

## Key Question 5: To what extent Urdu and Regional languages contributed to the cultural development of Pakistan ?

### 1. Why did Pakistan choose Urdu as its national language? [7]

One of the reasons why Urdu became the national language in Pakistan is its long history. It was widely used in the Mughal period and dates back as far as the Sultans of Delhi. In its early stages it was used by the Muslim armies and became widely spoken and understood in many parts of the subcontinent. So it was natural that such a well known and established language would be chosen.

Another reason for Urdu being chosen was its high status. Some of the finest early poets, such as Amir Khusrou wrote in Urdu and Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's school at Aligarh became a centre for Urdu study. Many religious books, including the Quran, were translated into Urdu. So it was considered an important language with a rich literacy tradition.

Perhaps the major reason for Urdu being chosen was the fact that it was so closely associated with the Pakistan Movement. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan supported it and the Muslim League was formed not only to defend Muslims interests, but also to protect Urdu. The Quaid-e-Azam was particularly keen to promote Urdu as he saw it as a unifying force. Since Pakistan was a new country, it was very appropriate to pick a language which had played a part in unifying Muslims.

#### Advantage of Urdu

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#### Disadvantages of Urdu

Destruction of other languages

Language of only 8%

Urdu Bengali Controversy which led to separation

### 2. Why have Regional languages been promoted by Pakistan since 1947? [7]

Urdu was promoted because it was the language of Muslims. It united the Muslims of India in those times and was also chosen as the national language of Pakistan. More development was taken in it so that more people could have knowledge in it and promote it.

Sindhi was also promoted because it played a major role in literature. It was felt that the work of the people should be kept alive and not forgotten. The work and poetry of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai and Sachal Sarmast was to be preserved. The government made Sindhiology department in University of Jamshoru. Sarmast Academy was setup to promote Sindhi language.

Balochi language was promoted so that the people don't forget it and due to the work and poetry of people like Jam Darang. His works were great. Radio Pakistan promoted it by broadcasting in Balochi. Newspapers and Books were published in Balochi language to promote it at national levels.

Punjabi was promoted because it contained many influential things like poetry and other works of Bulle Shah's Kalam. It was thought that his work should be protected for future generations and save it

Pushto was promoted because it played a major role by Sahibzada Abdul Qayum in the independence of Muslims. It made people stand up for their rights. University of Peshawar supported it and books were written in Pushto.

So that is why Regional languages been promoted by the Pakistan government.

3. 'The promotion of regional languages in Pakistan between 1947 and 1988 has been more successful than the promotion of Urdu.' Do you agree? Explain your answer. [14]

Urdu is very important for all Pakistanis and it has been considered to be the language of all Muslims for 300 years. It was the language associated with the Pakistani Movement throughout its struggle with the British and the Hindus. After Independence it was felt that the language was the uniting force behind the nation. The Hindi-Urdu Controversy Sir Syed supported Urdu as official language for the Muslims and India.

Sindhi is the language older than Urdu it was used by number of famous poets. It is very popular in Sindhi province. Sindhi was written in 'Marwari' and 'Arz Nagari' was of writing which was subsequently changed into Arabic. After Independence, There are many steps taken to promote Sindhi. The Sindhi Literary Board was set up in 1948 which has printed many books and magazines in the language. Several important books are written in Sindhi. It is used in school but it is not the medium of instructions in schools. Government is also trying to promote this language. One of the famous person is Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai and Sachal Sarmast. Sarmast Academy was also setup in Sindh. The government made Sindhiology department in Univeristy of Jamshoru.

Balochi is the language which is spoken by the largest province of Pakistan which is Balochistan. Language was brought here by tribes who migrated here. There are several Balochi poets. It was first discovered outside the province in 1830 when a British traveler was traveling. There was a decline in the language but government has made Radio Pakistan Karachi to do broad cast in Balochi. There are several magazines written and Quetta Television broadcast Balochi shows. There is now promoted rapidly increase in the language and is used by many poets.

Punjabi is the local language of the Punjab. It was a popular language amongst the Sufi poets who used it for their romantic folk poetry. It is also

spoken in Abad Kashmir and the NWFP. It is easily understood by everyone and is also considered very old language. It has a long history and is written in "Gurmukhi script" and there are several dialects of this language. This language is used by singers and there are many songs in this language. There are novels, short stories, and Dramas in Punjabi and there are also books published in this language as Law, Medicine. The Punjabi Literature is taught in many educational places. These poems contributed greatly to the popularity of Punjabi. After Independence, steps were taken for the promotion and development of the language in other parts of the province. The Government have ensured its development by giving support to those institutions who are using it for example in University of Punjab. Punjabi is now taught at Masters level. Some important works,poets and people include Bullhe Shah for his 'Kalam'. Some famous works include of various people are Heer-Ranjha and Sassi Pannu.

Pushto is the language of people of NWFP and the northern areas of Balochistan. It is influenced by Greek, Persian and Arabic. It had a great history and is one of the oldest languages of Pakistan. Pashto literature plays an important role in opposition to British rule and movement towards independence. Study in Pashto helped foster unity and the language became freedom movement for NWFP. Within three years after independence Peshawar University was established to promote the language.

But still agree that Urdu was the most promoted because it was the national language of the Pakistan and the Muslims because it united the Muslims under one point and made them fight for their separate country which led to making of Pakistan and also because its been promoted more than others.