

JUSTICE IS NOT BLIND; IT IS SELECTIVELY BLINDFOLDED

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OUTLINE:

(1) Introduction:

People and institutes are well-aware of what justice is but they resort to unjust practices when it comes against their own interest or goes against the interest of their friends and allies.

(2) Manifestations of justice being not blind but selectively blindfolded.

(a) Reflections from history:

2.1) Difference in the definition of justice for indigenous ^{population} and colonizers in the colonial rule.

2.2) Partiality of the American judges toward white defendants and against black defendants.

(b) Reflections from personal life:

2.3) A mother has different definition of justice for her daughter and daughter in law.

2.4) Justice is to give equal education to boys and girls but boys are

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prioritized.

- 2.5) Love marriages of boys are considered normal but consent of girls are neglected in her marriage.

(c) Reflection from professional lives :

- 2.6) Justice is to have equal wage for men and women but women's wage is low

- 2.7) Selective promotions on the basis of personal linkages not on qualifications.

(d) Reflection at National level:

- 2.8) Unequal application of law on rich and poor.

- 2.9) Justice is to give relief to poor in economic budget not to give undue benefits to elites.

- 2.10) Taxes should be imposed on tax evaders not to increase tax on tax payers.

- 2.11) Unjustful treatment of religious minorities of a country.

(c). Reflection at International level:

2.12) Climate injustices against developing countries by developed nations.

2.13) The Western countries selective justice for Ukraine but blind to the sufferings of Palestinian people.

2.14) Injustices in international institutes.

2.15) Selective accountability of war crimes.

3) Conclusion

A woman of Makhzum tribe was charged with theft. Many notables of the tribe tried to intercede for that woman at which prophet Muhammad (SAW) uttered the golden words that had the Fatima, the daughter of the prophet, charged with theft, she would have been punished for this. This is the standard of justice. Everyone should be equal in the eyes of justice - Justice is always blind to race, colour, wealth, personal affiliations and vested interest. However, there are many instances in history and today's world where travesty of justice is made. In all these scenarios, justice loses its golden standards of fairness, impartiality and unbiasedness. The age of colonialism is marked with unjustful practices of colonial rulers toward indigenous population. Even at personal level, there are many examples where a person becomes biased. Coming to professional level, many things are seen like unequal wages and selective promotion that put behind the

justice - At national and international level, unequal application of law, biased economic budgets and selective accountability of war crimes make the mockery of justice. Therefore, people and institutes are well-aware of what justice is but they resort to unjustful practices when it comes against their own interest or goes against the interest of their friends and allies.

There are many manifestations in the world where justice is seen not blind but selectively blindfolded. Looking back at the history, it is observed that there was difference in definition of justice for indigenous population and colonizers in the colonial rule. Leniency was showed in the prosecution of foreign settlers and harsh treatment was given to local population. Law and justice were considered as tool of oppression in the hands of colonial rulers. For example, Rowlatt act was introduced by Britishers in Colonial India. This act granted a legal right to Britishers to detain anyone without the right

the right of appeal. These rulers always prioritized rule of law in their own country but always blind to the plight of local population in their colonies. Hence, justice was put behind bars in colonial era.

Moreover, white American judges was frequently partial in their rulings toward Black defendants. Black people were considered second human beings. They faced harsh treatments and unfairness in legal proceedings. For example, USA enacted the law called 1986 Anti Drug Abuse Act in which punishment and penalties on using crack cocaine, most common in Black users, are 100 times harsher than on powdered cocaine which is common among white users. Blacks are subjected to persecution under the guise of these laws. Hence, American legal system destroyed the essence of justice to discriminate against Black residents.

Furthermore, there are many experiences and examples from personal life where individual molds the definition of justice that

best suits him. If one takes an example of any home then it can be observed that a mother always wishes her son in law to be in favour of her daughter. She always chooses nuclear family for her own daughter. Whereas, choices take a flip when the question arises about her daughter-in-law. She always wants her son to be in her favour and always supports joint family in this context. Hence, justice is conditions dependent. It has one definition in one context and opposite in other.

Similarly, justice is to equally educate both girls and boys but in common practice, the education of boys is prioritized. Girls education is considered as an extra burden because of the mindset that they eventually get married and have to run a household. According to UNICEF, gender parity in primary education is achieved only in 49% of countries. This practice seems to be more common in developing or under-developed countries. Hence, girls face injustice in the field of education.

In addition to that, love marriages of boys are considered normal but consent of girls ~~are~~^{is} neglected in their marriages. If a boy marries after his heart then his this move is welcomed. However, same act committed by a girl results in honour killing. The recent honour killing incident in the province of Balochistan is one such example. The consent of girl is of minimal importance for family. Boys, on other hand, enjoy full freedom in selecting their partner. Hence, girls face injustice when it come to their conjugal life.

Switching to professional lives, it is observed that unjustful practices are also prevalent. One of that is ~~the~~ men and women doing same job receive unequal pay. Men get more pay than women. According to Expert Market, women get 82 cent for every \$1 earned by men. If men and women are putting equal efforts then justice says that they should get equal amount of wage but reality is totally in contrast with it. Hence, women also face selective injustice.

in their professional lives.

Another scenario, where worst form of mockery ^{of justice} is made is the selective promotions on the basis of personal linkages not on the basis of qualification. Justice says that meritocracy should be ensured in promotions. However, personal interests are taken into consideration in promotions. In a survey conducted by Transparency International Survey, 51% of public sector employees believed that promotions in their department are made ~~by~~ on the basis of personal linkages or political affiliation.

Promoting committees are well-aware of the fact that justice lies in ensuring meritocracy but maintaining personal linkages are more important for them. Therefore, justice is affected in professional scenarios.

Furthermore, there are many instances at national level where justice is selectively blindfolded. One such example is that the unequal application of law on rich and poor. Justice is upheld when everyone is equal before the law. Instead of knowing this fact, national laws sometimes give escape to elites & and injustice.

hanges poors. Poors are fined for breaching the law but elites are spared. According to the report of City Traffic Police Lahore, 3800 government vehicles are found violating traffic laws but no-one questioned them. In contrast to that, if a common citizen is found breaking these laws then heavy fines are imposed on him. Therefore, justice is forgotten when laws are applied on elites and poors.

Similarly, justice says that relief should be given to poors and middle class in economic budget than to give undue benefits to elites. The framers of economic policy are also elites. They always ensure that their appetite of wealth is satiated and put blind eye to hand to mouth condition of poors. Many times austerity measure are adopted that are only meant for poor. Utr austerity measures after 2008 crisis affected poor people but the life-style of elites remain unchanged. Similarly, salaries of bureaucrats are increased in economic budgets that are already getting handsome pays. Hence, economic policy makers selectively do injustice to poors through coercive policies.

Moreover, tax burden is increased on tax payers and those who evade tax are never brought under tax net. Justful practices is to implement policies and take steps to bring those sectors under tax net that have been invading for long. However, in reality, taxes payers are increased on tax payers. For example, in current budget of Pakistan, taxes are increased on salaried class who is paying highest tax but retailers, landlords and real estate are enjoying tax-free incomes. Hence, salaried class is bearing these unjustful practices.

Furthermore, religious minorities received ill treatment in the country. They are not allowed to practise their religion with freedom. They face discrimination in jobs interviews, schools, colleges and promotions. Muslims in India face brutal treatment because of their religion. Muslims are not allowed to enjoy their festivals like Eid-ul-Azha. Their worship places are also demolished. Demolition of Babri Masjid is one such example. Justice says that

all the people should be allowed to practice their religion freely. Hence, religious minorities face injustice and atrocities in a country.

There are also reflection of justice being blindfolded at international level. One such example is Climate injustice that developing countries are facing due to environmental damage of developed countries. Developing countries emit negligible amount of green house gases but bear greater brunt of emissions of developed countries. Pakistan emits less than 1% of green house gases but has to bear huge losses due to floods, intense rain falls and etc. Considering it a moral responsibility, developed countries should give aid to these countries but meager monetary compensation of developed countries fails to fulfil the desired purpose. Hence, developing countries are facing climate injustice.

In addition to that, the western countries are striving to stop Russia from bombing Ukraine but are blind to the pains and sufferings of Palestinians.

They are sanctioning Russia, placing trade embargo and providing ammunition to Ukraine. However, on the other hand, they are supplying ammunition to Israel to slaughter innocent Palestinians and vetoing resolution to halt Israel genocide. They have selective justice and humanitarian feelings. To uphold justice, they should condemn both powerful nations and support weaker one. Hence, the western countries look at international affairs through colored spectacles that mark justice.

Moreover, injustice is also prevalent in international institute. This prevent them to fulfill the purpose for which they are created. Big powers always have advantage over developing countries. These institutions are controlled by these Big powers. United Nation permanent members of Security Council make 25.1% of world population. However, they can veto any bill that come in contrast to their interest. Same is the case with Bretton wood institutes. All the countries who are in the good books of the US and

European Union can secure loans on easy terms but others are economically coerced- Hence, justice is destroyed in these international institutes-

Similarly, international law also play a role in making a travesty of justice by doing selective accountability of war crimes. Powerful nations enjoy full impunity from accountability. They can bomb and invade ~~their own~~ any country to pursue their interest. Israel and USA bombed Iranian nuclear reactors who was ready to negotiate on its nuclear programme with them- International law is helpless in questioning these powerful nations- Hence, justice is demolished by holding weaker nations accountable and giving clean cheet to powerful countries for its nefarious designs.

In a nutshell, world and history is full of examples where culprit is has full knowledge about justice but adopts unjust practices to fulfil his interest- This dilemma is found from personal affairs to international happenings. Innocent and weak has to bear the atrocities

of opper oppressors- However, these
oppressive policies and actions ~~can~~ have
short life- Hazrat Ali (R.A) rightly
said, "A system based on disbelief
can endure, but a system based
on injustice cannot". It is never too
late to pledge for a new change
to create a new tomorrow - Where
there is a will, there is always a
way, regardless of the obstacles
and hinder hindrances ~~one~~ ^{one} can
also definitely achieve one's goals-

