

Day: Friday

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Date: 20. Dec. 2024

Mock-6

CSS-2025

Subject: Pakistan Affairs

Question NO: 7

Introduction:

Education is the cornerstone of any nation's progress. In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, advancements in education are essential to keep up with technological and socio-economic developments. The statement, "The world is progressing so rapidly that without requisite advancements in education, not only shall we be left behind others but may be wiped out altogether" aptly reflects the challenges faced by countries like Pakistan. While nations are leveraging modern educational frameworks to drive innovation and growth, Pakistan's education system remains plagued by systemic challenges that hinder its progress.

Issues and Problems in the Education System of Pakistan:-

1) Outdated Curriculum and Teaching Methods

The curriculum in many Pakistani schools is not updated regularly and teaching methodologies are largely rote-based. This approach discourages critical thinking and problem solving skills. For instance, subjects like science and technology in Pakistani textbooks lag behind contemporary global standards.

2) Lack of Access to Education

A significant percentage of Pakistan's population lacks access to quality education, particularly in rural areas. According to UNESCO, 22.8 million children (aged 5-16) are out of school, making Pakistan one of the countries with the highest number of out-of-school children.

Use marker for references

3) Poor infrastructure and facilities:

Many public schools lack basic infrastructure like classrooms, clean drinking water, toilets and electricity. In regions like Balochistan and Sindh, schools often consist of just one or two classrooms and face severe resource shortages.

4) Gender Disparity:

Girls, especially in rural and conservative areas, are often denied education due to cultural barriers and lack of safety. The literacy rate for females is 49% compared to 70% for males (Pakistan Economic Survey 2022).

5) Low Budget Allocation:

Pakistan allocates only 2% of its GDP to education, which is significantly lower than the UNESCO-recommended figure of 4-6%. This insufficient funding restricts the development of educational infrastructure, teacher training and curriculum improvements.

6. Poor Teacher Training and Quality:

The teaching workforce in Pakistan is often underqualified and lacks modern pedagogical skills. Many teachers are hired based on political connections rather than merit. The lack of ongoing professional development means they are not equipped to handle new educational challenges.

7. Language Barrier:-

The medium of instruction varies between English and Urdu, creating a gap between students from public and private schools. English-medium education is often considered superior, but many students struggle due to insufficient language proficiency.

Solutions to the Education

System Problems in Pakistan:

1. Modernize Curriculum and Teaching techniques:

Regularly update the curriculum to align with global educational

standards and emphasize critical thinking and digital literacy.

Example: incorporate subjects like coding, environmental science and ethical reasoning into the national curriculum.

2) Increase Access to Education:

Launch initiatives to build more schools in rural areas and incentivize education for marginalized communities.

Example:- Programs like "Taleem-e-Balighan" (adult education) and Education stipend can be expanded to increase enrollment.

3) Improve infrastructures-

Allocate more resources to upgrade school infrastructure, ensuring every school has proper facilities.

Example:- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has implemented programs to improve school buildings and provide electricity through solar power.

4) Promote Gender Equality:-

Implement policies to encourage

female education by offering scholarships and ensuring safe school environments.

Example:- "Waseela-e-Taleem" program provides conditional cash transfers to families who send their daughters to school.

5) Boost Education Budgets
Increase education budget to at least 4% of GDP, in line with global standards.

Example:- Malaysia and Turkey have significantly improved their education systems by increasing their education spending.

6) Enhance Teacher Training:-
Provide comprehensive teacher training programs and professional development workshops.

Example: introduce certification programs to ensure teachers meet competency standards before entering classrooms.

7. Standardize language of instruction:
Adopt a bilingual approach, where primary education is imparted in local languages alongside English to gradually build proficiency.

Example: - Successful models like in India and China can be adapted for Pakistan's context.

Conclusion:-

The education system of Pakistan faces numerous challenges, from outdated curricula to infrastructural deficits and gender inequality. However, these problems are not insurmountable. By investing in education, modernizing teaching methods, and ensuring equitable access for all, Pakistan can prepare its youth to compete on a global level.

References:-

- Pakistan Economic Survey 2022 - Government of Pakistan.
- UNESCO Report on Out-of-School Children (2021).
- National Education Policy (2017) - Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

Question No: 3

Introduction:-

The resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan highlights systemic flaws in the country's counterterrorism policies. Despite numerous military operations and legislative measures over the past two decades, the threat of terrorism persists. Groups such as Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP), Islamic State Khorasan (IS-K), and Baloch Separatist factions have mounted a series of deadly attacks since 2000. These challenges call into question whether Pakistan's current approaches are equipped to tackle the evolving nature of terrorism effectively.

Policy Failures:-

1) Inconsistent Counterterrorism Policies:-

The failure to consolidate gains after military operations is a

Zarb-e-Azb (2014) and Add-ul-Fasad (2017), allowed terrorist networks to regroup.

Example:- The ceasefire agreement with TTP in 2022 was short lived and the group exploited the lull to rearm.

2) Weak implementation of National Action Plan (NAP)

NAP is introduced in 2014 after Army Public School attack in Peshawar, outlined a comprehensive framework to counter terrorism. However, the failure to fully implement its provisions has rendered the plan largely ineffective.

Examples:-

- Judicial reforms to expedite terrorism cases were inadequate.
- Madrasa reforms aimed at regulating religious schools have stalled.
- Hate speech regulation remains lax, allowing extremist narrative to thrive.
- Terror financing organizations linked to banned groups often rebrand and continue to operate.

under new names.

3) Lack intelligence Coordination:-
Effective counterterrorism relies on robust intelligence sharing among law enforcement, military and intelligence agencies. However, institutional rivalries and lack of centralized coordination have hampered efforts to preempt terrorist attacks.

Example:- 2023 Peshawar mosque bombing, which killed 100 people, exposed critical lapses in intelligence and security.

4) Geopolitical Challenges and Cross-Border Terrorism:-

Pakistan counter terrorism policies are further complicated by its geopolitical dynamics, especially its relationship with neighbouring Afghanistan.

Example:- Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in 2021 has emboldened TTIP.

5) Socioeconomic and Political Exclusion:-

Marginalized regions like Balochistan and former Federally Administered Tribal areas (FATA) provide fertile ground for extremist recruitment.

Example:- The Baloch insurgency is fueled by grievances over resource exploitation and marginalization.

Add more arguments. A 20 marks answer should have around 15 subheadings and be on 7-9 pages

Conclusion:-

The new wave of terrorism in Pakistan exposes significant policy failures, including inconsistent strategies, poor implementation of counterterrorism plans and lack of intelligence coordination. Addressing these failures requires a multifaceted approach: consistent policies, judicial and education reforms, socioeconomic development in marginalized areas and improved regional cooperation without such changes, the cycle of violence is likely to persist, undermining national security and stability.

References:-

1. International crisis group. (2022) Pakistan's Resurgent Terrorism Challenge.
2. Dawn News. (2022). Peshawar Mosque Bombing: Intelligence Failures and Policy Gaps.
3. Express Tribune. (2022). Why the NAP failed to curb Terrorism.

Question No :- 6

Introduction:-

Economic policies serve as the blueprint for a country's economic growth, sustainability and prosperity. In the case of Pakistan, a recurring challenge has been its inability to consistently create and sustain long-term economic policies. Instead, economic decisions have been often reactive, ad-hoc and short sighted, resulting in spasmodic growth patterns and

unclear strategic direction. This inconsistency hinders sustainable development, weakens investor confidence and exacerbates socio-economic challenges.

Reasons behind Pakistan's failure to establish long-term economic policies:-

1) Political instability and Short-Termism :-

Frequent changes in government lead to policy discontinuity and a tendency to focus on short-term, populist measures to win public support.

Example: National Finance Commission (NFC) Awards have often been delayed due to political discord, hindering consistent fiscal policy.

2) Dependence on External Aid and Loans :-

Pakistan's reliance on international loans from ^{international} organizations like

IMF and World Bank has led to economic policies dictated by the terms of these loans rather than long-term national interests.

Example:- IMF loans come with austerity measures

3) Weak institutional framework:-

The lack of strong and independent economic institutions undermines the ability to plan and execute long-term strategies.

Example:- Policies are frequently influenced by bureaucratic inefficiencies, corruption and vested interests.

4) Unclear Strategic Direction and Policy Inconsistency:-

The inconsistent priorities and lack of national consensus results in a fragmented policy landscape.

Example: lack of continuity in industrial policy, where some governments focused on import substitution while others promoted export-led growth has confused Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

5) Energy and Infrastructure Challenges:-
Without a sustained strategy in energy sector makes it inefficient and unable to support economic growth.

Example:- The energy crisis in 2010 resulted from neglect and short-term fixes.

6) Lack human Capital development:-
Pakistan's policies neglect investment in education, skills development and healthcare.

example:- Despite National Education Policy 2009, literacy rates and school enrollment remain low due lack of continuity and poor execution.

Solutions to Pakistan's Economic Challenges:

1) Strengthen Political stability and Policy continuity:-

Through National Economic Charter, institutional reforms and independent policy committees, political instability impacts can be decreased.

Example: like Bangladesh the textile industry flourished due to consistent policies.

2) Reduce Dependence on External aid and loans:-

Pakistan needs to diversify revenue sources by broadening tax base and improve tax compliance, promote exports such as textiles, agriculture, IT and services and encourage FDI by creating business climate.

3) Strengthen Institutional Framework:-

By restoring Planning Commission's authority, merit based appointments and anti corruption measures like in Singapore where strong corruption free institutions enable efficient planning and execution.

Add and highlight references/examples against these arguments

4) Develop clear and strategic economic goals:-

Long term vision plans such as vision 2025 or a new vision 2035 with measurable goals and timelines should be formulated. e.g. China's 5-year plans.

5) Invest in Energy and infrastructure development:- Shift towards sustainable

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and cost-effective energy sources such as solar, wind and hydroelectric power to address energy shortages is required.

6) Focus on Human Capital development:-

Education reforms, skill development programs and health care improvement are required to meet global standards for better human resource.

7) Develop a resilient Financial System:-

Financial inclusion by expanding banking services to rural and underdeveloped areas, stabilizing currency and inflation and strengthening capital markets are crucial steps.

8) Diversify economy:-

Pakistan needs to diversify economy by expanding beyond agriculture and textiles to sectors like technology, services, tourism and pharmaceuticals.

Conclusion:-

Pakistan's inability to formulate and sustain

long-term economic policies has led to ad-hoc, reactive and inconsistent measures that undermine growth and development. To achieve sustainable economic progress, Pakistan needs to develop a national consensus on long-term goals, strengthen institutions, reduce reliance on external aid and ensure policy continuity irrespective of political changes.

References:-

- 1- Governing the Ungovernable: Institutional Reforms for Democratic Governance. (2019) by I. Hussain.
- 2- International Monetary Fund (IMF) Reports on Pakistan. www.imf.org.
- 3- Pakistan Economic Survey (Annual Reports). Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan. www.finance.gov.pk.