The Most Wanted Thing in the World is Peace: How is it Possible in Pakistan?

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Abstract

Peace is a necessary and precondition for trade, sustained economic growth, and prosperity of a country. In return, economic stability and rising prosperity foster peace in the region. The main purpose of the study is to explore possibilities for the establishment of sustainable peace in Pakistan. Design of the study is pure qualitative. Eight (8) intellectuals were selected by convenience sampling for semi-structured interview on research problem. Interviews were recorded on mobile phone and analyzed by using the technique of thematic analysis. The results reveal that peace can be maintained through educating the young generation, stabilizing the institutions of the state, economic up gradation, ban on religious organizations and combing operation against terrorists, formulating foreign and national policy without internal and external pressure, registration of Madaris and main Masques of the country. Only recommended persons of the government may deliver speeches on Eidain, Namaz-e-Jumma, and on other such occasions.

Key Words: Peace, possible, sustainable, world, country

Introduction

Pakistan is a country with 213.37 million population, governed by the federal government, has five provinces, namely Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwah, Baluchistan and GilgatBaltistan (excludingGilgatBaltistan& Azad Jammu Kashmir).[1] Four provinces along with the capital Islamabad comprise 97% of total population of Pakistan. Province Punjab is the largest province population wise with 56%, Sindh with 23%, Khyber Pakhtunkhwah with 13% of the total population. The largest province by area, Baluchistan, accounts for 5% of the population. In addition to these provinces, there are four kinds of areas. Areas administered by federal Government consist of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Federally Administered Northern Areas (FANA) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). It is pertinent to note that the region of Azad Jammu and

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Kashmir has its own president and prime minister but defense, foreign policy and currency are the federal subjects of the government of Pakistan.[2]

At the dawn of independence,the ruling elite consisted of an alliance betweennascent industrial bourgeoisie and landlords supported bythe bureaucracyand the military. Each regime that came into power sought to legitimize itself through an explicit ideology asAyub regime in modernization and economic development, Bhutto regime in redeeming thepoor (Food, Clothing and Shelter for all) through socialism and Zia regime in "Islamization" andmilitarized the state structure. Due to political isolation, he sought political, economic and military support from the United States and Pakistan became a "front line state" in America's Afghan war. During Zia regime many militants were trained by the Pakistan army to fight against Russia in the favour of America. During war countless Afghan refugees entered the tribal areas and province, Khyber Pukhtoonkha of Pakistan. Pakistan became market of illegal arms and heroin trade. Gradually, illegal arms injected in to the social life of major urban centers.[3]

After war, militants were not managed by front line state and United States. Resultantly, they scattered in Pakistan and started kidnaping, militancy and other crimes. After 9/11 when Mushraf regime wanted to keep them in manageable limit, they started to fight against Pakistan army and their militancy converted into terrorism.[4]

After the events of 9/11, religious violence changed in to terrorism. Up till now, round about 70,000 Pakistani have lost their lives to terrorism and Pakistan has borne the loss of 130 billion dollars to its economy.[5]

Peace and its Philosophy

For millennia, theorists, philosophers, political activists, religious thinkers and intellectuals have written more, desired and demonstrated for "peace" and depreciated the "war". In spite of this, the philosophy of peace is still inchoate and in its infancy. The word "peace" is often used direct or indirect in daily life discussion frequently. However, peace is elusive, murky, unending and perplexing concept and difficult to define in a few words or in one line because it is an abstract noun like democracy, nature, happiness, love, justice, truth, freedom, harmony etc. On the whole, mostly philosophers, psychoanalysts andpsychologists have been remained mute about war and peace. So, peace is defined due to its characteristics or often recognized by its absence.It is vivid from history of the world that 'peace on earth' is vanishing due to use of weapons on a large scale. Current situation is forecasting to global war

and vast destruction on earth. It is the responsibility of political leaders to illegalize slavery, political violence and legitimize human rights.[6]

According to Hasseena (2004), only absence of violence is not peace, rather respect of human rights, social and economic development, preservation of life, honour, and property, availability of social justice, freedom of expression, democracy, free education and free health facilities in a state are the indicators of positive peace.[7]To achieve this purpose, different theories of peace can be applied.

Theories of Peace
Different theories of peace have been presented such as democratic theory of peace, partition theory of peace, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) theory of peace, social justice theory of peace and educational theory of peace.

CSOs Theory of Peace
A civil society can be involved in peace building in the region through effective communication like as press conferences, non-official discussion forums, interactive workshops and web pages. NGOs can also influence and motivate the official parties for peace process.[8] As Jessop, Aljets, and Chacko (2008) stated that involvement of civil society in peace process supports the vision of peace building for long time rather than short time.[9]

Amao, Ettag, UfoOkeke-Uzodike and Tugizamana (2014) conducted a study on "Revisiting the Utility of the Early Warning and Early Response Mechanisms in Africa: Any Role for Civil Society" and concluded that CSOs played central role in controlling conflict in Kenya and Ghana by virtue of their deep relations with public and wide networks. In both countries, CSOs set up a mechanism for receiving and providing up-to-date informationacross the country. Technology-based tools were developed and used by the citizens for the purpose of resolving conflict in Africa.[10] Pakistani CSOs and NGOs can play central role for long term peace-building in the state.

Partition Theory of Peace
Partition theorists of peace present a partition as the best solution of conflict in the region. Division of Czechoslovakia is the rare example of peaceful partition.[11]The Czechoslovak case demonstrates that low level of ethnic mixing, no prior history of conflict, and pre-existing territorial boundaries may reduce the intensity and make the process of partition more peaceful.[12]Partition of Hindustan in 1947 was not peaceful partition because majority of the elites did not favour the partition whereas

partition of Pakistan in 1971 was peaceful because political elites from the both side favoured the partition.

Democratic Theory of Peace

Democratic theory of peace refers to the idea that by nature, the democratic states do not go to war with one another. Furthermore, on the ground of empirical evidence, it is difficult to deny, democratic countries do not go to war. With the passage of time, democracies will behave peacefully toward oneanother. This idea reinforces the validity of democratic peace theory.[13]

Social Justice Theory of peace

Social justice theorists of peace argue that exclusive social justice in a state leads the people to violence. When a system of social justice fails to provide deserved rights to the citizens, many disputes, riots and conflicts are born in society. People need useful, suitable and relevant resolution process of conflict. Society always depends on the healthy implementation of law and order. The state should modify and reform the system of social justice according to demand of the citizens and their cultural needs. Establishment of peace in Cameroon is the result of social justice discourse in the state.[14]

Educational Theory of Peace or Peace Education

John Galtung is a founder of peace building concept. He introduced this concept in 1975 with three approaches to peace such as peace keeping, peace building and peacemaking. Core concept of peace building of John Galtung includes negative peace, positive peace and sustainable peace. Negative peace means absence of violence, positive peace means presence of social justice or presence of structural peace. Galtung peace building concept stresses the removing of structural and cultural violence that leads to direct violence and promoting positive and sustainable peace that is gained by local knowledge, participation and ownership in peace building.[15]

The main function of peace education is to provide the opportunities of dialogic communication such as: critical thinking, social attitudes favouring voluntary restraints on the use of force, dialogue across borders, settlement of disputes without resorting to direct violence, multicultural understanding and acceptance of the rule of law among diverse group of people to find out the solution of problems and disputes that have been existing since long period.[16]

Holy prophet (PBUH) said "always ask for peace to Allah Almighty rather than fight with enemy" [17] and further said "a Muslim never uses foul language and never becomes violent to other Muslims".[18]

Holy Quran says in Surah Baqrah "settlement is best" (Al Baqrah: 1: 128).[19]Further, in Surah Anfaal, the Holy Quaransay"And if they incline to peace, then incline it [also] and rely upon Allah" (Al Anfaal: 8:61). Edorrna (2004) narrates the remarks of a child on peace in his article "children teach the adult not to fight" peace is more important because in case of non-existence of peace you cannot get any other right.[20]

Problem Statement

Peace is a necessary and precondition for trade, sustained economic growth, and prosperity of a country. In return, economic stability and rising prosperity foster peace in the region. This is most likely to happen in an atmosphere of economic cooperation, economic openness and multilateral approach to economic. Ultimately, peace and prosperity feed on each other. The problem to be investigated in this research is that how sustainable peace can be established in Pakistan in the long run.

Objectives of the Study

The study was conducted for the following purposes**:**
1. To identify the barriers in establishment of peace in Pakistan.
2. To explore the possibilities for establishment of sustainable peace in Pakistan

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to meet the ends of the study:
1. What are the barriers in establishment of peace in Pakistan?
2. What are the possibilities for establishment of sustainable peace in Pakistan?

Methodology

The study is pure qualitative by method. Eight (8) intellectuals, two from each province, Punjab, Sindh, Blochistan, and KPK respectively were selected by convenience sampling. Semi-structured interviews were conducted to collect data about research problem. Interviews were recorded on mobile phone. Thematic analysis was done by using "The process of organizing, general sense making, coding, drawing themes, and, finally, interpreting and making meaning out of the collected data" (Cresswell, 2003 as cited in Bagum, 2012, p.31).[21]

The language of interviews was Urdu. First of all, interviews were translated in to English. Then interviews were read carefully. After that, researcher underlined the repeated concepts and ideas. Next, researcher made a list of common themes and novel themes. Then,

researcher choose relevant theme to address the research question. At the end, relevant themes to research question were arranged in the sequence as a conclusion.

Results

The data were analyzed by using the technique of thematic analysis and emerged themes have been presented in the tables.

Hurdles in Establishment of Peace

Table 1: Developed Themes about Obstacles in Establishment of Peace

Category & No of Interviewee	Nature of Question/Responses	Repeated Words	Themes
KPK (3) Blouchistan (5) Punjab (2) Sindh (8)	What are the obstacles in establishment of peace in Pakistan? religious extremists links with political leaders, and donators, sectarianism, ethnic conflict	Extremists, sympathizers, donators, Poverty Sectarianism ethnicity	Religious extremist, links with political leaders, sympathizers and donators Sectarianism, ethnic violence in some parts of the country
KPK (4) Blouchistan (6) Punjab (1)	Absence of strong political will to fight against terrorists. Poverty, illiteracy, Economic inequality, social injustice, Politicians and elites support terrorist organizations, lack of uniform implementation of law, Social, economic and political issues	Social, economic and political issues, Poverty, illiteracy, Economic issues, absence of strong political will	Absence of strong political will, terrorists, clergy men, extremists' religious organization. Poverty, illiteracy, Economic inequality, social injustice, lack of uniform implementation of law, unequal access to education, political instability
Sindh (7)	Religious extremists and their relations with political leaders, political influence on institutions and delay in punishment of criminals	punishment of criminals	Political pressure on institutions,Religious extremists and their relations with political leaders, delay in punishment of criminals

Emerged themes of table 1 reveal that main hurdle in establishment of peace is that religious extremists and their followers are strong and have links with political leaders. Extremists and their sympathizers, and donators are still present in the country, and collecting funds for their purposes. Furthermore, absence of strong political will to fight against terrorists, clergy men and extremists religious organizations in the country is also a barrier. Moreover, political influence on institutions, economic inequality, social injustice, ethnicity, sectarianism, political instability, unequal access to education, illiteracy, and delay in punishment of criminals are also hurdles in establishment of peace in the country.

Peace is Possible in Pakistan
Table 2: Inductively Developed Themes about Peace is Possible in Pakistan

Category & No of Interviewee	Nature of Question/Responses	Repeated Words	Themes
Punjab (1),(2) KPK (3) Blochistan (5) Sindh (7)	How peace can be established in Pakistan? ultimate power to crush the violence creators, education is the soft way of bringing change in society, combing operation against terrorists, registration of mosque and madaris, national determination, elimination of terrorism deliver speeches on Eidan, Namaz-e-Jumma, and on other occasions.	crush the violence creators, educate to the new generation, soft way of bringing change in society Registration of mosque and madaris. Combing operation against extremists and terrorists	ultimate power Educate to the new generation, education is the soft way of bringing change in society. registration of mosque and madaris Recommended speeches on Eidan, Namaz-e-Jumma, and on other occasions.
Sindh (8) KPK (4)	operations like ruddulfasad and Zarb-e-Azb without any discrimination	operations without any discrimination	operations likeruddulfasad and Zarb-e-Azb
Blochistan (5)	Both foreign and national policies, Western policies	foreign and national policies	Formulation of foreign and national policies, without internal and external pressure.

It is concluded from developed themes of table 2; peace can be maintained through educating the young generation, implementation of national action plan or using ultimate power, economic up gradation, ban

on religious organizations and combing operation against terrorists, formulating foreign and national policy in the favour of state without internal and external pressure, registration of Madaris and main Masques of the country. Only recommended persons of the government may deliver speeches on Eidan, Namaz-e-Jumma, and on other occasions.

Role of Education in Establishment of Peace

Table 3: Inductively Developed Themes about Role of Education in Establishment of Peace

Category & No of Interviewee	Nature of Question/Responses	Repeated Words	Themes
Punjab (2) KKPK (3),(4) Sindh (7),(8) Blouchistan (5), (6)	How can education play important role in establishment of peace? crucial role in establishment of peace, change agents teachers and curriculum, national builder, curriculum free from racial biases, discrimination and violence provoking thoughts and sectarianism.	change agents, curriculum, Teacher is national builder,	Crucial role in establishment of peace, national builder and master mind of a new generation, Curriculum free from racial biases, discrimination and violence provoking thoughts and sectarianism.
Punjab (2)	soft way of establishing peace, the mental base of an individual, long term process	Education, soft way of change	soft way, mental base of an individual, long term process
KPK (2)	teachers can achieve the target of peace using unbiased and peace promoting curriculum, peace promoting teaching strategy and evaluation	Unbiased curriculum, suitable teaching strategy and evaluation	Teachers can achieve the target of peace using unbiased and peace promoting curriculum, peace promoting teaching strategy and evaluation

It is inductively concluded from the views of respondents that education can plays positive role in establishment of peace through peace as prime objective of education, unbiased curriculum (free from gender discrimination, violence provoking thoughts and sectarianism) and citizenship based curriculum, well trained teachers, because teacher is a national builder and master mind of a new generation, and evaluation of peace attitudes of students.It is durable but long term process for

promotion of peace in the country. Education strengthens the mental base of an individual. So, it is the soft way of bringing change in society.

Discussion
Since the Independence Day, Pakistan has been facingsectarianism, extremism, illiteracy and poverty.[22]Majeed (2014) has diagnosed another reason of conflict in the country. He states that like others countries of the world, ethnicity is also problematic for Pakistan. Different variables of ethnicity such as language, territory, religion and caste are responsible factors of violent conflict for the country and the process of national integration has been weakened due to ethnic identities[23]. Bagum (2012) described many causes of conflict in Pakistan such as: poverty, social injustice, and political instability[24]. Social exclusion or extremism is the result of poverty, unequal access to education, political instability, injustice, and sectarianism.[25]So, these studies partially support the findings of the present study.

Collectively, peace can be maintained through educating the young generation, stabilizing the institutions, economic up gradation, ban on religious organizations and combing operation against terrorists, formulating foreign and national policy after evaluating the Western policies, registration of Madarassa, and main Mosques of the country .[26] Newspaper, Dawn discussed these possibilities for promoting and strengthening peace in the country in its column as explored by the present study. State should use its ultimate powers to do these tectonic tasks.Education can play positive role in establishment of peace through peace as prime objective of education, unbiased curriculum, well trained teachers and evaluation of peace attitudes of students.[27] AsBar-Tal,and Rosen (2009) conclude that objectives of peace education can be achieved through peace promoting curricula, rewriting text books, developing instructional material and creating particular climate in schools.[28] Begum (2012) also suggests that for the effectiveness of peace education, objectives, curriculum development, teacher training programs and teaching strategies should be contextualized in accordance with peace building. It is durable but long term process of settlement of peace in the country. According to intellectual 2, education is the soft way of bringing change in society (Ibid).[24]

It was found that there is need for peace related teacher training programs in the presence of peace related curriculum. Today, war has shifted from battle field to streets and markets. The enemy is unidentified whereas; teacher is untrained and does not know how to save from enemy. Ahmed (2017) in his study 'Peace Education in Pakistan'

supports this finding; teachers need professional training and skills because they are ill equipped to teach.[29]

A joint meeting of religious scholars held under presiding chairman of MutahidaUlema Board and Pakistani Ulema Council and a declaration was issued in which it was said that Islam is a religion of peace, harmony and stability, defines the right of non-Muslim communities residing in Muslim countries categorically and provides full security.[30]

Conclusion

It is concluded that main hurdle in establishment of peace is that religious extremists and their followers are strong and have links with political leaders. Extremists and their sympathizers, and donators are still present in the country, and collecting funds for their purposes. Furthermore, absence of strong political will to fight against terrorists, clergy men and extremists religious organizations in the country. Moreover, political influence on institutions, illiteracy, poverty, economic inequalities and delay in punishment of criminals are also hurdles in establishment of peace in the country.

Peace can be maintained through educating the young generation, stabilizing the institutions of state, economic up gradation, ban on religious organizations and combing operation against terrorists, formulating foreign and national policy in the favour of state, registration of Madaris and main Masques of the country. Only recommended persons of the government may deliver speeches on Eidan, Namaz-e-Jumma, and on other occasions. These are the hard ways for peace-building in Pakistan.

Education can plays positive role in establishment of peace through determining peace as prime objective of education, unbiased curriculum, well trained teachers and evaluation of peace attitudes of students. It is durable but long term process for promotion of peace in the country. It is the soft way of bringing change in society. So, it can be concluded that soft and hard both ways maybe used for establishment of peace in Pakistan.

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