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Topic: Is Pakistan ready for an AI revolution?

Outline:

1. Introduction

Thesis statement:

There is a glaring critique to the slogan that whether the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is ready for an AI-driven revolution or not. Despite its dire urge, Pakistan is not yet ready for it. Obviously, an unlead exposure to the AI ^{would} ~~will~~ lead to unexpected consequences that need to be mitigated at the earliest.

2. An overview of whether Pakistan is ready for an AI revolution or not

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3. How Pakistan is not ready for AI Revolution (Thesis)

- a. Lack of digital-governance ministry
- b. Absence of digital enforcement authority to let others adhere to AI ethics
- c. Lack of exposure to the usage of AI at first hand.
- d. Out-dated national curriculum misleading the youth
- e. Fear of misuse of AI being a catalyst to crime ratio in society
- f. Cultural clash among the West and the East
- g. Ideological contrast between the Muslims and others.

4. Reasons showcasing Pakistan as ready for an AI revolution (Anti-thesis)

- a. Ideological aspirations pushing Pakistan to the acceptance of change—the AI.
- b. Youth bulge declaring Pakistan ready for an AI revolution
- c. Hostile neighbours causing a hurry and pushing the state into a quagmire

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- d. Fear of Isolation^{in the region} making her believe its time for a digital revolution
- e. Digitalization - a dire need - of ^{good} governance is making Pakistan ready for an AI revolution

5. There is no denying the fact that Pakistan is not yet ready for AI revolution
(synthesis)

^{1/4} a. Ideology is ^{an} acquired entity, backed up by the concept of 'Ijtehad' in Islam

" b. A bulge of youth if a liability is of no use

c. Message of Islam in regard to the neighbours is in itself eye-opening.

d. There are many other ways to combat ~~the~~ isolation

e. Crimes made easy by digitalization suggest the opposite - man by nature is evolutionary.

6. Conclusion

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Essay

A famous quote by one of the ex-presidents of the U.S., naming Woodrow Wilson, "There is not any good revolution. They always come with a price. And, that price has to be paid by the commoners—as usual," glaringly pin-point the country is not yet ready for an AI revolution. An uncontrolled exposure to the World of Dark-web may have vibrant consequences. And, it is obvious that consequences like these will end in dismay if left unnoticed. History of mankind reveals that it prefers evolution over revolution. Experiments like this, may prove wrong especially when the country is witnessing a crippling economy. Indeed there is a glaring critique to the slogan that whether the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is

ready for an AI-driven revolution or not. Despite its dire urge, Pakistan is not yet ready for it. Obviously, an unleash exposure to the AI ^{would} ~~will~~ lead to unexpected consequences that need to be mitigated at the earliest.

In order to do so, it is necessary to highlight the prominent ~~ones~~ shortcomings that work as a hurdle, and thus disqualify the status of Pakistan against AI revolution. Also, among them, the lack of digital governance ministry stands above all.

Furthermore, the absence of digital enforcement authority, absence of a uniform national curriculum followed by the fear of misuse of AI, are not any behind.

Moreover, cultural clash with the West, and their respective

ideological contrast further worsens the situation. On the contrary, still, many believes that it is the time to click smartly. Among their beliefs, ideological aspirations, youth bulge, hostile neighbours, fear of isolation and the need to be thoroughly digitalized, are few amongst many, that Pakistan is ready for AI revolution.

Yet, a holistic view prescribes major necessary changes to let the country handle this AI-driven revolution smartly.

To name a few, reshaping of ideology, upskilling of youth, youth, due-status of neighbours, and last, yet not the least, the uprising trend of e-crimes significantly prove the harsh reality that Pakistan is not yet ready for an AI revolution.

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Major sector is of the opinion that Artificial Intelligence is going to be the next nuclear bomb. On the other hand, Pakistan is smoothly presented as an optimum battlefield for this new misadventure—AI-driven revolution.

It is evident from the discussion, that despite its primary need to get used to the World of 'AI', it is not yet ready for it. Aspiring for something is not any bad at all. But the ground realities cannot be negated just like that. In the journey to be ready for an 'AI' revolution in actual sense, a lot more has to be done^{first}. There is no denying the fact, that approximately '68' percent of the state^{Population} lies in-between the

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age of fifteen to twenty-nine.

But, as of now, that youth has only served as a liability, and not any asset. That indicates nothing less but the fact that Pakistan is not yet ready for an AI-driven revolution.

Among the challenges, lack of digital-governance ministry stays top of the line. Formation of concerned ministry seems to be the first phase to warm up constitutionally for the said revolution. Currently, working under the ambit of Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, several key structures and initiatives do exist, but a stand-alone ministry for AI/digital governance may let Pakistan achieves a milestone, paving its

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way in ^{its} the journey towards AI revolution. Recently approved by the federal cabinet on July 30th, 2025 the National Artificial Intelligence Policy 2025, which sets out a road map for the country's AI ecosystem is admirable. Yet, as of now, the country is not yet ready for an AI revolution, especially in the absence of a separate digital governance ministry.

Besides this, an absence of digital enforcement authority working to ensure the basic ethics of privacy, violations if made any by the AI, is hampering Pakistan's way to the AI revolution. The country has, and is already bearing the brunt of pre-existing digital freedom. A web network, called as dark-web is operating

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under the principle of anarchism. It is further heart-wrenching to see the recent-most suicide bomber, posting "coming soon..Islamabad" on his digital social media accounts just ~~be~~ seven hours before the Islamabad High Court, 6-11 blast; though the very first of its kind by targeting the Capital of the state so smoothly. Therefore, due to the absence of any digital enforcement authority, it ~~was~~ would not be any wiser to claim the country is ready for an 'AI' revolution.

Besides the absence of a digital enforcement body, it is the lack of exposure to the usage of 'AI' making Pakistan misfit for any episode like that.

Apps Applications like Artificial narrow Intelligence (ANI), forecasted

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Artificial super intelligence, chat bots and dark-web prominently require extensive know-how to operate. It is evident that the last year murder of a young tiktoker from Chitral, residing in Islamabad, naming Sana Yousaf fell prey to AI-driven applications. She was shot dead in her home in sector 6-13/1 of Islamabad on June 2, 2025 (The News International, ^{June} 2025). Henceby, the lack of exposure to the uncontrolled usage of AI is making Pakistan ineligible for digital AI-led revolution.

Alongside lack of exposure to the usage of AI, it is the out-dated national curriculum hampering her way to be indigenous in the field of AI. It is painful to say but the national curriculum of Pakistan is

not only irregular, but also out-dated, not meeting the demands of the twenty-first century. Many textbooks still contain content from decades ago. Climate change and AI topics are often missing or superficial; says the UNESCO's site "education-profiles.org". Hence, out-dated curriculum disqualify the country to be ready for an AI-driven revolution.

Alongside out-dated national curriculum, it is the fear of misuse of 'AI' that is being a thorn in the way of digital development in the shape of artificial intelligence. This misuse has led to reputation damage, extortion and social unrest. AI made deepfake videos and images, which can defame, blackmail or even threaten individuals. Maryam Nawaz (Chief Minister of Punjab) became

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a victim of AI-generated morphed videos uploaded on Facebook which falsely depicted her with another head of state (FIA, Cybercrime wing). Hence, the fear of misuse of AI tools leading to defamation and social disruption indicates ^{that} Pakistan, being in an embryonic phase digitally, is not ready for an AI-driven revolution.

Followed by its fear of misuse of the AI tools, it is the cultural clash among the West and the East which disqualifies Pakistan to encounter an AI-led revolution.

The cultural clash between the West and the East refers to the conflict of values, traditions, beliefs, and worldwide views between Western societies (mainly Europe and North America) and Eastern or Asian societies (like South Asia, the Middle East or the far East).

Being the ruling-elite, Western innovation reshapes communication and work patterns, eroding cultural values in the East.

The State Bank of Pakistan published that even where AI tools are available, "Organizational culture and low digital trust" prevents full-scale implementation (Dawn, 2025).

Hence, the substantial cultural clash makes Pakistan not eligible for an AI revolution.

Besides cultural clash, it is the ideological/religious contrast between the Muslims and non-muslims that indicates how Pakistan is not any ready for an artificial-intelligence revolution.

A thematic analysis of AI in mental-health counselling in Pakistan observed that many students felt the AI-based advice conflicted with their Islamic

values. "Our family strictly follows Islamic norms and values. I used AI... but it guided me to go for jogging with your boyfriend at night time... How can I apply these strategies in my life that I don't want to?" These words, by a female student, shows how ideological contrast (i.e., what AI suggests vs. what Islamic families consider acceptable) creates a barrier to trust and adoption. More importantly, proving that Pakistan, being an Islamic Republic by ideology, is not yet ready for a digital AI-led revolution.

However, some people do not agree with this, and they believe that the driving force behind the idea, that Pakistan is ready for digital revolution is its ideological aspirations. Since its inception,

the country believes in it needs to maintain a balance of power against its hostile neighbours.

Being engulfed among the three hostile neighbours (out of total four) make it feels insecure and hence go to any extreme to avoid isolation.

After the Pulwama attack in 2019, India launched a global diplomatic campaign presenting Pakistan as a state that "exports terrorism." India's foreign policy-makers conducted coordinated briefings in Paris, Washington, London, and Gulf capitals to convince them that Pakistan's ideological foundations allegedly tolerated militancy. Hence, its ideological aspirations push it to be ready for AI revolution.

Besides ideological aspirations, it

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is its youth bulge that qualifies Pakistan for AI revolution. Many of these youths are already literate, meaning that they don't need to start from zero. An invest in AI education programs could let the youth bulge become a tech workforce quickly. Programs like Digiskills, NAVTTC, and saylani prove that with minimum training investment, they can rapidly accomodate into AI-relevant professions (National Vocational & Tech Training Commission). Thus, with a youth of such bulge the country can produce AI-ready workers quickly - making it ready for AI revolution.

Alongside youth bulge, another driving force, pushing the state to jump into the world of AI, is ^{its} hostile neighbours, spontaneously adapting AI-driven skills and re-shaping

their future. Pakistan that aspires to be the region's tech-hub desperately needs to upgrade its AI-based skills. Keeping in view that, the 'CPEC' is being used to strengthen Pakistan's digital ~~infrastructure~~ infrastructure and ~~position~~ position it as a regional technology hub. (Ministry of Information Pakistan, CPEC briefings, 2024)

It is hence evident, that digital innovative race among its hostile neighbours compels Pakistan to opt for AI-driven transformation in all major sectors of development.

Moreover, alongside hostile neighbours, the fear of isolation further pushes the state into a quagmire.

In today's globalized era, keeping oneself up-to-date is the key to success. To survive with dignity, and good image, it is binding on any

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responsible state to go with the latest trends. The case of Pakistan is not any different. In July 2025, Pakistan's federal cabinet approved its first-ever National AI policy, aiming to train 1 million AI professionals by 2030. (National Assembly Pakistan's Briefings). Therefore, it is not any hazardous to go for AI-driven revolution.

In order to avoid this Isolation, one of the major remedies is ~~digitization~~ digitalization. Through digitalization, Pakistan can hit several severe problems and let its economy uplift smoothly. Digitalization expand access to education, online courses, and upskilling programs. ^{Statistics} on "Digiskills.pk" shows it trained over 3 million youth in freelancing, digital marketing, and data analytics. Undoubtedly, a digital

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Literate work force is better prepared for AI revolution.

X The next section is about ~~DISAGREEING~~ with what has been said in the antithesis X

However, the points given by the opposition have certain flaws in them. For example, it is expressed that ideological aspirations make her ready for AI revolution. Yet, the reality, that ideology is an acquired entity (as is 'Ijtihad' in Islam) is overlooked. Even the religion prefers to learn to adapt to the new challenges; let it be evolving social, economic, and technological realities. For example, the concept of digital transactions and Islamic banking uses 'Ijtihad' to determine compliance with Riba-free principles. Hence, the opinion based on ideological aspirations

as a ground for AI revolution remains weak - indicating the state's unreadiness for AI ~~revolution~~ going after it.

Similarly, bringing in hostile neighbours (as a cause to qualify) also do not hold water due to various reasons.

For example, a bulge of youth, if a liability, is of no use.

This force needs to be properly equipped ^{with} to streamline the storm of the artificial intelligence.

Pakistan, realising its magnitude, is though trying its best to adapt to ^{the} evolving innovation in the digital field. Among that, Daraz.pk and "food panda" expanded rapidly but not all over the country. Hence, the state ~~it~~ would be able to go for an AI-led revolution, but with its own pace.

Another point given by the opposition,

that is, the role played by the hostile neighbours pushing the country to fully transform into a digital economy-led by AI, do not hold ground due to various ^{reasons} grounds. For example, the Deen-i-Islam, being the driving force behind Pakistan's creation, emphasizes upon the due rights of the neighbours. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Jibril kept asking me about treating neighbours well, until I thought he would assign them a share of inheritance" (Sahih Bukhari & Muslim). Hence, it would be folly to go for something huge, merely upon speculations.

Another argument given by the critics is the fear of Isolation in the region making it ready for an AI revolution.

On the contrary, there are

many other ways to combat the fear of isolation. Trade inter-dependency may prove to be a valid exchange in this regard. Commenting on Pakistan-India mutual trade, there exists a huge potential to get benefitted from. Currently, Pakistan-India trade is around \$2-3 billion annually, as per Worldbank-org, but with the change of attitude towards each other, this immense potential can result in mutual trust building, economic growth, and regional stability. Hence, it is evident that the fear of isolation can be adjusted in many other ways, and is not limited to AI revolution alone.

As per the opponents, a dire need of good governance demands digitalization. On the contrary,

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what they overlook, is the negative impacts of digitalization upon the crime ratio.

Rapid digitalization increases exposure to AI-driven hacking, cyberattacks and data breaches.

In Pakistan, the FIA Cyber Crime Wing received a large number of complaints related to

deepfakes: in 2023, Out of ~11,000 cyber-crime complaints, around 1200 were about deepfake content.

(The Institute of legal studies). Thus, it is proved that digitalization urge alone doesnot justify Pakistan to be ready for a digital revolution-led by AI.

The sum and the substance of the discussion suggests that Pakistan is not yet ready for AI revolution. There exist multifarious reasons to support

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the stance. Among them, lack of stand-alone AI ministry, absence of digital enforcement authority, lack of exposure to the usage of AI and out-dated national curriculum stays top of the line.

Similarly, the misuse of AI intensifying the current crime ratio, pre-existing cultural clash among the west and the East followed by ideological contrast among the believers and dis-believers proves that ^{the} state is not yet ready for an AI-led revolution.

Although, the opponents are of the opinion that that the state has got the potential to face AI revolution yet the ground realities depict the opposite.

Hence, an unlead exposure to the AI would lead to dire consequences that need to be curtailed at the earliest.