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Colonial Mentality has Taken Over the Pakistani State

Outline

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Thesis statement : Colonial mentality has taken over the Pakistani state in many ways, and has put harsh implications upon the country. However, implementing some measures can eradicate this issue.

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3. Ways Through which Colonial Mentality has Taken Over the Pakistani State

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Case in point : Social Development Policy Institute (SDPI) 2019 report

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It is agreed to say that colonial mentality has taken over the Pakistani state, in many ways. In fact, the curse has impeded the progress of the country. It has derailed the country from the ladder of prosperity down to adversity. The menace has shaken the foundation of country development. Before the arrival of Britishers, sub-continent was under Muslims rule. Since the inception of British rule in sub-continent, Muslims became weaker and British gets stronger. In short, the era of Muslim downfall begins ^{under} ~~with~~ British colonialism. Currently, there are various aspects through which that colonial mentality has taken over the Pakistani state, such as tilt ^{to} westernization, institutional bias, priority to English language, cultural cringe, and so on. Likewise, its impacts on Pakistan include economic exploitation, brain drain, and identity crisis. Contrary to this, colonial era ^{has} provided some benefits like improved infrastructure, modern education system, and ^{Provision of} rules and regulations. Besides colonial mentality, there are other factors which has deteriorated the progress of state: rampant corruption, political instability, regional conflicts, and environmental

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challenges. However, these are some measures that can be taken to overcome the menace of colonial mentality, for instance decolonize education, prevailing good-governance, and awareness campaigns in public.

Colonialism in sub-continent refers to the reign of British empire (1857-1947).

During this era, the British control and rule sub-continent. They were called colonialists because British empire had made colonies in different parts of the world like Australia, Africa and so on.

Similarly, British came into sub-continent in 1600 and with passage of time, they grow in size and power leading to establishment of

empire in 1857 ultimately. Muslims in response did some resistance for independence but failed.

Resultantly, colonialism begins in sub-continent. In that time, Muslims felt dejected ^{and} inferior; they started campaign for their education and representation.

Later on, it became an independence movement for Pakistan. In 1947, Pakistan came into existence but the patches and remnants of colonial mentality still exists, in many forms.

This colonial mentality has taken over the ^{of} Pakistani state in multiple ways.

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The following paragraphs will discuss the ways through which colonial mentality has taken over the Pakistani state. The first factor is less focus to pre-colonial era heroes as compared to colonial era. The achievements, victories, and heroes of pre-colonial era are not given as priority as it is provided to colonial era. In fact, pre-colonial era mentality not prevails when it comes to colonial mentality especially for Muslims. Pakistan studies curriculum is case in point in this regard in which students learn mostly about the colonial period. This approach has exacerbated the situations more intense. As a matter of fact, Pakistan studies students know more about Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Allama Iqbal, and Quaid-e-Azam as compared to the previous prominent heroes like Shah Waliullah, Syed Ahmad Shaheed, Mughals and so on. Hence, the minimum focus to pre-colonial era heroes has prevailed the colonial mentality over the Pakistani nation.

Secondly, increasing westernization is another way through which colonial mentality has taken over the Pakistani state. The citizens prefer western culture more than their local traditions. It

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can be seen in the clothing, food, music taste and language. For instance, pant shirt is considered more official than shalwar kameez. Similarly, western pop music is more dominant in youth as compared to their local music. Therefore, the prevailing westernization in Pakistani society is the factor due to which colonial mentality has overcome the Pakistani state.

Thirdly, institutional bias is the other route through which colonial mentality spread its wings over the Pakistani state. The institutions are biased when it comes to Pakistani professionals versus western professionals. In fact, western trained experts and professionals are favoured as compared to the indigenous one. There is less priority and focus to local talent. It can be seen in case of projects like Riko diq gold extraction project, CPEC and so on. In these projects, Pakistani experts are not prioritized. As a result, Pakistani professionals left country to work in foreign country in order to have good career opportunity. That is how, institutional bias causes colonial^{tic} mindset over Pakistani state.

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Fourthly, prioritizing English language over local and regional languages promotes colonial mentality over the Pakistani state. In fact, English is the official language of Pakistan, used in government, education, and law, according to Article 251 of Constitution of Pakistan. Moreover, it is known fact that English is the most spoken language of the world. But it does not mean that it should be the state language as well. Because it will undermine the local and regional languages. Consequently, Pakistan state progress will impeded due to prevalence of English language.

Fifthly, emphasizing western-style education degrees over traditional knowledge is another way through which colonialism still exists over public mindset. Pakistan modern education system is almost replica of traditional British education system. English language is used as medium of education. Similarly, Islamic and traditional knowledge system is not prioritized as western-style education system. The country is producing thousands of degree holder graduates but it is not delivering

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the required benefits to the country. Resultantly, more emphasis on ~~tradition~~ western-style education system over traditional knowledge prevails colonial mentality over the Pakistani state.

Furthermore, the sixth factor in this manner is adoption of western style democracy and institutions without fully adopting them to Pakistan's cultural and historical context. In fact, the constitution of Pakistan 1973 is derived from colonial era rules and regulations. The election system in Pakistan has not delivered upto the expectations. Indeed, elections in Pakistan is a process without product. The system needs to be in line with Pakistan's historical and cultural context. Hence, western-style democracy and institutions are the forms of colonial mentality over the state.

Similarly, the seventh factor in this case is cultural cringe. In fact, Pakistanis mostly feel ashamed about their culture. They considered drawbacks in it. Furthermore, Pakistani media and advertising often promote western culture and values. Fashion shows, music events, and film industry are some of

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its examples. There is a sort of internalized inferiority complex in the public. That's why, cultural change proved to be a way through which colonial mentality has taken over the Pakistani state.

last but not the least, the eighth and last factor is the promoted social status. It is represented as the way of success for an individual. Society associates high status with western values and culture. There is a lack of confidence over local culture. According to Social Development Policy Institute (SDPI) 2019 report, which states that, "Western educated individuals hold higher social status." This perception of nobility associated with western values promotes colonial mentality. Thus, this is how colonial values still exist in the country.

Moving ahead, after discussing the ways through which colonial mentality has taken over the Pakistani state. The following paragraphs will focus on the implications of colonial mentality on Pakistan. The first impact in this regard is brain drain. In fact, increase in brain drain in Pakistan is one of the

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main impact of colonial mindset. Highly skilled individuals are leaving the country for sake of good career opportunities. According to the data from the Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE), over 13.53 million Pakistanis have officially migrated to more than 50 countries for work as of April 2024. This shows the grim situation of the country. Consequently, it can be said that colonial mentality leads to phenomenon of brain drain.

Moreover, economic exploitation of the country is another ^{impact} of colonial mentality. The country is faced with trade, budget, and fiscal deficit. The gap between revenues and expenditure is increasing leading to budget deficit. Similarly, foreign debt is increasing. The country is largely dependent on foreign investment and aid. Indeed, Pakistan's largest export partner is USA and major trading partner are western countries. Therefore, western supremacy exists in our capitalistic economy. Hence, economic crisis is the impact of colonial mentality in the country.

Lastly, identity crisis is also the impact of colonial mentality in the country.

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There is confusion among the citizens to find out their identities. There exist conflict between Islamic, Pakistani, and western identities. At same time different identities exist. People of the country are divided into different identities based on religion, race, and ethnicity. Likewise, colonial mentality leads them to western identity surrounding their own identities. Hence, identity crisis exists due to influence of colonial mentality.

Besides, there are some positive outcomes provided by colonial era to sub-continent. The infrastructure improved during British rule, several G.T roads, hospitals, schools, and institutions constructed in their ruling period. Similarly, modern education system is because of British colonialism in sub-continent. In the same fashion, rules and regulations such as PPC 1860^{and} CrPc 1898 related to crimes^{and} police are made in that period. Even constitution of Pakistan contains majority of its acts from 1935 colonial era act. The current democratic setup is the inheritance of colonial era politics. Likewise, electricity and transportation system improved in that period. Therefore, it can be said that colonial era did provide

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Some blessings in disguise.

Additionally, there are other factors than colonial mentality which have impeded the progress of the state. The first one among them is political instability. There is "lack of consensus" among politicians and there exists polarization.

Secondly, the country is faced with unprecedented economic crisis, such as trade deficit, budget deficit, debt, inflation, and unemployment. Thirdly, terrorism, sectarianism, and extremism is on rise in the country. Fourthly, the state is indulged in regional conflicts with neighbour India, Afghanistan, and Iran. Similarly, Pakistan is faced with numerous environmental challenges like climate change, global warming, floods, earth-quake, and environmental pollution. Likewise, there exists crisis in food, water, and energy.

In a nutshell, it can be accepted to say that not only colonial mentality but also number of other factors impede the progress of a state.

Moving ahead, the upcoming paragraphs will discuss the way-forward to overcome the menace of colonial mentality in the country. The first suggestions in this

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regard is to decolonize education. The emphasis on modern education should be in line with Pakistan's history, culture, and Islamic values. The curriculum of education syllabus should be updated for national interests. The education system needs to be modernized. There should be maximum utilization of technology in it. In the same manner, skillful and technical education ^{should} be provided. Therefore, decolonizing the education system will reduce the impacts of colonial mentality to a greater extent.

In the same manner, implementing good-governance attributes in real sense can overcome the curse of colonial mentality. Good-governance include transparency, accountability, rule of law, public participation, efficiency, and so on. If all these attributes applied in true sense, then the country will develop by leaps and bounds. Moreover, sustainable development can be achieved with ^{the} help of good-governance. Likewise, corruption and other mal-practices of bureaucracy can be minimized to a larger extent. Thus, the disease of colonial mentality can be treated by implementing good-governance values in the country.

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In the same fashion, public awareness campaigns can eradicate the issue of prevailing colonial mentality. There should be a massive campaign for public awareness. The citizens need to be enlightened and educated in this context. They should prioritize their cultural identity against western identities. For the said purpose, media channels and civil society can also play important role in this way. Moreover, bureaucracy needs to bridge the state and public regarding this issue. There should be unity and discipline among the public and state. So, increasing public awareness campaigns can overcome the menace of colonial mentality.

Finally, the last suggestions to defeat colonial mentality is supporting leadership with vision. Sincere leadership can enlightens the citizens. It can create vision in the state and its public. Unfortunately, since independence, the country is faced with leadership crisis. Throughout the history, political instability exists because of it. Therefore, it is high time that Pakistan must produce a series of sincere leadership with long-term vision and goals. A good leadership will

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prioritizes Pakistanis interest, culture, and Islamic values. Hence, creating leadership with vision can overcome the curse of colonial mentality.

In conclusion, it can be said and accepted that colonial mentality has taken over the Pakistani state in many ways and has put harsh implications upon the country. However, this issue can be defeated by implementing certain suggestions. This is not something out of control. Besides, there are some ways through ^{which} it has overtaken the state, such as increasing westernization, institutional bias, prioritizing English language, cultural cringe, and association of social status with western values. Likewise, its implications include rampant brain drain, economic exploitation, and identity crisis. Contrary to this, colonial era did provides some benefits which is very minimum as compared to its negative impacts. However, there are other factors, alongwith colonialism, that has impede the progress of the country. Therefore, some suggestions are recommended to overcome this menace like decolonizing the education, promoting good-governance, increasing public awareness campaigns, and producing leadership with vision. Hence, this issue can be eradicated by implementing

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these mentioned remedies. As it is said that, "everything is possible." The same thing ^{applies} ~~applied~~ here as well that colonial mentality is a disease on one hand, but on the other hand its treatment exists. Combinedly, Pakistan state and public can come out of this issue by giving priority to national interests.
