

THE NEW WAVE OF ISLAMOPHOBIA^{Date} AND THE ROLE OF DIC

1) Introduction.

Thesis statement: The emergence of new wave of ~~Islam~~ Islamophobia has started and the role of DIC is not ^{seen} very effective in curbing this. Internal division, lack of consensus, backwardness in science and technology and dependence on West are reasons for this inefficacy. Concerted efforts are needed for ~~enhance~~ enhancing the capacity of DIC for curbing Islamophobia.

2) Islamophobia and manifestation of new wave of Islamophobia

3) Factors behind emergence of new wave of Islamophobia

- a) 9/11 attack is the leading cause of Islamophobia even after 20 years have passed in the Western World
- b) Biased Western media paints the false image of Islam and Muslims
- c) Islamophobia is a political tool used by populist leaders which cause surge in Islamophobia
- d) Surge in religious extremism in Muslim world augments the Islamophobia
- e) Using the actions of single individual as a basis for generalizing about Islam can contribute to surge in Islamophobia
- f) Misuse of freedom of speech in Western World
- g) The long history of animosity ~~between~~ ^{among} Muslim countries and others give rise to Islamophobia

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- 4) Reasons of OIC's failure in curbing Islamophobia
- (a) Disunity among Muslim nations is the loophole within the OIC, which preclude the curbing of Islamophobia
 - (b) Inability to project the soft power and true teaching of Islam
 - (c) No strong military alliance to deter Islamophobics
 - (d) Backwardness in science and technology of OIC member countries diminishes the influence of their collective voice
 - (e) Muslim countries under foreign debt traps cannot confront the West
 - (f) The OIC's emphasis on verbal ~~or~~ rhetoric over practical measures hampers its effectiveness in addressing Islamophobia

- 5) Way forward for OIC to curb Islamophobia
- (a) Launching an institutional mechanism for conflict resolution within member state
 - (b) Development of Global Islamic Fund for suppressing Islamophobia and reducing the dominance of West over third world Muslim countries
 - (c) Promote intra-OIC trade
 - (d) Advancement in science and technology, research and development

6) Conclusion

It was 15 March, 2019. People were heading toward Al-Noor Mosque and Linwood Islamic Centre for offering obligatory Friday prayer. People were doing Zikr and listening to speech of Imam. All of sudden, Brenton Tarrant, a white supremacist, entered into the mosque and opened fire on them. It resulted into the death of 51 people. This incident ~~depicts~~ reveals that Islamophobia is again on rise. Muslims, all over the world, are harassed and coerced just because they are Muslims. There are several reasons for increase in Islamophobia. This includes 9/11 attack which sowed the seed of hatred toward Muslims, biased western media, usage of Islamophobia as a political tool by populist leaders and surge in religious extremism in Muslim countries. Furthermore, it includes generalizing Islam on the basis of actions of single individual, misuse of freedom of speech and historical animosity ~~between~~ among countries. OIC has always been ineffective in combating Islamophobia. There are various factors behind its inefficiency. This includes disunity among Muslim nations, inability to project soft power and true teachings of Islam and absence of strong military alliance. Moreover, this also includes backwardness of Muslim world in science and technology, inability of OIC member to confront West because of debt and lack of pragmatic approach to curb Islamophobia. Therefore, there is a dire need to take steps for enhancing the capacity of OIC. These steps include developing an institutional mechanism to resolve internal conflicts of members, development of global Islamic Fund promoting intra-OIC trade and advancing in science and technology and research and development. In a nutshell, the emergence of new wave of Islamophobic

has started and the role of OIC is not seen very effective in curbing this. There are many reasons behind this ineffectiveness. Coordinated efforts are required for enhancing the capacity of OIC for ending Islamophobia. Islamophobia is the fear of, hatred of, or prejudice against the religion of Islam or Muslims in general, especially when seen as a geopolitical force or a source of terrorism. Around four waves of Islamophobia has passed. Currently, fifth wave of Islamophobia is on rise. After a drop for some period of time, Islamophobia is again on the rising trend. The Council of American-Islamic Relations said that it received 774 reports of bias incident and request of help from Muslims across the US from October 7 to October 24, a 182% jump from average 16-day period in 2022. The manifestation of Islamophobia is not very different from previous display. There has been repeated desecration of sanctity of Holy Quran in previous months in Sweden and some other Western countries. Moreover, ban has been imposed on hijab in France. Girls, wearing head-scarfs, are stopped from entering into schools, until they put off their scarves. Therefore, Islamophobia is creating problem for Muslims living abroad.

There are many factors contributing to surge in Islamophobia. Chief of all these factors is 9/11 attacks which sowed the seeds of hatred among Western nationals for Muslims. Around 20 years have passed but it feels that the wounds of 9/11 are still bleeding. The twin tower attacks was the beginning of animosity and extreme hatred of West toward Muslims. This attack changed the way the West used

to view Muslims - These Islamophobic acts are the manifestation of burning fire of revenge inside the heart of West. The executive director of Council of American-Islamic Relations, Hussam Ayloush, said that 21 years had passed after the attacks, Muslims continue to face the targeted violence. Thus, the leading cause of Islamophobia, particularly in America, is the twin tower attack.

Another factor that also play a very ^{prominent} role in the rise of Islamophobia is the biased Western media that paint the false image of Islam and Muslims. Media ~~program~~ plays a very important role in shaping the opinions of people. Western Media gives more coverage to terrorism attacks by Muslim extremist than ~~to~~ by any other group. A recent study by the University of Alabama ~~was~~ revealed that, Western media's coverage of terrorist attack by Muslim is 357% more than that committed by any other group. Western media labels Islamist extremist as terrorist and ~~others~~ spares other. Signal AI scanned 200,000 articles on 11 different attacks in which Islamist extremist were labelled as terrorist 79% and far-right extremist were only identified as terrorist 24% of time. Therefore, Western media is involved in manipulation of public opinion regarding Islam and Muslims.

Islamophobia is ~~also~~ on rise ^{also} due to usage of Islamophobia as a political tool by political leaders. The reason for using this is to seek public support for elections. Political leaders remind people of the harm caused to them by Muslims and promise them to take their revenge, if they get elected. US President Donald Trump's manifesto in 2016 presidential election.

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hard anti-muslim elements, such as refusing visas to seven Muslim countrails. Some leaders emphasize national ism and promise them to save the cultural and religious identity of country, if they get elected. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has contested elections on the grounds of Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens. This all reflects his aversions for Muslim. Thus, Islamophobia is surging because political leaders use it as a political tool.

Surge in Religious Extremism in Muslim World
augments the Islamophobia. This religious extremism conveys the false image of Islam to people. They start believing that Islam is a cruel religion which has no place and compassion for others. Killing of non-Muslims in Muslim countries creates fear and hatred for Muslims in world. The killing of Christians in Jaranwala and demolition of churches received worldwide outrage. Many Muslim countries impose strict ban on women's education and other basic human right. This thing furnish the global image of Islam. Afghanistan has barred women from receiving education. They have also restricted the movement of women in ~~common~~ public places like parks and etc. Thus, these acts of Muslim world convey the false image of Islam which in turn create animosity of non-Muslims towards Islam and Muslim.

Drawing conclusion about the Islam and entire Muslim community from action of single individual also cause like in Islamophobia. Islam is a diverse religion with over 1.8 billion followers, representing different beliefs, culture and practices. Any religion in the world never have all of its followers conforming

to its teachings. Thus, drawing conclusion from the these deviant behaviour is entirely wrong. Many leaders due to little knowledge about Islam often blame Islam for action and extremism of individuals. Dutch politician and right wing populist Geert Wilders refers to Quran as a source of inspiration for, and justification of, hatred, violence and terrorism in the world, particularly Europe and America. Thus, using the actions of single individual as a basis for generalizing about Islam can contribute to surge in Islamophobia.

Misuse of freedom of speech also lead to surge in Islamophobia. It is true and correct that people must be granted the right of freedom of speech but there are certain limitations and restrictions to this right. People or government often hide the discretion of holy Quran under the guise of freedom of speech. In July 2023, United Nations Human Rights Council put forward the resolution for resolving the issue of burning of Holy Quran. It was passed with 28 "yes" votes. However, some influential nation of world like US, UK, France and Germany said 'No' to resolution for the reason that it contained certain clauses that curb the freedom of speech. Therefore negative use of freedom of speech often leads to Islamophobia.

The long history of animosity among nations give rise to Islamophobia. Nations that used to be rival of each other in past are often involved in - coercing and brutalizing the followers of each religion of opposite country. India and Pakistan are epitome of this. India is hinder dominant country.

Both countries have centuries old rivalry -
even after independence, consider muslim their foes -
These radical hindus are involve in ~~more~~ massacring
of muslims for no reason - India, for the sake
of cleaning muslims from India, passed Citizen
Amendment Act - Muslims are not ^{allowed} to practice their
religion freely and openly - Thus, Islamophobia can
also be ~~cause~~ resulted due to old animosity between
nations

Despite the surge in the incidents of Islamophob
ia, OIC's role is very ineffective for curbing such
acts. One of the factors behind ineffectiveness is the
disunity among muslim nations - This unity make
their stance and voice less influential - Muslim
world is divided on many basis - First of all, is
sectaria division - This schism is Sunni - Shia division -
Because of this, some member countries are involved in
proxy war in other country for promulgating their
sect - Another division is political, one is western
camp and other is conservative camp - Saudi Arabia is
pro-western while Iran is facing sanctions from
USA - Another division is various form of government
in different countries - Some ~~has~~ has democracy, other
~~has~~ has kingship, while remaining has military rule - Thus
this internal division is the main reason for ineffective
ness of OIC in suppressing Islamophobia.

Another failure of OIC in combating Islamop
hobia is the inability to project the soft power
and true teaching of Islam - Islam is the religion
that has always preached compassion, tolerance, peace
and kindness ^{to its} followers - It always forbid its
followers from any kind of malpractices - OIC has
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failed to project this bright and true side of Islam. Cultural exchange programmes are the very effective way to show bright picture of Islam to world. However, OIC has never organized any culture exchange programme between OIC member countries and Western world. Media and communication programmes can counteract the false narratives and propogandas about Islam. Nonetheless, OIC has never launch any such kind of campaign or television programme. Therefore, OIC has been failed to eradicate the false narratives that can hamper Islamophobia.

OIC does not have military alliance to deter Islamophobics. Many successful alliances have their own military force like NATO. These collective force ~~are~~ is used to fight against mutual threats. ~~When~~ when US ~~had~~ had security threat from Taliban, then it started war on Terror against them which is primarily assisted by NATO troops. The absence of strong military alliance makes OIC unable to fight against Islamophobics. It is difficult for single nation to fight against them. Collective strength can bring victory to home. Therefore, long standing ^{and unresolved} issue of Islamophobia in front of OIC is due to the absence of strong military alliance.

Backwardness in science and technology of OIC member countries diminishes the influence of their collective ~~and~~ voice. This is the 21st century where progress of countries in the field of science and technology is touching dizzy heights. Entire world is dependent upon them for acquiring these technologies or suppressed by them because of fear of being attacked by these powerful nation. However, Muslim countries lacks behind in these

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field. 46 Muslim countries combined contribute just 1% of world's scientific literature - Whereas, Spain and India each contribute more of the world's scientific literature than combine of 46 countries. Even though, the work that is produced is not of worth reading. Steven Weinberg said that for forty years, he had not seen a single paper by a physicist or astronomer written in Muslim country that was worth reading. As a result, entire Muslim world is dependend upon those who are involved in Islamophobic act. This thing refrain ~~any~~ them from taking any hard stance against them.

Another reason for inefficacy of OIC is that the Muslim countries are under foreign debt trap due to which they cannot confront the West. Financial dominance is the most useful way with which any nation can suppress other nation or take control of their national affairs. Muslim countries owe debt to many global financial institutes. Among top 10 countries owing most debt to IMF, 3 of them are Muslim countries. These are Egypt, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. **CFDI Intelligence, The IMF's top 10 Biggest Debtors** These debt prevent the Muslim countries from going against the US, UK and other powerful countries because most of the global financial institutes are controlled by these financially stronger nations. Therefore, crippled economy of OIC members preclude them from taking any ~~any~~ effective steps that can curb the Islamoph.

OIC often emphasis on verbal ~~rather~~ rhetoric over practical measures that hampers its effectiveness in addressing Islamophobia. Most common method of

OIC for combating Islamophobia is to convene a meeting of its member and just pass a resolution condemning the act. Another method recently adopted by OIC is to specify a day for Islamophobia. All these steps are useful but these steps are less likely to produce any result. OIC has never urged its member to halt trade ~~with~~ with those countries that are involved in Islamophobia. It neither urged its member to sever diplomatic ties with those nations that are not cracking any laws for curbing Islamophobia. Thus, all these loopholes and ~~more~~ lacunas make OIC ineffective for combating Islamophobia.

All the aforementioned problems of OIC require some solutions which can enhance the capacity of OIC for reducing Islamophobia. One step that can be taken in this direction is to launch or develop an institutional mechanism for conflict resolution within member state. There is ~~need~~ ^{need} to hold interfaith dialogues among nation belonging to different sects. Religious scholars should underscore the importance of unity in Islam. They should tell the entire muslim world that internal wranglings is against the interest of Islam. ~~There is~~ There is need to tell the history of Ashabul-Ikhaam to them. They are need to realize ~~from~~ from this history that Companion of Muhammad (SAW) conquered the entire world when they were united. However, when the unity among them started disintegrating then they started losing wars. Therefore, internal peace and conflict resolution is very important for banishing Islamophobia.

Another step that can be taken is to develop a global Islamic fund that will be used for ~~suppressing~~ ^{suppressing} ~~bracket~~

Islamophobia. This fund will also be used to help third world Muslim world. The fund will be used to reduce the dominance of ^{Western} world. When the dominance of ~~Western~~ world will be reduced then these countries can take step for curbing Islamophobia. The contribution of in this fund will be based on GDP. Higher the GDP, more will be the contribution in the Islamic fund. Islamic scholars should tell the rewards of contributing in this fund ~~for~~ from Allah. Moreover, it must be told that this fund ~~is~~ ^{will} be used to glorify Islam in entire world. Thus, this step has potential to bring an end to Islamophobia.

Another effective panacea to bring an end to Islamophobia is to promote or intra-OIC trade. It is the blessing of Allah Almighty that many of the reserves of crude oil and gas are in Muslim countries. Entire world depend on some Muslim countries for fulfilling their energy needs. Thus, these Muslim countries can curb ~~the~~ ^{the} trade with countries involved in Islamophobic acts. On the other hand, intra-OIC trade should be promoted so that the countries ~~that~~ ^{that} curb ~~the~~ ^{the} trade with other countries do not suffer from loss. Muslim world should remove import and ~~export~~ non-import tariffs on trade. Undue taxes should be removed. Therefore, promotion of trade among OIC member can eradicate Islamophobia.

Muslim countries should make ~~steps~~ ^{steps} and ~~steps~~ ^{steps} advancement in the field of science and technology, research and development. This will reduce their dependence on others for harnessing their resource. It will also accrete their global influence. When Muslim world make advancement in research and technology, then it will

increase the intellectual ability of their youth. This youth then join global institutes of different fields. This will convey true image of Islam. It will also produce global leaders who will change the view with which many advanced nations look at Muslims. Therefore, it is necessary to promote advancement in science, technology, research and development. For ~~cessate~~ the Islamophobia

In a nutshell, the new wave of Islamophobia has started. There are many factors which give rise to Islamophobia like 9/11 attack, biased western media, religious extremism in Muslim countries, misuse of freedom of speech in western world and many other. OIC is organizational body that represent entire Muslim world. OIC's role in curbing Islamophobia is not very effective. This is due to the disunity among Muslim countries, inability to project the soft power and true teachings of Islam, backwardness of Muslim world and dependence of Muslim World on others. However, some steps are presented that if employed can cessate the issue of Islamophobia. These steps include fostering unity among Muslim countries, promoting intra-OIC trade, making advancements in field of science and technology and developing global ~~Islamic~~ Islamic fund. It must be realized that these people are unaware of true Islam. When they get would know about true Islam then they will embrace it. This will bring an end to Islamophobia. Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) once said to Hazrat Fatima that "The religion your father has brought will reach every nook and corner". Therefore, there would come a time when entire world embrace Islam and Islamophobia will be ended.