

Essay

Being a Minority is a curse
in a state; can Nationalism be
all-inclusive

Outline

① Introduction

Persecution of minorities at all levels render them a curse in a state. They are marginalized at political, social, economic and administrative levels. However, by changing policies, cultural behaviours and literature, nationalism can be inclusive and comprehensive.

② Co-relation Between Nationalism and Minority

③ How Being Minority is a curse.

- (i) Inadequate representation at political level
- (ii) Marginalization at administrative level
- (iii) Lack of Economic opportunities for Minorities

(iv) Low-rank Employments

for minorities

(v) Meagre Resource allocation

(vi) Mistreatment at workplace

(vii) Social exclusion

(viii) Inaccessibility to education,
health and house

(ix) Under-representation in Courts

(x) Ineffective policies to safeguard
minorities

④ Grounds for Nationalism be all-inclusive:

(i) Policy Formulation for equal
opportunities and representation

(ii) Cultural inter-mingling
and inter-mixing

(iii) Community level start-ups
for tolerance

(iv) Inclusive and comprehensive
literature in a State

⑤ Endeavours of different countries to
make nationalism all-inclusive:

(i) Provisions of 18th Amendment
in Pakistan

(ii) Creation of New administrative Units in India

(iii) Civil Rights Act in the USA

(iv) Legislation regarding minorities in Nigeria, Rwanda

⑥ Implications of all-inclusive nationalism

(i) Strengthening democratic institutions

(ii) Strong Federation

(iii) Inclusivity in administration

(iv) Increase sustainable economic growth

(v) Decrease in poverty line

(vi) Improve literacy rate, health access and social inclusion

(vii) Bolster up tolerance and forbearance in a society

⑦ Conclusion

Excluding the ethnic minorities forcefully by the Myanmar government, marginalization of Muslims by the Modi administration, and sidelining of the black people by the USA government make this notion true that being a minority is a curse in a state. Discrimination of minorities can be based on ethnic, religious, race identities. Nationalism is a sentiment of a society which shares collective history, geography and cultural values. In the recent times, the notion of nationalism prompted due to the rise of nation-state system after the Treaty of Westphalia 1648. Currently countries are divided on the basis of ethnicities, national realities, religious and cultural identities. Minority in any case would be marginalized at political, economic and social level. However, by taking policy measures, adequate administrative steps, and proper actions for equal representation, nationalism can be all-inclusive.

Nationalism and minority are separated by their conceptual meanings. Nationalism is a collective sentiment of a community which shares history, values, and culture. Although such concept is as old as hills, yet it has taken a forward seat in recent political development.

While a minority is a person who is less in demographic size in a society. By the dint of this disadvantage, there are chances that he can be discriminated on different grounds. After the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, nation-state concept gained prominence.

However, nationalism can be all-inclusive as defined by Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal where he profoundly focused on Muslim nationalism. The last sermon of the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) outlined the grounds of collective growth of humanity must not be based on colour, geography, history and culture.

To begin with, being a minority is a curse because of inadequate representation at political level. It means that minorities are under-represented in parliaments and congresses. For example, Black people have a few numbers in the Senate and House of Representatives in the USA. It is based on the ethnic reality of the black people. A very few of them could reach the office of President such as Barack Obama who became president of the USA in 2008. He was the first black president occupying the White House in 200 years of political history. It can be concluded that being a minority is a curse because they are marginalized at political level.

Secondly, under-representation at political level can be exacerbated at administrative level by the majority of a nation. It is a cascading effect where top-notch

positions are given to majority of that nation. For example, the Muslims in India are under-represented in administration. They are sidelined from the key positions. Ethnic riots on the basis of the religious identity is prominent in India. Gujarat Massacre 2002 is a clear example where the Muslims were killed by the majority Hindus. (Source: BBC Documentary).

Going back into the history of the sub-continent where they (Muslims) were marginalized during a short period of Congress (1937-39). They were sidelined by the Hindu majority government. Inadequate representation at administrative level render the minority at the mercy of the majority.

Similarly, marginalization at administrative stage leads to the economic discrimination of the minority group in a state. They are allocated meagre resources. The employment case is much

worse where they are given less paid and lower-rank jobs. Even that they are mistreated at workplace. For instance, the Muslim ethnic minority in Myanmar were mostly employed in clerical posts or sewerage department. (Source: World Economic Forum Reports). From the bunch of economic resources, minority group is allocated a small share. This situation is further aggravated by the high-rank majority people. For example, Ku Klux Klan, an extremist organization in the USA was against Black people. It killed a lot of people merely on the racial basis. White supremacist groups in the USA were active during the Civil War (1861-65) and after it. For example Freedom Riders, Ferguson vs Maine case, Little Nine Rocks all are the incidents and cases in the USA where black minority had to pass through to achieve such status. Therefore, it can be said that being minority is a curse because they are

discriminated at economic, social and administrative level.

Moreover, the social exclusion of the minority has been witnessed in their marginalization in education, health facilities and decent accommodation. Being low in demographic size put them at a disadvantage level where they are strangled by the majority.

Dalits in India have been living in ghettos for years. Although India has become the 5th largest economy of the world, it has to give space to its minorities group in the development. (Source: IMF)

When they are sidelined, the majority don't formulate inclusive policies so that minority can also be included in a state without prejudices and bias.

Nevertheless, nationalism can be all-inclusive if the state some concrete measures in order

to inculcate the minority. Firstly, there is a need to formulate policy which can increase the representation of minority at the highest offices. For this, a quota in political offices and administration level is a welcome step. For example, in the Senate of Pakistan, all federating units are equally represented. (Source: Senate of Pakistan). Similarly, the minority should be given proper representation in administration. There is 5% quota for minorities in Pakistan. (Source: Establishment Division).

Furthermore, policy formulation for the minorities should be bonded up with cultural inter-mixing and inter-mingling initiatives. It is necessary to have such action plans so that extremist elements from the majority group could not exploit the fault lines. For example German model of post-war where the government took concrete measures

like cultural festivals where all the communities were given due representations. It would increase the tolerance and forbearance among population. Xenophobic sentiments would be minimized. For instance, in the USA, after the Civil Rights Movement, series of legislative and policy initiatives were taken. The world states need to make the nationalism all-inclusive so that minority groups don't feel discriminated. The nations can take a leaf from the book of the last Sermon of the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) where he removed all the ethnic, cultural and geographical prejudices. (Source: Dr. Hamidullah Book Muhammad). In the end, it can be concluded that nationalism can be comprehensive and all-inclusive if it adopts policy related to the minority group.

In order to understand the inclusivity of nationalism, one can analyze the examples of

Various states which have taken measures to safeguard their minority group. Firstly, Pakistan has amended its Constitution through 18th amendment in 2010. (Source: The National Assembly of Pakistan). In this amendment, the government has added the provision 51(6)(e). According to this section, seats reserved for non-Muslims or minorities in parliament will be filled by political parties according to their proportion in the assembly. Other than this, Pakistan has seen minority group at the highest position of judiciary: Justice Cornelius and Justice Bhagwan Das. Moreover, the nomination of minority group's person in the interim government by ~~the~~ Quaid-e-Azam - Jaganmohan Lal Nehru - was a clear manifestation that the state would be equal for all people without any ethnic prejudices.

Secondly, creation of new administrative groups by the Indian government is a step

towards inclusivity of nationalism.

Although, recently Indian administration is marginalizing the Muslims merely on the religious grounds - Citizenship Amendment Act, National Registration

Certificate - they need to adopt

inclusive policies. (Source: Indian External Affairs Ministry). Similarly,

the USA has also adopted policies in order to increase the security and protection of people of minority

group. Civil Rights Act 1963 is hard

gained success after the series

of conflicts - civil war 1861-65 - and skirmishes between white supremacist

and black Afro-American people. The

United Nation Convention on the Elimination of All kinds of Racial

Discrimination encourages the

states to make national and domestic policies more inclusive

and comprehensive. (Source: UN)

These actions and policies can become a source of beacon for

other states where minority is being marginalized.

There are different states where inclusive policies have been adopted in order to inculcate the minorities. Such precedents can be implemented by the world powers in global flashpoints like Kosovo vs Serbia; Ethiopia vs Eritrea; and Sudan vs South Sudan. This will strengthen the democratic essentials like participation and inclusion. Political institutions would be better represented from all across the state. Furthermore, the federation would get stronger. In case of Pakistan Saraiki group, Hazara community; and Urdu speaking in Karachi are demanding due representation and resource allocation. By giving them due rights, the state can embolden the nationalistic spirit against any misadventure.

Meanwhile, due representation ^{of minority} would not only strengthen democracy and federation

but it also decreases the chances of exploitation by the enemies of the state. For example, Aung San Su Kyi, the former prime minister of Myanmar, excluded the Rohingya Muslims from all accounts. Mass exodus was seen. That created the humanitarian crisis in the state and its neighbouring countries - Bangladesh. (Source: UNHCR). Such ethnic cleansing would be exploited by the enemies in their interest. Ultimately it would destabilise the state in general and economy in particular. A state can increase its economic strength by including the minority group in the administration. Therefore, it can be said that all-inclusive nationalism would include all people in the progress of the nation irrespective of the races, ethnicity, etc. That would bring fruits in the form of development.

While including the minorities in the development would bring development, it would also

enhance peace and prosperity.
In case of Germany during the World War II, where 'purification' of German people was the agenda of Hitler. It brought the major world powers at war that killed 70 million people, according to some reports. Similarly, such exclusion is going on by the right-wing government in Israel against Muslims. All-inclusive govern' nationalism sidelines the mantra of 'purification' and 'Sangh priwar' like extremist ideations. That brings peace and prosperity in the nation.

By including minority in the development, state can dedicately focus on the economic growth. It will not consume the state's energy, resources and machinery against fighting extremist elements. There are multifaceted benefits of all-inclusive nationalism.

Firstly, it will include the minority group in the development thus decreases the chances of extremism. Secondly

it will help a state to promote tolerance and forbearance among ~~the~~ population. That will directly impact the economic growth in a positive way. Social development programmes can be executed by the state. For example, Sri Lankan government consumed large amount of money and resources fighting against Tamils. That hampered the growth of the state. However after the successful inclusion of Tamils in the government, a peaceful growth had been observed. A civil war in Afghanistan after the exclusion of the USSR in 1989, between Southern alliance and Northern alliance could not restructure the state. Therefore, it can be concluded that all-inclusive nationalism would pave the way for peace and prosperity in a society thus the state would be able to focus on human development.

In a nutshell, minority in a state faces numerous

hurdles at political and economic level. They are discriminated on social and administrative accounts. Inadequate policy measures make them more vulnerable in the crowd of majority. As the last sermon of the prophet (P.B.U.H) also outlined the inclusivity of a nation, by discouraging people to divide on racial, ethnic, historical and geographical basis. Nationalism can be all-inclusive if the state takes measures like policy formulation for adequate representation, cultural and social level initiatives, etc. Different states have adopted such measures to include their minority groups. The implications of all-inclusive are far-reaching on the state, society and population. It would bring democratic spirit in the institutions, make federation strong, enhance economic growth and increase perpetual peace in the state.

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