

MINORITY RIGHTS IN PAKISTAN: CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES VS GROUND REALITIES

OUTLINE

1) Introduction

Thesis Statement: While minority rights remain an integral part of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, the ground realities showcase economic and social barriers, as well as rising extremism which threatens their security, which impede the progress of minority communities.

2) Minority rights enshrined in the constitution of Pakistan:

2.1) Freedom to profess religion under Article 20.

2.2) Equality of citizens under Article 25A.

2.3) Freedom of trade and profession under Article 18.

2.4) Safeguard against discrimination under Article 27.

2.5) Other fundamental rights applicable to citizens of Pakistan.

3) The ground reality of minority rights in Pakistan:

3.1) Rising extremist ideologies restrict the freedom of religion of minorities.
(Desecration of Hindu temples in Punjab)

3.2) Compromised security in form of mob violence
(murder of Ahmedi man in Karachi, Taranwala incident in Punjab)

3.3) legal vulnerabilities in the form of Blasphemy law.
(case of Asia Bibi)

3.4) Restriction of employment opportunities impeding social mobility of

minorities.
(sanitation workers from
minority communities)

3.5) Discriminatory practices
resulting in cultural
erasure.
(case of Hindu communities
in Thar)

4) Way forward: bridging the gap
between constitutional guarantees
and ground realities:

4.1) Inclusive policy making to
end discriminatory employment
practices.

4.2) Preaching pluralistic values
found in Quran and constitu-
tion in educational
institutions and religious
seminaries.

5) CONCLUSION.