

{ Is Colonial mentality impeding Pakistan's progress }

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Conclusion

The British after defeating the last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar established colonial rule in the sub-continent. The colonial rule lasted for more than 100 years. At the end of colonial rule, the sub-continent was divided into two independent states, India and Pakistan. It has been more than seven decades since Pakistan got independence from colonial rule still the colonial mentality is strong which is adversely impacting political, social, religious, and economic of domains of country and impeding its progress. Colonial mentality has resulted in racism in Pakistan. It has also given rise to the concept of birth privilege. It has diminished the importance of local products giving rise to imports. Colonial mentality has resulted in dominance of western culture over national culture. National language has also been disregarded and bureaucratic hurdles and inefficient governance structure has become prominent. Education has been transformed through rote learning and language barrier. Class difference

has also become prominent dividing the society into elites and middle class. Colonial mentality has also divorced politics from religion. The colonial mentality has sunk its roots deep in Pakistan and is impeding its progress.

Colonial mentality is an internalized belief which is predominant in former colonial societies. It is a belief that own race, culture, and heritage is inferior to that of the colonizers. It has resulted in preference of western standards in beauty, language, and products. It is a psychological phenomena where colonizers' superiority is accepted. It has resulted in a desire to copy the life style and appearance of colonizers.

The colonial mentality has impacted the society in numerous ways. It has brought racism in Pakistan's society. As a result there is a craze of white skin tone in Pakistan. The whole beauty industry is focused on medications and ornaments for skin whitening. Creams such as Fair and lovely, Dove

are selling due to the mentality that white skin ~~tone~~ is a symbol of superiority. The Holy prophet in his sermon of Hajj stated "O people! All of you are children of Adam. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab and a white has no superiority over a black". Negating the principles of Islam, colonial mentality has strengthened white race supremacy in Pakistan.

In addition to that, it has also given rise to birth privilege in Pakistan. The birth privilege is a major characteristic of British society. The British colonized the sub-continent and gave rise to this mentality. Pakistan also inherited the same mentality. The individuals from influential families often consider themselves above law. The recent accident in which two motorists were killed by the son of a federal judge, who later got away with it proves that birth privilege still exists and is a result of colonial mentality.

Moreover, colonial mentality

has diminished the importance of local products, giving rise to imports. Pakistan imports many daily life commodities ranging from food to technology even though they can be manufactured locally. It is because of colonial mentality due to which people believe that colonial products are more durable and better as compared to locally manufactured products. Pakistan annually imports 18 to 20 million USD products. The colonial mentality has impeded the growth of country by giving rise to foreign debt and inflation.

Moreover, Colonial mentality has resulted in dominance of Western culture over national culture. Western clothes are considered modern as compared to locally manufactured clothes. It has also given rise to the celebration of Western festivals such as: Christmas, Halloween etc. The Halloween parties in cities like Karachi shows that colonial mentality is still strong in Pakistan. As a result, individuals often follow Western celebrities and trends thus disregarding local culture and personalities.

Furthermore, colonial mentality has also resulted in disregard of national language. Colonial mentality has resulted in English becoming an official language even though 10-12% Pakistanis are fluent in it. People who converse in English are considered more literate and educated as compared to Urdu speakers. Most of the parents feel proud if their children can speak English better than Urdu. Instead of teaching national language they give their utmost effort to teach their children the language of our colonizers.

Beyond that, the colonial mentality has paved way for bureaucratic hurdles, governance failure. The district management system consisting of Assistant and Deputy Commissioners has been inherited from the British colonial era. The rigidity and lack of innovation in this system has impeded grass root development in Pakistan. The police act is still based on 1861 colonial police act which has resulted in the system being more rigid and less friendly. The parliamentary system was inherited from the colonizers and it has

also resulted in political instability. No prime minister since Liaquat Ali Khan has been able to complete his tenure under the inherited political system. The colonial mentality has rendered structural failures in governance.

Equally important, the colonial system has rendered transformed the educational system. It is aimed at producing clerks instead of independent thinkers. It gives importance to rote learning rather conceptual studies. The whole education curriculum and job tests are based on English language. Due to this the rural students are unable to compete. The statistical report of CSS exam presented in the parliament clearly show that students from rural areas perform poorly due to language barrier. The rigid educational system has also resulted in academic and industry gap thus raising unemployment.

Not only that, it has also resulted in division of society into elite and middle class. The elite often portray Western culture, style and are

even inspired by their trends. The middle class often fails to match with their mentality, and are left behind. The religious class of society often feels antagonized by the elite. The presence of various classes portraying different ideologies weakens the fabric of society.

Last but not least, colonial mentality has also resulted in divorcing religion from politics. Before colonialism Muslims were the rulers of sub-continent. The structure of government was based on Islamic tenets. The economy was based on the system of zakat. After colonialism the economy was based on interest. After independence Pakistan also inherited the same economic system. Despite many resolutions being passed including the resolution passed on 26th amendment against ribba, Pakistan is unable to abolish it.

The western system of economy and banking has made Pakistan persistently dependent on IMF loans which the country has borrowed 58 times since independence. The colonial mentality has resulted in the dominance of western principles over Islam.

To sum it all, Colonial

mentality is a belief that own race, culture and mentality heritage is inferior to that of the colonizers. It has resulted in racism in Pakistan. Birth privilege also exists due to colonial mentality. It has enhanced our imports giving rise to foreign debt and inflation. National culture has been disregarded and the individuals often follow Western trends. National language is also disregarded and the parents give their utmost effort to teach their children the language of colonizers. The colonial mentality has impeded the progress by rendering. Structure of the governance, Educational system has been transformed and rate of learning and language barrier is contributing to illiteracy. It has divided the society into various social classes portraying different ideologies which has compromised the unity of society.

It has also resulted in dominance of Western principles over Islamic norms. Despite more than 70 years of independence the colonial mentality has contributed to

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certain factors ~~which~~ have impeded
the progress of Pakistan