

Pakistan Affairs (Mock 2024)

Ayman Jabeen

ISB-067

LMS-ID 35381

Part - II

Question 3

Discuss the possibilities of establishing a functioning, robust democracy requires a healthy, educated, participatory followership, and an educated, morally grounded leadership.

Answer

I. Introduction:-

Educated and participatory citizens can play an important role in functioning of a robust democracy. As it brings inclusivity, tolerance and engagement in policy making. Similarly, an educated and morally grounded leadership also plays an important role in smooth functioning of democracy. Thus for any nation aspiring to be a strong democracy must invest in education and moral integration of both its citizens and leadership.

II. Educated and Participatory followership:-

Here is how an educated and participatory followership can play a positive role in democracy through informed decision making, civic engagement, awareness of rights and duties and tolerance.

(a) Informed Decision - making:

In democracy, citizens play a direct role in formation of a government. Power ultimately lies within the

people. If citizens are educated, they cannot be easily manipulated by media or populism. They can make better decisions that aligns with their interests and ideals. Education empowers the citizens to make the right decision.

(b) Civic Engagement:

In democracy, citizens are more important than just as voters. Their participation is equally important. This helps to keep the elected officials under check and prevents them from breaking laws or doing unconstitutional acts. Civil Engagements such as debates, community projects promotes a sense of shared responsibility.

(c) Awareness of Rights and Duties:

An educated population is more aware of their civil rights. They can openly challenge corruption, demand for transparency and informs them about their rights and duties as a citizen. This can foster an environment of justice and accountability.

(d) Inclusivity and Tolerance:

An educated and participatory followership can promote tolerance and inclusivity in a nation. It helps cultivate tolerance on different opinions and helps diversify policy making that reflects the needs of its citizens.

III. Educated and Morally Grounded Leadership

An educated and morally grounded leadership is equally important for democracy. It helps create visionary leaders, promotes ethics, commitment to public welfare and enforcement of rule of law in

the country.

(a) **Visionary Leadership and Policy Development:**

An educated and morally grounded leader is more likely to be visionary. It can help them to create policies that ensures smooth operation of democracy and its institutions.

(b) **Ethics and integrity:**

The issue of corruption is a pressing issue around the globe. A morally grounded leader will refrain from acts like corruption, favoritism, bribery and will ~~prom~~^{be} more likely to promote fairness, transparency and serve the nation rather than fulfilling his own interests.

(c) **Commitment to Public welfare:**

A leader who is educated and morally strong is fully aware of his rights and duties. As a leader, he is aware of his tasks and commits to public welfare. His focus would be on the social welfare of his citizens.

(d) **Rule of Law:-**

It is the duty of the leaders to enforce justice and rule of law. An educated and morally grounded leader ensures that the laws are implemented equally.

IV. Conclusion

To conclude, democracy is a system of governance that ensures that the people are equally represented and participating in the decision making process. An educated and participatory followership ensures that the government is working for their interests.

while an educated and morally grounded leadership ensures good governance. Together they can make a nation prosper and lead the state to greater heights of success.



Question. 4

Critically evaluate the Sir Syed's trinity of ideas i.e. loyalty towards Britishers, devotion to education and aloofness from politics.

Answer

I. Introduction :-

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, a key figure of 19th century played an important role in uplifting of Muslims in British India. He is often remembered for his "trinity of ideas" like loyalty towards the British, devotion to education and aloofness from politics. This approach of Sir Syed was very well planned and strategic as a response to the issues faced by Muslims in the colonial rule.

II. Loyalty towards British :-

After the war of independence 1857, the British saw Muslims as antagonists and blamed them for the uprisings. This led to the marginalization of Muslims in the sub-continent.

Sir Syed advocated for loyalty towards British to gain the trust of British. It was to ensure ~~that~~ Muslims won't be marginalized and provide a socio-political stability for Muslims. This strategy eventually helped Muslims to re-enter the

the public life. It set a stage for the muslim middle class to emerge and play a prominent role in the independence movement.

But many muslims criticized his approach and accused Sir Syed of supporting colonial oppression-

III. Devotion to Education:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan identified the lack of education in muslims as a critical factor behind their socio-economic decline. He advocated for He believed that Western education, specially in the field of science and technology will help bridge the gap between muslims and British. By getting education, muslims can compete with Hindus and the British.

His devotion lead # to the establishment of Muhammadan Anglo Oriental College (later the Aligarh University). It became the central institution for modern muslim education. Through this, he aimed to create a generation with modern knowledge that will bridge the gap between East and West. His efforts helped create opportunities for muslims and helped in the integration of Muslims in the colonial administrative structure.

IV. Aloofness from politics:

Sir Syed's call for aloofness from politics was a cautious call to Muslims. Since the muslims lacked in modern education, they were not fully mature to participate in politics. He feared that without proper knowledge, the participation of Muslims in politics may rise suspicion of British towards Muslims. And

he also feared that their political involvement may lead to expose muslims to British hostility.

This stance allowed Sir Syed to focus on other issues like educational and social reforms. By keeping muslims out of the political turmoil, he also intended to prevent conflicts with the active Hindu majority.

This stance of Sir Syed faced many criticisms. Some argued that his idea of not participating in politics lead to further isolation and vulnerability among muslims.

V. Conclusion:-

To conclude, Sir Syed's ideas were an attempt to ensure muslim empowerment in a hostile colonial environment. His idea of loyalty with the British softened colonial attitudes, his devotion to education empowered muslims for socio-economic progress, and His aloofness from politics provided stability for short term but limited muslims' engagement in nationalist struggle. While his strategy was not without flaws, but his vision was important instrumental for preparing muslims of British India for future challenges. It also encouraged a sense of identity and unity that later became a driving force for independence.



Question . 8

Enlist major components of national integration - what are certain issue that may hamper it? Explain.

Answer

I. Introduction:-

National integration refers to the unity and cohesion in a nation where individuals from diverse backgrounds come together to form a collective identity and work towards common goals. It is essential for fostering unity, stability and progress in a country. Its major components include common national identity, social cohesion, Economic equality, inclusivity and effective governance. Unfortunately, there are some issues like ethnic, religious conflicts, inequality, corruption, misinformation and external influence that hamper the national integration of a country.

II- Major Components of National Integration:-

Following are the major components of national integration:-

(a) Common National Identity:

A common national identity based on common symbols, values, culture, history, religion, language and national heritage can unify a population.

(b) Social Cohesion:

Cultural acceptance and tolerance of diversity can foster mutual respect. Emphasizing on shared values and tradition can foster integration.

(c) Economic Equity:

Equitable distribution of resources can bridge social and regional disparities. If citizens feel economically secured, they can positively contribute to national unity.

(d) Inclusivity:

A democratic and inclusive political system ensures representation of all groups and fosters a sense of

belonging-
(e) **Effective Governance:**

Effective and efficient governance establishes trust among the people and the government - Transparency in institutions ensures justice and equality, and fosters sense of belonging and integration.

III. Issues that May Hamper National Integration.

Following are the issues that may hamper national integrity :-

(a) **Ethnic and Linguistic Divisions:**

Ethnic and linguistic divisions, if prioritized over national identity can lead to conflicts - Conflicts may arise, if a certain group feels that their language & culture is not respected fully. In countries, like Pakistan, with significant ethnic diversity, ethnic identities can sometimes overshadow national identity.

(b) **Inequality:**

Inequality and disparities in different regions can fuel resentment and separatist movements. For instance, in Pakistan, the difference in regional development causes tensions between provinces. For instance, Balochistan despite being the rich province in terms of natural resources receives less attention and it has given rise to separatist groups like BIA.

(c) **Religious and Sectarian Tensions:**

Religious and sectarian tensions lead to violence and divisions. These tensions threaten social harmony. While Pakistan has a Muslim majority, the sectarian divide between Shia and Sunni pose serious threats to national

(d) **Misinformation:**

Media plays an important role in shaping public views. Biased reporting on sensitive issues can escalate tensions among different groups. And hence, threatens national integration.

(e) **External Influence:**

External pressure or conflicts with neighboring countries can impact national integration. Geopolitical tensions may create divisions specially in border areas where same ethnic groups live.

IV. Conclusion:-

National integration is vital for a country's stability and progress. It requires constant efforts to bridge divides and create a shared national vision. Challenges like ethnic, religious, linguistic, socio-economic injustices ~~are~~, if not addressed, can deepen divisions. With collective efforts and tolerance these issues can be addressed.



Question: 7

Pakistan's elite is predisposed to 'raising the cry of 'Pakistan is in danger' for the purpose of taxing the poor and putting the population under the burden of foreign be debt instead of economic self-reliance. Discuss.

Answer:

I. Introduction:-

Pakistan's economic elite often uses the slogan of "Pakistan in danger" to justify their ineffective economic policies. They disproportionately tax the poor and rely on foreign debt that prioritizes their economic interests. These unsustainable policies and unequal distribution of wealth hamper Pakistan's path to economic independence and development. There is a need for long term policies that encourage self-reliance and reduce burden on the poor.

II. The 'Pakistan in Danger' Narrative:-

The slogan of 'Pakistan in danger' is often misused by the economic elite to justify their controversial policies. It creates a sense of urgency and often diverts attention from the underlying socio-economic injustices. By suggesting that the country is facing existential threats, domestic issues are often sidelined.

III. Reliance on foreign debt:-

As of 2024, Pakistan has taken 22 loans from IMF. Instead of focusing on internal revenue generation, the economic elites opt for foreign debts. This is a short-term relief but a big burden for the poor who never benefit from the foreign debt. The loans come with high interest rates and lead to a debt trap. Lenders often dictate their terms that affect domestic economic policies. Foreign debt repayment is often done by either taking more loans or by using national budget. This results

in limited funds left for the social welfare of the public. Overall, the growth of country is slowed down.

IV. **Burdening the poor through tax and inflation:-**

The shortcut and easy method for collecting money is through taxing the people often the middle and lower class and by inflation. Pakistan's taxation system heavily relies on indirect taxes. Instead of implementing progressive taxes on elite, the indirect taxes burden low income groups that are already struggling with basic needs.

The subsidy cuts and inflation, coupled together lower purchasing power and increase poverty. Pakistan has a history of under taxing real-estate, luxury goods, agriculture (predominantly controlled by elites). This imbalance promotes income inequality and concentrates wealth in the hands of a few.

V **Recommendations:-**

Here are a few recommendations for promoting self-reliance and fairness:-

(a) Progressive tax reforms:

taxing system must ensure that the wealthy are contributing their fair share to ease burden on the poor. It can increase government revenue without relying on indirect taxes.

(b) Investing in local industries and SMEs:

If local industries and SMEs are properly funded, it can lessen the import burden, create jobs and provide sustainable income for the poor.

(c) Re-negotiating debt policies:

Policies should be re-evaluated and include new strategies to negotiate terms with lenders. This can lead to economic stability and reduce burden.

(d) Education and Skill development:

Almost 60% of Pakistan's population is youth. Educating youth and providing vocational training can empower workforce, specially from lower-income backgrounds.

(e) Enhance transparency and Accountability:

Strong accountability and transparent governance can reduce economic elites dominance. By holding the powerful accountable, we can work for public interest better.

V. Conclusion:-

The cycle of raising alarm by using "Pakistan in danger" by the economic elite of Pakistan has burdened the lower income class. Wealth is being unjustly accumulated in the hands of few while the national interest and public welfare is being overshadowed by the profits of elites. The over reliance on foreign debt should be reduced and policies to encourage self-reliance must be put into action. By working on the recommendations, we can reduce elite dominance and take Pakistan to a path of stability and development.

