

Qno # 3

• Introduction:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was one of the most important and epoch making personalities of Muslim South Asia. He had the rational as well as emotional qualities. He was a versatile personality; great Muslim educationist, scholar, social reformer, political leader, who served the generations of Muslims of sub-continent. The result of Sir Syed's views and deed came to be known as the forceful Aligarh Movement.

• Socio-political circumstances of sub-continent

Sir Syed's time was filled with religious and social challenges. After the War of Independence in 1857, Muslims of India were a wretched lot. British had blamed Muslims for this war and they tried their level best to enfeeble Muslims in such a way that they never rise again.

British suppressed Muslims systematically and this fact was acknowledged by Nehru. Nehru mentioned, "the heavy hand of British fell more heavily upon Muslims of sub-continent than Hindus." Khalid bin Saeed also describes the conditions of Muslims in his book; he says, "Muslims were not only defeated in their outlook but also sulky."

Therefore, Sir Syed had to fight against two forces, one was British and the other was co-religionists Muslims who were under the influence of orthodox conservative religious leaders. Sir Syed had to persuade Muslims to learn English to move forward.

in newly introduced system of government.

• Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's role in creating Muslim identity and Nationalism

The prime objective of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan behind the revival of Muslim identity was the education. His strategy was to build a social structure on education. As his biographer Graham wrote that his motto was, "Educate, educate, educate." He wanted to remove misunderstanding between British and the Muslims, to keep Muslims away from the agitational politics, and to protect the rights of Muslims and their interests.

• Reapproachment between British and Muslims

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan began a policy of reapproachment between the British and Muslims of the sub-continent. He wrote the book "Loyal Muhammadans of India", in which he highlighted the services and contributions of those Muslims who remained loyal to India during the war of independence. He also engaged the British in his educational reform movement. For instance, early principals of Aligarh School and college were all English. The Aligarh College received huge grants from the British government as well.

• Advice to the Muslims

Sir Syed wanted Indian Muslims to stay away from the agitational politics because he realized that British had come to stay and it was impossible for Muslims to overthrow British.

rule. Therefore, he was against any agitational politics and also opposed Central Muhammadan Association of Syed Amir Ali. He believed that if Muslims will continue to agitate, it will reinforce British misconception against Muslims.

- Opposition of Indian National Congress to preserve Muslim identity.

In order to preserve Muslim identity, Sir Syed opposed the Indian National Congress. The INC believed in one nation theory and demanded the jobs on merit, but Muslims disagreed on both fronts. Muslims believed in the idea of two nation theory; they were different from Hindus in every way. Sir Syed held his strong view that Muslims were less in number and also backward in education, therefore the jobs must be given in proportion of Muslim's population.

- Supporter of Two Nation Theory and Urdu Language

Sir Syed explained the term two nation theory in an ambiguous way; he addressed the Muslims of India as a 'Qowm', an Urdu word which means 'nation'. Sir Syed laid the foundation of Separatism in India. It was the same foundation on which Allama Iqbal and Muhammad Ali Jinnah built the notion of Muslim nationalism. Moreover, Aligarh Movement saved Urdu from extinction and despite the backing of the British, Hindi failed to replace Urdu mainly due to the efforts of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan.

• Patronizing Muslims towards Modern Education

Sir Syed believed that if the Indian Muslims didn't receive modern education, they would lose social prestige and advancement. It was only through getting education that they would abstain from agitation and extremism. He provided a number of institutions for the purpose of education:

Madrasah Muradabad, MAO Aligarh School, MAO college. Moreover, he also employed his journals and magazines for this purpose.

• Tehzib-ul-Ikhlāq, as a source of Enlightenment

Sir Syed is also known as a social reformer, he brought great social reforms through his journals and writings. In Tehzib-ul-Ikhlāq, Sir Syed tried to differentiate between civilization and culture in Urdu language. As he was inspired by the British journals like 'The Times' and 'The Spectator', his journal also became the agency of modernity.

• Conclusion

One can't deny the contribution of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. His contribution like Aligarh Movement stood unique as it changed the Muslim's social, political and cultural outlook. He set defined objectives and direction of Muslim politics and advised them to keep aloof from politics. They should oppose congress and abandon agitational politics to revive their identity.

Qno#4

• Introduction

The Constitution of Pakistan makes education free and compulsory to all children between the age of 5-16 years. After the 18th amendment, subjects including education were transferred to federating units to strengthen provincial autonomy.

The system of education includes all institutions that are involved in delivering formal education; public or private, and their faculties, students, physical infrastructure, resources, and rules. Pakistan has been unable to cope up with the targets set by Dakar declaration (Education For All commitment), and thus, Pakistan is lagging behind in achieving EFA targets and its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for education.

• MDGs and Pakistan

According to the article of Islamabad Policy Research Institute, the MDGs have laid down two goals for education sector. The first goal is to achieve Universal Primary Education, and by 2015, children everywhere will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. In 2014, the enrolment statistics show an increase in the enrolment but need for increasing enrolment of students remain high to achieve MDGs target.

The second goal of MDGs is promoting women empowerment and gender equality, especially in education sector. There is a stark disparity between male and female literacy rates. In every province, the literacy rate of male was found higher than female.

• Issues and Problems in achieving the set target

The issues lead to the comprehension of the problems which are faced in the development of education system and promotion of literacy. Some of the major problems are discussed below.

• Lack of Proper Planning

Pakistan is a signatory to MDGs and EFA goals. However, it seems that because of financial management issues and lack of proper planning, it will not be able to achieve these international commitments.

• Social Constraints

It is important to realize the fact that not only because of lack of proper planning, but also because of social and cultural constraints of the people, which also hinders the provision of education. This would require a change in the attitude of people, until then it would be very difficult for the government to manage.

• Cost of Education has become very expensive

The cost of education has become very expensive in private schools, colleges and universities, thus there is a huge burden on middle and lower class people. However, government schools ensure the same access but is unable to provide quality education.

• Gender gap

Major reasons that hinder enrolment of girls include poverty, cultural and religious constraints, illiteracy of parents, and societal norms. Society emphasizes on girl's early marriages and modesty, therefore, the family won't be willing to send the girl child to school. This is an important factor hindering the enrolment of girls.

• Lack of Research and Development Programmes

Sufficient attention has not been paid to this area, resulting in deprivation of infrastructure, lack of proper training for teachers. The population of a state is one of the national power, if the population is skilled, it will be an asset, if not, it will remain the ticking time bomb. Therefore, technical education based on research and development must be ensured by the government.

• Funds for Education

Pakistan spends only 2.4% GDP on education. This amount is not sufficient to raise quality education, the federating units must prioritize education in the first place.

• War on Terror

Pakistan has paid a greater price after engaging in war against terrorism. Militants have attacked various educational institutes, like Army Public School in 2014. Teachers and students were killed in Balochistan, KPK, and FATA. This also remain an important factor.

• Way forward

• National Education Policy / Uniform Curriculum

Policy makers should make a national education policy which will serve the MDGs. It might not be possible for the government to make a national education policy at the crucial moment, but a uniform curriculum can be introduced in educational institutes of the country. This will provide an equal opportunity for a student from urban area as well as for the rural area in the job market.

• Promotion of Education in Rural Areas

Since majority of the population resides in rural areas, the access becomes a major problem for them. Government as well as non-government sector should work together to promote education in rural areas.

• Assurance of Technical Training

The federal government of Pakistan is paying attention to the technical training, however, education is a provincial subject, the provincial education secretariats need to be strengthened, so they could also promote technical training in order to produce skilled youth.

• **Conclusion:** The revival of education system doesn't only require government's effectiveness, but it also needs public-private partnership and participation. These way forwards can pull out country's population

from illiteracy.

Qnatt 5

Sixth Mass Extinction

A mass extinction, according to geology, is a short span of time in which different species like; bacteria, fungi, plants, amphibians, mammals, birds, dies out. The planet has experienced five previous mass extinction events, the last one occurring 65.5 million years ago which wiped out the dinosaurs from existence. Experts now believe that we're in the midst of a sixth mass extinction. Unlike previous mass extinctions caused by natural phenomena, the sixth mass extinction is caused by human activity, primarily, the unsustainable use of land, water and energy use, and climate change.

One of the most serious risks to the long term viability of Earth is the rapidly changing climate. Global warming is one of the greatest causes of environmental damage. Moreover, increased emissions of green house gases in our outer atmosphere caused by fuel combustion raise the earth's average temperature. For instance, according to the international resource, 2023 has been claimed as the hottest year in the history. Climate change has an impact on human life and the economy by disrupting the Earth's climatic systems, resulting in natural disasters, such as, floods, droughts, famine, and cyclones. Pakistan, being a climate vulnerable country has seen an increase in the frequency of extreme climatic events. According to German Watch, Pakistan has been ranked 10th in the top ten

countries most affected by climate change. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of heatwaves, droughts, riverine and flashfloods, landslides, and sea storms or cyclones.

• Climate change: The threat is real

The world's climate is changing because of our own actions. Weird weather conditions are experienced frequently in many parts of the world. Different habitats are changing permanently, making it difficult for its dwellers, both plants and animals, including us humans, to live there.

Melting land ice and the expansion of sea water as it warms, has resulted in global sea level having risen by about 8 inches since reliable record keeping began in 1880. Moreover, glaciers are melting almost everywhere in the world, be it the Alps, Himalayas, Alaska, Andes, and Africa. The oceans absorb carbon dioxide and an increase in CO_2 is because of the human activity since the Industrial Revolution. The acidification of ocean waters is harmful for marine animals and plants. The extinction of species is going to happen more likely, with 40 percent of ecosystems affected this century.

• The Role of UNFCCC

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) together with Kyoto Protocol (1997) and Paris Agreement (2015) provide the international legal framework for multilateral efforts to address climate change.

• The Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol was adopted on 11 December, 1997. Currently, there are 192 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. In short, the Kyoto Protocol operationalizes the (UNFCCC) by committing industrialized countries and economies in transition to limit and reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions in accordance with agreed individual targets. The Convention itself only asks these countries to adopt policies and measures on mitigation and to report periodically. This international treaty was widely hailed as the most significant environmental treaty ever negotiated, though some critics questioned its effectiveness.

• THE PARIS AGREEMENT

The Paris agreement is the legally binding international treaty on climate change, to limit global warming to well below 2°C , preferably to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels. This requires economic and social transformation to face the climate changes now and moving in to the future, based on the best available science. The Paris Agreement works on a five-year cycle of increasingly ambitious climate action. By 2020, countries communicate their plan known as 'nationally determined contributions'. The Paris Agreement also provides a framework for financial, technical, and capacity-building support to those countries who need it.

• COP 28, UAE Climate Conference

The COP 28 UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai, in UAE, was biggest of its kind. It was particularly

momentous as it marked the conclusion of the first 'global stocktake' of the world's efforts to address climate change under the Paris agreement. This meeting included a call on governments to speed up the transition away from fossil fuels to renewables such as, wind and solar power in their next round of climate commitments.

• Recommendations for Pakistan

Pakistan being a climate vulnerable country needs to give more importance to the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation. In this regard, Pakistan's National Climate Change Policy 2012 has been a good effort. It is required that the policy should be implemented in letter and spirit.

Moreover, upgrading of Climate Change Division into a full-fledged ministry was a commendable step. However, after 18th amendment, the ministry has been again converted to Division. Climate change is a global scale problem, and thus needs global coordination. In this context, the Climate Change Ministry must be restored.

In the Public Sector Development Program for Fiscal year 2022-23, allocation for combating climate change should be increased because the cost of environmental degradation has been growing fast over the years. Furthermore, Pakistan needs fast tracking efforts in mitigation and adaptation. In this regard, climate conscious agriculture, preparation to fight climate-related calamities, general public awareness, and forestation campaigns could play important role.

Qno# 6

Energy Issues

Pakistan has been facing multiple challenges like; political instability, constitutional crisis, security threats, economic crisis, etc. One of the severe crisis faced by the country is energy crisis where the state not only faces the inadequate amount of loadshedding but also expensive electricity costs. This energy crisis have far reaching negative implications on industries, agriculture, markets, domestic life, and public sector. The state needs to address this issue at the earliest, if not addressed, it will cause negative implications on the national life of Pakistan.

Problems in energy sector are majorly two, first loadshedding, and secondly, expensive electricity generation.

• Loadshedding in Pakistan

The energy sector of Pakistan is facing severe loadshedding. Loadshedding in the urban area varies from 4-5 hours a day, while in rural areas 10-12 hours a day. In the summer 2023, the shortfall was well above the 7000 MW. In the summer 2022, the shortfall was more than 10000 MW and loadshedding in the urban centres was around 7-8 hours a day, whereas in rural areas, it was around 16-18 hours a day.

• Expensive electricity generation

Pakistan generates the most expensive electricity in Asia and 3rd most expensive electricity in the world. Domestic charges vary from 24 to 65 rupees.

- Reasons of expensive electricity in Pakistan:

Pakistan generates more than 60% electricity through Hydrocarbons.

12000 MW electricity units are installed capacity of diesels, 8000 MW of LNG, around 7000 MW of coal. Almost all of these hydrocarbons are imported, resulting in fiscal deficit. All of these hydrocarbons are purchased in dollars from international market and the price of international market keeps changing. Thus, all the electricity made from HC is expensive.

The Conditionality of IMF takes a toll on energy sector.

IMF conditioned the provision of loan to Pakistan with the increase in per unit price of electricity, so that subsidies would be waved off. Secondly, the fuel price would be increased in Pakistan, more than 60% of the electricity is made by fuel. Thirdly, make Pakistani rupee devalue. The devaluation further increased the price of electricity.

- Problems with electricity distribution

There are numerous problem in distribution system, that result in 16% loss in electricity sector. One of the major reasons in the price hike is electricity theft 'Konda System'. This electricity theft in urban centres and rural centres is being reported. It is mostly done by industrialist, builders, and agriculturalist. Moreover, there are still some remote areas where there is no concept of electricity bill. Thus, it leads to expensive electricity.

Solutions

• Less dependency on Hydrocarbons

The primary objective of Pakistan should be to achieve less dependency or almost zero dependency on imported hydrocarbons for electricity generation by 2030. In order to achieve that, policies should be made to install local and cheaper electricity projects like hydel projects.

• Stop electricity theft

The writ of the state must be improved in order to stop electricity theft, and to get bill on time. Moreover, the state must ensure that no department will get free electricity.

• Privatization of Electricity

In the privatization of electricity system, state must play the role of regulator and should also ensure that private party isn't playing by the same book.

Conclusion

If the above mentioned steps are to be taken into account, not only load shedding would be over, but also it would help decrease the overall price per unit.