

Q) How is it possible to eliminate the religious and political extremism in Pakistan in the light of the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Explain.

1) Introduction:-

Religious and political extremism are two of the biggest problems that Pakistani society is faced with. This extremism is evident in sectarian divide, anti-national sentiments, prevalence of extremist ideologies, intolerance and political polarization. Following the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) who taught moderation, reconciliation and diplomatic norms, the scourge of extremism can be eliminated from Pakistani society.

Expounding on the same idea

Allama Iqbal says:-

ہی منظورِ فطرت ہے پی، رمزِ سلطانی
اخوت کی جہانگیری، محبت کی فراوانی

2) Strands of Religious Extremism in Pakistan :-

Explaining the issues
of extremism Hazrat Ali said:-
"Whenever you see a person with
intolerance, you will find him
either overdoing or underdoing a task."

The same is the issue of extremism
in Pakistan.

a) Sectarian Divide

A clear sign of religious
extremism in Pakistan is the
presence of strongly segregated
sects and their hatred towards each other.

b) Intolerance for Non-Muslims

Intolerance ~~towards~~ towards

The non-muslim population of country is yet another manifestation of religious extremism. Human Rights Commission of Pakistan reports that the population of non-muslims in Pakistan which was close to 10% after independence has now been reduced to less than 3% (HRCP, 2023).

c) Rise of Militancy

Religious extremism has acted as a precursor to militancy too. This extremist ideology has been used to turn one muslim against another.

Strands of Political Extremism in

Pakistan:-

Following are the signs of prevalence of political extremism in Pakistan:-

a) Spread of Political Polarization

Political polarization is evident in the rise of intolerant political ideologies and politics of revenge among leading political parties.

b) Rise of Authoritarianism and Fall of Democracy

A direct result of this polarization is the rise of authoritarianism and fall of democratic freedoms.

Global Democratic Index (2024) ranks Pakistan under authoritarian rule giving it a score of 2.00 - 2.99.

4) Eliminating Religious Extremism Through the Teachings of Holy Prophet (PBUH) :-

Through the efforts of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that he used to establish peace and ~~political~~ stability in

Asab, similar political stability can be achieved for Pakistan too.

a) Implementing Moderate Interpretations of Islam

Pakistan needs to implement a moderate interpretation of Islam in its state's outlook and within its society.

"Religion is a facility, but if anyone overdoes it, it wears him down, so take to moderation and steer an even course." (Hadith)

b) Reviving Ideology of Muslim Brotherhood

Another way to eliminate religious extremism is by reviving the spirit of brotherhood that was characteristic of Ansaar and Muhajrin at Prophet's era

انما المؤمنون اخوة فاصحوا بين اخوتكم (Al-Hujraat)

The Muslims are but brothers so make peace and reconciliation between your two contending brothers.

c) Promoting Inter-Ethnic Harmony

Following the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the government of Pakistan can focus on creating inter-ethnic harmony and unity within diversity. The Charter of Medina which granted Muslims a unique status can be used as an example.

d) Reviving Inter-Religious Harmony.

Treaties like with the Christians of Najran and Charter of Medina highlight how Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was able to create inter-religious harmony within Arabia.

5) Eliminating Political Extremism Through Holy Prophet's (PBUH) Teachings

The following teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) can be employed to deal with Political extremism in Pakistan.

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a) Highlighting the Importance of Following the Ruler

Pakistani public needs to realize that Islam lays great stress on obeying the ruler.

"Listen and obey even if an Abyssinian slave whose head is like a raisin is made your ruler." (Hadith)

b) Highlighting the Cost of Political Dissent

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has laid great stress on following political authority. He said-

"He who sees a dispicable thing in the ruler should bear it for who even slightly disassociates himself from the state authority and dies shall die the death of jahaliyah."

c) Ensuring Efficient Service Delivery

One reason for political extremism is poor service delivery. Ensuring efficient governance can help. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: **سِرَ الْقَوْمِ خَادِمُهُم**

d) Ensuring Governance With Consultation

Listening to the wants and needs of general public can also help lower political extremism in Pakistan. **وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ (Al-e-Imran)**
Consult them in the matter.

6) Conclusion:-

Religious and political extremism have been wreaking havoc in Pakistan lately. Implementing the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Pakistan can deal with both of these problems efficiently.