

Topic : Education VS Extremism : Can Schools in Punjab Shape a Peaceful Future?

Outline

1- Introduction

Thesis Statement: Education is considered an anti-thesis to extremism. Although there is some skepticism regarding the schools in Punjab being the guarantor of a peaceful future. However, effective legal codes and policies have been formulated to prevent extremism.

2- The Schools in Punjab can Shape a peaceful future (Thesis)

a) Vigilant governance is showing concern regarding the increased education spending

Case in Point: Rs. 811.8 billion for education, Rs 100 billion reserved for infrastructure development (Punjab Budget 2025-26)

Date: _____ Day: _____
b) Law formulation to integrate students from seminaries in formal education system.

Case in Point: Madaris Registration Act to prevent extremism

c) Measures to address economic grievances of unprivileged students to ensure sense of justice

Case in Point: Punjab Education

Endowment Fund for deserving students

Case in Point: "School Meal

Programme" to address malnutrition

d) Introduction of revised curriculums and better methodologies to avoid regressive approach

Case in Point 1: Single National Curriculum 2021 and Tarjamatul Quran to understand Islam

Case in Point 2: Use of tablets and laptops

3- The Schools in Punjab cannot Shape a peaceful future (Anti-thesis)

a) Lack of accountability and transparency inculcates a sense of hatred in innocent minds

Case in Point 1: Laptops worth 20 crore stolen

Case in Point 2: Ghost schools in villages, occupied by feudal lords

b) Non-implementation of policies shared off students from schools

Case in Point: Use of torture and death of students, inculcation of violence

c) Limited economic support by government is unable to meet the needs of children

Case in Point: Child labour steals the innocence of children

d) Flawed curriculums do not guarantee a peaceful future

Case in Point: Reinforcement of social stigmas through curriculum

4- The Schools in Punjab can gradually shape a peaceful future (Synthesis)

a) The gradual educational reforms can transform a better future

Case in Point: 21.2% increase

in education budget in 2025;

recruitment of teachers via PPSC

- b) Assurance of peaceful future by stopping infiltration of terrorists and extremists in Punjab's schools

Case in Point: National Action Plan 2014

- c) The constantly growing literacy rate bridging the rural-urban divide

Case in Point 1 : 66.25% literacy rate of Punjab, highest in Pakistan (ESP 2024-25)

Case in Point 2: \$47.9 million grant by World bank to improve primary school enrollment.

- d) Revision of curriculum and standards of assessment to increase level of education

Case in Point: Punjab's Education Policy announced by provincial education minister

5- Conclusion

Counter-extremism measures are taken to shape a peaceful future

Date: _____ Day: _____

"Education breeds confidence, confidence breeds hope, and hope breeds peace", said Confucius. Education and peace are *sine qua non* for each other. This is why, education has been prioritized at both national and International levels. According to the **Article 25-A of The Constitution of Pakistan (1973)**, free and compulsory education should be given to every child of 5 to 16 years. The **goal 4 of The Sustainable Development Goals** advocated for the provision of education. Pakistan has adopted the SDGs but the literacy rate of the country is showing no ~~sign~~ of progress. At the same time, the country is suffering from the menace of extremism. Extremism prevents the mental growth and acts as a big hurdle against innovation. In other words, education is considered an anti-thesis to extremism. Although, there is some skepticism regarding the schools in Punjab being the ^{guarantor} ~~guarantee~~ of a peaceful future. However, effective legal

codes and policies have been formulated to prevent extremism. Especially, after the **18th amendment** to the constitution, education has mainly become a provincial subject. So, it is the responsibility of the provincial governments to fight extremism to shape a peaceful future.

The schools in Punjab can surely shape a peaceful future as vigilant governance has showed more concern regarding the education spending. The quality education demands a reasonable amount to transform the education system. The **"UNESCO Education 2030 Framework for Action"** states that a country should spend 4% to 6% of its Gross Domestic Product on education. Although Punjab is not spending according to the international standards, but the current government aims to spend about **Rs. 8811.8 billion** for the financial year 2025-2026. About **Rs. 100 Billion** have been reserved to spend on infrastructural development. The increase in the education budget

will surely attract the more enrolments in schools instead of the children becoming a fuel for extremists.

In addition to this, government has formulated several laws to integrate the students from seminaries into formal education systems. As, the experts showed their concerns regarding the regressive approach of the Seminaries. The studies have revealed that due to the outdated and fundamentalist teachings in some seminaries, the young students may attract towards the extremism. The seminaries in Punjab and other parts of Pakistan, will now be registered through **Housing Societies Registration Act 2024**. It will not only mandate the seminaries to submit the annual report of their activities but an audit report of their finances will also be submitted annually. It criminalizes the publication and dissemination of hateful content at Seminaries.

As, poverty might lead ^{the students} towards extremism; effective measures have been taken to address the grievances of poor students. The withdrawal from education might be resulted in truancy and subsequent conservatism. To prevent this, **Punjab Education Endowment Fund** has designed scholarships for the intelligent students at middle, matriculation, and intermediate levels. Moreover, a nutrition programme named **School Meal Programme** has been initiated to ensure effective mental and physical growth of the students. About **Rs 7 billion** have been allocated to prevent malnutrition in children.

Most importantly, curriculums have been revised to complement the modern teaching methodologies. The ill ~~prop~~ prepared curriculums may create divisions within the society by promoting religious or sectarian superiority. After the implementation of Single National Curriculum in 2021, the subject of Tarjamatul Quran was included.

in the curriculum. The translation of Quran with comprehensive background will help the students to understand the true spirit of Islam. The use of Computer based methodologies is further revamping the classroom environment to help students in understanding innovation and technology.

While, effective measures have been taken to promote education in Punjab, many people still believe that these measures are hollow and will not shape a peaceful future. The first and foremost objection by the critics is the lack of accountability in school expenditures. The absence of transparent mechanisms promotes the sense of injustice and promotes extremism. The corruption in school budgets deprive the unprivileged classes from their rightful fundamental rights. Recently, a laptop scandal was revealed in which laptops worth 20 crores were stolen from an educational institution. Moreover, ghost schools in the villages of Punjab,

mainly occupied by the feudal lords, inculcate a sense of hatred into innocent minds which later exhibits in the form of extremism.

Secondly, the unprivileged classes remained at the receiving end due to the non-implementation of the policies. It shaved off a huge amount of students from the educational institutions. For instance, it is prohibited to exercise the use of torture on students. But, the incidents of torture are common in both private and government sector schools. Even in religious seminaries, the use of torture is very common. Recently, a student in Punjab was killed because of the violent torture by the teacher. The matter of the fact is that use of torture and foul language by the teachers make students averse of education which later translates into self hatred and extremism.

Thirdly, the economic support offered by the government is very

limited. There are limited quotas for the intelligent students which is many times remained unavailed owing to the lack of awareness. Moreover, the families below the poverty line prefer a working child instead of sending him to a school.

The Employment of Children Act 1991,

prohibits child labour but the stubbornness of parents to employ their minors, deprive them of their childhoods.

The premature minds become a soft target of extremists and decreases the chances of a peaceful future.

Furthermore, the extremism cannot be avoided by adopting the flawed curriculums. Although, The Single National Curriculum was a good move towards the uniformed education. But many critics showed their concerns over the reinforcement of the social biases through new curriculums. Many experts pointed out the content, reinforcing the gender biases by highlighting the women in subordinating positions - a big

Date _____ Day _____

setback for the attempts of women empowerment. Although many people perceived the graphics as something harmless but the majority agreed on the fact that curriculums need to be scrutinized thoroughly as they can promote extremist tendencies in the future.

Nevertheless, the schools in Punjab can gradually attain a peaceful future. A gradual surge in education budgets will be accompanied by the transparency in the coming years. For the fiscal year, 2025-2026; the government ensured a **21.2%** increase in the education budget. The recruitment of teachers is made sure through the transparent bodies like Punjab Public Service Commission. The government is also intended to introduce a teaching license for the instructors. Moreover, psychological assessment is going to be a vital requirement for the school teachers to ensure healthy classroom environment. As students

Date: _____

Day: _____

perceive teachers as their role models, a mentally strong teacher will help the students to avoid the extremist tendencies.

Moreover, the schools in Punjab can ensure a peaceful future by stopping the infiltration of extremists in the educational institutions. The

National Action Plan of 2014 stressed

upon the Zero-tolerance for militancy in Punjab as Punjab is still considered safe in comparison of other provinces. Over the years, Punjab has strengthened the mechanism to promote counter-extremist measures. ^{As} the educational institutions are the soft target for the extremists to preach their ideology. Therefore, National Action Plan, recommended a strict check upon school officials and staff, largely followed in Punjab.

Apart from this, the literacy rate of Punjab is constantly growing which is ^{also} bridging a rural-urban

divide as a part of government's measures to curb extremism. According

to **The Economic Survey of Pakistan**

2024-2025, Punjab has the highest literacy world^{of 66.25%} in comparison of the

other provinces. A network of Daanish Schools - state of the art schools mainly in rural Punjab; is intended to

spread throughout the province to blur a line between rural and urban schools. The government has

reserved about **Rs 3.50 billion** to construct Daanish schools in Punjab.

Moreover, recently **World Bank** approved **\$47.9 million** grant to improve

Punjab's primary education enrolment - a big step towards reducing truancy and preventing extremism.

Last but not the least, government is intended to improve curriculum and standards of assessment.

Many students leave their education as they find the education system ineffective and outdated. These students generally develop extremist tendencies as they challenge the power of

Date: _____ Day: _____

Knowledge. The new education policy for Punjab alongwith improved standards of assessment is going to be a icebreaker against increasing dropouts. As announced by the provincial education Minister, Rana Sikandar Hayat; the new education policy is going to introduce practical - oriented curriculum, It will surely get the attention of the students and they will prefer schools over fundamentalism and extremism.

In a nutshell, the schools in Punjab are facing several challenges like corruption, mentally frustrated ~~unfit~~ instructors and outdated curriculums. However, the province is on its way to reserve better educational budgets and integration of students from seminaries and unprivileged classes into formal education systems. The use of technology in form of tablets, laptops, and animation is luring the students towards information technology. The provincial government is determined

Date: _____

Day: _____

to remove the rural-urban divide through the establishment of Daanish schools. Special budgets have been allocated for special education and literacy based non-formal education. Several legal codes have been formulated to counter extremism in collaboration with provincial and federal law enforcement agencies. The government is trying its level best to ensure social justice through the elimination of ghost schools, mainly occupied by feudal lords. The several measures have been taken for the eradication of extremism to shape a peaceful future.

Which format should be followed for an analytical essay (argumentative in nature) in PMS / PCS exams?
(Word Count : 1500)

1- Introduction (180 words)

2- Thesis (4 paragraphs, each 100 words)

a)

b)

c)

d)

3- Anti-Thesis (4 paragraphs, each 100 words)

a)

b)

c)

d)

4- Synthesis (4 paragraphs, 100 words each)

a)

b)

c)

d)

5- Conclusion (120 words)

OR

- 1- Introduction (180 words)
- 2- Crunch Paragraph (100 words)
- 3- Thesis (5 paragraphs, 100 words each)
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)
 - e)
- 4- Anti-Thesis (5 paragraphs, 100 words each)
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)
 - e)
- 5- Way Forward (100 - 200 words)
- 6- Conclusion (120 words)