

# Pakistan Affairs Mock

Q8.

## Introduction

The situation unfolding in Pakistan is like a horror story with each new crisis more horrifying than the last. A plethora of crises in Pakistan are culminating into a massive challenge for the country which can reshape its future. These include ~~environmental~~ environmental challenges such as water stress, flood and droughts. Moreover economic challenges include inflation, Balance of Payment deficit and unemployment which has and will ~~continue~~ <sup>continue</sup> to wreak havoc on the country. Finally, demographic challenges include a youth bulge, growing population and subjugation of the female segment which will culminate into economic and social challenges like illiteracy and burden on health care facilities. These factors will be discussed in this answer.

## Economic challenges that can reshape Pakistan's future

### Inflation and slow progress

Unprecedented inflation has been experienced this year. For instance, the average inflation per month stood at 29%.

in 2023. This entails that the Pakistani citizens are unable to purchase supplies and their standard of living has fallen. There are predictions of an even turbulent year due to political instability which will lead to lower economic progress.

### Dependence of on Imported goods

Unfortunately, Pakistan depends on imports as it lacks in self-sufficiency. Thus, essential goods and commodities such as fuel particularly oil and food items such as wheat are imported. This ensures that Pakistan is unable to develop self-sufficiency despite having ample to indigenous coal and renewable energy sources. According to the Finance Ministry, the Balance of Payments Deficit (Current Account Deficit in 2023 (December) stood at \$33 billion.

### Lower Exports Than Needed

Pakistan does not export as much as needed to sustain the country. This leads to a challenge as more is spent on imports than made through exports, leading to consistent Balance of Payments Crisis. Thus, Pakistan's challenge in the future will be to avoid default and

Reduce dependence of essential goods imported while increasing exports.

## Dependence on the IMF

The IMF has put austere measures on Pakistan by forcing an increase in taxes and creating a tax scheme that lets go of the elites and punishes the middle class. Moreover, Pakistan remains in a debt trap by consistently begging the IMF for more money and not collecting its inherent flaws (Muhammad Zubair, Has the IMF failed Pakistan? 2023). The challenge is to please the IMF to maintain its relationship and also break away from the pattern of running to the IMF again and again as Pakistan is now on its 23rd plan with IMF.

## Maintaining stronger ties with China

Pakistan needs to maintain its strong ties with China economically and in the future increase collaboration. The challenges will be to provide increased incentive for China to invest more in the CPEC after progress has reduced. Moreover, consistent and collective economic policies are a challenge to Pakistan, which will continue to be a challenge with the increasing

government in the future. As highlighted by Riz Rizuddin, it is not the policy but the constant changes to policy that are weakening hand on the economy.

## Increasing Challenge of Increasing FDI

Pakistan suffers from ~~reduced~~ ~~minimum~~ foreign direct investment (FDI) which needs to be collected. The challenge is to motivate foreign investors to increase their investment in the country which may be a challenge. This is evident from the 'Ease of Doing Business' Ranking which is 108/190 in the 2022 Index.

## Unemployment on an upward trajectory

Unemployment has increased in recent years due to the rising population. This proves to be a challenge because more people will be added onto Pakistan's plate and no effective strategy has been developed to mitigate it. Moreover, labour is unskilled and not demanded by the market which is only increasing in the future if not remedied (Neda Gulji, Skills vacuum, 2023)

## Environment challenges that can reshape Pakistan's future

### Transitioning away from fossil fuels and the financial impacts

Climate change has forced the world to adopt green energy techniques. Pakistan depends on oil and fossil fuels in general to meet its energy needs. This will challenge Pakistan as ~~change~~ they it will have to completely revamp its energy structure to be more climate-friendly and climate resilient (Aisha Khan, Let's Adapt, 2023).

### Increased instances and intensity of climate disasters

Pakistan will see much greater and numerous more climate disasters in the future. This is an existential crisis for Pakistan which is the 8th most vulnerable country when it comes to climate change (GreenWatch). Pakistan's infrastructure will be uprooted and the general population will continue to suffer at ~~the~~ such as during the floods in 2022. <sup>Such as to put into perspective,</sup> where a majority of the schools in Sindh have still not been repaired (20,000 schools) which have deprived 2.3 million children of education.

(Naseer Meemon, Forgotten schools, 2023).

## Water stress and crisis in the future

According to Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, 95% of Pakistan's water is used in agriculture and the rest for domestic use. He highlights that Pakistan's water tables have reached detrimental levels which make the country on the brink of a water crisis. This will prove to be a challenge as the increasing population will need water as it is essential to all life. The water that is being wasted now will catch up to Pakistan in the future.

## Demographic challenges to be faced by Pakistan in the future

### Population growth unsustainable

The population growth in Pakistan stands at 2.55% according to the Digital census of 2023. This is higher than the regional average and poses a challenge to Pakistan. The country has resources that are scarce and cannot cater to the growing needs of the future population. This may lead to malnutrition, unemployment and lower standard of living as limited resources are spread thin.

## Inflated youth bulge and future unrest

The youth bulge in Pakistan is a major problem and will continue to be in the future. According to Malleha Lodhi, the youth consists of 64% of the population. This means that the fertile population may fuel future generation which may lead to more growth. Moreover, there would be increased unemployment and greater unrest.

## Critical analysis

Pakistan faces ~~with~~ a myriad of challenges that are all interlinked. So, solving one challenge may precipitate into solving others. For example, ~~the~~ reducing the demographic challenge of increasing population may lead to reduced unemployment and ~~lack of~~ <sup>reduced change</sup> resource depletion in the future. Hence, all the challenges mentioned are interlinked in a complex cobweb and can be solved collectively.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, Pakistan faces existential challenges. These include economic challenges such as

unemployment and inflation. Another challenge is environmental which will have a severe impact on the country with increasing and intense climate disasters. Lastly, demographic challenges will lead to unemployment and resource depletion due to over-population according to the theory of Malthus.

Q5

### Introduction

Historically, a large population was considered a source of strength for a nation as it meant a greater workforce and larger army. Now, the rising population is seen as a threat to welfare and stability such as in the case of Pakistan. It is said that nature will take care of Pakistan's population - this can be through resource depletion or evolutionary processes like natural selection. However, these can be corrected in Pakistan so an efficient population size is achieved such as through use of contraceptives and engaging religious leaders.



## Role of nature in collecting Pakistan's population wobbles

### Depletion of resources: food

Resources will be needed in order to survive. In the case of the large population of Pakistan, resources are already depleting with lower yields of food and to sustain the population. This could lead to is due to the over use of land to grow food and as population grows, the resources are not enough to feed them. Hence, people could become malnourished and eventually die due to starvation.

### Overutilization of water: vital for human life

Water is quickly depleting which is vital to sustain human life. Over-consumption of water would ensure that there is none left for future generations. Moreover, water can also become unsanitary after overconsumption. That would ensure that population of Pakistan would naturally be wiped out in the absence of water. Currently, 25% of water is used for agriculture (Ali Tanqueer Sheikh, In troubled waters, 2021). This trend would

only increase and deplete the water table.  
Hence, the population of Palustris would  
be wiped out.

Increased use of fossil fuels - climate change  
will reduce Palustris's population.

Large population would <sup>lead to</sup> require larger  
consumption in the country. This in  
turn would mean that more fossil  
fuels are used for energy consumption for  
manufacturing and domestic use. Overall,  
this cumulatively adds to the greenhouse  
gases and causes climate change.  
Climate change would cause havoc  
by bringing floods, droughts, storms  
among other natural disasters which  
will wipe off the population naturally.

Excess more pumping of pollution in the  
atmosphere and health deterioration of  
population.

A large population would produce  
more pollution. This would contribute  
into health deterioration. In the case  
of air pollution, increased smog for  
example leads to infections,  
bronchitis, asthma, heart problems,

ling problems among others (Soot  
(Janil Ahmad, South Asia's smog, 2023).

More diseases in animals that are  
consumed

With more demand for animals for  
consumption, a more lenient eye  
will be kept on the sanitation of  
these animals. More animals in one  
place are centres for diseases such  
as cattle kept in abundance in one  
area can become sick and infect all  
other cattle around leading to diseases  
like mad cow disease among others. Hence,  
people population increase can  
indirectly cause diseases through  
increased demand for animals.

More instances of vector diseases

Overpopulated areas see a  
rise in vector diseases. This is because  
those areas are not sanitary. For  
example stagnant dirty water are  
breeding grounds for mosquitoes  
which can lead to dengue and  
malaria. This was seen after the  
floods of 2022 where malaria increased.

by five fold with reported cases escalating from 500,000 in 2021 to 2.6 million in 2022 (World Malaria Report, 2023). This would naturally reduce the population.

Measures to remedy the future situation of unsustainable population size

Use of contraception encouraged

Contraception is an effective way to reduce the population size in the future. This can also lead to the reduction of diseases and female mortality during deaths during child birth. ~~Populate~~ For example success has been witness in the ~~Nashonawa~~ (grows) program Punjab where a study found that contraception use increased 31.7%.

Collaborating with religious leaders

Religious leaders sometimes discourage contraception calling it un-Islamic. By creating awareness and pushing the religious scholars who understand that contraception is not killing unborn children but preventing them to be conceived in the first place, people will adopt contraception. Religion plays a key role in the lives of

Pakistanis. Hence, engaging and collaborating with religious leaders and clerics will be effective.

## Increasing literacy to reduce population

The crux of the matter is that people Pakistanis are not educated and ~~practice population~~ continue to overpopulate the country. According to the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional ~~Skills~~ Training, 60 million people are ~~uneducated~~ illiterate. This means that they follow societal norms rather than research. Hence, education is vital for population growth to reduce.

## Awareness of adverse impact of increased population

To create awareness, the local government can be involved. The government can hold programs and create awareness among both men and women of the detrimental impact of increased population. Thus, article 140-A of the constitution need to be put into force ~~as such as~~ to include the local government

## Invest in sustainable agriculture

A long-term strategy should be adopted and more should be invested in food and water especially for the short-term as population growth will take time to ease. This is a cautionary step to ensure that people don't starve to death and are not malnourished. The investment of food and water is applauded by several experts for sustainable growth such as Hajar Nizamani in his article Investing in food and water (2023).

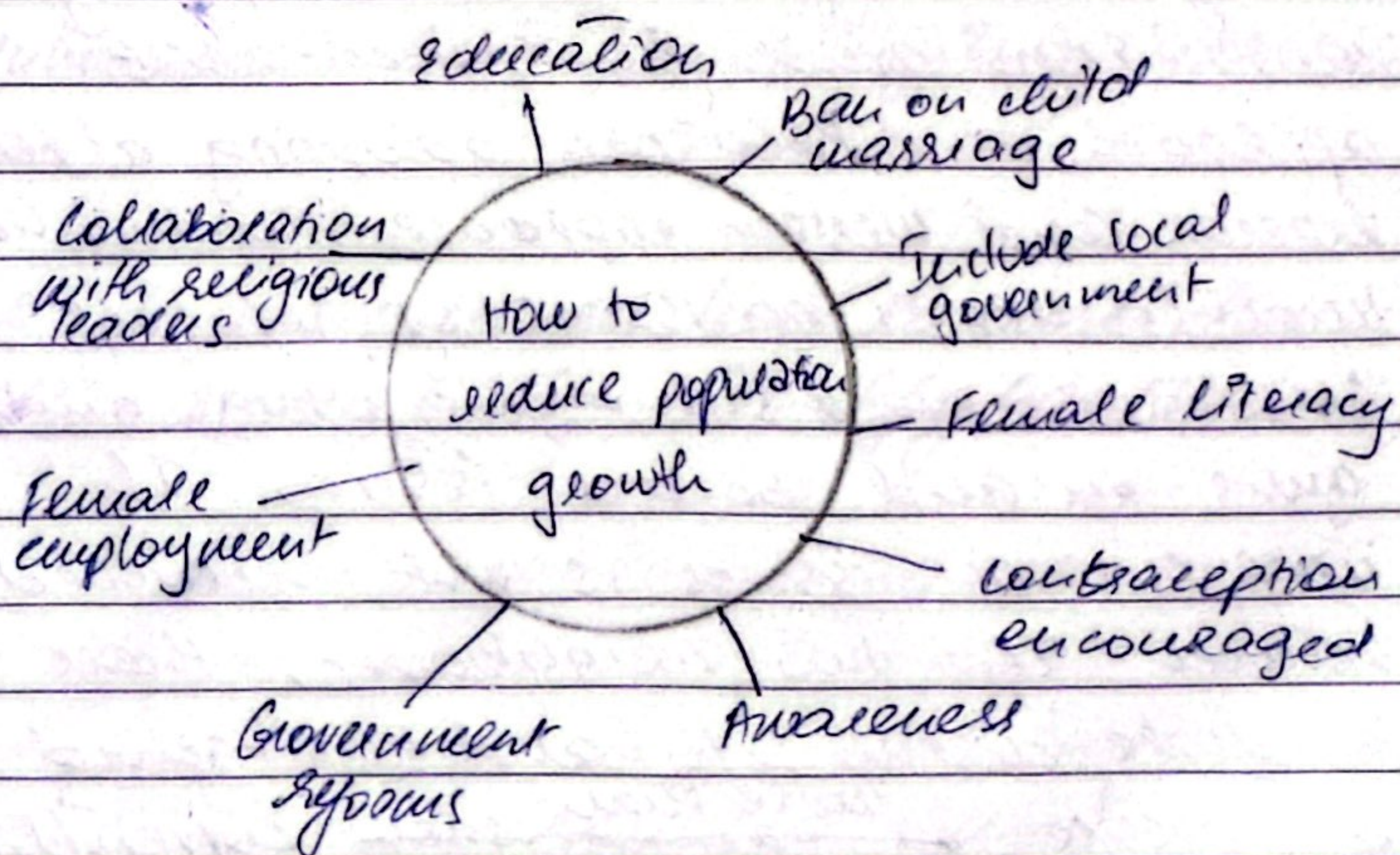
## Female employment increased

Women should be motivated and encouraged to pursue employment. Her role should not only be to remain in the home and bear children. More focus on career will ensure that women have children at a later age and less children overall. This can be seen in South Korea that has the lowest fertility rate in the world which can be attributed to female literacy and employment.

## Prescribing benefits to couples with less children

People should be incentivised through monetary and other benefits to have less children. For example education in private schools can be paid for by the government if a couple has less than 3 children. Moreover, healthcare in private hospitals would also be free. This would encourage a cap on children and reduce population growth overall.

## Measures to counter increasing population



## Conclusion

In conclusion, if population is not



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reduced their value would remove it through climate change, diseases, pollution among other things. Moreover, the population could be reduced through government policies, contraception use and female employment and literacy.

Q7.

### Introduction

The two Muslim nations have a turbulent history since the inception of Pakistan. They have differing views on government and society with Afghanistan adopting a more rigid and fundamentalist approach and Pakistan adopting a relatively liberal and western approach. The two have knocked heads on issues of refugees, terrorism, ~~sm~~ smuggling drugs and guns and border issues. If consensus on issues is not achieved between the two neighbours, there may be more instability and heightened level of violence ~~as can be seen~~ <sup>more than</sup> currently in place.



What the absence of regional consensus-based approach holds for the region  
Disagreement on how to curb terrorism

Afghanistan denies terrorism even stemming from within its borders. Whereas Pakistan has time and again asked the Interim Government of Afghanistan to expel them from their land. This ~~is~~ disagreement even with the basic location base of the terrorists means that the issue is far from being tackled. They cannot collectively work towards eliminating terrorism if they cannot even agree on where it is coming from.

\* (Muhammad Anil Rana, Fighting Terrorism, 2023).

lack of consensus on how to curb the dollar smuggling into Afghanistan

Pakistan has repeatedly asked the Afghan government to prevent the dollars that are stolen from Pakistan to enter into their country. Pakistan is already suffering from a economic crisis and this matter is an unresolvable cause for contention. With no consensus, violence against Afghans

will cause within the borders of Pakistan and this could culminate into worst relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

### Citizenship impediments for Afghan refugees in Pakistan

Another factor that needs consensus is the citizenship of Afghan refugees. Afghan government needs to work in collaboration with Pakistan to figure out a strategy for the 3.7 million refugees in Pakistan. Without consensus, Afghan refugees will continue to face discrimination. Moreover, some refugees have lived their whole lives in Pakistan, they need to be given citizenship or be repatriated into Afghanistan. However consensus cannot be reached which may lead to instability.

### Consensus needed in the refugee deportation case

The government of Pakistan announced that refugees without POR cards who should voluntarily leave Pakistan before the 1st of November 2023. This created a huge exodus of Afghans ~~from~~ leaving Pakistan and

\* (Noorulain Naseem, Afghan Refugees and Apex Committee decision to deport illegal migrants from Pakistan (2023))

entering Afghanistan. This is seen as a retaliation from Pakistan for the terrorist activities coming from TTP in Afghanistan.\*  
Consensus needs to be reached on how to solve the refugee problem because it could lead to a fresh pool of recruits for terrorism and lead to instability in the region.

## Clash between the Pakhtuns of Pakistan and Afghanistan

The large numbers of refugees in KPK and Balochistan may lead to clashes between the citizens and non-citizens if they are battling for resources. This may create instability and violence between the two groups and region at large.

## Border control problems

Frequent clashes result at the Torkham border. These border problems need to be mitigated through consensus so that the region can remain stable. Violence often ensues at the border as people try to illegally cross it. This needs to be mitigated.

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## Increased chance of drug smuggling and revival of opium industry

Opium industry was outlawed by the Taliban. However, desperate population stricken by poverty may have no choice but to cultivate poppy. ~~So~~ The opium industry and drug industry may be revived and create regional instability. Afghanistan and Pakistan need to work to mitigate this crisis and ensure regional stability.

## Gun Kalashnikov culture

Consensus needs to be reached on reducing the gun culture. This culture has existed since the war on terror (Anatol. Lieven, Pakistan: A Hard Country, 2012). Hence, consensus would ensure that violence is removed by regulating guns and preventing a revival of ~~Kalashnikov~~ Kalashnikov culture.

## Economic collaboration

Consensus needs to be reached on formal trade and economic ties. This would ensure the stability and violence in the region.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the Afghanistan Pakistan relations lack a consensus based approach. This can culminate into regional instability and violence through increased terrorism, drug smuggling, currency smuggling and Kalashnikov culture. Hence, consensus is needed to bring stability collectively.

Q2.

## Introduction

Religious personalities Shah Wali Ullah and Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi created a deep impact on the subcontinent through their actions and teachings. They both contributed socially and religiously in the subcontinent through their work along with their teachings. Their contribution along with their impact will be studied in this answer.

## Services of Shah Wali Ullah (1703-1762)

Translation of the Quran into Persian  
Shah Wali Ullah bestowed a

great favour on the people of the  
subcontinent by translating the Quran  
into Persian from Arabic. This ensured  
that ~~more~~ more people could understand  
it and read it.

wrote letters to Ahmad Shah Abdali to  
curb the Marathas

Shah Wali Ullah wrote about the  
threat of the Marathas and their  
mistreatment and threat to the Muslims.  
Ahmad Shah Abdali marched from Afghani-  
stan to battle the Marathas in the battle  
of Panipat and won.

Taught future religious scholars.

Shah Wali Ullah taught many  
future scholars who spread the message  
of Islam. These also included his sons  
who translated the Quran into Urdu  
ensuring that more people read  
and understand it.

Taught social justice and removal  
of inequality

Shah Wali Ullah was an advocate of

social justice and removal of inequality in society so that more people could be on the same social footing. This promoted general welfare.

### Publications for Enlightenment of the Muslims.

His publications were to enlighten the Muslims of the subcontinent and included *Al Faut al Kabir*, *Muqadima fe Tafsir Qur'an* and *Hajjat ul Bag Balaghah*.

### Services of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi (1564-1624)

Removal of mysticism and distillation of true essence of Islam.

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi abhorred mysticism and preached the practice of fundamental Islam. He did not see the logic behind walking and making noise in love for God but rather in silent prayer and place. He taught Islam according to the Quran and Sunnah. He was thus regarded as 'reviver of the second millennium.'

## Shunning Deen-i-Illahi

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi skinned human invention of Deen-i-Illahi which was created by Akbar. It included elements of both Islam and Hinduism and did not practice true Islam. It was dismissed by Sheikh Ahmad, and many followed him in ~~pract~~ practicing true Islam.

## Opposition to Bidat

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi abhorred Bidat which did not follow Islamic teachings. He believed that all Muslims should follow the teachings of Islam and avoid making additions and subtractions based on their own free will. Thus, fundamental Islam was taught to Muslims through opposing Bidat (Ahmad Saeed, Trek to Valistan).

## Training of future scholars

Future scholars were trained under Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi to provide the true meaning of Islam. Hence many Muslims began



planning the true message of Islam.

## Work produced for Enlightenment

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi produced many books for enlightenment of the Muslims. These included the *Isbat-ul-Nabat* and *Risal-i-Nabuwat*.

## Impact on the history of the subcontinent

### Muslim identity revival

The Muslims of the subcontinent were able to form their own identity. This instilled in them a sense of confidence and autonomy.

### Distinguishment from the Hindus

The Muslims were able to form their own social group: they could cleanse their culture of Hindu culture. The pure Muslim culture based on Islamic principles was adopted. This also gave impetus to the Two Nation Theory later formalised by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

## Later demand for Pakistan

Muslims were able to realise how different they were from the Hindus. They demanded their homeland where they could freely practice Islam taught by these scholars. "To me capitalism, ~~socialism~~ communism and other issues in this world have no importance. Islam is the only ideology which is the reason of salvation" - Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

## Inspiration to future leaders of Muslims

Through the values instilled by these scholars, Muslim leaders emerged in the subcontinent including Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and Shaukat Ali Jinnah, Aga Khan III among others.

## Attainment of education

These leaders inspired Muslims such as Sir Syed Ahmad Khan who established Muhammadan Anglo Oriental School (1875) and then a college (1877) and finally a university (1920) for the educational advancement of

Muslims.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, The services of the two religious personalities was vital for the Muslims in the subcontinent. They were able to form their own unique identity and culture, inspire future Muslim leaders and demand their own homeland to freely practice the teachings of Islam.