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Subject	Essay
Exam	Mocks
Date	19. 01. 2025

# Challenges and Opportunities of Mainstreaming Madrassa Education in Pakistan.

## OUTLINE

1).  
(1.2)

Introduction

Thesis Statement:

madrassa education, although a good concept prevailing in Pakistan, has also got its own set of barriers.



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2) The concept of madrasa  
Education in Pakistan :

2.1) To connect students with their  
religion's teachings, ideas and  
belief system.

2.2) Instigate Islamic teachings in  
their day-to-day life.

2.3) Put equal focus on religious  
knowledge as well as other subjects  
essential for them.

3) The Challenges in mainstreaming  
madrasa Education in  
Pakistan :

3.1) It is the era of technology — most  
of what is taught is already  
available on different platforms.

(3.1.a) Youtube — provides the largest  
range of videos on any topic,  
religious or non-religious.

3.2) Different schools of thought in  
Islam — may cause a conflict of  
opinion amongst the clerics and  
scholars. E.g. Shias and Sunnis.



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3.3) Not well-educated or uneducated mullahs and clerics.

(3.3.a) Case study in Pakistan: How children exposed to madrasa education develop extremist mentalities.

(3.3.b) Such mullahs put more focus on religious knowledge over worldly knowledge - confusing children and their mindset.

3.4) Considered an outdated concept, what with the emergence of different groups and organizations holding seminars for religious purposes.

(3.4.a) Huge prevalence of organizations like Youth Club, Al-Huda Online Teaching System, etc.

(3.4.b) Discussion groups across social media platforms and Zoom meetings.

3.5) The practice of verbal and physical abuse on boys and girls learning from madrasas is also a huge concern.

(3.5.a) Harassment rates amongst



boys.

#### 4) The Opportunities in mainstreaming madrasa Education in Pakistan :

4.1) Keeping the children aware of their religious teachings in their young age — will help create a strong moral foundation in their lives.

4.2) making religious beliefs a common practice, so that:

(4.2.a) It is no longer considered an extremist trait.

(4.2.b) It can keep the youth intact with their morals, values and ethics — making them more self-aware.

4.3) Creates a better environment and improves the society's morals and ability to co-exist peacefully.

4.4) Will encourage minorities to practise their religions in their own area's safety and security.



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4.8) Establishment of more madrasahs for religious purposes — a good overall impact on society.

5) Conclusion

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In the modern world, everyone is in the race for success. Each individual seeks to attain knowledge and put it to good use so that it may benefit them in the near future. People are consistently learning more across different domains in life, and optimizing that to get better jobs and opportunities. In the competition for worldly knowledge and benefits, people also tend to get out of touch with their religious beliefs and teachings. Having learnt it all briefly in their schools at a young age, adults tend to get out-of-touch with their reality.

The world is an illusion and every Muslim knows that it is necessary for them carry both their religious and non-religious beliefs simultaneously.



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Madrasah education is an old concept in Pakistan that is prevalent till date. Many young children, from both the urban and the rural areas, go there to seek religious knowledge. But, despite being a practice in Pakistan since decades, madrasah system is also frowned upon by many due to its conflicting views amongst other Islamic schools of thought, and the assumption of creating people with an extremist mindset. Yet, it also gives youth a deep understanding of their faith, and builds their morals and values. Madrasah system, although a good concept prevailing in Pakistan, has also got its own set of barriers.

The concept of madrasah education in Pakistan was



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originally developed to connect students with their religion's teachings, ideas and belief system. It became even a more common practice during Zia-ul-Haq's regime, when he implemented Islamization across the country. That era was marked with new shifts in the Pakistani society: women in dramas, talk shows or even advertisements were not allowed to appear without covering their heads properly. men were advised to keep beards and lower their gaze. But all of this quickly succumbed to its old ways after the demise of Zia. since then, our country saw the subjecting of Afghan mujahideen to Pakistani madrasas in order to teach them all about



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their faith.

The purpose of madrasah systems is to instigate the presence of Islamic teachings in an individual's day-to-day life. While people seek to achieve education and knowledge of other worldly matters, it is also crucial to stay connected with your faith and belief system.

One needs to put equal focus on both the religious knowledge and other subjects essential for them. Both of them need to go side by side.

Hence, when children go to school at a young age, it is thought that they must attain education from madrasahs on a younger level too. That is the age in an individual's life to build a strong foundation in his life across



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different domains.

Madrassa education is encouraged by a portion of the population. But, there are many challenges associated with mainstreaming Madrassa Education in Pakistan.

To begin with, one can say that no one is unaware of the trends of the modern world. Artificial Intelligence and technology are taking over the world, marking their presence in every sector — be that education, economy, agricultural, etc.

Similarly, the development of more and more applications and social media platforms has also become very common. Everything is available online on the internet — whatever one needs to know about can be searched up on



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Google or Internet Explorer.

Youtube, a very famous social media platform developed in 2006, rose to fame due to its exceptional videos and video-making. It holds videos and documentaries - even movies - based on a wide range of religious, moral, educational, trendy, current affairs and societal topics. Many scholars and religious people tend to make use of Youtube to spread the message of Islam. Dr. Zakir Naik and Dr. Iqbal Ahmed are two very common personalities there. This has greatly shifted the focus of using online platforms for religious purposes instead of madrasas, which can be a huge challenge when it comes to mainstreaming madrasa education in Pakistan.

Another challenge is the



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prevalence of four different schools of thought in Islam.

The variation exists due to different practices and non-identical belief systems. A very common rift is seen between the Shiite and Sunni community. The issues that arise from such disagreements is that it may create a conflict of opinion amongst the clerics and create confusion for the young minds.

Other than that, the variations in schools of thought like Hanafi, Deobandi, Wahabi, etc, may also create a conflict amongst the students as well because what they and their families believe in may not necessarily align with what is being taught.

Not just conflicting opinions amongst the clerics is the



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issue at hand, but also the level of education of the clerics themselves. These mullahs, not always, but in most cases develop a very Islamists mindset, which can be transferred to the children and men with their young minds. A case study in Pakistan showed that madrasa-going children tend to be on the verge of developing an extremist mindset. This is not general for all of these children, yet a huge portion of it does get affected. The ethnic and cultural backgrounds of the children may also play a role in creating such mentalities — students from backward and marginalized areas may develop it more easily. Another role of these religious clerics is their emphasis on religious knowledge



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over non-religious matters, which makes everything but faith, seem insignificant for many. This can have a toll at these madrasa-going children and strip them of the art of balancing every form of knowledge in life.

In addition to this, a major setback in mainstreaming madrasa education is the assumption of it being a very old and outdated concept.

Modern times bring ~~them~~ modern solutions. What with the emergence of different groups and organizations online and in-person, people specially youths find it easier to reach out to them instead.

Organizations like Youth Club hold seminars and sessions all over Pakistan to help the youth become more aware. They answer questions and help students

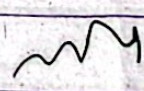


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attain knowledge. Similarly, Al-Huda Online Teaching system is also an online platform of Al-Huda School system which teaches Arabic, offers Tafseer of Quran and Question-answer sessions. Youth seeks their help because they are more aware of the modern day issues and provide advice on how best to cope with them.

Last, but not the least, comes the prevalence of physical and verbal abuse in local madrassas. Students, special boys, are subjected to severe insults and punishments for any errors in recitation and late-coming. This is ironic in a way too as Islam itself condemns the use of force to spread religious





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knowledge. Another very concerning matter is the rate of harassment of the madrasa going children, in their respective madrasas. This too, is more common amongst male students. It also highlights the immorality amongst some of the mullahs and clerics who teach religion and ethics, but they themselves seem far from it.

Although mainstreaming madrasa education has its own set of moral, ethical and societal challenges, it also poses huge opportunities in Pakistan.

The biggest benefit of madrasa education is that it keeps the children aware of their religious teachings, and at a very young age. Madrasa



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teaching is encouraged during the primary years of a child's life. That is a time in their life where they create a base in life for everything they are learning on a daily basis. The idea of exposing them to a year's worth of Quranic and Islamic knowledge in a madrasa will also help them develop an understanding of their own religion. Although Islamic studies is taught for the first twelve years of their education system, a comprehensive understanding of their religious books and their history is a must regardless. This will help them create a strong religious foundation in life.

In addition to that, normalizing madrasa



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education will also make a religion a very common practice. It will also make people more self-aware and God-fearing. Firstly, it will keep the youth and adults alike, more intact with their morals, values and ethics. This is a positive impact on their lives. Secondly, with religion being more prevalent and openly and commonly practiced, each individual will remain in touch with their faith. This is significant because it will help the society get rid of its ideology of calling religious people extremists, and everyone will think along the same lines.

In addition to society being more self-aware and less judgemental, it will



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create a lively environment for all. Religion has a very peaceful impact on an individual's life. It can make him closer to God and more aligned with what's right and what's wrong. It gives them the ability to be their best self and always seek to do better. Such positive feelings tend to create harmony, unity and hostility amongst the members of a society. It also helps create a peaceful environment for all and encourages people to co-exist peacefully.

Prevalence of religion and its practice may also deprive people of conflicting harm on others. It allows people from different ethnic and religious beliefs to come together, and exist.



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with love, harmony and brotherhood. This creates space for people from other religious backgrounds to practice their faith & its teachings with more ease and peace. It will also encourage them to practice their religion in their own area's safety and security.

Lastly, in order to mainstream madrasa education in Pakistan, more madrassas need to be created. This a good opportunity for more and more children to develop a good understanding of their faith. It will prevail religion in every aspect of their life at a very young age. It will also create employment for the Islamic scholars and clerics, creating a livelihood for them as well. In addition



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↳ that, children will get to learn in far detail than they get to do in their schools.

Hence, madras education has its own set of opportunities and challenges, which makes it both a merit and demerit for Pakistan

