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

Introduction:

The world is facing many problems and one of these problems is extremism. Pakistan is no exception of it. Extremism is the quality of going to extremism. However, Religion Islam has strictly prohibited extremism and give a lesson of moderation in all aspects of life.

Unfortunately, extremism in Pakistan has been rising in every passing day. There are many motives of rising extremism in Pakistan and such as sectarianism, intolerance and lack of generosity and socio-economic issues etc. Moreover, various incidents in Pakistan have made clear that extremism is injecting slow poison into the veins of societal peace and it is mostly religious extremism. So, in Pakistan should be made at the individual, societal and national levels

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and tackle to this according to the teaching of Islam.

Verbal and Literal meaning of Extremism

- Verbal meaning:

In Arabic language, the word "Gharu" is used for extremism. Gharu means excess and it is related to an extreme level of attitude towards anything.

Literal meaning:

The literal meaning of extremism is elaborated by different scholars:

According to Imam Al-Farabi:

"To cross limits in any matter falls in the category of extremism."

Longman modern English dictionary defined as:

"The quality, state or habit of going to extremes in view and actions."

Motives behind extremism in Pakistan:

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Sectarianism:

The major cause behind the extremism menace in Pakistan is sectarianism. Sectarianism is a byproduct of extremism. Spirit of competition is an integral part of human nature. Every sect wants to be superior to other sects and consider itself on the right path. All other sects are wrong in front of him. Clashes between Shia-Sunni in Pakistan in ^{NOV} 2024, gunmen fire on a convoy of Shia passengers in Kurram district, killing 52, shows the example of sectarianism.

Ethnocentrism:

Ethnocentrism refers to an individual or group considering itself superior to others, and it will ultimately lead to extremism in Pakistan. In other sense, religion consider itself better than others, and it ultimately flames the extremism sentiments in Pakistan. According to Ibn-e-Khalum, it varies from nation to nation.

Intolerance and lack of generosity:

Another important cause of extremism is the ubiquitous intolerance. This lack of

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generosity is expressed in Pakistan among Muslims and Muslims towards minorities. This has created chaos and anarchy in Pakistan societies.

Incomprehension of the teachings of Quranic and sunnah

A common Muslim residing in non-Arabs areas can hardly understand the Holy Quran because it is Arabic language. Hence, comprehending the meanings of Quran and teachings of sunnah is almost impossible for him unless he is taught and guided by some learned people called interpreters or scholars or ulema. When such scholars hold only their viewpoint as true, and spurn others as false or faulty than this led to extremism.

Fiery address and orations:

Religious behavior and traditions brought forth during a few 100 centuries, especially in the subcontinent, highlights on contradictions more than similarities. Pseudo-scholars, orators and zakrin, who are devoid of any rational thinking, nurtured their poison tree of hate

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animosity and leads to extremism.

Trending mob culture in Pakistan

Mob culture has become very prominent in Pakistan. People consider them superior to law and try to resolve issues more brutally without involving into law. This has given rise to extremism in Pakistan.

Socio-economic crisis in Pakistan

Social issues like poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and corruption are some of the motives behind rising extremism in Pakistan. Due to these social issues, people become intolerant, and go to extreme level and try to get justice with their own without getting involve the law. For instance, the suicide rate rise in Pakistan.

Islamic teachings to get rid of

Extremism

Proper guidance about Quran and sunnah:

The solution of every problem is the teaching of

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of Islam. So, proper education of Quran and Sunnah are required to get rid of extremism. By getting deep knowledge of extremism, we can easily eliminate the extremism from the society. Islam emphasizes seeking knowledge and using reason to understand religious principles properly.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

"seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim." (Sunnah Ibn Majah).

End of sectarianism:

Sectarianism is the by product of extremism. Some communalists are nudging their followers to kill the innocent Muslims just because they have a difference of opinion with them. Extremism can be eradicated in Pakistan by an end of sectarianism according to teaching of Islam.

As stated in Holy Quran by Allah Almighty:

وَالَّذِينَ

"And do not be divided!"

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Promotion of tolerance and generosity:

Islam give a lesson of tolerance and generosity for its followers. Muslim should be tolerant towards all Muslims and non Muslims to eradicate extremism from Pakistan. As in Quran:

"Let there be no compulsion in religion."

(Al-Quran)

Promotion of Moderation:

Islam advocates a balanced approach in beliefs, worship and behaviour avoiding both negligence and excess. The Holy Prophet (SAW) lives a moderate life and gives a right path and moderation in his teaching.

Ibn Abbas reported: Muhammad (SAW) said:

"O people, beware of exaggeration in religion, for those who came before you were ruined by exaggeration in religion."

(Sunan Ibn Majah)

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Need for Muslim Unity

Islam emphasized on unity and brotherhood among Muslim. A simple example of it is a brotherhood among the Muslims at the time of Migration in Holy Prophet (SAW).

The Quran said:

"The believers are nothing but brothers, so make settlement between your brothers."

(Surat Al-Hujurat-10)

A dire need for the positive role of media:

The extremists can be eradicated by giving education and positive Islamic content on the social media. And the government should strictly ban on making religious ideas through negative content.

Equality and justice as a core value:

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The best teaching of Islam include the justice and equality of all color, creed, wealth and any relation. The essence of equality will root out the extremism in Pakistan and promote justice in the society. A just and equitable society leaves little room for grievances that extremists exploit. As Quran said:

"O believers! stand firm for justice as witnesses for Allah

(An-Nisa; 135)

Role of law and accountability:

Role of law and accountability are the major tools to work for inequality and injustice in Pakistan, and which will control the rising extremism in our state. Allah Almighty has said about the accountability in the Quran:

"O believers! you are accountable for yourselves.

....."
(Al-Maidah- 105)

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Conclusion:

So, the extremism has become a major issues in Pakistan which is haunting the society. Extremism is not a religious, but it is a socio-economic and linguistics. When a group of people think they are superior to other, then they will become extremists.

The major reasons behind extremism that the states are losing tolerance, moderation, justice and equality. It is high time to take steps to eradicate the extremism in Pakistan according to the teaching of Islam. so that Pakistan will become a peaceful place where individual live a balanced life.

