

Implementation Strategies of Cultural Security in Pakistan

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Abstract:

Pakistan's cultural diversity, rooted in ancient civilizations and enriched by Islamic teachings, forms a critical element of its national identity. This study explores the role of cultural security within the framework of the National Security Policy of Pakistan 2022-2026. It emphasizes the importance of safeguarding cultural heritage, promoting interfaith harmony, and fostering respect for traditions to ensure national coherence. The research identifies challenges to cultural security, including moral and ethical erosion, and examines mitigation strategies such as educational reforms, policy amendments, and cultural exchange programs. Recommendations include legislative updates, fostering inclusivity through multilingual education, and collaborative efforts among federal ministries, NGOs, and civil society. By addressing these issues, Pakistan can preserve its rich cultural heritage, enhance social cohesion, and mitigate threats to national harmony. Cultural security, thus, emerges as a pillar of sustainable national development and unity.

Key words:

Pakistan, cultural security, interfaith harmony, national cohesion, cultural heritage preservation.

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Introduction

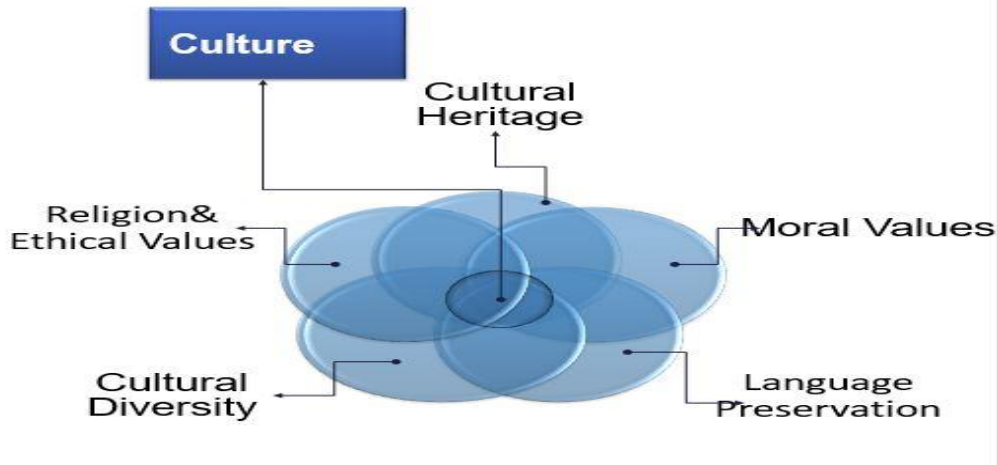
Pakistan is a diverse country, with 90 percent of the population adhering to Muslim beliefs and encompassing diverse ethnicities with over 70 spoken languages and dialects. The culture of Pakistan originates from Harrapan, Indo-Aryan, Indo-Iranian, Afghan, Arab, Turkish, and Mughal melting pots, tracing back to the Indus Valley civilization. The positive cultural traits emanating from Sufism are prevalent in all provinces of Pakistan, serving as a counter to extremist religious views and promoting interfaith harmony, reflecting the teachings of Islam. The common denominators of culture include religion, national language, dress code, festivals, sports, and folk music.

The phenomenon of "culture" is a notoriously difficult term to define. It consists of the derivatives of experience—organized, learned, or created by individuals—including images transmitted from past generations, contemporaries, or formed by individuals themselves (T. Schwartz, 1992). Culture is defined as a human response to the forces of nature and history (Culture Policy of Pakistan, 1995). According to social scientists, culture involves cognitive comprehension and adjustments to the environment and historical experience.

Culture also defines the patterns and characteristics of human behavior, encompassing religion, beliefs, social norms, arts, customs, and habits. Since it is defined subjectively, a linear definition of the term is challenging to establish. Whenever "culture" is described, it is often used as a prefix to explain another interrelated phenomenon. In this study, the term "cultural security" is analyzed with reference to its implementation strategies in Pakistan.

The concept of cultural security is reflected in the National Security Policy of Pakistan 2022-2026 due to its significant role in national prosperity. If cultural security is not linked with national security, the repercussions could disrupt national harmony and coherence. The policy document recognizes that Pakistan is enriched with diverse culture and distinguishes the societal segments of diversities embedded in the regional identities of its citizens. These identities provide a sense of pride and national esteem, forming the basic pillar of national coherence.

In the context of Pakistan, cultural security plays a significant role in safeguarding the nation's cultural heritage, diversity, religious and ethical values, identity, and traditions. It involves protecting not only tangible cultural artifacts but also fostering an environment where cultural diversity, religious tolerance, and traditional values are respected and preserved.



This study examines policy documents related to various dimensions of cultural security in Pakistan, identifies critical issues in its implementation, and proposes mitigation strategies. Additionally, it explores stakeholder influence on the National Security Policy.

Statement of the Problem

Although the National Security Policy of Pakistan has identified the significance of the Cultural Security in Pakistan and its contours to influence the national coherence. However, the detailed examination of the cultural security with respect to its dimensions of cultural heritage preservations, religious and ethical values, cultural diversity, language preservation and moral and ethical values and its implication on policy formulation is yet to be discovered. Therefore, this study warrants to analyze the implementation strategies of cultural security with context to national policy in Pakistan.

Literature Review

This study used documents as the secondary source of data. These included policy papers, reports, credentials of National Security Policy and other research evidence which has been carried out in this area and newspaper articles. The research design is qualitative research.

Policy Gap Analysis - Religious and Ethical Values

The National Security Policy 2022-2026 describes cultural security as a prerequisite for interfaith harmony. The state is striving to streamline ethnic, religious, and social differences to foster tolerance and an inclusive national discourse, promoting peace and a national consensus on freedom of religious

beliefs. The policy also emphasizes preserving Pakistan's identity, which is culturally reflected in the incorporation of Islamic injunctions within the Constitution and its diverse cultural heritage. This heritage protects minority rights, intellectual expression, and thought based on openness and equal opportunities, regardless of caste, race, religion, gender, or social status.

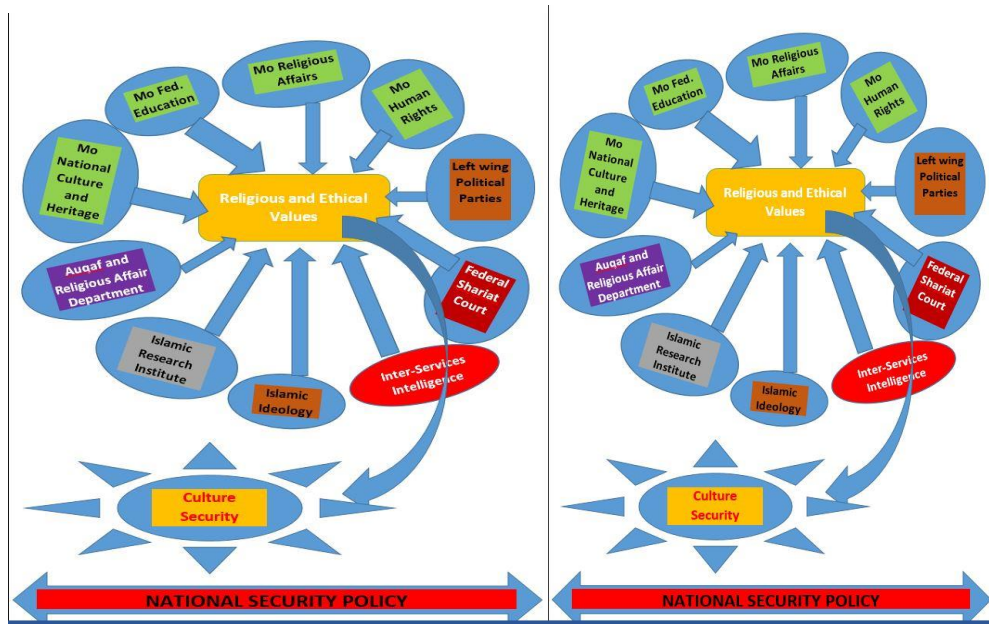
However, the governance and institutional capacity of state-run organizations are so limited that they hinder an effective public sector response to tendencies of extremism in society. The Chairman of the Islamic Ideology Council stated that "all religions sermonize similar truths and virtues, which, along with social and cultural ethics, could be built upon to enhance interfaith bonding" (Dawn, 2023). If the National Security Policy fails to reflect the spirit of its implementation by addressing extremism in society, it indicates the inability of public sector organizations to uphold social and cultural ethics essential for fostering interfaith harmony.

The policy gap analysis can be elaborated further in the dimensions outlined below:

The National Security Policy of Pakistan 2022-2026 underscores the paradigm of "National Cohesion" based on the principles of equality and justice, recognizing cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity as its pillars. The policy document reinforces national identity by asserting that cultural diversity, along with religious and ethnic dimensions, forms the foundation for tolerance and interfaith harmony. This harmony is crucial for fostering responsive and efficient public sector service delivery, ensuring the socio-economic prosperity of the country.

Stakeholders Analysis

The figure no. 1 is showing the key stakeholders involved in influencing the religious and ethical values dimension with respect to its impact on cultural security and ultimately exerting contributory impression on the "National Security of Pakistan" as mentioned in below framework;



Extremism / Terrorism

The report *Religion, Politics, and Governance in Pakistan* by LUMS revealed various dimensions of cultural security related to national security, derived from religious and ethical influences. The researchers highlighted that in the contemporary world, the dynamics of national culture and religion have the potential to provide answers to questions regarding the religious dimensions of social life (Waseem & Mufti, 2009). The alleged labels imposed by the West, such as radical Islam or Islamophobia, have triggered a dichotomy between Islam and the West. This has significantly reshaped political analysis regarding the growth and proliferation of religious activity in Pakistan, particularly its association with extremism or terrorism and its linkages to non-state actors operating in Pakistan and Afghanistan, which have critical implications for Pakistan's national security.

Religious Tension

The strategic policy document of Pakistan's 11th Five-Year Plan directed policymakers to focus on the importance of religious harmony and diversity, recognizing their decisive role in strengthening the country's national security. Religious tensions can lead to riots among various religious and ethnic groups, destabilizing the foundations of economic prosperity with long-lasting repercussions for national security. Unfortunately, this aspect of religious tension was neglected in Pakistan since its independence from British rule. Miscreants have undermined the pillars of national coherence and harmony by propagating sectarian and religious conflicts, particularly among Hindus, Christians, and Muslims. More recently, sectarian tensions

have escalated among Shia, Sunni, Deobandi, and Ahl-e-Hadith communities (Plan, 2014).

Mitigation Strategies for Religious and Ethical Values

Education and Awareness

Article 22(1) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan grants religious freedom to all citizens and safeguards the rights of educational institutions concerning religion. The Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 provides a strategic framework to address the complexities of development issues related to national stability, leading to economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Interfaith harmony and religious and ethical values relate to Goal 17 of the SDG Agenda 2030, which emphasizes partnerships and societal roles in achieving goals. However, the cultural and traditional knowledge component, while presumably integrated into all goals, will be entirely overlooked if opportunities for religious tolerance and interfaith harmony awareness are not incorporated into basic curricula in traditional and religious education systems.

Ireland's establishment of the *National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)* has significantly contributed to developing Irish primary education. The NCCA promotes tolerance, interfaith harmony, and national coherence through curricula tailored for *Education about Religions and Beliefs (ERB)* and Ethics. Studies reveal that modifying the education system positively impacts cultural harmony, fostering religious tolerance, sensitivity to diversity, and appreciation of different beliefs, ultimately enriching communities (NCCA, 2015).

Recognizing the role of religious education and ethical awareness in promoting cultural harmony, the Government of Pakistan launched the *One Nation, One Curriculum* policy. This policy, developed by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, focuses on a unified national curriculum for minorities, emphasizing *Religious Education* (Filipović, 2022). It aims to help students understand the value and impact of religious teachings in social life. Incorporating modern international teaching practices alongside national and cultural values, the curriculum endeavors to build a nation proud of its beliefs and cultural identity. However, critics argue that it inadequately addresses moderation, both for minorities and for Muslim children, leaving a gap in fostering a unified, tolerant society.

Interfaith Dialogues

Interfaith dialogue promotes effective communication among individuals from diverse cultures, religions, and beliefs, fostering harmony while discouraging misunderstandings and dominance of opposing religious forces. This concept emphasizes mutual respect for religious freedom and the acceptance of others' rights to practice their faith. Islam strongly advocates for religious tolerance and justice within society (Khan et al., 2020).

Legislation and Policy

To address religious tensions and promote interfaith harmony, the Government of Pakistan established the *Interfaith Harmony Wing* within the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony. However, existing policy and legislative instruments, such as the 1974 constitutional amendment declaring Ahmadis as non-Muslims and Sections 298(b) and 298(c) of the penal code (commonly called "anti-Ahmadi laws"), have created significant divisions. These laws restrict Ahmadis from identifying as Muslims, propagating their beliefs, or using Islamic terminology, fostering antagonism among faiths. The 18th Constitutional Amendment was passed without addressing minority concerns, including blasphemy and Ahmadi-specific laws, exacerbating tensions.

This legislative framework has contributed to societal polarization and intolerance, as evidenced by incidents like the lynching of a Sri Lankan factory manager in Sialkot and mob violence against the Christian community in Jaranwala. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony must adopt policies to mitigate these tensions by engaging religious scholars and political leaders to disseminate messages of tolerance and acceptance. A harmonized society fostering cultural and religious security can emerge through such efforts.

GAP Analysis on Religious and Ethical Values

The table no. 1 is reflecting the GAP analysis technique to analyze the current situation related to cultural security and its dimensions of religious and ethical values and to see how the desired state can be achieved through main public sector organizations that can play pivotal role to implement National Security Policy. The rule 80/20 is applied to describe the analytical part.

GAP Analysis		
Area under Consideration	Promotion of “Cultural Security” by inculcating religious tolerance and inclusive national discourse on freedom of religious beliefs to promote peace and harmony through exploiting Religious and Ethical Values by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training	
Desired State	Current State	Action Strategies
Modification in the policy to mitigate religious tension and extremism and create harmony among Muslim and non-Muslim groups through implementation of “National Security Policy of Pakistan 2022-2026” that has emphasized the paradigm of “National Cohesion” based on the principles of equality and justice recognizing the cultural, religious and ethnical diversities as its pillars.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. National Security Policy 2022-26 is available but the spirit of its implementation to dilute the extremism from the society is weak ii. This weakness is depicting the failure of MoRA to promote social and cultural ethics that could be built upon to enhance interfaith harmony. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. MoFE&PT may incorporate the “One Nation, One Curriculum” through Education and Awareness campaigns initiated from the primary level of education across the board not only for minority groups but also for Muslim students at the same time to promote harmonized culture. ii. The MoRA may promote interfaith dialogues stressed on good communication among people belonging to diverse culture, religion and beliefs with a view to stimulate the interfaith harmony and discourage misunderstanding and hegemony. iii. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony has to adopt such a policy that help to mitigate the religious tension between opposing forces by enforcing the implementation through religious scholars and left wing political parties to promote cultural and religious security in the country
Table No. 1 Gap Analysis on Religious and Ethical Values a Dimension of Cultural Security in Pakistan		

Language Preservation

Language preservation is a critical dimension of cultural security, with significant implications for national security. It is closely tied to threats of extremism and sectarianism due to the societal multipolarity based on diverse cultures, regional languages, and religious and ethical values. Failure to address these dimensions with the spirit of fostering national cohesion leaves society vulnerable to divisions, potentially erupting into sectarian violence and societal intolerance. Pakistan's cultural heritage is incomplete without the preservation of the diverse regional languages spoken across the country.

Languages possess a unique power to unify a nation when given equal status, respect, and opportunities for multilingual promotion and integration. Conversely, when language is used as a tool for division, discrimination, or revulsion, it can fuel conflicts and jeopardize national security (Rogers, 2020). Evidence from the literature underscores the significance of language in preserving culture. For instance, late 19th-century anthropologists struggled to document Native American languages, cultures, and people due to ignorance of their cultural contexts. Similarly, authors of Indian origin highlight that as generational needs evolve, the loss of native languages can lead to diminished cultural identity (Navare, 2013).

Critical Issues for Language Preservation

Cultural Appropriation

Cultural appropriation refers to the inappropriate or unacknowledged adoption of cultural elements by members of another culture. This phenomenon threatens language preservation when a dominant culture imposes its language on minority cultures, disregarding their linguistic preferences. A historical example is the separation of East Pakistan, where the "Urdu Movement" acted as a catalyst. The people of East Pakistan resisted accepting Urdu as a common national language, emphasizing the preservation of Bangla instead. Such dynamics illustrate how cultural appropriation linked to language preservation can challenge national security if cultural diversities in language, traditions, symbols, and music are not respected.

The global framework for addressing cultural appropriation is outlined in Article 31(1) of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which states:

"Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect, and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions" (Thornberry, 2012).

Pakistan's *National Security Policy* addresses cultural appropriation under the thematic pillar of national cohesion. It promotes "unity in diversity" and patriotism by celebrating ethnic, religious, cultural, and linguistic diversity. Strengthening national cohesion through such measures ensures harmony among Pakistan's federating units and territories. Similarly, the *Culture Policy*

of Pakistan (1995) provides a framework to promote the rich heritage of Pakistan's culture and foster an environment where culture can thrive in literature, architecture, music, performing arts, and more.

The United States also addresses language preservation and cultural appropriation through Article II of the *American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which emphasizes recognizing and respecting the multicultural and multilingual character of indigenous peoples (Wiessner, 1997).

Globalization

Globalization has deeply impacted society, eroding cultural values under the umbrella of capitalist economic systems. Language preservation is increasingly endangered by cultural mixing and the rise of globalized preferences. The concept of the world as a "global village" has compressed Pakistan's economy and redefined cultural norms, favoring elite cultural designs influenced by Western styles in language, clothing, and consumer habits.

This global influence has confused native societies, as reflected in Pakistan's linguistic and cultural shifts driven by foreign media. Indian and Turkish dramas, for example, have significantly influenced language discourse and cultural preferences in Pakistan over the past decade. Balancing globalization with efforts to preserve native languages and cultures is critical for safeguarding Pakistan's cultural identity and security.

Mitigation Strategies for Language Preservation

Language Preservation Initiatives

The regional languages of Pakistan represent the cultural pride of each region, emanating from the respective provincial ethnic, religious, cultural, and linguistic diversity, as illustrated in Figure 2. Recognizing the importance of language preservation, the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa took the initiative to establish an academy dedicated to preserving the Gandhara-Hindko language, which is perhaps one of the oldest languages of the region and is on the verge of becoming endangered. This academy focuses on the development of Hindko language and culture.

Similarly, another initiative by the KP Government was the inclusion of the Hindko language as a subject in primary education within the province (Tribune, 2023). Language preservation initiatives are a critical aspect of addressing cultural appropriation, as they foster a sense of equal cultural amalgamation among native and non-native groups. This creates cultural harmonization, ultimately contributing to the cultural security of the region.

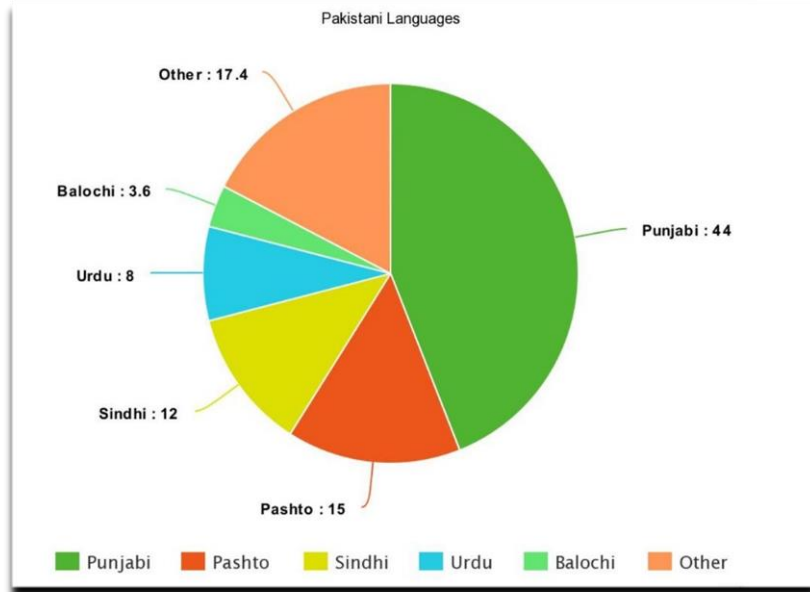


Figure no. 2: Regional Languages spoken in Pakistan

Media and Entertainment Regulations

The critical issue of globalization influenced by foreign media can be regulated through legislative or policy frameworks, as recognized by the promulgation of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Ordinance 2002 (CPDI, 2008). This legislative instrument allowed the private sector to own electronic media outlets on TV and FM radio, while the government continues to monitor the regulatory aspects of the media industry. Additionally, the Government of Pakistan has enacted other media-related laws, such as the Press Council Ordinance, 2002, the Defamation Ordinance, 2002, and the Press, Newspaper, News Agencies, and Books Registration Ordinance, 2002. These measures are part of a mitigation strategy to streamline the influence of globalization on the media and its impact on preserving local languages from foreign influence. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB) is the federal body responsible for issuing policies and legislative instruments, as demonstrated by the following list of laws and policies it has promulgated:

Relevant Laws for Media and Entertainment Regulations:

1. Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1973
2. Pakistan National Council of the Arts Act, 1973
3. Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation Act, 1973
4. The Indecent Advertisement Prohibition Act, 2017

5. The Right of Access to Information Act, 2017
6. Motion Picture Ordinance, 1979
7. PEMRA Ordinance, 2002
8. Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation Ordinance, 2002

Cultural Heritage Preservation

Cultural heritage preservation is another critical dimension of cultural security, reflecting a nation's identity, history, and traditions. It provides insight into the country's historical development and serves as a source of national pride. Pakistan has a rich and diverse cultural heritage dating back thousands of years, reflected in the preservation of archaeological sites, historical buildings, and cultural traditions.

Situation Analysis

Pakistan's cultural heritage is a unique legacy inherited from the Harappan, Gandhara, and Indus Valley civilizations, as well as the Mughal and British eras. During British rule, the **Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904**, was adopted, which later evolved into the **Provisions of Antiquities Act, 1990**, repealing all previous related laws. This law enables the government to regulate and manage cultural properties uniformly, regardless of their status or significance at national or international levels.

Following the 18th Constitutional Amendment, provinces such as Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and Balochistan enacted their own cultural heritage laws, maintaining lists of historically and culturally significant monuments. However, challenges persist in coordination between federal and provincial levels.

Policy Gaps Related to Cultural Heritage Preservation

Several policy gaps exist in cultural heritage preservation, including:

1. Disharmony Between Federal and Provincial Coordination:

There is a lack of a comprehensive national policy for managing archaeological sites. Federal-level engagement with international donors often limits provincial autonomy.

2. Outdated Policy Manuals:

The Conservation Manual of 1928, a relic of the British Raj, remains unrevised. Modern conservation practices require updated guidelines and methodologies.

3. Lack of Administrative and Legal Powers:

The **Provisions of Antiquities Act, 1990**, lacks robust enforcement mechanisms, such as penalties for encroachers or those causing damage to cultural properties.

4. Insufficient Research and Cultural Heritage Studies:

Development projects often disregard the cultural impacts of demolishing historic buildings. Examples like Lahore's Shalimar Gardens highlight the neglect of historical context.

5. Extremism and Terrorism:

Extremist groups, particularly in KP, have destroyed cultural heritage sites such as the Jehanabad Buddha in Swat. The Swat Museum was also damaged during conflict with the Taliban.

6. Cultural Appropriation and Smuggling of Artifacts:

Trafficking of Gandhara and Islamic artifacts is rampant, with consignments worth millions intercepted. Illegal excavations deplete potential tourism revenue and deprive experts of research opportunities.

Mitigation Strategies to Preserve Cultural Heritage

1. Education and Awareness:

Academia and media can play pivotal roles in promoting awareness of Pakistan's cultural heritage. Technological tools and platforms can further amplify these efforts.

2. Cultural Exchange Programs in Archaeology:

Programs like the Global Undergraduate Exchange Program, administered by USEFP, offer opportunities for students to engage in cultural preservation and archaeological studies.

3. **International Collaboration:**

Engaging with organizations like ICCROM and UNESCO can provide training and resources for conservation efforts. Collaboration with international NGOs can strengthen the preservation of monuments and historical sites.

List of Stakeholders involved in Cultural Heritage Preservation

- i. Ministry of National Heritage and Culture Division
- ii. Federal Department of Archaeology and Museum, Pakistan
- iii. Department of Archaeology and Museum, Baluchistan
- iv. Department of Archaeology and Museum, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK)
- v. Antiquities and Tourism Department of Punjab
- vi. Archaeology Department of Sindh
- vii. UNESCO
- viii. International organizations related with archeology like UNESCO
- ix. Academia
- x. Researchers and archeologists
- xi. Other government department's like customs and law enforcement agencies.
- xii. Local communities

SWOT Analysis on Department of Archaeology and Museum (DOAM)

Table No.2 SWOT Analysis on Department of A&M (DOAM)
Strengths
DOAM has a rich collection of artefacts from various archaeological sites in Pakistan, including the Indus Valley Civilization, Gandhara, and Mughal periods
DOAM has a team of experienced archaeologists, researchers, and curators who are dedicated to preserving Pakistan’s cultural heritage.
DOAM has a network of international partners and collaborators who provide technical expertise, funding, and support for its projects
DOAM has a legal mandate and authority to carry out its functions under the antiquity act 1975 and the rules framed under this act.
Weakness
DOAM lacks sufficient funding and resources to maintain and preserve its collection
DOAM faces challenges in terms of security and safety of its collection
DOAM lacks modern technology and infrastructure to digitize its collection and make it accessible to a wider audience
DOAM has a limited capacity to cope with challenges and threats posed by natural disasters urbanization development projects vandalism theft illegal excavation and smuggling of antiquities.

Opportunities
DOAM can leverage digital technologies such as virtual reality, augmented reality, and social media in future to make its collection more accessible to people around the world
DOAM can collaborate with international organizations to secure funding for its projects and initiatives
The DOAM can leverage the potential of cultural heritage tourism as a source of revenue generation economic development and social cohesion.
The DOAM can benefit from the support of national heritage and culture division in the field of cultural heritage preservation in future.
The DOAM can involve local communities in future in the conservation of cultural heritage sites and monuments by empowering them as custodians stake holders and beneficiaries.
Threats
DOAM faces a risk of losing its credibility and legitimacy due to political interference, bureaucratic hurdles, corruption, Nepotism, favoritism and lack of transparency and accountability
DOAM faces a challenge of balancing its mandate to protect and preserve cultural heritage with the demands and Expectations of development projects, private sector interest, religious groups, ethnic communities and other stakeholders

Best Practices Initiatives (China)

The drafting of the *Principles for Conservation of Heritage Sites in China* (2000) is an exemplary illustration of international collaborative efforts. China has registered over 300,000 sites considered historically and culturally important, of which 1,268 are declared as "National Priority Protected" sites. This includes 99 historically and culturally famous cities. Before the turn of the 20th century, China assembled a large advisory group of professionals, including architects, archaeologists, museum curators, conservators, and urban planners, to draft principles governing the preservation and management of cultural heritage sites. This group included representatives from the Getty Conservation Institute and ICOMOS.

A draft of the *Principles for Conservation of Heritage Sites in China* was published in Chinese in 2000, followed by its translation in 2002 by the Getty Conservation Institute. This document, the first of its kind produced in recent years by an Asian country, is tailored to local conditions and outlines procedures for heritage conservation. It provides extensive commentary on key issues, including:

1. Heritage sites
2. Conservation processes to be adopted
3. Archival records for reference and preservation proposals
4. Systems of management
5. Site assessments and states of conservation
6. Preparation of conservation master plans
7. Routine management, maintenance, and interpretation
8. Physical protection and site strengthening
9. Minor and major restoration efforts
10. Relocation and reconstruction.

Cultural Diversity

Cultural diversity refers to the coexistence of a wide range of cultural, ethnic, linguistic, religious, and regional groups within a country. It plays a pivotal role in ensuring cultural security, a critical pillar of national cohesion emphasized in Pakistan's *National Security Policy 2022-26*. Pakistan's cultural diversity reflects a rich tapestry of ethnicities, languages, and traditions, forming the foundation for national unity.

This study highlights the significance of cultural diversity, its implications for cultural security, and the challenges of maintaining this diversity while transforming it into actionable tools for national security. Measures by the government and civil society to protect and promote cultural diversity are also examined.

The importance of cultural diversity lies in its role as a core component of cultural security and national cohesion. The key elements contributing to Pakistan's cultural diversity include:

1. Ethnic Diversity:

Pakistan is home to numerous ethnic groups such as Punjabis, Sindhis, Baloch, Pashtuns, and Kashmiris. Each group contributes unique traditions, languages, and cultural practices.

2. **Linguistic Diversity:**

Pakistan is a multilingual country. While Urdu is the national language, major regional languages include Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, and Balochi.

3. **Religious Pluralism:**

Though predominantly Muslim, Pakistan hosts significant minorities, including Christians, Hindus, and Sikhs, enriching its cultural fabric.

4. **Heritage and Traditions:**

Pakistan's vibrant arts, crafts, music, and traditional celebrations reflect its diverse communities' history and traditions.

List of Stakeholders Related to Cultural Diversity:

- Ministry of National Heritage and Cultural Division
- Educational institutions
- Media
- Community-based NGOs
- Faith-based organizations
- Religious political parties
- Tourism departments
- Academia and researchers

Critical Issues Related to Cultural Diversity

1. **Extremism and Intolerance:**

Religious and cultural extremism sometimes leads to violence and discrimination, threatening cultural diversity.

2. **Urbanization and Globalization:**

Rapid urbanization and global cultural influences can overshadow local traditions and languages.

3. **Marginalization of Indigenous Languages:**

Many indigenous languages are at risk of extinction due to inadequate resources and promotion.

4. **Economic Disparities:**

Socioeconomic disparities erode cultural practices and traditions among marginalized communities.

Policy Initiatives to Mitigate Challenges

1. Cultural Policies:

Establishing bodies like the National Heritage Council and National Language Promotion Department to safeguard diversity.

2. Cultural Education:

Incorporating cultural diversity into curricula and founding cultural institutes to raise awareness.

3. Cultural Festivals:

Hosting events that celebrate and showcase Pakistan's rich diversity.

4. Civil Society Initiatives:

NGOs and civil society groups actively advocate for tolerance and intercultural dialogue.

Analysis of Implementation Strategies for Moral & Ethical Values in Cultural Security

For effective analysis, the following approaches will be employed:

1. Policy gap analysis
2. Institutional analysis
3. SWOT analysis
4. Comparative analysis

Policy Gap Analysis in the Context of the National Security Policy (2022)

The policy aims to protect Pakistan's interests while fostering cultural promotion, including language and literary activities. However, the policy's emphasis on moral and ethical values remains unclear, necessitating further refinement and actionable frameworks.

SWOT Analysis of the National Curriculum Framework

The framework has strengths in promoting moral and ethical values through subjects like Islamic Studies and activity-based learning. However, quality concerns and inadequate inclusion of diverse traditions present weaknesses. Political instability and socioeconomic issues pose threats to successful implementation.

This comprehensive approach seeks to align cultural policies with moral and ethical imperatives, promoting cultural security as a cornerstone of national stability. The curriculum framework can collaborate with other organizations and institutions to promote cultural education and awareness and focus on promoting critical thinking skills and activity-based learning to contribute to the development of moral and ethical values among students. Political instability, socioeconomic factors, and transparency and openness in the education sector pose significant threats to the development of moral and ethical values among students and the implementation

Table No.3 SWOT Analysis of National Curriculum Framework of Pakistan
Strengths
The national curriculum framework of Pakistan aims to provide a comprehensive and balanced education to students, which includes the development of moral and ethical values.
The curriculum includes subjects such as Islamic studies, which aim to promote moral and ethical values among students
The curriculum framework provides opportunities for students to develop critical thinking skills and engage in activity-based learning, which can contribute to the development of moral and ethical values
Weakness
There are concerns about the quality of education in Pakistan, which can impact the implementation of the curriculum framework and the development of moral and ethical values among students
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There are concerns about the quality of education in Pakistan, which can impact the implementation of the curriculum framework and the development of moral and ethical values among students
The curriculum framework may not adequately address the diverse cultural and religious traditions in Pakistan, which can impact the development of moral and ethical values among students
Opportunities
The national curriculum framework can collaborate with other organizations and institutions to promote cultural education and awareness, which can help to uphold moral and ethical values in society
The national curriculum framework can collaborate with other organizations and institutions to promote cultural education and awareness, which can help to uphold moral and ethical values in society
The curriculum framework can focus on promoting critical thinking skills and activity-based learning, which can contribute to the development of moral and ethical values among students
Threats
Political instability and frequent changes in governance can impact the implementation of the curriculum framework and the development of moral and ethical values among students
Socioeconomic factors such as poverty, inequality, and access to education can impact the development of moral and ethical values among students, which can also impact the implementation of the curriculum framework

Institution Analysis on Moral & Ethical Values

In Pakistan, several institutions and organizations are responsible for cultural education and awareness. Some of the prominent ones include:

National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa)

Lok Virsa is a federal government institution dedicated to promoting and preserving the diverse cultural heritage of Pakistan. It conducts research,

organizes exhibitions, workshops, and cultural events, and runs a museum showcasing traditional arts and crafts.

Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA)

PNCA is a government agency responsible for promoting and developing the arts in Pakistan. It organizes exhibitions, workshops, performances, and cultural festivals across various art forms.

National College of Arts (NCA)

NCA is one of the premier art and design institutions in Pakistan. It plays a crucial role in providing education in fine arts, design, and architecture, contributing significantly to the country's cultural and artistic landscape.

Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL)

PAL is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. It is responsible for promoting and publishing Pakistani literature in various languages, including Urdu, English, and regional languages.

Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF)

While primarily focused on science, PSF also supports initiatives related to science and culture, aiming to increase public awareness and understanding of scientific and cultural matters.

Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU)

AIOU is a distance education institution that offers various programs, including those related to arts, humanities, and cultural studies. It plays a role in disseminating cultural knowledge to a wide audience.

Cultural and Heritage Departments of Provincial Governments

Each province in Pakistan has its own cultural and heritage department responsible for promoting and preserving regional cultures, traditions, and historical sites.

Academic Institutions and Universities

Various universities and academic institutions across Pakistan offer programs and courses related to cultural studies, anthropology, archaeology, and other disciplines that contribute to cultural education and awareness.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Numerous NGOs in Pakistan work in the field of culture and heritage preservation. They often collaborate with government agencies and conduct independent initiatives to promote cultural education and awareness.

SWOT Analysis of National Heritage and Cultural Division

SWOT Analysis of National Heritage and Cultural Division - Cultural Security Perspective

Strengths:

1. Cultural Expertise:

The National Heritage and Cultural Division likely has a pool of experts and scholars well-versed in the country's heritage and cultural values. This expertise is crucial for upholding moral and ethical values.

2. Policy-Making Authority:

As a government division, it has the authority to implement policies and initiatives aimed at preserving and promoting cultural values and traditions.

3. Preservation of Historical Sites:

The division is likely responsible for maintaining and preserving historical sites, which serve as physical embodiments of cultural and ethical values.

4. Regulation and Oversight:

It may have the authority to regulate and oversee cultural practices, ensuring they align with ethical and moral values.

Weaknesses:

1. Bureaucratic Challenges:

Government institutions may face bureaucratic hurdles, potentially slowing down decision-making and the implementation of cultural security initiatives.

2. Resource Constraints:

Limited resources, both in terms of funding and personnel, can restrict the division's ability to carry out extensive cultural security programs.

Opportunities:

1. Education and Awareness Campaigns:

The division can develop educational programs and awareness campaigns to instill and promote moral and ethical values in society.

2. Collaborations with NGOs and Civil Society:

Partnering with non-governmental organizations and civil society groups can expand the division's reach and impact in upholding cultural values.

3. Technological Integration:

Leveraging technology, such as digital platforms and virtual tours, can enhance the accessibility of cultural education and value preservation efforts.

Threats:

1. Globalization and External Influences:

External cultural influences, facilitated by globalization and digital media, may challenge the preservation of traditional moral and ethical values.

2. **Political Instability:**

Political shifts and changes in government priorities can affect the division's funding and resources, potentially limiting its capacity to carry out cultural security initiatives.

3. **Conflict and Unrest:**

Political or social conflicts can disrupt cultural preservation efforts, potentially leading to the neglect or damage of heritage sites and traditions.

Comparative Analysis on Moral & Ethical Values (Pakistan vs. China)

Sustainable development is promoted when the education system provides learners with opportunities to equip themselves with moral values, skills, and competencies. Therefore, the understanding and beliefs of teachers regarding moral education play a pivotal role in shaping the personalities of learners.

A comparative study conducted by the teaching faculty of Shanghai University, China, and Beaconhouse School System, Pakistan, aimed to assess the practices and beliefs of university teachers regarding moral education in China and Pakistan. The results revealed that the majority of Pakistani teachers hold a conservative mindset. According to their perspective, the sovereignty of divine laws, loyalty to the constitution, and a sense of serving society were the ultimate aims of moral education. In contrast, Chinese teachers promoted a political ideology emphasizing collectivism within a socialist framework, with family and social values being most relevant.

Critical Issues Related to Moral & Ethical Values

The erosion of moral and ethical values can significantly impact extremism, terrorism, religious tensions, cultural appropriation, and globalization. The following insights highlight these critical issues:

Extremism and Terrorism

- The erosion of moral and ethical values can contribute to the rise of extremist groups and individuals who use violence to achieve political or ideological goals.
- Extremist groups may exploit religion to justify their actions, further exacerbating religious tensions.

Religious Tensions

- Discriminatory practices against Muslims can infringe on their freedom to practice their faith and marginalize them as engaged citizens, leading to religious tensions.
- Muslims may face surveillance, arbitrary arrests, and detention, fostering feelings of discrimination and marginalization.

Cultural Appropriation

- The erosion of moral and ethical values can lead to cultural appropriation, which can be deeply offensive and restrict the exchange of cultural property worldwide.
- Cultural appropriation can be harmful, especially when elements of a subordinated culture are exploited.

Globalization

- The erosion of moral and ethical values can affect globalization by promoting cultural appropriation and harming subordinated cultures.
- The rise of extremist groups and individuals can also destabilize globalization by contributing to political instability and insecurity.

Overall, the erosion of moral and ethical values can have profound impacts on extremism, terrorism, religious tensions, cultural appropriation, and globalization. It is essential to promote and uphold moral and ethical values to prevent these negative impacts and foster social cohesion and harmony.

Mitigation Strategies for Erosion of Moral & Ethical Values

Mitigation strategies to safeguard moral and ethical values in Pakistan can be implemented through various means, including education and awareness, interfaith dialogue, cultural exchange programs, legislation, community engagement, and media/entertainment regulations.

Education and Awareness

- Ethical and moral values are fundamental prerequisites for societal progress.
- The national curriculum framework of Pakistan aims to provide a comprehensive and balanced education, including the development of moral and ethical values.
- Teachers can play a pivotal role in promoting moral education through Islamic studies and other subjects.

Interfaith Dialogue

- Interfaith dialogue can foster mutual understanding and respect among different religious communities, contributing to the upholding of moral and ethical values.
- It can also help address religious tensions and promote social cohesion and harmony.

Cultural Exchange Programs

- Cultural exchange programs can enhance cultural education and awareness, helping to uphold moral and ethical values.
- These programs can also promote social cohesion by fostering mutual understanding and respect among different cultures.

Legislation Policy

- Legislation can be enacted to promote the upholding of moral and ethical values in society.
- It can also address issues such as cultural appropriation and promote cultural education and awareness.

Overall, mitigation strategies to safeguard moral and ethical values in Pakistan can contribute to social cohesion and harmony, fostering mutual understanding and respect among different communities, and upholding essential moral and ethical standards in society.

Challenges Deduced from the Study

1. Inter-religious Tensions:

Conflicts and tensions between different religious communities, particularly in pluralistic societies, can lead to the erosion of moral and ethical values.

2. Intra-religious Tensions:

Tensions and disagreements within a religious community can also threaten moral and ethical values, especially when related to issues of identity and orthodoxy.

3. Offensive Behavior in Globalization:

The influence of global culture can lead to value clashes and offensive behaviors in culturally diverse societies.

4. **Compromised Nationhood:**

The erosion of moral values and principles can threaten the social cohesion and solidarity of a nation, leading to polarization and conflict.

Conclusion

1. The critical issues and their mitigation strategies outlined above conclude that preserving Pakistan's rich cultural heritage is not merely a choice but a responsibility we owe to our ancestors and future generations.
2. As we navigate the challenges of the modern world, it is crucial to recognize the value of our cultural heritage and work collectively to safeguard it. Cultural diversity is a dynamic aspect of society, leading to enhanced creativity, tolerance, and harmony.
3. Promoting inclusivity, respect, and understanding among different cultural groups is essential for the vitality and harmony of a multicultural society.
4. The erosion of moral and ethical values in society is a complex problem that requires a multifaceted approach. Suggested mitigation strategies include conducting research, developing a national values framework, implementing education and awareness programs, promoting cultural exchange programs, and enacting legislation and policy changes.
5. The erosion of moral and ethical values poses a critical challenge to Pakistan's cultural security, as it can lead to inter-religious tensions, offensive behavior in globalization, extremism, terrorism, and compromised nationhood. Addressing this issue requires collaboration across different sectors and disciplines to develop comprehensive strategies that protect and promote moral and ethical values and foster greater social cohesion.

Recommendations

1. The Federal Ministries, i.e., National Heritage & Culture, Federal Education & Professional Training, and Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, should extract the relevant content from the National Security Policy 2022-26 according to their respective mandates and subsequently redefine detailed regulatory policies to address religious harmony, interfaith harmony, language preservation, cultural heritage, and moral ethics.
2. The Ministry of National Heritage & Culture can amend the Antiquities Act, 1990, to facilitate international collaboration with

organizations like UNESCO to promote research in archaeological projects.

3. The legislative instrument can be made an accountable tool by imposing penalties in the Antiquities Act, 1990, for illegal excavation, smuggling, and the illegal export of archaeological artifacts.

4. Academia, educational institutions, and organizations should provide cultural sensitivity training to help students understand and respect the beliefs and traditions of other cultures.

5. Cultural exchange programs and festivals need to be arranged to foster learning from other cultures.

6. The Ministry of Education should promote national cohesion by incorporating multilingual education in schools and universities. Additionally, cultural food events and art exhibitions should be organized to promote regional harmony.

7. To promote interfaith dialogue and understanding among different religious groups, dialogues should be conducted on mainstream media.

8. To promote moral and ethical values, policy instruments should define comprehensive values frameworks and encourage partnerships with governments, NGOs, and civil society organizations.

9. The Ministry of National Heritage & Culture should invest in cultural preservation and diversity to support the preservation of cultural heritage, promote language diversity, and foster unifying bonds with ethnic and religious groups in society.

10. The Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training should enhance investment in cultural exchange programs with developed countries to promote education, awareness, dialogue, understanding, tolerance, interfaith harmony, and national cohesion.

Implementation Design

Develop Comprehensive Values Frameworks

Governments and NGOs can develop comprehensive frameworks of fundamental moral and ethical values to promote and protect pluralistic societies. These frameworks should be based on national and international standards and involve careful consultation with civil society stakeholders and relevant experts.

The design of these frameworks should include:

- **Identification and prioritization** of core values and principles common to all communities within a society to promote consensus and inclusive participation.
- **Values** such as respect for human dignity, religious tolerance, freedom of expression, inclusivity, non-discrimination, and social justice.
- **Relevant policies, programs, and action plans**, along with a monitoring system to evaluate their effectiveness.

The implementation should involve partnerships with civil society and government agencies to ensure broad ownership, effective execution, and sustainability.

Promote Education, Awareness, and Dialogue

Civil society actors and governments can play a key role in promoting education, awareness, and dialogue to foster interfaith understanding, tolerance, and respect for diversity in pluralistic societies.

Key components include:

- **Targeting youth, schools, and social media platforms**, where attitudes and values are most influenced.
- **Engaging stakeholders** such as youth leaders, teachers, and community-based organizations to ensure widespread ownership and impact.
- **Developing materials** like training programs, educational curricula, and social media campaigns tailored to specific audiences.
- **Creating opportunities for dialogue and exchange** among different communities to foster mutual understanding and shared values.

Regular monitoring should be conducted to ensure the initiatives remain relevant and effective in achieving their goals.

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