

What are the motives of extremism in Pakistan? How can the society get rid of extremism by following the teachings of Islam?

1) Introduction:-

Pakistan has been facing the menace of extremism for decades now. The motives behind this range from sectarian supremacy, ideologies of ethnic superiority, imposition of own interpretations of Islam, various ideas of excellences^(of scholars), imposition of own linguistic ideals, economic and social exclusions. Pakistani society can get rid of this problem by adhering to the Islamic concept of moderation, educating and re-educating the youth, implementing the National Action Plan (NAP), cultivating religious tolerance

and creating a just Islamic society that provides justice (adl) to all in every aspect of life.

2) Motives of Extremism in Pakistan:-

The word used in Arabic for extremism is 'Tughlu' (تغلی) meaning to exceed the limits of something.

In this context, the extremism in Pakistan is not just limited to socio-religious context, it is also economic and political. Based on these types, the motives of extremism in Pakistan include:-

a) Attainment of Sectarian Supremacy:-

The chaos that erupted during Chilphate-e-Rashida has gradually grown stronger and spread its tentacles in almost every ~~the~~ Muslim country of the world. In Pakistan, sectarian clashes are a result of

divisive ideologies. Lamenting these sectarian divides Iqbal (RA) had said

فرقہ بندی ہے آپس اور آپس ذاتیں ہیں
کیا زمانہ میں پینے کی پی بائیں ہیں

b) Attainment of Ethnic Supremacy

Pakistan is home to 6 major and several minor ethnic and linguistic groups. In the absence of a unifying discourse, every ethnic group is striving for its supremacy and harbours intolerance for all other ethnicities. For such people, Hazrat Ali (RA) had said:-

“Whenever you see a person with intolerance, you will find him either with overdoing a task or underdoing it.”

c) Imposition of Own Interpretation of Islam:-

This is yet another motive

of extremist groups in Pakistan -

These elements want to impose their interpretations of Islam on the state and steer the country on their ideologies.

2) Spreading Own Ideas About Excellence of Prophets and Scholars:-

This motive has actually led to the most violence in Pakistan.

Maulana Amin Ahsan Islahi in his commentary says that Allah has given special distinction to every Prophet and even blessed companions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) with various quality. Sadly, the Muslim Ummah has started discrimination and categorization leading up to its own detriment.

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e) Spreading Social Chaos and Weakening the State from within:-

Spreading social chaos and weakening the state is yet another motive of externally motivated extremist agents. Warning against this threat Quran says-

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا (3: 103)

Cling firmly by means of Allah's rope and do not be divided.

f) Spreading Political Disunity:-

With political disunity, the extremist want to weaken governance structure, weaken the writ of the government and create external elements to operate within the country with greater autonomy.

3) Getting Rid of Extremism Based on Teachings of Islam:-

Islam is cognizant of the problems that the spread of extremism can create for Muslim world and so it devises many strategies to deal with it. Quran and Sunnah gives following solutions to this problem.

a) Spread An Ideology of Moderation

To counter extremist agendas, the best approach is to spread the idea of Moderation (معتدل) which is a core element of Islam. Youth of Pakistan which is repeatedly facing extremist ideologies should be made aware of this message of Holy Prophet (PBUH):-

And be careful of (your duty) to your religion, for nations before you

perished because they were zealous for it ^{عنه}

b) Abstain from Taking Part in Offensive Debates Regarding Islam

Another great way to not hype-up extremist factors is to stop engaging with them. Quran says -

وَإِذَا نَكَرْتُمُ الرَّسَائِلَ فَاصْطَلُوا فِيهَا بِاللِّغَةِ الَّتِي هُمْ يُعْرَفُونَ (Al-An'am: 25)

When you see those who engage in offensive discourse concerning Our verses, then turn away from them until they enter into another conversation.

c) Education the Youth About the Limits Laid in Islam.

The country also needs to educate its youth about the limits laid by Islam.

These are the limits that extremists often transgress.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَقْرَبُوا دِينَكُمْ (Al-Nisa: 171)

O people of the Book, exceed not the limits in your Deen.

d) Scraping Extremist Literature and Banning Controversial Scholars:

Removal of extremist ideologies from the society also demands the removal of extremist literature and banning of radical scholars that are sowing seeds of contention within us.

e) Refresher Courses for Students of Madrasas

Students in madrasas have often been found to have extremist ideas and intolerant attitudes. Such students should be provided refresher courses once they enter higher education.

f) Encouraging the Nation to do Introspection and Self-analysis:-

The nation needs to be encouraged to do some introspection and mend its ways. Sectarianism is a sign of

Allah's wrath and a punishment those who do not
mend their ways (Al-Anaam: 65).... قل هو القادر

Say He is the [one] Able to send upon
you affliction from above and from
under your feet or to confuse you
[so you become] sects or make you
taste the violence of one another.

Conclusion:-

The motives of extremism
in Pakistan are numerous and
all of them stem for various
reasons. The correct diagnosis
of these motives is crucial
for ~~their~~ extremism from our
society. That again is not a
smooth task and needs collective
effort of segment of society.