

PAKISTAN AFFAIRS.

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Q no 6.

Pakistan indeed possesses important strategic endowments and development potential. One significant advantage is its demographic profile, characterised by a large and youthful population.

However, this demographic, divided also presents both opportunities and ~~strong~~ challenges for the country.

(1) Potential Demographic Dividend:

Pakistan's large youth population can be a valuable asset for the country's economic growth. A demographic dividend occurs when the proportion of the working-age population

increases relative to dependents. The potential demographic dividend can boost economic productivity and increase the country's GDP growth rate.

2. Increased Workforce:

With a growing young population, Pakistan can experience an increase in its workforce. This presents an opportunity for the country to harness this labor force for economic development, attracting investment and driving innovation.

③ Consumption and Market Potential:

A young and growing population means increased consumption and demand for goods and services. This creates

a substantial domestic market which can attract both local and foreign businesses to invest in the country.

④ Skilled Workforce:

With the right investment in education and skill development, Pakistan can create a more skilled and capable workforce. This in turn, can attract industries that require specialized talent and promote technological advancement.

However, along with these potential benefits, there are several challenges that need to be addressed.

i) Employment Generation:

One of the primary challenges is providing sufficient employment opportunities to

absorb the increasing number of young people entering the job market. The lack of adequate job opportunities can lead to high unemployment rates and underutilization of the demographic dividend.

ii) Education and Skill Gap:

To harness the demographic dividend fully, there must be a focus on quality education and skills training. Ensuring that the youth have the necessary skill to meet the demands of a modern economy is crucial for their employability.

iii) Infrastructure And Services:

Rapid population growth can strain existing infrastructure and

public services such as healthcare housing, transportation and sanitation. Investment in these sectors will be necessary to meet the need of the growing population.

iv) Economic Reforms:

Pakistan needs to undertake economic reforms to attract investment and create an environment conducive to business growth. This includes improving the ease of doing business, enhancing regulatory framework and addressing corruption.

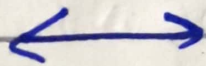
v) Youth Empowerment:

Engaging and empowering the youth is essential for their active participation in the the ~~the~~ economy and society. Encouraging enter

entrepreneurship, supporting startups and promoting youth-led initiatives can help unlock their potential

vi) Social Stability:

Failure to address the challenges associated with a large youth population such as unemployment and lack of opportunities can lead to social unrest and instability



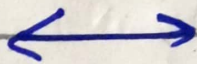
Qnos

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Qnos

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and political instability. Some key factors contribution to these challenges include.

① Structural Weaknesses:

Pakistan's economy has long been plagued by structural issues, such as a heavy reliance on agriculture, a narrow tax base, low industrial productivity and an informal economy. These structural weakness hinder sustainable economic growth and limit the government's ability to generate revenue for public spending.

② Fiscal Imbalances:

The country has struggled to maintain fiscal discipline, leading to persistent budget deficits and rising public debt -

Insufficient revenue collection coupled with untargeted and unproductive government spending exacerbates the fiscal challenges.

(3) Current Account Deficits:

Pakistan often faces significant current account deficits as imports exceed exports. The trade imbalance puts pressure on foreign exchange reserves, making the economy vulnerable to external shocks.

(iv) Energy Crisis:

The country has experienced an energy crisis with frequent power shortages and high energy prices impacting industrial production and overall economic activity.

(v) Low Investment and Business Confidence:

Political and economic uncertainty have led to low investor confidence, discouraging both domestic and foreign investments. The lack of investment hampers economic growth and job creation.

(vi) Corruption and Governance Issues:

Corruption and weak governance have been persistent challenges in Pakistan, leading to misallocation of resources and hindering economic progress.

(vii) Policy Inconsistencies:

Frequent changes in economic policies and inconsistent regulatory frameworks create

uncertainty, among businesses and investors, making long term planning and investment decision difficult.

(viii) Security Concerns:

Security challenges, including militancy and terrorism, have deterred foreign investments and affected tourism and business activities.

(ix) Population Growth:

The country's high population growth rate puts additional pressure on resources and public services, making it challenging for the government to provide essential services effectively.

(21) External Factor:

Pakistan economy is also influenced by global economic trends, trade policies of major economies and fluctuation in commodity prices, which can impact its trade balance and overall economic performance.

To address these challenges and promote economic stability and growth, Pakistan needs to implement economic reforms and adopt sound policies.

- (a) Fiscal Discipline -
- (b) Structural Reforms.
- (c) Investment Promotion
- (d) Energy Sector Reforms
- (e) Governance and Anti-corruption Measures
- (f) Social Safety Nets
- (g) Population Management
- (h) Security Stability

Ques 7

The recent wave of terrorism in Pakistan can be traced back to several underlying causes and events that have shaped the country's security landscape. Some key factors that have contributed to the rise of extremism and terrorism in Pakistan are as follows:

① Afghan-Soviet War (1979-1989)

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 had significant repercussions for Pakistan. Pakistan's involvement in supporting the Afghan mujahideen with the backing of the United States and other countries, led to

the influx of weapons and militants into the region. After the war, many Afghan fighters known as "Mujahideen," returned to Pakistan, bringing with them ideologies of radicalism and militancy.

② Kashmir Conflict:

The long standing dispute over Kashmir has fueled tension between Pakistan and India. Some extremist ~~growth~~ groups with alleged support from elements within Pakistan have used violence as a mean to address the issue, leading to acts of terrorism in both countries.

③ Religious And Sectarian Division:

Pakistan's society have diverse religious and sectarian groups. Tensions and ~~to~~ violence between different sects have been exploit. exploited by extremist elements to create divisions and propagate their ideology.

④ Proliferation of Madrassas:

The rise of religious seminaries in Pakistan has played a role in promoting extremists ideologies. While most madrassas focus on providing religious education some have been linked to radicalization and recruitment of militants.

⑤ Socioeconomic Factors:

Poverty, unemployment and lack of opportunity in certain regions of Pakistan have made vulnerable populations susceptible to recruitment by extremist groups.

⑥ Influence of External Factor:-

Geostrategic interests and involvement of foreign powers in the region have also impacted Pakistan's security situation. Proxy wars and cross border militancy have contributed to the spread of terrorism.

Measures to Adopt:

- Counterterrorism Policies
- Addressing Root Causes

- Madrasa Reforms
- Community Engagement
- International Cooperation
- Deradicalization Programs
- Security Sector Reforms
- Addressing Sectarian Tensions
- Media and Education
- Political Stability

It is essential to recognize that addressing terrorism requires a multifaceted approach that includes not only security measures but also efforts to address the underlying causes that lead to radicalization and violence.

Qno 8.

The federal structure of Pakistan is a system of government in which power is divided between the central or federal government and the provincial governments.

Pakistan follows a federal parliamentary democratic republic model with a strong President as the head of state and a Prime Minister as the head of government.

The federal structure of Pakistan is outlined in the Constitution which establishes the division of powers and responsibilities between the federal and provincial govt.

This country is divided into four provinces: Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan as well as two autonomous territories: Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Each province and territory has its own elected government and legislative assembly which is responsible for governing the respective region and making decision on various matter within their jurisdiction.

Explore the arguments in favour and against a weak center in Pakistan's federal structure.

⇒ Arguments in favour of a Weak Centre.

- (i) Enhanced Provincial Autonomy
- (ii) Cultural and Regional Diversity.
- (iii) Resource Distribution.
- (iv) Conflict Resolution

⇒ Argument against a Weak Centre

- (i) National unity and ~~Integration~~ Integration
- (ii) National Security.
- (iii) Resource Management.
- (iv) Economic Stability
- (v) Balancing Regional Interest.

In conclusion, to whether a weak center in Pakistan

Federal structure can survive depends on a delicate balance between enhancing provincial autonomy and maintaining national cohesion and stability. Striking the right balance is essential to accommodate the country's diverse need while ensuring effective governance, national unity and the ability to address national challenges effectively.