



Mains Practice Question

Q. How can local community involvement enhance internal security measures and build resilience against radicalization and extremism? (250 words)

07 Feb, 2024 GS Paper 3 Internal Security

Approach

- Write a brief introduction about the role of the local community in internal security.
- Mention the way through which the local community can involve productively in maintaining internal security.
- Write a conclusion.

Introduction

Local community involvement refers to the participation and engagement of local actors, such as civil society organizations, religious groups, youth, women, and other vulnerable groups. Local community involvement is a key aspect of preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (P/CVERLT).

Body

Local community involvement can enhance internal security measures by:

- **Eyes and ears on the ground:** Residents are often the first to notice suspicious activity, changes in individuals' behavior, or potential recruitment efforts. Open communication channels with law enforcement and security agencies help relay this information quickly, enabling early intervention.
- **Building trust and rapport:** Regular interaction between community members and security personnel fosters trust, encouraging people to report concerns without fear of retribution. This collaborative approach creates a network of vigilance.
- **Addressing root causes:** Community engagement can identify underlying issues like poverty, lack of opportunity, or social exclusion that make individuals vulnerable to radicalization. Addressing these concerns through social programs, education initiatives, and economic development can prevent recruitment.
- **Promoting counter-narratives:** Local leaders, faith-based organizations, and youth groups can engage in open dialogue, fostering critical thinking and promoting values of tolerance, diversity, and peaceful conflict resolution. This counters extremist narratives and empowers individuals to resist radicalization.
- **Strengthening social bonds:** Community events, interfaith dialogues, and cultural exchange programs build bridges between different groups, fostering a sense of belonging and shared identity. This reduces social isolation and undermines the divisive tactics of extremists.
- **Empowering communities:** Training programs can equip community members with skills to identify and counter extremist messaging, organize watch programs, and provide support to individuals at risk of radicalization. This fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility for security within the community.

Conclusion

Village Defence Committees (VDC), which were established in 1995 and played a significant role in combating militancy in the JnK region. The VDCs have been praised for their commitment to defending national security and instilling a sense of confidence among the people. Acknowledging their significance, the LG of JnK has recently declared to revive VDCs.

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