

Pakistan: Blasphemy Law and Ethnic Conflict

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Abstract : There has been a trend in Pakistan in terms of targeting the religious minorities like Hindu, Sikh and Christian by taking help of blasphemy law in which offences included such as insulting religious feelings, making any derogatory remarks about Quran or prophet Mohammed or any other religious symbol of Islam as well as the ethnic problem in the Balochistan province is a matter of concern in Pakistan

Key Words: Blasphemy, Human Rights, Ethnic Conflict and Balochistan

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan for long has witnessed various types of conflict in which the clash of ethnic groups and minorities persecution by Blasphemy law have been a prominent issue which infringes human right had a long history In fact a layman across borders However misunderstands that due to having Islam prominent in numerically around 96.6% as per 2017 census that there is not supposed to be conflict within Muslim as such big which is to largest extent incorrect because If one goes on grass root a reality can be seen that Pakistan is more diverse as several states in term of language, region, different ethnic groups are also found that leads to many times violation within these communities in which Punjabi 44.71% are the most dominate having control on politics, military and economic sphere Pashtun 15.4% Sindhi 14.1% Baloch 3.6% respectively among them Baluchistan is Pakistan's largest province which constitutes 44% area of entire Pakistan yet is least populated only having 5% population of entire population and is a Complex region fraught with conflict and hostility ranging from an enduring insurgencies and sectarian violence to terror strikes and appalling human rights abuses in fact there has been attempts by Pakistan to change demographic changes by migrating more Pashtun clan in this area so as others groups are being settled reason being Baloch have been fighting for independence for so long since Pakistan forcefully annexed the Baloch area in 1948 when forcefully princely state Kalat was annexed these Baloch are the people who are also found in modern day Iran Afghanistan and so on .this region is rich in natural resources Gas and oil reserves yet majority of people of this areas are living in object poverty not only such discrimination exists but Pakistani government with the help of Army does military crackdown rapes and abduct the Baloch activists many have later found death which is shows that how gross human right violence is taking place it's not just ethics group are being discriminated but also the minority communities such as Hindu 2.1 % Christians 1.3% and other 0.1 are being targeted by putting fouls cases of Blasphemy law which says that no one has right to be lampoon any religion by any mean which is misused to persecute the religious minorities primarily this started since general Zia-ul-Haq toppled the government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1977 and under him there has been sectarian supported Islamization of Pakistan in which Blasphemy law section such as 295 (c) 1986 of IPC 1860 was added in which describes whosoever by words either spoken and written or of visible representation of any imputation directly or indirectly defies the seared name of Holy prophet shall be punished with death sentence which is used by many to settle the personal matter for an example however 55% blasphemy cases were registered against Muslim but 45% cases were registered against minorities who are around 4% of population which is very high alarming therefore blasphemy laws in Pakistan continue to pose a serious threat to human rights. The available evidence shows that increased religious regulation by governments results in more violence, not less. Moreover, Pakistan's blasphemy laws, by virtue of elevating Islam above other religions, make the practitioners of other religions vulnerable to accusations of blasphemy in Pakistan the Asia Bibi a Christian woman in 2009 sentenced death over blasphemy because she drunk water from a Muslim glass was dragged out of her house, beaten, and arrested in front of an angry mob but finally on international pressure in 2018 was freed by Pakistan Supreme Court since than has been living in Canada because after the judgements Pakistan went on protest across state for several weeks hence she's would never return to her village . However, such deal is also broken like the Nehru - Liaquat 1950 agreement which talks about safety and security of minorities living in respective countries hence it can be said that Inter -ethnic group conflict in Pakistan, has destabilized the political system and undermine foundations of the state. Having more issues like. The inter-tribal conflict in the tribal areas, the Sindhi and non-Sindhi violent conflict in Sindh, Shia-Sunni cruel and regressive activities have become a norm of Pakistani society. No doubt the decision makers try their level best to diffuse the situation, control violence and minimize conflicts, but the strategies and policies, formulated and implemented in the country fall short of achieving the objectives. In many ways the policies backfired, and the situation was aggravated to a point of insecurity. Whenever escalation takes place the government and agencies try their utmost to deescalate the conflict. The ethnic imbalance demanded the society a lot is to be done. But Pakistan accused many times India but India as a responsible country always maintained a stance of non-intervention in the internal affairs of any country yet being the champion of human right needs to put up the issues on international platforms.

CENTRAL QUESTION

The ethnic conflicts and religious precautions including several insurgencies primarily in Baloch region through guerrilla war which are waged against Pakistan shows it's forceful annexation of Baluchistan.

RELATED QUESTIONS

Depiction of Hindu in Pakistan post 1970's government books syllabus seems to be discriminatory which leads to Blasphemy.

CENTRAL HYPOTHESIS

The Accepting the legitimacy of minority human right violence and insurgencies within Pakistan is needed to be addressed as soon as possible. The Chinese project CPEC is threatening the sovereignty of Baloch region because China knows that's this region is rich in natural resources such as oil gas and so on which China has eyes. In fact military crackdown by raping killing decent abduction of activists is cause of concern this matter need to be put on international forms India too can play the vital role.

AIM AND OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The problem of ethics conflicts and religious precautions of minorities has become the cause of concern which needed to be addressed However Pakistan government has generally regarded Brahamdagh Bugit the alleged exile leader of Baloch republic army as the sole representative of the Baloch conflict which is not indeed true by pointing out Bugit's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2016 made remarks on Balochistan in which he expressed his gratitude on being given thanks by Baloch people later in 2019 in order to safeguard to prosecuted religious minorities brought the CAA bill 2019 because blasphemy is primarily used to target them. Sometimes Pakistan is reckoned a night mare for minorities as well which is one of a few countries where the blasphemy law present in fact the accused are killed by mob before legal proceeding even began often it is people with mental illness and member of religious minorities who end up being accused of Blasphemy therefore the menace of religious persecution and target killing of certain ethnic communities need to be addressed so as to human right violence can be dealt with.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Hussain Haqqani 2005 Pakistan between Mosque and military Basically, the book sheds lights on the mainstream political history of Pakistan with a unique emphasis on relationship between Mosque and Military - Generals and Mullahs; Pakistani power groups and their interactions with each other. The book is very well researched, with several interesting insights and facts I didn't know about before i.e. the ISI's active interest in Afghanistan which began in 1973, 6 years before the USSR's invasion, Benazir's foreign policy during her first tenure, being largely curtailed by the army, it were the army generals that encouraged militant groups to operate as an instrument of Pakistan's foreign policy. The author is correct in saying that the military, with its record of ruling Pakistan for more than half of its history, is the main problem. In the democratic phase between 1988 and 1999, the military generals continued to indirectly rule Pakistan, as the Afghan policy, Kashmir policy and the Nuclear Program were strictly under the preview of the army.

Tilak Devasher Book Pakistan the Balochistan conundrum in this book Tilak Devasher analysis why Balochistan is such a festering sore for Pakistan. With his keen understanding of the region he traces the root of the deep seated Baloch accession to the princely state of Kalat's forced accession to Pakistan in 1948 this alienation has been further solidified by the state rampant exploitation of the province leading to massive social - economic deprivation in which has raises several questions such as Is the Balochistan insurgency threatening the integrity of Pakistan? What is the likelihood of an independent? Has the situation in the province become irretrievable for Pakistan? Is there a meeting grounds between the mutually opposing narratives of the Pakistan state and the Baloch nationalist Devasher examines these issues.

Tanweer Fazal book Minority nationalism in South Asia a chapter addicted by Tariq Rahman is Pakistan's policies and practices towards the religious minorities in which he explains that the religious minorities of Pakistan suffer gross human right abuses because the state has increasingly moved to the right in a bid to seek legitimacy by using the Islamic symbols and rhetoric in support of its true rule thus there are laws which discriminate against Non-Muslim Citizens exposing them to legal prosecution and extra - judicial persecution by their fellow citizens as radical Islamic groups gain strength in the country the Non-Muslim find the society getting increasingly intolerant.

Stephen Philip Cohen book idea of Pakistan Cohen is America's leading expert on South Asia. What he says in this book, which came out in 2004, is still relevant to the quandary facing Pakistan today which offers a holistic portrait of Pakistan from its ideal of formation to its present form in the form of military dominated state or garrison and deep state called sometimes it offered a understanding of this complex country and goes beyond popular impressions in India and Pakistan being nothing more than an army with the country this book is worth reading for political scientist strategic analysis policymakers diplomat journalists and general readers as mainly talked of Creation of Pakistan, Kashmir Question, Three conflicting ideas of Pakistan given by Stephen P Cohen, Pakistan into the clutches of oligarch, Policy of Pakistan and the Way ahead. that is Stephen Cohen rightly says, "Pakistani army is long on memory and short on foresight, but he does not discuss why that is the case or whether it will ever change." Thus, till the mental revolution among the civilian masses not happening in Pakistan on the line of 'Arab Spring,' there is no end to the predicament.

Hasan Askari Rizvi 2000 Military, State and Society in Pakistan This book offers a comprehensive study of the dynamics of civil-military relations in Pakistan. It asks how and why the Pakistan military has acquired such a salience in the polity and how it continues to influence decision-making on foreign and security policies and key domestic political, social and economic issues. It also examines the changes within the military, the impact of these changes on its disposition towards the state and society, and the implications for peace and security in nuclearized South Asia.

Veena Kukreja 2003 Contemporary Pakistan: Political process conflicts and crisis. This book discusses the political processes in contemporary Pakistan with the aim to understand the crises the country is confronted with. The author provides insights into Pakistan's traumatic political history-one that exemplifies a long-drawn battle between authoritarianism and constitutionalism-and an enduring ideological conflict between Islamic nationalism, regionalism and elite pluralism.

SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

The nature of the present study is historical, descriptive and analytical and mostly based on secondary data. Primary data will also be collected and made use of for the present study. The secondary data is to be collected from the Ministry of External Affairs, Embassy offices, other related Government of India offices associated with India-Pakistan affairs, Council of World Affairs, libraries of various universities, Material relating to this study will also be collected from relevant books, articles, magazines and journals newspapers originated from India and abroad and other publications and unpublished sources of literature The primary data will be collected from primary sources like documents and reports. Parliamentary debates, address given by external affairs. Ministers, foreign secretaries, ambassadors, the presidents, prime ministers and premiers of respective nations, resolutions of various rounds of talks held between India and Pakistan Political leaders as well as official representatives from time to time.

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