

PREFACE

If we closely look at the social life and its development in the Indian Sub-continent, we will come to know that in every era, there were some people who had been very effective at local and central point of all activities in their surroundings. People like tribal chiefs, landlords, religious leaders and many others influential groups had their impact on the society. During the course of history, these influential groups kept changing but remained dominant in the social lives of the sub-continent. *Numberdaars, zaildaars, patwaris* and the elected members of the local bodies also have notable influence at the local level. These local leaders play an important role in solving social problems at local level.

Pakistani society is facing multiple problems and we are passing through a critical phase. Religious tolerance and harmony is the need of the hour. It's very usual that petty matters turn into serious fights. Due to increased burden on police and the courts of justice, it takes years to settle even very small issues. The education of girls and domestic violence need grave attention. We need to focus upon the identification and solution of the challenges to social harmony and reconciliation. There are many areas where these locally influential personalities can play very important role to solve social issues of the society.

Local leadership is different from leadership of the institution in many ways. It is more public in nature and the local leaders have to satisfy the majority of the populace with their steps and decisions. The dream of social reconstruction cannot come true without the help of local leadership. These persons have been solving the issues at local level for centuries and their role in this regard can even be stimulated with more coherent efforts and the cooperation of the state institutions. These influential personalities are really an

asset especially for community development. Their inclusion in the process of social reconstruction has been targeted by different organizations. ‘*Aaghahi-e-Aman*’ is an extension of all these efforts aiming at reaching the local leaders and seeking their help to reconstruct the society. If peace awareness campaign be institutionalized especially by the local governments and bodies, it will strengthen civic engagement for peaceful co-existence in Pakistan.

Local leaders can take help in this regard from *Imams of Masjid* and school teachers. Traditionally both sections have a great respect in our society. The Imams have great impact on common man as he listens them with great care and respect. The teachers too are respected and they can give new paradigms of thinking to the younger generation. We have a strong belief that reformation of a society can only be made possible with collective efforts. Let’s take the initiative and responsibility of reconstructing our society. We further believe that Allah, the Almighty, helps those who work for the welfare of humanity. We may face different problems during the course, but Allah has a great reward for the people who serve their fellow beings. May Allah help us all, Amin!

With the best wishes

Paigham-E-Pakistan

A unanimous Fatwa & Joint Declaration Against Terrorism

Paigham-e-Pakistan is a basic national narrative that reflects unity and religious responsibility of the eminent scholars of all schools of thought in Pakistan. It confirms their love, affection and loyalty with Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This narrative is a milestone and historical success that could easily be extended and adopted by the whole world, particularly the Muslim world. This document will play key role in eliminating terrorism, trend of declaring others infidels (Takfeeriat), sectarianism and killing of innocents. It is incumbent upon all of us to disseminate this message by way of our statements and actions by modifying our way of thinking and attitudes in light of Paigham-e-Pakistan. Key points of the joint declaration and unanimous fatwa included in Paigham-e-Pakistan are as under:

- Islamic Republic of Pakistan, by way of its Constitution, is indeed an Islamic state.
- In the name of implementation of Shari'ah, use of power, armed struggle against the state, terrorist activities and all forms of terrorism are strictly prohibited (Haraam) in Shari'ah.
- Declaration of jihad involving physical combat and waging war is only the prerogative of the state.
- Suicide attacks are 'Haraam' in Islam (prohibited).
- Armed struggle against Pakistani Government or its armed forces fall within the category of rebellion that is 'Haraam' (prohibited) as per the Shari'ah.
- Taking part in armed rebellion or supporting it in any form is against the commandments of the Holy Prophet (peace is upon him).
- Sectarian hatred, armed sectarian conflict and imposing one's ideology on others by force is in clear violation of the

injunction is of 'Shari'ah' and is disorder on earth. Further, it is a national crime as per the law and the constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

- Muftis of all schools of thought in Pakistan reject extremism and extremist ideologies.
- It is a religious obligation to respect the sanctity of the Holy prophets (peace be upon them), companions (Sahaaba) of the prophet (peace be upon him), wives of the Prophet (Ummahatul-Mu'mineen) and members of the family of the prophet (Ahl-e-Bayat).
- According to Islamic teachings, armed terrorists are called 'Khawarij'.
- It is completely prohibited (Haraam) to abuse or defame other, to incite violence and spread hatred among people on the basis of ideological differences, to kill each other, to impose one's ideology on others by force and to commit homicide.
- In light of the Holy Qur'an and Sunnah, using religious rituals, symbolism and slogans for self-aggrandizement are forbidden.
- Providing guidance to distinguish between correct and incorrect ideologies is the responsibility of an 'Aalim' and 'Mufti', however, to decide about someone that he/she has committed infidelity (Takfeer) is the prerogative of state and judiciary.
- All Pakistani citizens are bound to respect constitutional covenant. It is incumbent upon them to be loyal to the state and protect the national interests as top priority.
- The land of Pakistan is a sacred trust from God; therefore, at no time it shall be allowed to be used for the propagation of any kind of terrorism.
- Non-Muslim citizens of Pakistan have full right to practice their own religion and worship in their places of worship and during the occasion of their religious celebrations as per the teachings of their religions.

- It is prohibited, rather as sin, to kill non-Muslims living peacefully in an Islamic state.
- According to Islam, respecting women and protection of their rights is a obligation upon men.

Inter-Faith Harmony and Religious Tolerance

Man has been in a spiritual and emotional affiliation with religion since times immemorial. This affiliation is so emotional and spontaneous that the slightest of intolerance may turn into tension and riots. It has been observed that peace in society can only prevail where people tolerate each other's beliefs and religious inclinations. It has been discussed for centuries whether religion of an individual is a personal affair or the collective responsibility but no conclusion could be drawn. The only thing that can be agreed upon is that the inter-religion and inter-sectarian harmony makes a society more peaceful.

The teachings of religious tolerance given by Islam and the very frequent reflections found in the *Seerah* of Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ can be categorized as the best examples of religious tolerance. The religious and human rights of the minorities given and guarded by the Muslims in the welfare state of Madinah is a golden example for rest of the world. We can come over the religious intolerance prevalent in our society by following these unique practices.

With inter-religion harmony, we need to work on inter-sectarian harmony as well. Like most of the other religions, there are different sects of the Muslims. Slight differences in the ways of performing *ibadat* or the principles of jurisprudence may be found among the followers of these sects but no significant difference can be identified as far as the basic beliefs are concerned. But unluckily these minor differences have resulted in a wide divide on sectarian bases in our society. Thousands of our countrymen have lost their lives due to sectarian riots during the last four decades. All these problems of religious and/or sectarian nature can only be solved through observing and showing tolerance. Man has been bestowed with reason by Allah the Almighty and can reach at

different conclusions by using ability of reasoning. Furthermore, every individual is free to select his ways at his will and the acceptance of his decision is a key to a peaceful community. Islam has wonderful traditions of religious tolerance.

We are in dire need to rectify our approach towards religious and sectarian divisions. The locally influential people can not only help but also lead all these efforts and to turn our divided society into a peaceful society. They can make sure that:

- No person or group should be opposed on the basis of religion or sect.
- Trivial problems should not be given too much importance.
- Discourage all kinds of extremism.
- Discourage sectarian divide with the support of Imams of masjid.
- Benefits of religious tolerance be highlighted in every social gathering.
- The followers of every religion or sect should be facilitated in performing their religious rites and rituals.
- The followers of each and every religion or sect should be provided with the opportunities to sit together.
- The *madaris* of every sect in the areas should be closely observed to keep them away from extremism.

Female Education and Women Rights

We have nearly fifty percent women in our population and they are equally contributing as men in the social development of the society. Centuries ago, Islam acknowledged the importance of women in the society and stressed on the equality of men and women. Islam was the first religion to explicitly lay down the rights of women which were never given to women before the advent of Islam.

It is very clear that Islam doesn't differentiate between men and women whenever it talks about human rights. Education is one of the most important human rights and Islam has made it obligatory for both men and women. The very first revelation of the Holy Quran started with "Iqra" (read) without any classification of man and woman. Some of the '*ahadees*' too emphasized on the female education. But unfortunately, despite the importance of women education in the 21st century and absolute religious support, we are still facing this issue across the country, especially in rural areas where the situation is even worse.

There are lot of social and economic factors which are hindering in the way of women education, e.g., poverty, family environment and traditional customs. The main obstruction in women education is the mind set of parents who always linked education with the job, but the purpose of education is not only the job. It has been proved that the educated women can better bring up his children and play her role in the family. Women has a central role in the family if she is educated, she can take the best decisions for her family and she can help her partner in the time of need.

Women often suffer physical and psychological violence by their family members e.g., father brother and husband. These facts are awful for our society and overall development of the country.

Government has taken many initiatives to empower women but no action makes a significant difference. Strict actions on domestic violence have been suggested. But in our social structure, women have to live with their family, and are dependent of male members of their family which becomes the main reason they do not register complaints on domestic violence.

Local leaders who have the strong influence on their people can play a very important role by discouraging such customs in the society. They can take some steps to make them realize that education is very important for a woman. Moreover, they can also play their role by interfering in their domestic affairs to control violence.

Such problems are more severe in few parts of the country as compare to other, this means local and regional leaders should do the following to address these issues:

- They should encourage their daughters to get education and then set example for others.
- Preach people that women education is a religious obligation and need of the time as well.
- Emphasize that education is not only for the sake of the job but it makes you a good human who can develop the society.
- Teach people that women has a share in the inheritance as a man.
- Local leaders should pay special attention to maintain and develop girl's school in the community.
- They should give awareness to their people to respect women in the society.
- They should encourage local people to get education to eradicate the social taboos and evils from the society.

Developing Patriotism and Love for Country

Passion and love for the country is a natural phenomenon. This passion and love motivate us to play our due role in the development of our country. To prefer the country's interest on our own interest is the best example of our passion and love for the country which ultimately leads to build a nation.

Patriotism motivates us to sacrifice our personal interests for larger interests of our country. An individual is a part of the local, regional, provincial and national community, thus the interest of the country will be above all to build a nation. But it is observed that local and regional interests are being considered more important as compared to national interests. Thus, it is important to give awareness to masses across the country that national interest is always important as compared to any local, regional and provincial interests. One should understand that survival of the country is our survival and individual development. Local people can play their role to raise awareness among masses, since they have authority in their areas, they can influence their people in a positive way.

These local leaders can eradicate conflicts and controversies through discussions and dialogues with local people. They can give them awareness about the difference of a state and government. Such efforts will motivate people to change their opinion about the country and make them passionate citizens for the country. Pakistan is a state where different governments belong to different political parties rule for a certain period, but on the basis of political parties or government we should not do such acts which can harm the integrity of the country.

Our expatriates can play a very important role to develop our international image and repute, but there are also some expatriates

who never care about our country's respect and try to search unfair means to earn money. We should make them realize that if they will do something wrong, their country will also suffer and their illegal acts can ruin the image of the country. They should not get involved in such acts which give them benefits for a while but can distort the image of the country.

Our local leaders should play some role to give awareness to such people to take care of their country's image nationally and internationally. Although, passion and love for the country is a natural phenomenon, but even then we should make some efforts to make people more passionate for their country. Thus, local leaders should take the following steps to promote passion and love for the country:

- Celebrate the national days e.g. Pakistan day and Independence Day.
- Give awareness to masses about the difference of state and government.
- Prayers for better and prosperous Pakistan should be the part of our daily prayers.
- Give respect to martyrs and their families.
- Give awareness to expatriates to take care of country's respect and never get involved in illegal doings

Issues relating to Education and Health

A civilized and healthy society always has concerns about education and health of its people. A society cannot grow without education and health of its people. Education and health facilities are the fundamental rights of all citizens, and it is the responsibility of the federal, provincial and local government to provide the best available opportunities of education and health. But, lack of resources in the country and the increasing rate of population across the country are the major hurdles on the way to provide good education and health facilities.

Governments already have done legislation to improve literacy rate in the country, along with providing financial aid to children and their parents for attending a school. However, it did not make any significant difference. Still, more than 20 million children are out of school. In addition, it is also imperative to give awareness to parents about education so that they can know the importance of education.

On the other hand, the health situation in the country is also disappointing. Hepatitis, AIDS, cardiac problems and cancer are rapidly increasing at a very alarming rate. Pakistan is among those few countries of the world which couldn't eradicate polio so far. The available health services are not sufficient for such a huge population in the country.

In this unsatisfactory situation of health and education in the country, local leaders and influential people should take some initiatives of their own to handle this difficult situation. These influential people can make some efforts to bring those children back to school who left school for labor work. These people can also talk to their parents to convince them about the importance of education.

Moreover, in view of improving health situation in the country, these local leaders and influential people can play a very important role to give awareness to masses about the epidemic diseases e.g., hepatitis and AIDS. They can give them tips to take precautionary measures different occasions.

Due to a lack of education and awareness in our country, some people are against giving Polio vaccination to their children. This is the main reason that we couldn't root out this disease from our country. Local leaders should also take the responsibility of giving awareness to people about cardiac diseases and tell ways to come over this by doing the exercise, healthy diet and quit smoking.

Thus, if local leaders and influential people can take the following actions we can control and solve many problems related to health and education in our country. They:

- Should be in contact with the local schools' representatives
- Make sure that all children of their area are in school
- Discourage child labor
- Visit the hospitals of their area often
- Help school and hospital staff to solve their matters on priority basis
- Give awareness to masses about healthy diet and exercise
- Give awareness to masses about epidemic diseases and their sources of transmission

Promotion of Local Handicrafts

In last few decades this fact has been revealed that over populated under developed countries have developed a lot by promoting the local handicrafts and small industries. These industries and handicrafts have played an important role in creating job opportunities and revenue for the country. Such industries and handicrafts can earn benefit for our country. Almost in every part of the country such great pieces of art work are produced which earn world-wide fame due to unique beauty and quality. At government level various announcements are made to develop local handicrafts and small industries yet no significant success has been attained in this regard till now.

It is difficult to attain development at local level until the local leader takes keen interest and becomes active in this regard. It is necessary to encourage the local industry. These local leaders can help the artisans to take loans. They can also help them to find market place so that they can display their crafts there. Usually access to different offices seems difficult and these local leaders can make that access easy. If the departmental difficulties and hindrances are made easy then developing local handicraft can optimally be attained.

No one can deny the importance of local handicrafts. The effective personalities of the area can play an important role to develop the local handicrafts and small industry. They should do the following.

- Make the artisans conscious of the fact that they are doing profitable work.
- Use their personal relationships in order to sell these handicrafts in other parts of the country.
- These handicrafts should be presented as gifts to their friends.
- The artisans and small industry workers should be helped in order to take loan from government or any other organization.

- People should be made aware about the original price of the products made by them. Sometime businessmen purchase these products at lower price and sells at a higher price in the market.

Environment and Water Protection

Pakistan is facing various internal and external problems. The most serious and attention seeking problem is environment and water protection. Good environment and clean water is the basic necessity of a community but its importance increases in an agrarian country just like Pakistan. A major portion of our population depends on the rain and availability of water. Pakistan has been facing the shortage of water in many parts for the last few years. In few years Pakistan has been included in the list of countries that are facing extreme scarcity of water. It is causing serious and dangerous apprehensions.

Many steps are being taken in this regard at national level. Plans are being developed to store water by building dams on the rivers. Tree plantation project has been launched successfully. It has now become a movement, as the scarcity of trees is also a cause of fewer rains and trees also help to maintain the environmental changes. The local leadership can play a vital role to keep the environment green and save water from being wasted. It is important to raise awareness among the masses that if we don't plant new trees to replace the rapid cutting of trees then it will cause the unbearable rise in temperature. Moreover due to lack of rain our land will become barren.

At local level we can keep our environment clean by disposing the waste at one place properly. The use of plastic shopping bags is causing a lot of damage to environment. The local leadership can help to denounce the use of plastic shopping bags at local level. No movement to save water and protect environment can become successful until each person of the society takes part in this process seriously. To make every person ambitious regarding this issue the local leaders should take the following steps.

- Tree plantation in homes and agriculture land should be encouraged.
- Cutting of trees without solid reason should be avoided.
- People should be made conscious about the effects of increasing temperature and negative environmental changes.
- Careful water usage should be adopted and natives should be guided in this matter.
- If some place is available then rain water should be stored in it.

Promotion of Sports

Sports are necessary to develop a good and healthy environment in a society. It is said, "A healthy body keeps a healthy mind." It is also said that where there are living playfields, the hospitals of that area remain deserted. Sports not only nourish body and mind but these also provide the solution of many social problems. Those young boys who are interested in sports remain safe from the negative activities. For example drug addiction is on the increase in our society. If youth is inclined towards sports then gradually they will get rid of drug addiction. Moral decline in the society will become less in the society. Sports develop leadership qualities in the youth. They learn teamwork which helps them in the fore coming social and professional life. Hence sports are not only related to body nourishment, they also play an important role in developing the youth mentally, emotionally and socially. Although government has done a great job to develop sports at urban level yet youth is developing sports themselves at rural level. If influential personalities start to supervise the sports then the youth will find a great attraction in it. They will take part in sports with great enthusiasm. Moreover, no big investment is required in this regard. Under the supervision of local leaders the disputes among youth during sports can be settled easily. It will develop the spirit of positive competition in youth which will ultimately develop the society. The need of the time is to understand the importance of sports and positive measures should be taken to improve and develop sports.

- Tournaments and competitions at local level should be encouraged. If possible then financial aid should be given.
- Personally talk to those who create problems for children when they play at open place.
- Inspect and take a round of the playing field / ground.
- Make children understand that sports are source to develop body and mind. They should avoid fighting.

- Guide them to develop sportsmanship.
- Settle the disputes on the spot.
- Make the parents aware of the importance and benefits of sports.
- Help the players of your area to go and play in another area.

Hatred for the Crime, Not the Criminal

When a mistake results in harm for other humans and society, it becomes a crime; and the person who commits it is called a criminal. When a human commits sin and seeks pardon of God, He opens the doors of forgiveness and all the sins are washed away. Do our society forgive the person who repents or asks forgiveness on his wrong doing? Perhaps not.

It is the need of the hour to develop the sense among people to hate the crime not the criminal. We like to keep ourselves away from the criminal and due to this hatred we are making difficult the relapse of the criminal to normal life. If we don't keep ourselves away from the criminal then we can make him understand and stop him from committing the crime furthermore. If anyone commits a crime either intentionally or unintentionally, our taunts contempt compel him to remain away from the normal life and ultimately compelling him to commit further and more intensive crimes. If hatred is delimited only to the crime, the criminal can be stopped from committing further crimes. And so in this way, the ratio of the crimes will also decrease.

If we further go deeper in this debate, another situation can arise. An opportunity of leading an active life should must be provided for the criminal if he develops a sense of his mistakes as well as repents on his sins. It is frequently observed that he is not provided the opportunities of coming out of his past life and his crime becomes his identity. Taunting and shaming all the time makes his redemption to normal life difficult.

The influential people of the community can help in changing the mindset of the society. They can make common people think and understand that Allah the Almighty, too, forgives the sinner on seeking pardon and repentance; and He likes forgiving others. The

influential people can forbid the people taunting the criminals and can also help to bring them back into normal life by respecting and encouraging them.

Perhaps it's natural for man to commit mistakes but a better human does repent on his sins, and it is a great blessing of God for him. If any criminal repents on his sins or completes his punishment by law, it becomes a collective responsibility of the society to provide an opportunity to such persons to live a happy and peaceful life besides normal people. The local leaders can play a vital role if they:

- Never stop communicating with him
- Ask others not to disengage themselves from the wrong doers
- Never taunt him
- Neither taunt his family
- Never disrupt his livelihood or social activities

Dealing and Land Disputes

Intolerance and anger has badly damaged the mutual relations of the people living together. Such news are daily heard that a person has killed his friend over a trivial dispute of small amount. It is very common that people are killed in the disputes starting from the quarrels of the children. One or the other groups make an access to the police on small disputes. Approaching to police and court of justice over land and water disputes has become a common trait especially of our rural life. As the police and courts are already over-burdened, such cases remain pending for years and sometimes such cases are not decided at all. In majority of such cases of land, water and route, the parties spend even more money than the actual value of the thing of dispute. The institutions are so over-burdened due to cases filed over these trivial disputes that very importance issues are overlooked. The majority of land related disputes can be solved by the patwaris of the revenue department. The elders of the village are also aware of the long history of lands. These issues can easily be resolved at local level. The local leading persons can develop this sense among the people by mentioning various examples of murders due to disputes arising from these petty matters that human life is so precious. To control yourself in the anger is a great art. If these local leaders learn this art themselves then they not only can become an example for others but can also bring a great change in social life by making other people learn this skill. Real brothers have parted due to anger and petty disputes. Generally the lumberdaars and chiefs are impartial personalities or such committees comprising impartial and undisputable persons of the area can be formed that can solve trivial disputes at local level. At one hand, it will provide cheap and speedy justice, while on the other hand it will reduce the pressure of work over our institutions and courts.

In this regard, the influential people of the area can play their role in the following ways:

- Committees should be formed by bringing good reputed people into these committees
- There must be advisory council to ask people they keep away from fighting over these issues of nominal money or land disputes
- There should be a devised procedure regarding bringing matters to these committees
- Committees must consult the parties and after making it compulsory to accept the decision it must be decided in the best possible way on merit
- Members on the committee can be changed (if any party has objection on any of its members)
- There should be a procedure of appeals regarding committees' decisions

Respect for the Difference of Opinion

If we look deeply, it will be known that respecting difference of opinion is a part of better social life. It brings diversity, innovation and beauty in the society. Every man has his own thinking and opinion; and it is not necessary that his thinking and opinion is in line with other people. If we take this difference in our thinking positively, the dimensions of thinking can be changed. At times, such opinions appear about which other people may not think or may not meditate over that way.

Unluckily, this difference of opinion is usually taken as personal grudge in our society and this difference results in enmity and hostility in future. If we take this difference of opinion in a positive way, the society will also move forward in a positive way. God has created man with individual differences. Man is altogether different from others from outward qualities and appearance to comprehension and understanding. Every man's background and temperamental qualities are different from other people; the difference of opinion is also natural. By realizing this fact, the constitution of Pakistan also gives right of freedom of speech to its every citizen.

If the influential personalities of the locality make their habit to respect the opinion of the people, it will put a positive impact on other people. The modern research gives evidences that a good leader always listens to others; give others the opportunity to complete their word; and gives importance to their opinion even though he may differ from their opinion personally. It is generally observed that so many problems are resolved by simply listening to others and giving importance to their opinion. If the respectable people of the region start listening to others and respecting any difference of opinion then it will positively impact the society where people will be able to express themselves without any fear

and no hate relations will develop due to difference of opinion. Respecting others who differ your opinion is essential for social coherence. It can only be possible if effective persons demonstrate it by themselves. They should:

- Listen carefully to others
- Never interrupt till they complete
- Respect their opinion even if it is different
- Don't answer at once if it is to be in negative
- Listen to them being cool minded and reply accordingly
- Be respectful while giving answers
- Be peculiar in discussion: discuss the issue, not the people
- First praise the opinion of other and then give their viewpoint
- Disagree in an agreeable manner and soft language