

ESSAY:WHY DO NATIONS FAILOutline:

1- Introduction:

Thesis statement: Nations fail or succeed based on a complex interplay of political institutions, economic policies, and cultural factors. Bad democratic structure, lack of good governance, alarming illiteracy rate, poor economy, lower education rate for women, absence of industrial and job opportunities and lack of foreign investment leads to a nation failure. Nations can only succeed by coping these factors and implementing good economic policies for their prosperity.

2- Main Body,

2A- Causes why nations fail:

2a- Bad democratic structure

2a1- Political instability - Example of Venezuela.

2a2- Voter turnout - Brazil's 2018 elections and Pakistan's elections of 2024:

2b- Bad Governance

2b1- Corruption and national instability

2b2- Public trust instead of ~~dist~~ trust in government.
- 2020 Gallup survey of US.

2c- Alarming illiteracy rate

2c1- Literacy rate in Pakistan being 59% as of the report of 2021.

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2d-

Poor economy

Pakistan

2d1 - GDP growth rate - Report of WB to be 3.5% in

2d2 - Poverty rate - About 24% of population lives below national poverty line.

2e-

Lower Education rate for women

2e1 - Literacy rate for women in Pakistan is approximately 46% which is considerably lower than male literacy rate of around 70%. (UNICEF)

2f-

Absence of job opportunities

2

2f1 - Unemployment leading to poverty.

2f2 - Manufacturing contribution to GDP.

2g-

Lack of foreign investment

2g1 - Foreign direct investment report of Pakistan according to State Bank of Pakistan.

2g2 - Restricted access to advanced technologies

2B-

How nations can cope with factors to prosper?

2b1

Improving governance

2b2

Enhancing the democratic structure

2b3

Investment in Education especially for women

2b4

Diversification of the economy

2b5

Creating industrial & job opportunities

2b6

Promoting gender equality

2b7

Attracting foreign investment.

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Conclusion.

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THE ESSAY

The success of a nation is ultimately measured by its ability to provide for its citizens, safeguard their rights and foster an environment where they can prosper. While some countries enjoy high standards of living, political stability and robust economic growth, others face chronic poverty, corruption and social unrest. Understanding why nations fail and cope with those factors can address the global challenges of inequality and conflicts. Key elements such as flawed democratic system, poor governance, low literacy rate, lack of industrial opportunities, and gender inequality in education play crucial role in determining a nation's trajectory towards failure or prosperity. Lack of foreign investment further exacerbate these challenges. ^{By} formulating effective strategies and implementing good system of governance and democracy, addressing gender biased issues and literacy rate, attracting foreign investment ^{as} in addition these challenges - and achieve sustainable development.

They key factor leading a nation towards failure is bad democratic system. A flawed democratic system can significantly impede a nation's progress and Pakistan exemplifies this challenge. The democratic system in Pakistan has been marred ~~with~~ by political instability, frequent military interventions and lack of true representation. This weak democratic fabric hinders effective governance and accountability, creating an environment ripe for corruption and inefficiency. Moreover, the absence of strong institutions undermines the rule of law, which is essential for a functioning democracy.

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According to a report by International Foundation for Electoral Systems, the lack of institutional integrity in Pakistan leads to disenfranchisement and disengagement in governance. (IFES, 2019). This disenfranchisement not only affects voter turnout but also fosters apathy towards civic responsibility, as can be seen in the recent elections of 2024 in Pakistan. Similarly, in Brazil's 2018 elections, the voter turnout was about 79%, but dissatisfaction with the public opinion led to increased polarization and unrest. (Tribunal Superior Eleitoral - UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020). In such environments, citizens may lose trust in their government. For instance, in Venezuela, the erosion of democratic norms under Hugo Chávez and his successors resulted in authoritarian practices and sparked mass protests. This illustrates how a flawed democratic system contributes to a country's failure.

Another factor critical to nation's failure is bad or poor governance, as it erodes public trust and undermines the effectiveness of institutions. In Pakistan, corruption and inefficiency have permeated various levels of government, resulting in mismanagement of resources. According to a Transparency International report, Pakistan ranks poorly in corruption perception, indicating a significant trust deficit among citizens (Transparency International, Corruption Perception Index 2021). As former Prime Minister Imran Khan remarked, corruption is the root cause of the all our problems; it diverts resources from the poor to the rich (Khan, 2018). Furthermore, ineffective governance contributes to social unrest, distrust in government and mass instability. Citizens

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disillusioned by unresponsive and corrupt leadership are less likely to engage in civic processes, which can lead to protests and violence. A 2020 Gallup survey in US, found that only 39% of citizens expressed trust in their government, reflecting a growing discontent that can lead to political unrest. This vicious cycle of bad governance, low public trust, and social unrest not only stifles national progress but also deters foreign investment, as investors seek stable environments.

Pakistan's alarming illiteracy rate, estimated at around 59%, presents a formidable barrier to national development. High illiteracy rate limits individuals' ability to participate meaningfully in the economy and civic life.

Moreover, it perpetuates cycles of poverty and social inequality.

Individuals lacking education are often confined to low-paying, unskilled jobs, limiting their upward mobility.

According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, illiteracy is more pronounced in rural areas, where access to education is severely restricted. (PBS, 2021).

According to UNESCO, as of 2020, about 73 million adults worldwide are illiterate, with a significant concentration in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Similarly, in Afghanistan, the youth literacy rate is only 37%, underscoring how lack of education hinders the development and progress of a nation and contributes to the ongoing conflicts. (UNESCO Institute of Statistics).

These reports remark that nations having illiterate or with low literacy rate individuals are not-so-advanced in technologies too, and thus cannot prosper in any field.

As former President Asif Ali Zardari stated, Education

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is the key to our future; without it, we cannot hope to break the chains of poverty. (Zardari, 2012).

Thus, the high literacy rate not only stunts economic growth but also hinders efforts to create a more equitable society.

Pakistan's struggling economy is a critical factor in contributing to its national challenges. High inflation, low growth rates and persistent trade deficits have created an environment of economic uncertainty. Moreover, a poor economy exacerbates social issues, such as unemployment and poverty. The lack of economic opportunities forces many citizens to seek livelihoods in the informal sector, where job security and benefits are minimal. This situation is particularly dire among youth, with the unemployment rate among young people reaching over 10%. (International Labour

Organization, 2021). As economist Hafiz Pasha noted, the economic situation in Pakistan is precarious, and without urgent reforms, we risk further decline. (2021).

Since the report of World Bank reveals that Pakistan's GDP growth has remained below potential, hovering around 3.5% in recent years, which is insufficient to meet the needs of a growing population (World Bank, 2022)

Many countries in the Horn of Africa, such as Ethiopia, too have experienced fluctuating GDP growth, which dropped significantly to 3.1% in 2021 due to political instability according to World Bank. The cycle of economic decline and increasing poverty ultimately leads to social unrest, further destabilizing the nation.

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The lower education rate of for women is another critical factor that hinders national development. With only a small percentage of women receiving a formal education, most becoming the housewives, the country misses out on the economic contributions. The Gender Gap report by World Economic Forum emphasizes that empowering women through education is vital for economic growth and social stability. (WEF, 2020). Educated women are more likely to participate in the workforce, make informed decisions about health, and family planning and contribute to their communities. As Napoleon also said, Give me an educated mother, I promise you the birth of a civilized, educated nation. ~~Thus~~ ^{The} countries like, Ethiopia, Somalia, Nigeria, and Pakistan where literacy rate for women being 46% only is considerably lower than male literacy rate which is 70%, are facing hurdles in their development and its stability. Therefore empowering women through education is essential for fostering ^{new} national stability and prosperity. As former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto stated, Educating women is the best investment a country can make. (Bhutto, 2008). Thus, addressing the education gap for women goes enhancing gender equality, creating equal opportunities for all and fostering sustainable development.

The absence of industrial and job opportunities is also a critical factor that contributes to a nation's failure. as it directly impacts economic growth, social stability and overall quality of life. Without a robust industrial sector, countries often face high unemployment

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rates, which leads to increased poverty and brain drain. When young individuals find limited opportunities in their home countries, they are often compelled to seek employment in more developed nations that offer a conducive environment for career advancement. For example, countries with high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly in regions like sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, the brightest minds might relocate to places like US or Europe. As of the report, in South Africa, the unemployment rate exceeds 34%, one of the highest globally, driven by a lack of industrial diversification and job opportunities (Statistics of South Africa, 2022). Also, a lack of strong manufacturing base, many citizens face underemployment which cause unrest in the youth and hence violence and protests. According to a report by International Labour Organization, high youth unemployment poses a threat to social cohesion and economic stability (ILO, 2021). Likewise, low manufacturing contribution to GDP restricts economic diversification and resilience. Countries that rely heavily on agriculture and raw material exports are vulnerable to market fluctuations. For instance, when commodity prices drop, economies that lack a robust manufacturing base can experience severe downturns, leading to economic crises. Countries like Venezuela, heavily reliant on oil exports, have faced significant challenges due to their inability to diversify their economies through industrial development. This over-reliance not only hampers growth but also leads to instability as governments struggle to maintain public services and social order in face of economic decline.

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Last but not the least, the lack of foreign investment has severe implications for country's economic growth especially in developing countries like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran. According to State Bank of Pakistan, FDI inflows were around \$1.9 billion in 2021, a significant drop from previous years, reflecting investor concerns about stability and governance. Similarly countries like Venezuela, FDI drop have been seen due to political instability from \$12 billion in 2013 to less than \$1B in 2020 (UNCTAD, 2021). Such countries face challenges in attracting foreign investment due to political instability, inadequate infrastructure, and restrictive regulatory environments. As a result, they remain dependent on outdated technologies that limit their ability to compete in a global market increasingly driven by innovation. Furthermore, restricted access to advanced technology can exacerbate existing inequalities within a nation. When industries cannot modernize, they often fail to create high-skilled jobs, leading to a workforce that remains trapped in low-paying and low-skilled employment. This not only stifles the individual potential but also limits overall economic progress. In many cases, the inability to adopt new technologies can lead to higher production costs and lower quality goods, further diminishing a country's competitiveness on the international stage.

Nations can implement a range of strategies to cope with the factors contributing to nation's failure and hence foster prosperity. Firstly, by enhancing democratic system. Establishing fair

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and transparent electoral reforms can enhance political stability. This includes ensuring equal access to the ballot, preventing electoral fraud, and promoting diverse representation. As, Democracy is more than just a system of government; it is a way of life that demands active participation and accountability (Diamond, 1999 - Developing democracy: Towards consolidation). Furthermore, supporting NGOs and civil society organizations can help foster democratic values and encourage civic participation, leading to a more engaged and informed electorate.

Countries should focus on building transparent, accountable and efficient institutions. Implementing anti-corruption measures, enhancing public sector transparency and ensuring independent judicial systems can help restore trust. Similarly encouraging public participation in governance through community forums and civic education can help and empower citizens and hold leaders accountable.

Governments should prioritize education funding, focusing on improved access of quality education at all levels. This includes building schools in rural areas and providing scholarships to the underprivileged students.

Government can implement policies that promote girls' education, and creating safe transportation options. They can also create inclusive policies that address specific barriers women face in education and employment sectors.

Nations can prosper by diversifying their economies, investing in sectors like information tech, renewable energy, and tourism. Investing in infrastructure projects like roads, energy and digital connectivity can also stimulate economic growth and attract investment.

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By creating unbiased industrial and job opportunities, providing access to finance, training and mentorship for SMEs, nations can foster prosperity. Collaborating with the private sector to develop industries - leading to job creation - eradicating poverty - and hence nation's development. By attracting the foreign investment by simplifying regulations, ensuring property rights, and establishing tax incentives for foreign investors, political stability is promoted and hence strengthens a nation towards its success.

Addressing these interconnected factors requires a multifaceted approach that involves cooperation between governments, civil society, and the private sector. By implementing these strategies, nations can create a more inclusive, stable and prosperous future, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for their citizens and ensuring long-term national success.