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Brain Drain threatens Pakistan's ability to achieve its SDGs by 2030.

Write a comprehensive note on the causes and consequences of Brain Drain from Pakistan, focusing on its impacts on achieving SDGs (any three)

## I. Introduction:

Brain Drain is not a  
Brain in Drain rather  
a Brain Gain.

(Pakistan's Army Chief)

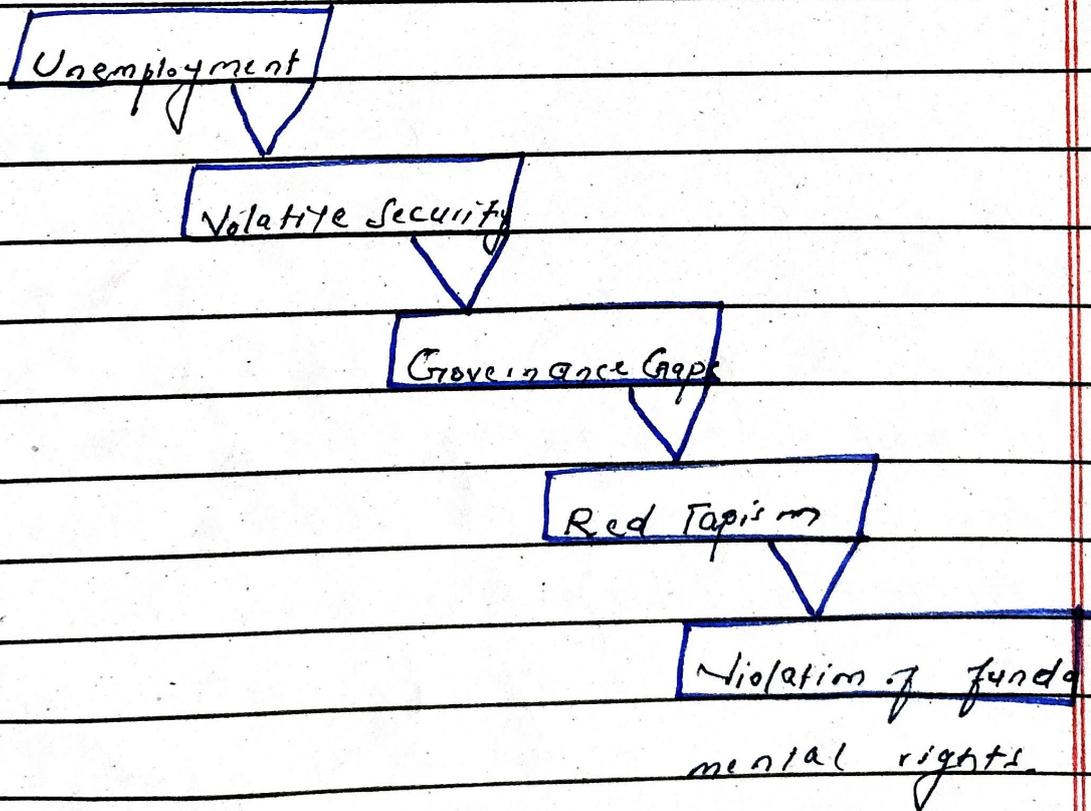
It is rightly quoted by the army chief of Pakistan that the brain drain phenomenon is like a double edged sword. It can be beneficial as well as harmful for the Pakistan. But in the case of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals brain drain is a harmful phenomenon.

As it threatens to achieve the SDGs of poverty, hunger and the social development. The causes of this menace are the unemployment, in

inequality, social unrest and the security situation. The consequences are the manifestations of the causes like insufficient and the unskilled labour force, source of remittances and the knowledge transfer.

## II. Causes of Brain Drain from Pakistan:

Following are the causes of brain drain from Pakistan:



## I. Unemployment:

Unemployment is the root cause of brain drain from Pakistan. When people do not find the adequate employment opportunities they prefer to move abroad.

According to the Planning Ministry:

Unemployment stood at 7.2% highest in 21 years in 2025.

## II. Volatile Security Situation:

Volatile security situation is a persistent threat that drives the brain drain. Imminent attacks by the ISKP and the TTP makes the people fearful about their life and they preferred to leave the country.

According to DCISIP:

Terrorist attacks rise by

36% in 2025 as compared to the 2024.

### III. Governance Gaps:

Governance gaps like the lack of rule of law, accountability and transparency are the chronic causes of brain drain. This situation leads to the mistrust among the people.

Corruption Perception Index started:

Pakistan stood at 135 in 2025.

### IV. Red Taping:

Red Taping is one of the major hindrance in producing the flourishing grounds of economic investment. Businessmen feel insecure and preferred to leave the country.

## V. Violation of Fundamental Rights:

Violation of fundamental rights like the freedom of speech and the freedom of movement are a frequent phenomenon in Pakistan.

Constitution of Pakistan Ensures:

Article 19 - Freedom of speech

Article 15 - Freedom of Movement

## III. Consequences of Brain Drain by Focusing on Impacts of SDGs:

Following are the impacts of brain drain by focusing on the impact of SDGs:

- SDG I - No Poverty
- SDG V - Gender Equality
- SDG II - Zero Hunger
- Insufficient Labour Force
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## SDG I - No Poverty:

Sustainable Development Goal

I focused on taking actions to remove the poverty but the brain drain making it difficult to achieve. As resources pay huge amount to get visas leaving the rest of family living in hand to mouth.

## SDG II - Zero Hunger:

SDG II deals with zero hunger. As Pakistan is an agricultural economy having 47% labour force. When a large chunk of it leave the country it becomes difficult to achieve food security leading to widespread hunger.

## SDG V - Gender Equality:

SDG V - Encompasses the gender equality. Brain drain makes it difficult to achieve. Because the brain drain only prefers male to move abroad and leaving the women

busy in the household, chores.

#### IV. Inefficient - Labour Force

In case of brain drain mostly the labourers, who leave the country. This situation leads the shortages of skilled as well as unskilled labourers at local level.

As the Report of World Bank stated:

Among 8 million Pakis-  
tani who left the  
country 4 million were  
labourers.

#### IV. Conclusion:

In a nutshell, brain drain is a concerning phenomenon having causes like red tapism and governance gaps. As a result, this poses the impacts on achieving the SDG-II and VI.