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## Pakistan Affairs

### Q.5 Introduction

It is, indeed true that if we will not take charge of our population, then nature will do it for us. Nature would intervene in the form of pandemics, high infant mortality rate, and reduced life expectancy. In case of Pakistan, nature is intervening to control its burgeoning population of 240 million. The pandemic did contribute to decreasing the population of the country, moreover, infant mortality rate and death rate are also high. Besides this, measures can be taken to address this issue.

### Taking charge of Pakistan's population size

It is imperative for Pakistan to take charge of its population size. The population of Pakistan is growing at the rate of 3%, which is quite high. Nature did intervene in controlling Pakistan's population through the coronavirus pandemic, decreasing life expectancy, with many people in Pakistan dying in their 60s, and increasing infant mortality rate.

Pakistan must, however, prioritize controlling its population

because nature's role is not enough in putting a considerable dent on the burgeoning population of the country. unchecked increase in population would place undue burden on the limited resources of the country and would make survival hard for many families, perpetuating the cycle of poverty. Measures to address the increasing population of the country

(i)

Promoting family planning

One of the most important measures to address the increasing population of the country is the promotion of family planning. Families, especially in the rural areas, must be counseled with regard to having less children and reducing their family sizes.

(ii)

Incentivizing people to reduce the size of their families

People in interior Pakistan must be incentivized to reduce the sizes of their families. Financial and monetary benefits should be given to people to keep a

check on their family sizes and for sending to schools the children they have.

iii)

Addressing the religious sentiments of the people with regard to family size

Different segments of the Pakistani society deem birth control and family planning against the teachings of Islam. They believe that children are blessings from God and their arrival in this world must not be interefered with. Thus, this concern must be urgently addressed

iv)

Encouraging education among women

It is exceedingly necessary to promote education among women to control the growth of population in the country. Educated women are likely to get married at a later age and have less children. Many educated women also join the workforce, putting starting a family on the hold.

v)

Creating awareness among people about the benefits of smaller families

It is also important to create awareness among people about

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the benefits of smaller families. Smaller families mean better living standards, opportunities to gain an education, and better health and nutrition.

### Critical Analysis

While Pakistan's population is increasing rapidly and today Pakistan is the fifth most populous country of the world, with the help of some pragmatic measures this issue can be addressed. What is concerning is that the increase in the population of the country puts unmanageable pressure on the civic, food, and infrastructural resources of the country. Hence, the issue of population must be seriously taken up.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the demographic dividend which Pakistan has can be effectively utilized and channeled if it is properly managed. The population of the country must be prevented from expanding further than it already has. Moreover, the already present citizens of the country should be provided with education and used for constructive purposes.

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## Introduction

Many lessons have been learned regarding national integration, national identity, and development of democratic values on completion of 50 years of the Constitution of Pakistan, in the year 2023. The constitution of 1973 stipulated <sup>the</sup> mechanisms through which the process of national integration, the creation of national identity, and the evolution of democracy were to be undertaken. Thus, these areas must be thoroughly studied in order to understand their importance.

### The lessons learned regarding national integration

- (i) Constitutional provisions for national integration

The articles of the constitution lay down provisions for effective national integration within the country. The constitution, through its articles, clearly explains how the process of national integration is to be carried out, with people from different ethnicities, castes, and needs living together in a peaceful manner.

## ii) Current status of national integration in Pakistan

Pakistan is still struggling to achieve holistic national integration 50 years down the line since the enforcement of <sup>the</sup> Constitution of 1973. There are separatist tendencies in Balochistan and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces in the country. These issues must be addressed to promote national integration.

## Lesson Learned regarding national identity

### i) National identity as elaborated by the constitution

As per the constitution of 1973, the national identity of a Pakistani is based on his or her origin or place of birth. Moreover, this identity is independent of a person's religious background, ethnicity, caste, or creed.

### ii) Present day national identity in Pakistan

In present times, national identity in Pakistan has several layers attached to it. One does

not simply say that he or she is a Pakistani. A person has to present a complete picture of his or her Pakistani-ness and loyalty to the state.

### Lesson learned regarding development of democratic values

i) Establishment of democracy through the Constitution of 1973

The 1973 Constitution of Pakistan clearly states through Article 1 of the Constitution that Pakistan would be a 'Federal Republic'. This represents the democratic nature of the country. Moreover, Pakistan is to have a parliamentary form of government, which further reinforces the democratic nature of the country.

ii) Evolution of democracy in the last 50 years

The evolution of democracy since the imposition of the Constitution of 1973 has been erratic. There have been undemocratic interventions with restoration of democracy from time to time within the governance structure of the country. However, in recent times democracy is gaining momentum in the country.

## Critical analysis

After 50 years of the enforcement of the constitution of 1973, Pakistan finds itself at yet another cross-roads - The country has to work substantially hard in order to improve the process of national integration, to make its national identity far more clearly pronounced, and to continue with the momentum democracy has gained in recent times. Pakistan has a long way to go in terms of doing justice to the constitution of 1973. Developments such as the 18th Amendment to the Constitution in 2010 represents a promising start.

## Conclusion

To conclude, Pakistan has learned valuable lessons with regard to national integration, national identity and development of democracy over the course of 50 years of existence of the Constitution of 1973. Through these lessons, Pakistan can chart out its future trajectory and make the country more nationally and democratically sound. Pakistan must realize that this is the only way to tread the path of an uncertain future.



Q.7 Introduction

If Afghanistan and Pakistan do not adopt a consensus-based approach, the region's future would, indeed, be jeopardized. Instability and violence would, undoubtedly, prevail in the region. There would be an uptick in terrorist and insurgent activities, cross border tensions would increase, and the region would be deprived of its much needed peace and security. Hence, it is important to promote consensus based approach between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Absence of a regional consensus-based approach between Afghanistan and Pakistan

1) Cause of instability in the region

The absence of a regional consensus-based approach between Afghanistan and Pakistan would lead to instability in the region in the form of increased political and security based conflicts between the two countries. This would prevent progress and prosperity from prevailing in the region.

ii) Lack of a consensus leading to violence  
When consensus between Pakistan and Afghanistan would not be there to prevent things from getting out of hands, violence would erupt. The non-state actors in the two countries would take the law in their hands and wreak havoc in the region, disrupting peace and tranquility.

iii) Increase in extremism in the region  
Without any consensus between Pakistan and Afghanistan, extremism in the region would increase. The Pakistani Taliban in Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban in Afghanistan would collude to destroy the social fabric of the region, which would have far-reaching consequences.

iv) Proliferation of terrorist activities  
Terrorist activities in the region would increase as a result of a lack of agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan. There would be an increase in insurgency, especially in the Northern Areas of Pakistan and along its western

belt. This would spoil the harmony of the  
Eruption of cross border <sup>region</sup>  
tensions

Cross border tensions are likely to erupt between Afghanistan and Pakistan. This would be detrimental for the national security of both the ~~regions~~ <sup>nations</sup>. Commercial and trade related activities along the border would also decrease, compromising the economies of the <sup>countries</sup>.

(vi) Influence of India in  
Afghanistan

India's strategic depth in Afghanistan is also likely to increase. This would be ill for Pakistan. Pakistan would not want to be surrounded by India both from the east and the west. Hence, Pakistan must focus on pushing for a consensus based solution with Afghanistan, as India is Pakistan's main adversary.

(vii) Separatist tendencies in  
Balochistan

Separatist tendencies in Balochistan are also likely to erupt as a result of the strained relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The

marginalized population of Balochistan is vulnerable to influence from Afghanistan, which could push it to sever ties with Pakistan.

## Critical Analysis

The above discussion clearly delineates the importance of a regional consensus-based approach between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Without this approach, the South Asian region would remain deprived of peace, security, and prosperity. The South Asian region is an important region of the world and it is imperative that this region is prevented against instability and violence. This would ultimately translate into the betterment of the societies residing in this region.

## Conclusion

To conclude, a consensus-based approach is the <sup>only</sup> way forward. Both Pakistan and Afghanistan should be brought to the negotiation table to discuss their issues and resolve them in a diplomatic and humane manner. This would ensure regional peace and prosperity.

Q-8

## Introduction

Pakistan, indeed, stands at a critical juncture, as it is engulfed by economic, environmental and demographic challenges - These challenges would play a critical role in reshaping the future of the country. Pakistan is a country which is in its evolutionary phase in many aspects. Thus, the economic crisis which it is grappling with, along with the environmental pressures it faces, and the demographic changes which it is experiencing, Pakistan must tread ahead carefully.

### Economic challenges faced by Pakistan

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#### Low GDP growth rate

One of the most pressing economic problems which the country faces is that of a low GDP growth rate. The current rate of GDP growth in Pakistan is an abysmal 0.3%. This is indicative of the dearth of economic activity in the country. Business and commercial activities are at an all time low in the country.

ii)

### Balance of payment crisis

The country is also experiencing a balance of payment crisis. The exports of the country are much less than its imports. This has created a current account deficit and reduced the foreign exchange reserves of the country. Moreover, remittances from abroad are also at an all time low. This has put the economy of the country in dire straits.

### Environmental challenges faced by Pakistan

i)

#### Infrastuctural degradation

Pakistan's roads are broken and uncemented. Moreover, uncontrolled urbanization has led to illegal settlements and rapid increase in real estate development. This has put drastic pressure on the infrastucture of the country and has compromised it considerably.

ii)

#### Increase in environmental pollution

Due to an increase in environmental pollution, there is

waste material and garbage in different areas of the country. This is due to a lack of disposal mechanism and poor management.

iii)

### Destruction of natural resources

Pakistan is blessed with natural resources in the form of mountains, rivers, glaciers, and valleys. Unfortunately, these resources are being rapidly destroyed due to ineffective environmental management practices and a lack of focus on the environment issue.

### Demographic challenges faced by Pakistan

i)

#### Exponentially increasing population

Pakistan's population is increasing at an exponential rate. During the last census conducted in 2017, the population of the country was 207 million. In the most recent census conducted in 2023, the population of the country stands at 240 million. This indicates the high rate at which the country's population is rising.

ii)

The youth bulge of the country 60% of the population in the country comprises of young people. This means that this young

cohort of the population has to be provided for in the form of education and employment, and its needs and demands have to be catered to.

### Critical Analysis - challenges reshaping the Future of Pakistan

The challenges elaborated above would play a crucial role in reshaping the future of Pakistan. Pakistan would have to bring changes to its economic, environmental and demographic policies in order to address these challenges. As a developing country, Pakistan must chart out a strategy to prevent these challenges from getting out of control and to make them manageable.

### Conclusion

To conclude, Pakistan faces a myriad of problems which are not necessarily unrelated to each other. Pakistan must devise a proper mechanism to handle these problems and come clean of them, to ensure a prosperous future for the people of the nation.