

Question - 04

Answer:

1. Introduction:

Sir Sayed Ahmed Khan was an influential scholar, visionary, and reformer. He sought to uplift the muslim community in British India through education and modern thought. He believed that ignorance was the root cause of the community's decline and he worked tirelessly to reconcile modern scientific ideas with Islamic teachings. His progressive approach to education and reform left an enduring legacy that still resonates in socio-cultural and educational framework of South Asia.

2. Reconciling Modern Scientific Thought with Religion:

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Sir Sayed Ahmed Khan firmly believed that Islam is not at odds with modern science and rationality. He argued that true understanding of religion necessitates the pursuit of knowledge including scientific and rational thought. He stated:

"Truth does not become falsehood simply because it is expressed in a language foreign to us, nor does falsehood become truth because it is found in Arabic."

(a) Philosophical outlook of Sir Sayed:

Sir Sayed believed that the Quran encourages inquiry and reasoning. He urged Muslims to interpret religious texts in the light of contemporary knowledge. For him, understanding the laws of the nature was not only permissible in Islam but also an obligation. He famously remarked:

"The real object is to teach mankind about spiritual truth. Science and philosophy are its allies, not its enemies."

(b) The Aligarh Movement:

Sir Sayed emphasized intellectual revival through his Aligarh movement by combining Islamic principles with western scientific knowledge. The movement aimed to prepare Muslims to adapt to the changing socio-political landscape of British India.

(c) Translation of Scientific Knowledge:

Sir Sayed Ahmed Khan established Scientific Society of Aligarh in 1864 to make western knowledge accessible to Indian Muslims. The society translated key scientific and literary works from English into Urdu, bridging the knowledge gap.

(d) Tahzeeb-ul-Akhlaq (The Refinement of Morals):

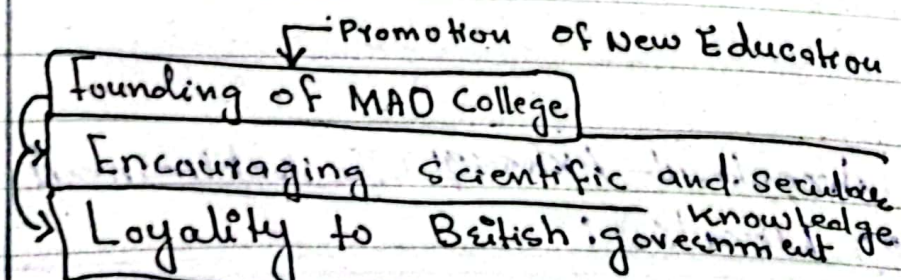
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This journal became a platform of Sir Sayed's ideas, where he wrote extensively about the harmony between religion and reason. In one of his articles, he wrote:

"Ignorance is the mother of poverty and degradation. If we wish to elevate ourselves, we must spread education and enlightenment."

3. Sayed's Promotion of New Education:

Sir Sayed identified education as the cornerstone of progress and dedicated his life to establishing a system that blended modern subjects with Islamic values. He wanted Muslims to overcome their resistance to western education, which they perceived as alien to their tradition.



(a) Founding of Muhammadan Anglo Oriental College (MAO):

Sir Sayed founded MAO in Aligarh in 1875, which later became Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) in 1920. He envisioned this institution as a center for intellectual growth, fostering leadership among Muslims. He explained:

"We must equip our children with the tools of modern education. It is the only way to preserve our identity and make our voice heard."

In MAO College the curriculum was combined with disciplines like science, Mathematics, English and Islamic Studies.

(b) Encouraging Scientific and Secular Knowledge:

Sir Sayed advocated that Muslims should embrace modern

professions, including medicine, law, and administration, to regain their socio-economic status. He urged them to abandon their aversion to English education and said:

"If you wish to see your children prosper, do not shy away from educating them in the sciences of the west. It is not the language of the infidel; it is the language of progress."

(c) Loyalty to British government:

Post 1875, Sir Sayed advised Muslims to remain loyal to the British administration as a pragmatic strategy. He worked to rebuild trust between the two communities, believing that political stability was essential for educational and social progress.

4. Evidence of His Impact:

(a) Increased literacy among Muslims:

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MAO College played a pivotal role in increasing literacy rate and creating a new class of educated Muslim professionals. By the late 19th century it had become a symbol of cultural and intellectual resurgence.

(b) Scientific Society's Achievement:

The Society translated key works of thinkers like Newton and Darwin into Urdu, helping Muslims engage with global scientific development.

(c) Aligarh Alumni in Leadership Roles:

Many graduates of MAO college went on to play significant role in freedom struggle and establishment of Pakistan. Maulana Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali Jhalar are the prominent names of its Alumni. Liaquat Ali Khan, the first Prime Minister of Pakistan was also MAO graduate.

5. Literary Contributions of Sir Sayeed:

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- ① - Asar us - Sanadid (1847)
↳ Early example of scientific and historic writings in India
- ② - The Causes of Indian Revolt (1857)
↳ Rational analysis of 1857 uprising
- ③ - Tahzeeb ul - Akhlaq
↳ Discussions of contemporary issues

6. Conclusion:

"I have devoted my life to ^{the} upliftment of my community and the promotion of education. If we remain ignorant we shall perish."

- Sir Sayed Ahmed Khan -

Sir Sayed Ahmed Khan remains a beacon of progress and thought and a symbol of resilience in the face of adversity. His efforts to harmonize science with religion, promote education, and uplift the socio-political status of Muslims continue to inspire millions. His legacy is ^{best} preserved in the halls of Aligarh Muslim University, where his vision of combining faith with reason and modernity lives on.

Question - 06

1. Introduction:

The absence of a coherent long-term economic vision has been a recurring issue in Pakistan's history. The World Bank estimates that Pakistan's average GDP has hovered around 3-4% annually over the last decades, far below the potential of a country ^{with} over 200 million people and abundant resources. The country's economic planning often focuses on short term gains to address immediate crises, leaving structural reforms and sustainable development neglected. As former finance minister (shaq) Das aptly noted in 2023: "Economic policies in Pakistan are often dictated by politics rather than economics." This statement underscores the systematic challenges that have led to inconsistent and unsustainable economic outlooks.

2. Challenges in long-term policy formation:

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(a)

Political instability and short term governance cycles:

Pakistan's political instability is one of the primary reasons for the lack of long term economic planning. According to a report by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), the country has seen over 20 changes in government since 1947, with military interventions further disrupting democratic processes.

- Short Termism: Government often prioritize policies that yield immediate results, such as subsidies or quick infrastructure projects to gain electoral favor.
- Policy Discontinuity: Successive administrations abandon the initiatives of their predecessors, creating gaps in long-term planning and execution.

(b)

Lack of Institutional capacity and vision:

The Planning Commission of Pakistan, the institution responsible for long-term economic planning, has faced criticism for inefficiency and lack of autonomy.

- Poor Execution: Many five year plans have been underfunded or poorly implemented.

Centralized Decision Making:

Over centralization of economic decision making in Islamabad has alienated provincial governments, leading to regional disparities.

(c) Dependence on External Financing:

Pakistan's reliance on foreign aid and loans has controlled its ability to formulate independent economic policies. The IMF's frequent bailouts, including the recent 7 billion dollars in 2024, often come with stringent conditions that prioritize immediate fiscal stabilization over long term growth.

Debt Servicing:

Over 40% of Pakistan's annual budget is spent on debt repayments, leaving limited resources for development.

Economic Vulnerability:

Fluctuations in foreign aid and remittances undermine the country's economic stability.

d) Neglect for Structural Reforms:

Despite recommended suggestions from economists and international org.

anizations: Pakistan has failed to implement structural reforms in key sectors.

Energy Crisis: Pakistan loses an estimated 2-3% GDP annually due to energy shortages and inefficiencies.

Taxation Issues: With a tax to GDP ratio of 9%, Pakistan ranks among the lowest in the world, highlighting a narrow tax base and widespread evasion.

Agricultural Inefficiencies: Agriculture contributes 24% to GDP but remains plagued by outdated techniques, water mismanagement, and inequitable land distribution.

(e) Lack of Inclusive Economic Planning:

Economic policies have been often favored urban centers and large industries leaving rural areas and small businesses behind.

Regional Inequality:

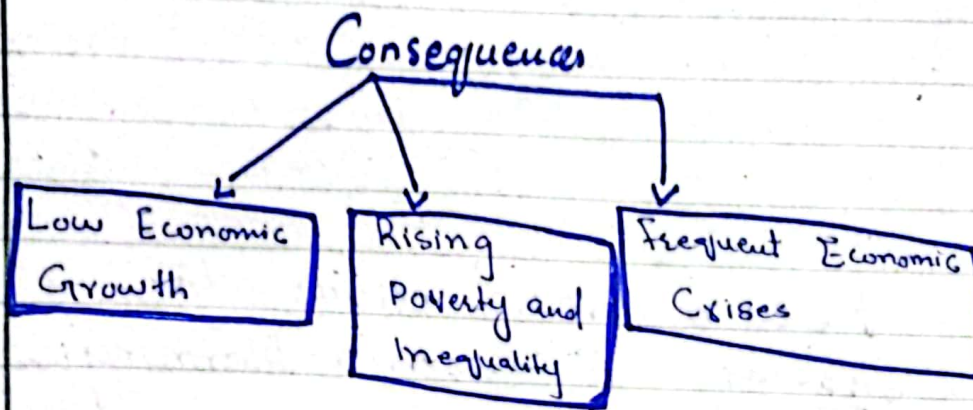
Provinces like Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa lag significantly in terms of infrastructure and social development.

Gender disparity:

Women's labor force participation remains below 22%, limiting the country's economic potential.

3.

The Consequences of Ad-Hoc policies



(a)

Low Economic growth:

According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, "The GDP growth rate has declined to around 0.3% in 2023, indicating stagnation."

This sluggish growth is partly due to the absence of consistent long term economic policies.

(b)

Rising Poverty and Inequality:

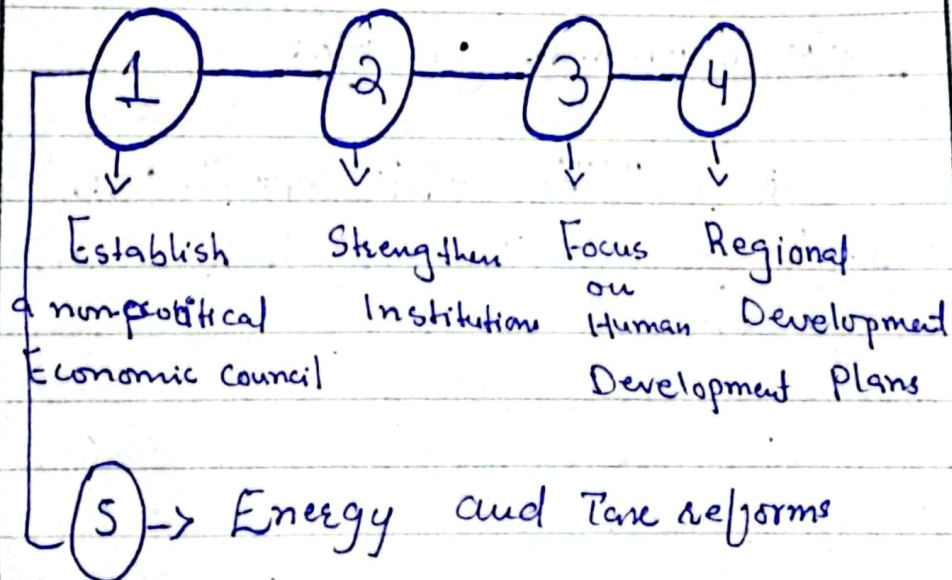
As of 2024, nearly 40% of Pakistan's population lives below

poverty line (World Bank). The failure to address structural issues such as unemployment, inflation and regional disparities exacerbates poverty.

(c) Frequent Economic Crises:

Pakistan has faced multiple balance of payment crises, with 24 IMF programs since 1958, reflecting a pattern of economic mismanagement and lack of self-reliance.

4. Recommendations for Strategic Economic planning:



Establish a non political Economic Council:

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An Independent body comprising economists, business leaders, and technocrats can ensure continuity in policy-making across governments.

Strengthen Institutions:

Empowering the planning commission with greater autonomy and resources can enhance its capacity to execute long-term plans.

Focus on Human Development:

Investing in education, healthcare and skill development will lay the foundation for sustained economic growth.

Regional development Plans:

Balanced development across provinces, with special attention to underdeveloped areas like Baluchistan, is essential for national cohesion and economic stability.

Energy and Tax Reforms:

Addressing the energy crisis and broadening the tax base are critical to reducing fiscal deficits and addressing investment.

5. Conclusion:

Pakistan's inability to frame and sustain long-term economic policies has resulted in fragmented goals, inconsistent reforms, and repeated economic crises. The path forward requires political stability, institutional strengthening, and a unified national vision for development. As the economist John Maynard Keynes once said, "In the long run, we all are dead," but for Pakistan, survival depends on thinking beyond the immediate and crafting policies for a sustainable and prosperous future.
