

Q.3

1-Introduction:

The development of a robust political culture is vital for stability, progress, and democratic functioning in any country. It encompasses citizens' values, beliefs, attitudes, and actions towards their political system. In Pakistan, despite strides made, specific variables indicate underdeveloped aspects of political culture, including civic engagement, tolerance, the rule of law, and gender equality. Recognizing these gaps and their causes is essential for fostering a more inclusive and participatory political environment. By addressing these gaps, Pakistan can cultivate a stronger political culture that upholds democratic principles, encourages citizen involvement, and enhances societal cohesion. This explores these variables, their underlying causes, and suggests strategies to bridge these gaps.

1) Variables on Which Political Culture has not developed in Pakistan

a) Civic Awareness and Engagement

Civic awareness and engagement pertain to citizens' understanding of political processes and their active involvement in civic activities. In Pakistan, these aspects are underdeveloped due to limited civic education, socioeconomic disparities, and historical

elite dominance. To enhance civic awareness, comprehensive education programs should be implemented, accessible information channels established, and marginalized groups engaged. Encouraging youth involvement and community-based initiatives can bridge the gap, fostering a politically informed and engaged citizenry.

b) Political tolerance and Pluralism

Political tolerance refers to the willingness to accept differing political views and ideologies, while pluralism signifies the coexistence of diverse opinions in a society. In Pakistan, these aspects are underdeveloped due to limited acceptance of diverse viewpoints, ethno-religious tensions, and polarization. To enhance political tolerance and pluralism, fostering open dialogue, promoting respectful debate, and creating platforms for diverse voices can play a vital role in building a more inclusive and cohesive political culture.

c) Ethno-Religious Divisions

Ethno-religious divisions refer to tensions and conflicts stemming from differences in ethnicity and religious beliefs within a society. In Pakistan, these divisions hinder political culture development due to their influence on political behavior, trust issues, and a lack of inclusive participation. Addressing ethno-religious divisions involve promoting interfaith dialogue and emphasizing the common national identity to foster social cohesion and a more unified political environment.

d. Lack of Civic education

The absence of comprehensive civic education in Pakistan has led to citizens having limited understanding of political processes, their rights, and responsibilities. This gap emerges due to insufficient emphasis in the curriculum and difficulties in reaching marginalized communities. To address this, implementing civic education programs that teach democratic values, active citizenship, and political literacy is essential. Such initiatives can empower citizens to make informed choices, actively engage in governance, and contribute to a politically informed and engaged society.

III- Reasons for Underdevelopment

a) Historical Factors

Historical factors significantly influence Pakistan's political culture. Military interventions have disrupted democratic development and stability. The colonial legacy has shaped citizens' perceptions of the state. The dominance of autocratic leadership has centralized power. To address these, focus on strengthening democratic institutions, promoting transparency, and cultivating accountability is crucial for fostering a more resilient and democratic political culture.

b) Socioeconomic Challenges

Socioeconomic challenges in Pakistan encompass high levels of poverty and illiteracy that hinder political engagement. These challenges limit access to information, obstruct citizens' ability to participate, and create disparities in political awareness. Addressing socioeconomic challenges involves targeted initiatives to improve education and alleviate poverty, enabling more citizens to actively participate in political processes and contribute to a more inclusive political culture.

c) Ethno-Religious Divisions

Ethno-religious divisions refer to tensions stemming from differences in ethnicity and religious beliefs. In Pakistan, these divisions influence political behavior, contribute to social fragmentation, and hinder unity. Addressing these divisions requires promoting interfaith dialogue, implementing inclusive policies, and fostering a shared national identity to bridge differences and build a more cohesive and harmonious political culture.

d) Lack of civic education

The absence of comprehensive civic education in Pakistan results in citizens having limited knowledge about political processes, rights, and responsibilities. This gap arises due to inadequate curriculum emphasis and challenges in reaching marginalized communities. Developing civic education programs that teach democratic principles

active citizenship, and political literacy can empower citizens to make informed decisions, participate in governance, and contribute to a more politically aware and engaged society.

IV- Ways to develop Political culture

a) Civic education implement

Civic education involves teaching citizens about their roles and responsibilities within a democratic society. In Pakistan, the absence of effective civic education has led to limited awareness of political processes and rights. To bridge this gap, it's crucial to establish comprehensive civic education programs in schools and communities. These initiatives will empower citizens with the knowledge needed to engage in informed decision-making, actively participate in governance, and contribute positively to the country's political culture.

b) Media and information

Media and information play a pivotal role in shaping political culture. In Pakistan, challenges such as limited media independence and accessibility hinder citizens' access to unbiased and diverse information. To enhance political culture, promoting an independent and responsible media, expanding digital communication channels, and ensuring the dissemination of accurate and balanced information can

empower citizens to make informed political choices and actively participate in democratic processes.

V- Conclusion

Pakistan's journey towards fostering a robust political culture necessitates addressing under-developed variables like civic awareness, political tolerance and more. The origins of these gaps lie in historical legacies, socioeconomic challenges, and ethno-religious divisions. By prioritizing comprehensive civic education, fostering dialogue, and implementing inclusive policies, Pakistan can bridge these gaps. Strengthening democratic institutions, improving education, and promoting unity can overcome historical factors and socioeconomic challenges. In the end, collaborative efforts between government, civil society, and citizens are vital to building a more inclusive, informed, and engaged society that upholds democratic values and propels the nation forward.