

## PART - II

Q-7

### EDUCATION SYSTEM IN PAKISTAN

#### Introduction:

Quaid-e-Azam's statement in the question underscores the critical importance of education for national progress and country's survival. But our educational system is surrounded by an immense number of issues and problems. We will first discuss these issues and then their solutions.

#### ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

The education system of Pakistan mainly suffers from the following issues-

##### 1- Low budget Allocation

Pakistan allocates a small percentage of GDP to education. While the recommended expenditure on education is 4% of GDP, Pakistan's allocation is not more than 1.5%, the lowest expenditure on education in the whole South Asia. This low expenditure on education system results in inadequate funding for infrastructure, resources and teacher salaries.

##### 2- Out-of-School children

A significant number of children, especially in rural areas are not enrolled in school. As per a UN

Survey 22 million children remain out of school. The major reasons are poverty, gender inequality and lack of access to quality education.

### Gender Disparity:-

A large number of out of school children is girls. So is their dropout ratio. Due to cultural norms, early marriages and security concerns girls face greater barriers in getting education.

### Quality of Education:-

The quality of education is inconsistent, outdated with insufficient teaching material and a shortage of qualified teachers. Majority of the teaching staff is hardly a graduate themselves.

### Lack of Infrastructure:-

Majority of the schools lack basic facilities such as clean water to drink, electricity, toilets or proper classrooms. They lack a learning environment.

### Dropouts:-

The school dropout rate is really high specially in secondary education. According to a survey, if 8 million girls and boys each are enrolled there will be 1 million boys left till secondary level who didn't dropout and 700,000 girls only while the rest dropout. The reasons of high dropout are often the economic pressure, lack of interest,

and poor quality of education :

### Curriculum Irlevance:-

The curriculum taught in our schools is outdated. It doesn't align with the job market, leaving students unprepared for employment. This leads to high unemployment rates that give an image in the society that education can't provide you with a good earning and thus the poor class focuses on skill learning instead of education.

## SOLUTION

The issues of education system of Pakistan are deeprooted but could be tackled with the right struggles. Following can be some solutions to follow on the way forward.

### Budget allocation:-

The government should provide more budget to education sector. Education should be a priority. With the increased allocation, the government should monitor the use of the money to avoid corruption and ghost schools.

### Modern Curriculum:-

The curriculum should be timely updated to give students the relevant skills and knowledge that help them in their professional lives.

### Teacher training:-

The teachers should go through comprehensive training to enhance their teaching skills and professional development.

### Awareness and Partnership:-

The government should spread awareness among the masses, especially in rural areas, about the need of education. It should give scholarships and incentives. Government should collaborate with the private sector that could lead to better resource allocation and innovated educational solutions.

### Digital Education:-

There should be a focus on the integration of technology into education to improve the quality and access, especially in remote areas.

### Addressing gender disparity:-

The government should implement policies and programs to ensure equal access to education for girls, addressing the cultural and security concerns.

### Monitoring and Accountability:-

There should be well established robust monitoring mechanism to ensure that the education policies are implemented and resources are used effectively. There should be accountability for inefficiency.

and corruption

### Conclusion:-

Though it would take great will, time and efforts to overcome the issues and problems in the education system of Pakistan, the solution is still possible. Pakistan can improve its education system and ensure that its citizens are equipped to compete with the progressing world.

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## TWENTY-SIXTH AMENDMENT

### Introduction:-

The twenty-sixth amendment to the constitution of Pakistan passed on October 20, 2024. It introduced several significant changes that will impact the balance of powers among various pillars of state — the executives, the legislatures, the establishment and the judiciary.

### Changes Introduced By The Amendment

#### 1- Judicial Reforms:-

The amendment removed the Supreme Court's *subpoena* powers which allowed it to take up the cases on its own initiative. This change has limited

the proactive role of judiciary in addressing public grievances.

### Chief's Tenure:

The chief justice of Pakistan's tenure is capped at three years. This could lead to a more frequent change in the chief and potentially impact the continuity and stability of judicial decisions.

### Judicial Commission:-

There was a req reconstitution of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) to include 12-member Special Parliamentary Committee with proportional representation for the nomination of Chief Justice. This means that the parliament will oversight over judicial appointments.

### Separation of Powers:-

The amendment limits the ability of the courts to question recommendations from the cabinet to the president or prime minister. This could strengthen the executive's authority by reducing judicial checks on executive decisions.

### Other Amendments:-

The amendment also introduced Article 9A declaring clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a fundamental right. The amendment also

aims to abolish riba by 2028. This aligns with the Islamic principles and could impact financial institutions and economic policies.

## Impacts on Balance of Power

The 26th amendment can impact the balance of power among the executives, the legislature and the judiciary-

### The Executives:-

→ The amendment limits the courts to question recommendations from cabinet. This reduces judicial oversight over executive decisions, leading to a more centralized executive power.

→ By removing the suo moto power, the executives gain more control over its actions without a risk of judicial intervention. This leads to assertive and dominant executives, but raises concerns for check and balance.

→ With reduced judicial oversight, there is a risk of decreased accountability, that could lead to the misuse of power.

### The Legislature:-

→ The inclusion of a special parliamentary committee in the judicial appointment will change

the course of judicial appointments.

→ The increased parliamentary oversight can lead to a more balanced power distribution. This move can ensure that the executive have an unchecked power and the legislature have a stronger role in the judicial matters.

→ The potential for increased political influence in the judicial matters raise concerns about the independence of judiciary and impartiality of its decisions.

### Judiciary :-

→ With this amendment, the power of judiciary to initiate its own cases is taken. The role of judiciary in addressing public grievances and ensuring justice is limited.

→ The tenure of Chief Justice is capped to three years. ~~One~~ On one side it could lead to delay in justice with frequent changes but on the other hand it might help in preventing the concentration of power and give a fresh start to the judiciary.

→ The changes in the judiciary structure and powers may impact their independence, and it could compromise their purpose to provide justice.



## Conclusion :-

The long term impact of the twenty-sixth amendment will depend on how these changes are implemented. The amendment greatly raises the concerns about the judicial independence that won't be in the best interest of the state.

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## TERRORISM

### Introduction:-

In the past few years, Pakistan has faced a new wave of terrorism. The civilians, the foreigners and the security forces all have been under the target across the country. Pakistan has made several policies over the last decade to counter the terrorism but it seems to fail each time. Let's see how the policies end up in a failure each time and terrorists succeed in their goal.

### Policy Failures:-

#### 1) Inconsistent measures:-

Pakistan's counter-terrorism policies, such as National Action Plan, National Internal Security Policy or the operation like Azm-e-Istikhram have been criticized to be reactive rather than proactive. All the measures lack a comprehensive strategy.

that fails it in addressing the root cause of the terrorism

### Selective Approach:-

Pakistan has historically adopted a selective approach towards military groups, supporting some while targeting others. The inconsistency has allowed the thriving of certain groups.

### Weak Implementation:-

Despite the introduction of policies the implementation has been weak and inconsistent. This has resulted in a lack of effective action against terrorist groups.

### Border Security:-

The long, porous border of Afghanistan has allowed the militant groups to move freely across the border, making it difficult to control and monitor terrorist activities.

## Challenges

These are factors that come in the way of Pakistan in combating terrorism

### Socioeconomic factors:-

High level of poverty, unemployment, and social inequality create an environment conducive to radicalization and recruitment by militant groups.

## Regional instability

The instability in Afghanistan, particularly after the Taliban return led to increased cross-border terrorist activities.

## Lack of coordination :-

There is a lack of coordination between various law enforcement and intelligence agencies that hamper the effective counter-terrorism efforts.

## Public trust :-

The public's trust in the government's ability to combat terrorism has been eroded due to past failures and perceived complicity with certain militant groups.

## Recommendations

- Long-term counter terrorism comprehensive strategies are needed to address the root causes of terrorism.
- Address the socio-economic disparities and social grievances so that such individual don't end up being used by the terrorist groups.
- Enhance border security measures to prevent the movement of militants across the border with Afghanistan.
- Ensure consistent and effective implementation of counter-terrorism policies.

- Engage <sup>with</sup> the communities to build trust and cooperation in the fight against Terrorism.

### Conclusion:-

The resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan underscores the need for a more robust and coordinated approach to effectively combat this menace. Addressing the underlying issues and implementing comprehensive strategies are crucial steps towards achieving lasting peace and stability.

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## PAKISTAN FOREIGN POLICY

Pakistan's foreign policy is often criticised at lacking direction and consistency. In the light of evolving regional and global dynamics, with its strategic location and multifaced challenges, Pakistan needs a foreign policy that is coherent, proactive and adaptive to emerging realities. We discuss the challenges and then recommendations for achieving a more streamline foreign policy.

### CHALLENGES

#### 1- Lack of Strategic Clarity :-

- Pakistan often oscillates between competing alliances, such as balancing relations with China.

and the United States.

- The responses of Pakistan to the crisis in the region, such as Taliban's resurgence in Afghanistan, often appear reactive rather than strategically planned.

### Dependence on Foreign Aid

Pakistan has a heavy reliance on the economic assistance from nations like Saudi Arabia and non-state actors like World Bank and IMF which reduces its foreign policy independence. This reliance creates vulnerabilities and limits the ability to adopt long-term strategic goals.

### Geopolitical pressures

- The enduring rivalry with India over Kashmir issue remains the cornerstone of foreign policy, so much that it sometimes detracts from broader regional engagement.

- The relations with Iran are constrained by Pakistan's ties with Saudi Arabia and United States, resulting in a limited economic and security cooperation.

### Erosion of global standing:

Repeated domestic political instability undermines Pakistan's credibility as a reliable partner on international levels. Pakistan's image has been tarnished globally.

with perceived support for terrorism and human rights criticism.

### Missed Economic Opportunities

Pakistan's inability to capitalize on regional initiatives such as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor hinders its foreign policy effectiveness. There has been a limited focus on trade diplomacy means it remained sidelined in the major regional economic projects.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Defining National Interests :-

Pakistan needs to clearly outline its long-term global goals beyond security concerns. It needs to focus on economic growth, energy security and regional connectivity. Pakistan needs to prioritize economic development through enhanced trade relations particularly with central Asia and Africa.

### Diversifying Partnerships

Pakistan needs to strengthen ties with underutilized partners like European Union and ASEAN nations. Balance relations with global powers (China, U.S., Russia) to avoid overdependence on any single entity that compromises the independence of foreign policy.

### Regional Cooperation :-

Pakistan should enhance the regional cooperation by actively engaging with neighbors like

Afghanistan and Iran to stabilize the region and foster economic collaboration. Pakistan should utilize regional platforms like SAARC and ECO to build trust and address common challenges like climate change and energy shortages.

### Diplomatic Institutions:-

Pakistan should invest in capacity-building for the foreign service to better navigate complex global developments. There should be merit-based approach to diplomatic appointments to enhance professionalism and credibility.

### Leveraging Soft Power

Pakistan should work on promoting cultural, educational and humanitarian initiatives to rebuild Pakistan's international image.

### Realigning with Economic Diplomacy

Pakistan should focus on enhancing trade and investment opportunities with emerging markets. It should develop strategies to fully exploit projects like CPEC while addressing inefficiencies and improving project execution.

### Conclusion:-

Pakistan's foreign policy can no longer afford to drift aimlessly. The modern global

environment, characterized by rapid shift in power dynamics and evolving challenges like climate change and technological competition, necessitates a foreign policy grounded in strategic clarity and economic pragmatism. Only through a comprehensive and effective response to regional challenges, leveraging its strategic location and secure a stable and Pakistan can secure a stable and prosperous future.