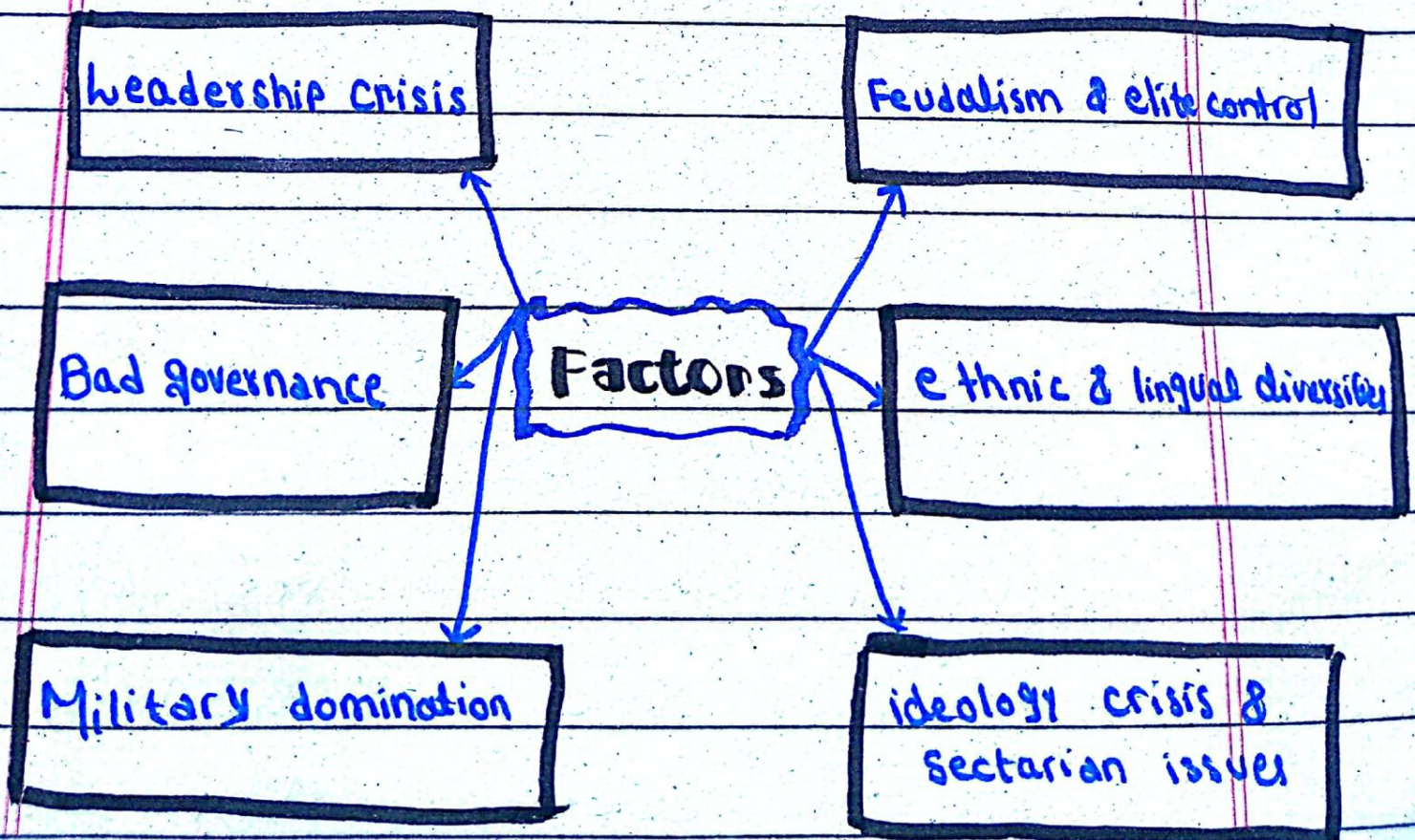
"National Integration does not mean erasing differences, but making these differences our strength." Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Pakistan has been facing crisis of national integration since its inception. This is due to leadership crisis, bad governance, military take over and dominance, feudalism and elite controlled political system, ethnic, lingual and cultural diversity, ideology crisis and sectarian issues. Strong federation, Political autonomy of provinces, timely distribution of resources according to NFC award, balanced division of developmental projects

of CP&C, Due share of the provinces in their natural resources, balancing the composition of Pak army, addressing the grievances of marginalized communities can be adopted for the promotion of national integration.

## Crisis of national integration since creation:

Various factors are contributing to the crisis of national integration since creation:



## i) Leadership crisis:

The state of Pakistan had suffered from leadership crisis after the death of Quaid-e-Azam. Only he was capable of managing infant state. Nowadays, the state is facing same crisis. Lack of visionary leader has resulted into political instability which ultimately leads towards national integration crisis.

"The Political stability in Pakistan is -1.67 from 2021." Source: World Bank

## ii) Bad Governance:

Bad governance is another major factor contributing to the national identity crisis since creation to the present day. The lack of transparency and accountability in the government institution has eroded the trust of citizens in these

institutions. This is resulting into the lack of integration among the citizens and governing institutions. "Corruption index rate ranked Pakistan 135 out of 180 in 2024."

Source: Corruption index rate

### iii) Military dominance:

Pakistan has faced various military turn overs since creation which resulted into national identity crisis.

"Ayesha Jalal in his book "Democracy and authoritarianism in south Asia" has argued that military domination in Pakistan is a significant factor of national identity crisis."

The focus of military has remained in upgrading military institution. This resulted into the feelings of deprivation among the citizens of state.

## ii) Feudalism and elite controlled political system:

The political landscape of Pakistan has always been dominated by feudals and elite class, creating a sense of alienation among the working class of state.

"Ayesha Jalal in his book argued that feudalism and elite class is a hurdle in way of popular sovereignty."

Source: Authoritarianism and democracy in South Asia

## v) Ethnic, lingual and cultural diversity:

Pakistan is a homeland to diverse ethnicities, languages, and culture. Cultural assimilation policies by the government has created feelings of marginalization among the different communities and created feelings of separatism.

"National (diversity) Integration is not just

about tolerance but embracing diversity and celebrating unity." Abdul Kalam

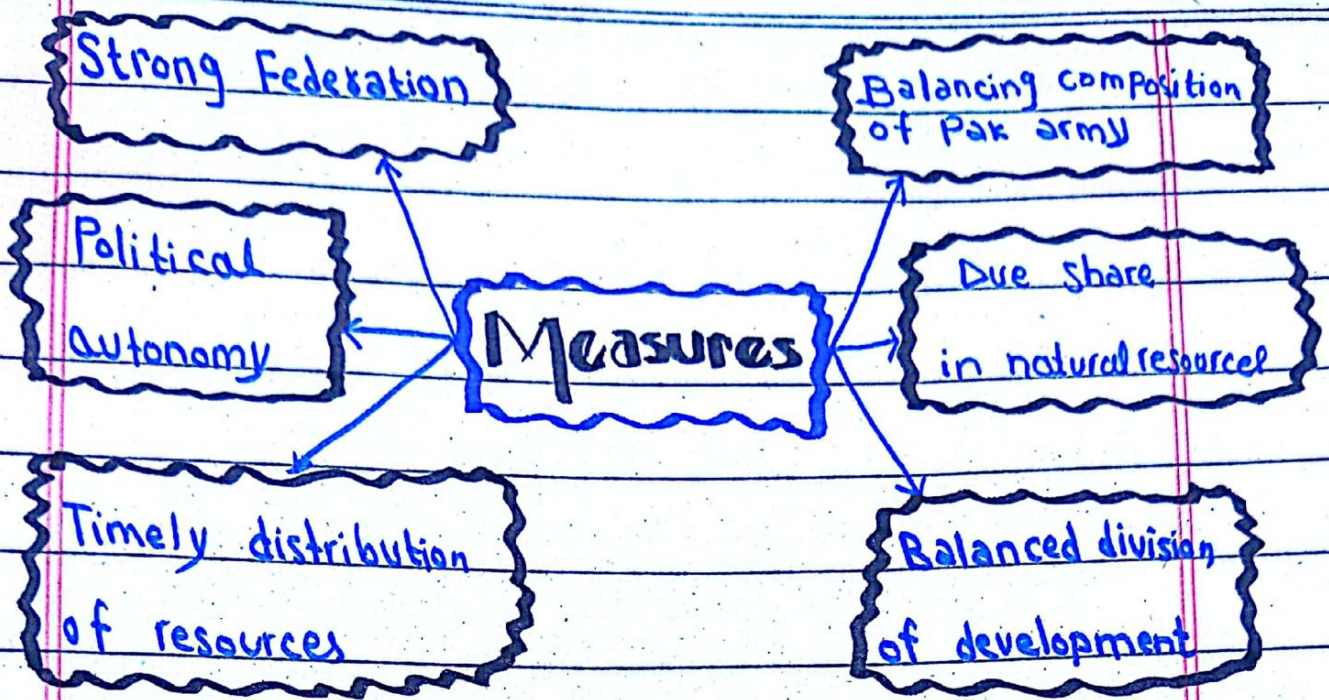
## vi) Ideology crisis and Sectarian Issue:

After the death of Quaid-e-Azam, the citizens of infant state could not truly comprehend the ideology of Pakistan and fall into sectarian issues. These sectarian issues were influenced and supported by external factors resulting into national integration crisis.

"Iran was accused of supporting militant groups near Balochistan." Source: Dawn News

## Measures for the promotion of national integration:

Various measures can be adopted by the government for the promotion of national integration in Pakistan.



## i) Strong Federation System:

There should be strong federation with power sharing mechanism among the federation and federating units.

"Katharine Adeney in his book "Federalism and ethnic conflict regulation in India and Pakistan" has argued that inclusive federation can appease and pacify ethnic grievances and foster national integration."

## ii) Political Autonomy:

Gaining political autonomy

to all provinces in making laws and amending it will develop a sense of national integration in Pakistan.

"Ayesha Jalal give the case study of India in his book that how effectively it managed the internal conflicts by giving political autonomy to the marginalized communities."

Source: Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia

### iii) **Timely distribution of resources Under NFC Award:**

After the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the responsibilities of Provincial Government has been increased. so, there should be timely distribution of resources under NFC award to prevent any turmoil.

"IAN Talbot argues in his book that the reason for the separation of East Bengal was their deprivation

from Government and Finances."

Source: Pakistan: A New History

So, to prevent any secessionist feelings government must distribute resources on time.

#### iv) **Balanced division of development projects of CPEC:**

The focus of Punjab and KPK government has always remained to advanced their Province. The central government must balanced the division of developmental projects of CPEC to unite all the Province.

Nawaz sharif tried to change the Western routes of CPEC which passes from Balochistan and KPK. So, the people of two Province protested to alter these changes.

Source: Article from Dawn News.

So, there should be balanced approach to prevent these turmoils.

## v) Due share in natural resources

The feelings of separatism in Balochistan is due to their deprivation from their natural resources.

Case study: The USA has issues Alaska permanent fund to give 10% of oil extraction from Alaska to the residents of Alaska.

Government should give some due share of Balochistan's natural resources for the betterment of their residents.

## vi) Balancing composition of Pak army:

The Pakistan army is mainly dominated by the Punjab Provinces especially on the confidential posts. This factor is contributing a sense of marginalization among the other provinces.

"The composition of Pak army almost 67% is from Punjab Province." source: Shuja Nawaz.

Government should balanced this composition to pacify the feelings of other provinces.

## **Conclusion:**

In a nutshell, Pakistan has always face crisis of national integration since its creation due to various factors. These factors should be eliminated for the promotion of national integration in Pakistan.