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A DYNAMIC STRATEGY FOR REINFORCING THE IDEOLOGICAL DEFENCE ON PAKISTAN'S EDUCATIONAL FRONT

The present writer's ideas revolve round the basic theme that an insignificantly-planned ideological defence is categorically imperative for the security and prosperity of the entire Muslim world, including Pakistan. History provides ample evidence that sheer negligence or inadequate attention to this vital need of the Ummah is replete with infinite dangers and disasters. In fact, the major source of many a past failure and contemporary frustration owe their ultimate origin mainly to the currency of inadequate and defective methodologies purporting to promote our dearly cherished values. Utmost precaution and prudence is, therefore, required to avoid the past errors and stupidities. That alone is the befitting way of justifying the Divine honour conferred on us as the right people with the right ideology destined to serve and lead human thought and behaviour.

Historical Review of Pakistan's Ideological Operations

The exchequered history of ideological operations in Pakistan could be conveniently divided into three main time spans:

- (1) the post-Independence period of exuberant ideological enthusiasm (1947-71),
- (2) the age of ideological confusion and waywardness (1971-77), and
- (3) the contemporary era of ideological renaissance (1977 onwards).

Period of Ideological Enthusiasm. During the early years of our post-freedom existence a widespread fervour for ideological growth was manifestly visible in practically all departments of individual and collective life. It, however, failed to gain a purposive momentum and a dynamic direction owing mainly to a deplorable lack of concrete, coherent and scientific ideological policies and procedures. The later years of the same period even witnessed, alarming set-backs and shocking deviations from the nation's cherished value system. Temp-

tations and emotions were operating freely at high voltage. Planned strategies to channelize the still-simmering ideological commitment were conspicuous by their absence at practically all levels.

Age of Ideological Waywardness. The preceding state of ideological chaos and hullabaloo appears to have provided a fairly congenial climate for all sorts of the cultural bacteria to germinate rather freely. From early seventies onwards nation's ideological health was registering constant stagnation and deterioration. Shrewd manoeuvres were designed in quick succession to even transplant camouflaged brands of an alien and a hostile ideology on the people and institutions of Pakistan. The narrow escape from the clutches of this devastating thought current is a revealing chapter in our ideological history.

Contemporary Era of Renaissance. The contemporary era of renaissance saw the forward-moving resurgence of Islamic ideology in a concrete, purposive form. It appears to have set the national destiny on to the creative path. Needless to forecast that the current wave of renaissance possesses the requisite potential of revolutionizing the entire semblance of national life and economy.

Present Writer's Fears and Frustrations

The present writer feels fairly satisfied with the tempo of the current renaissance movement. He is, however, often obsessed with certain fears and frustrations about the real dimensions of the situation. Although conceptually sound the engineering of a number of current ideological operations is still plagued with errors and omissions, especially the methodological inadequacies. Our encouraging ideological convalescence notwithstanding, a lot more vital remains yet to be done and done without further loss of speed and accuracy. In order to atone for the past blunders and stupidities, exceptional vision and vitality are absolutely indispensable for a decisive crusade on the ideological sector.

It would be repeating the obvious to say that the battle for survival and revival is invariably fought on the educational front. This is the most strategic sector wherein all the sophisticated armamentarium of values and ideals have to be arrayed in their proper striking form. Who will challenge the vital truth that an insightful attention to reinforcing the ideological vigour in the educational sector alone can mould the very shape of events in Pakistan as elsewhere in the Muslim World?

Salients of the Proposed Ideological Strategies

In order to break through the ideological ruts and ruts in the world of education and culture conceptually sound, methodologically accurate and psychologically penetrative programmes are direly needed to replace the current sporadic, ill-planned and even clumsy ventures. The reader is cautioned that the catalogue of ideological strategies that are prescribed below might as well smell routine and rusty in their outward garb. However, the dynamic way the writer proposes to translate their letter and spirit into concrete action is entirely different from the convention-ridden and boredom-laden modes commonly marring our cultural landscape.

The writer's proposed plan of ideological reconstruction at the educational front includes such unfailing strategies as:

- (1) Planned Dars-e-Quran Sessions,
- (2) Congregational prayers at Campuses and Hostels,
- (3) Development-Oriented Seerat Moots,
- (4) Youth Summer Camps for Ideological, Reinvigoration,
- (5) Correlating Educational Programmes with Ideological Purposiveness,
- (6) Operational Research on Ideological Indoctrination,
- (7) Production of Graded Ideological Literature,
- (8) Galvanizing Mass Media for Disseminating Ideological Information and Attitudes,
- (9) Immediate Purge of the Disruptionists.

Planned Dars-e-Quran Sessions. While introducing well-planned Dars-e-Quran sessions in the educational institutions extreme care needs to be exercised in the selection of the Verses, level of interpretation and the tone of delivery. Our past mode has been marred by thoughtless selections and nauseating styles. Furthermore, sense was seldom displayed to correlate Quranic Verses with every-day realities of student life. Our bluntness consequently deprived us from reaping those common fruits otherwise logically following from a proper use of such a unique electrifying reservoir of guidance, change and development as the Holy Quran.

Congregational Prayers at Campuses and Hostels. We have been similarly reckless in enforcing the letter and spirit of congregational prayers at our educational institutions. If organised thoughtfully the enforcement of congregational prayers can prove the most economical and the most effective medium of restoring discipline and harmony at our all-too rowdy campuses.

Development-Oriented Seerat Moots. Holding meaningful Seerat

session at frequent intervals is replete with infinite constructive potentialities. Our customary patterns of the Seerat moots, however, have been oscillating between dull sounds and fiery emotions. What is direly needed is correlating Seerat sessions with development-oriented projects and programmes. What a tremendous revolution would take shape at our educational campuses if after a brief Seerat meeting the students and the staff jointly set themselves to a tree-plantation campaign, a cleanliness drive, an anti-smoking crusade, a library development project, a lively foot-ball match in aid of the handicapped humanity, a meena bazar for the shelterless refugees from Afghanistan and the like. Associating all such developmental operations with the inspiring words and deeds of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) would indeed be the most befitting way of organizing a Seerat session.

Youth Summer Camp for Ideological Reinvigoration. Summer vacation is the most miserable piece of time that befalls the youth of Pakistan. It is the period of optimal dissipation of student energies. Ideological Orientation summer camps should, therefore, figure as an integral part of dynamic programme for the development of thought and behaviour of the national youth power.

Correlating Educational Programmes with Ideological Purposiveness. Conducting ideological projects in isolation of the academic programmes and cocurricular activities is yet another costly blunder that we have been committing rather bluntly during the past. Whether it is a hockey match or a heated debate, a class-room lecture or a laboratory experiment, students must be motivated to understand that all activities in and outside their alma maters have the same enervating purpose—the perception and promotion of the ideological commitment in all departments of life.

Operational Research on Ideological Indoctrination. Ideological indoctrination is a fine art. Thus far we have been utterly negligent in developing an effective theory and practice of ideological dialogue and dissemination. The matter merits priority attention of all sensitive social science scholars. We must apply ourselves creatively to the designing and direction of worthwhile operational research on the most penetrative techniques of reaching the inner depths of the student psyche.

Production of Graded Ideological Literature. We continue to suffer from a terrible dearth of appropriate ideological literature suiting the mental capacities of various age levels. Production of graded ideo-

logical literature must, therefore, figure foremost with all conscientious writers of Pakistan.

Galvanizing Mass Media for Disseminating Ideological Information and Attitudes. Considerable change for the better is apparently visible in our mass media regarding their national obligation towards disseminating ideological information and promoting the Islamic way of life. Much more improvement, however, is still needed to achieve the desired goals.

There is widespread public outcry that Radio and Television are producing schizophrenic life styles through simultaneous projection of ideologically-conflicting and confusing programmes. Telecasting a bizarre film before a religious feature or broadcasting a sensuous song immediately after a value-oriented programme is simply disastrous, especially for the all-too suggestible adolescents. Similarly, some of our otherwise sensible newspapers often betray lack of foresight in this direction by flashing dirty advertisements, spicy scandals and other varieties of the hotter pornos. In our past cultural history mosque has invariably been a powerful medium of change and development. Unfortunately,.....our ideological expectations. Most of the contemporary mosques focus on hurling pious sounds and random emotions. Very few of them care to offer sensible stuff effective enough to transform the all-too bewildered younger generation.

Radio, television, press and the mosque thus appear to be sailing in the same boat adrift on a purposeless voyage. It is high time that our shallow and confused mass media leaders realized that it is simply criminal to indulge in projecting programmes which undermine the ideological health and socio-economic equilibrium of their innocent receivers.

Immediate Purge of the Disruptionists. Increasing reports are pouring in that certain diseased dissidents still continue to prowl about our educational institutions. Propagating misleading cults and creeds repugnant to the letter and spirit of Islamic ideology such miscreants seek to spoil the campus peace. No ideological state can possibly permit a dissident to man a strategic sector and to pollute the minds of the naive learners. In fact, the presence of ideologically morbid teachers on the educational campuses is a serious threat to the entire nation.

Well-planned programmes of persuasion and reformation must be launched rather immediately. Such chronics as are found immune to treatment must be subjected to more appropriate therapies. Be that as it may, immediate screening and complete elimination of all

disruptive individuals and agencies operating unbridled in the world of education and culture is inevitable for the efficient running of our schools, colleges and the universities.

The Vital Challenge of the Time

Pakistan is waging a battle against its socio-economic and politico-cultural muddles. The entire Muslim world is facing equally grave crises. The situation in Lebanon, Palestine, Iran, Afghanistan and Kashmir continues to evoke serious concern of the Ummah. The technological gap between the Muslim bloc and the rest of the scientifically-advanced world is widening at a terrible pace. Against this sanguine perspective ignoring the vital threats to the security and development of the Ummah would indeed be simply suicidal.

For Pakistan as for the entire Muslim world the only reliable strategy against all these and the allied dangers is a really sound ideological defence on the educational front. Much valuable time has already been dissipated in the zigzags of wastefully superficial processes. The chemistry of national and international events do not permit any further indolence and inadequacies on the part of the Ummah. In order to pave the way for solid and stable Pakistan in particular and an infinitely far more powerful Muslim world in general all Hijra development programmes must, therefore, assign a befitting priority to reinforcing the ideological defence of the educational sector.