
Study Guide

Pakistan National Assembly

Topic

**Adherence to the 16th Sustainable Development Goal:
Peace, Justice and Stronger Institutions.**

Without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law – we cannot hope for sustainable development. We are living in a world that is increasingly divided. Some regions enjoy sustained levels of peace, security and prosperity, while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is by no means inevitable and must be addressed. The sustainable development goals is a 2030 agenda and the broad 17 goals are interrelated, though each has its own targets to achieve. “Transforming our world” is the phenomenon behind the goals pursuing aim for sustainable development documented in September 2015 by the United Nations. The SDGs aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

This topic would primarily focus upon the Pakistan’s role in adherence to the 16th sustainable development goal; Peace, Justice and Stronger Institutions. This topic itself spreads at various branches for which the listed goal targets are preferred to discuss in context of Pakistan.

Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms

Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

Pakistan has been a victim of identity crisis since its formation and has always juggled between the religious fundamentalism and the secularism.

Intolerance of all sorts has prevailed, and our role has been nothing except making an investigation team or issuing a judicial review.

Faizabad dharna could be considered an example of religious intolerance. Bloody, violent and effective- the latest dharna followed by three before, was something different. It did not only put the residents of twin cities under hostage but also aimed at challenging the writ of the state for which a journalist Zaigham Khan wrote; let 1800 people occupy a strategic place in the capital and they can freeze a state of 200 million people for twenty. The twin cities' residents were not only the stakeholders getting affected, indeed, the capital, was facing the crisis which emerged with Islamic fundamentalist

school of thought on one side and state, on the other. Khadim Hussain Rizvi, the star of recent dharna, tried this dharna technology in March last year as well, post Mumtaz Qadri's hanging on February 29. However, an effective siege by the administration to resolve the matter the best way it could, resulted Rizvi and his companions to leave. The marks Maulana Khadim Hussain Rizvi left on the people through previously using abusive and punjabi language in his religious sermons amused some people whereas made some other cringe. Video clips provide a source of entertainment for many on the social media which made sure that the recent dharna organizer was a familiar one. Those clips established Rizvi as a defiant leader of Barelvi politics in Pakistan. Many of his followers gave him the title of (Ameerul Mujahideen), the leader of Mujahideen. Rizvi, had a triumph occupying main Faizabad interchange connecting the two cities and the most important source of residents on both sides to travel to the opposite side for day to day businesses. The government, however, had a fear of threat not to conduct something like Model Town incident which could be reacted in retaliation by the public, the most supreme power. Replacing 'I solemnly swear' to 'I believe' and section 7B and 7C of the Conduct of General Elections Order 2002, which deals with the status of Ahmadis to be treated under the constitution of Pakistan, as non-Muslims and puts a restriction of fighting the general elections, was amended in Elections Act 2017. This was a nightmare which turned into the upcoming challenge. The committee needs to identify that who was wrong in what place? What was dealt incorrectly by the authorities? Is challenging the

Constitution or nation's Capital acceptable? What measures need to be taken?

Policy shifts in the international arena, post 9/11 has cost Pakistan the most out of it. All the previous friends, who once provided all logistical and intelligence support to fight Soviet war in Afghanistan were decided to be dealt as enemies. The base Pakistan provided to the Mujahideen in the Afghan war was then used against Pakistan internally and the loss of 30,000 lives of local citizens and army personnel proves how severe the outcome was. We need to redefine our policy towards the United States of America and Afghanistan in the committee and declare the responsibilities for which the situation worsened and continued to deteriorate. Establishment of National Action Plan needs to be researched to understand the efforts to combat terrorism. You have to come prepared to a question: How successful are we in implementing the National Action Plan?

Article 89 of the Penal Code 1860 states "Nothing which is done in good faith for the benefit of a person under twelve years of age, or of unsound mind by or by consent, either express or implied, of the guardian or other person having lawful charge of that person, is an offence by reason of any harm which it may cause, or be intended by the doer to cause or be known by the doer to be likely to cause to that person." There are similar provisions in article 35 of the Punjab Destitute and Neglected Children Act 2004 and article 48 of the Sindh Children Act 1955. The K-P Child Protection and Welfare Act 2010 prohibits corporal punishment "in all its kinds and manifestations" but it states that this is "as provided under section 89 of the Pakistan Penal Code 1860" (article 33) and allows for "reasonable punishment" by parents (article 44); the definition

of corporal punishment (article 2) covers only that which reaches a certain severity. Zainab's case is a recent example of a child abuse where a childhood was humiliated and brutally murdered. Asma's case is an example too. So many cases like these where we need to identify why do the legislators and administrators only adhere to such issues only when the civil society rises? Why not from the beginning, identifying their responsibilities? It is preferred to have a known knowledge of this subtopic as it would be discussed in moderated caucus and would contribute to the draft resolution.

The current rift between the Disqualified Ex- Prime Minister of Pakistan taking on the judiciary on the other side is leading nation to another crisis? This current topic emphasizes on the situation created post Panama verdict and is it acceptable to the nation that anyone could blame its institutions responsible for justice? Writ of state is not at stake through accusing the judiciary to work on dictation? State currently is controlled by whom? Everything needs to be discussed and a broader framework is required.

I have highlighted the points that need to be researched upon and I believe that you would give your full contribution in recognizing Pakistan's adherence towards Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

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