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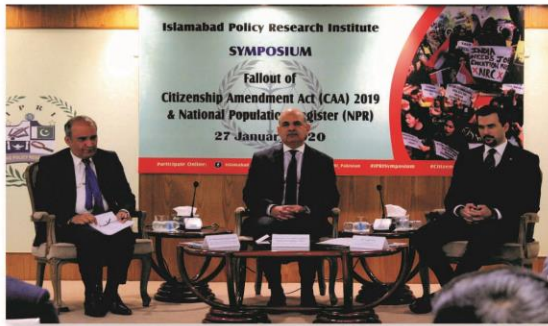
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SYMPOSIUM:

Fallout of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019 & National Population Register (NPR): Implications for India & Pakistan



The Islamabad Policy Research Institute organised a symposium titled *Fallout of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019 & National Population Register (NPR): Implications for India & Pakistan* on 27 January 2020. The speakers included Dr Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal, Assistant Professor, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University; and Mr Jamal Aziz, Executive

Director, Research Society of International Law.

The speakers highlighted that the CAA and NPR legislation is against the secular ethos of Indian's Constitution. It was pointed out that India owing to its political clout is able to exercise such discriminatory practices. Meanwhile, the global players' deliberate insensitivity to such unjust policies shows the confluence of geopolitical interests.

The Symposium was moderated by **Ambassador Vice Admiral (R) Khan Hasham bin Saddique**, President IPRI, who stressed that the international community cannot turn a blind eye until another full-blown pogrom unfolds, with millions forced out of their homes, ravished and butchered. India must be held accountable for its deplorable acts against humanity. 'Institutionalised anti-Muslim atrocities have now systematically made their way from Indian Occupied Kashmir to mainland India,' he warned.

Dr Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal discussed why the CAA and NPR are important for the BJP government. He shared that identity making is a conscious-unconscious process of

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Recommendations

1. The abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A by India has ended the special status of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan needs to fight for the Kashmir cause on political, legal and humane grounds. It needs to be projected that Indian extremist acts are not confined to minorities living in the country, rather the *Hindutva* mindset is the cornerstone of India's foreign policy. India's provocative attempts are detrimental to the region's peace and inter-state relations.
2. It is the responsibility of the United Nations to condemn India's unjust practices to suppress Indian Muslims since this will not only provoke hatred at the societal level as it is doing so currently, but may also have serious ramifications for the region at large instigating religious intolerance and extremism.
3. Pakistan needs to have robust presence within the international think tank community so that the world is able to look at regional developments from a varied perspective. Pakistani Diaspora should be engaged to write on issues of national importance.

Fallout of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019 & National Population Register (NPR): Implications for India & Pakistan

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social engineering, within which, society is structured and re-structured in accordance with the demands of the dominant elite middle class. This is done through discourse making and data manipulation. He shared that the dominant social elite create a system of authoritative values and financial resource distribution to condition a certain pattern of socio-political interaction that helps to establish and prioritise the masses in a specific identity construct. Therefore, the way census is conducted and data collected leads to specific identity constructs. Dr Afzal was of the view that from 1998-2004, and from 2014-18, soft *Hindutva* was introduced in India by creating a Hindu vote bank and a conducive environment for its survival. The 2019 electoral victory compelled

BJP towards hard *Hindutva* evident from hardline policies such as Three Talaq, revocation of Article 370 and 35-A and the Babri Mosque verdict. While remarking on the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019, he said that this legislation amended the Citizenship Act of 1955, which seeks to provide safe haven to religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. As a consequence, for the first time, religion has been used as a premise for citizenship in India. Dr Afzal concluded his talk by stating that BJP's performance in state elections in Bengal and Uttar Pradesh in January 2021 and February 2022, respectively, will be a litmus test for the party's political future.



Mr **Jamal Aziz** highlighted that the CAA does not enjoy support internally as Kerala state has challenged it in the Supreme Court and Punjab has also passed an anti-CAA resolution recently. He argued that this new legislation is against Article 14 and Article 21 of the Indian Constitution and against its secular ethos.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, US Commission on International Religious Freedom and International Commission of Jurists have condemned the legislation and termed it "fundamentally discriminatory" in nature.

While explaining status of CAA under International Law, he said that by not extending equal protection to all persons

including Muslim migrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, India would be in violation of its International Human Rights obligations. He pointed out that if India expels or detains individuals under this legislation, it would be in violation of its obligations as a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Furthermore, discrimination based on nationality or ethnic origins, something that CAA does, is in violation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Mr Aziz emphasised that such legal changes and the mass protests against them provide a historic opportunity for Pakistan to reset the dynamic of its relationship with India. He cautioned, however, that to do so, Pakistan will have to improve its own human rights record.

It would be difficult for Pakistan to lobby or advocate for India's minorities when the country's own minorities are subject to marginalisation. To this end, institutions need to be empowered through structural reforms and merit-based culture.

Question/Answer Session

When asked if there were clashes within the Muslim community of India as a result of multiple identities, Dr Mujeeb Afzal said that Indian identity is based on duality whereby, citizen's are allowed to keep their Muslim identity as well as Indian identity.



As a result of this duality, the Muslim Personal Law and Aligarh institutes were safeguarded. However, this duality is being eroded with the implementation of *Hindutva* policies. The difference now is that this social discrimination is being legally codified.

To a query concerning religious identity and national identity of Indian Muslims, he said that the Muslim community has been discriminated against by the Hindu majority for a long time. Employment and educational opportunities are designed to keep Muslims marginalised. However, Dr Afzal opined that despite this, the Muslims of India remained content given the secular constitution of the country which is now under threat.



To a question concerning the geopolitical interests of major powers and significance of International Law, Mr Jamal Aziz replied that in the prevalent world, wars are not fought militarily alone, rather economic sanctions, soft power and lawfare are the new weapons of coercion. Pakistan needs to guard against such tactics and tools, he urged.

ROUNDTABLE: Psycho-Social Toxicity in Pakistan: A Fallout of Terrorism



Pakistan needs a holistic National Mental Health Strategy; bring changes in the current infrastructure in terms of treatment approaches; improve access to psychiatric facilities; develop public-private partnerships; and extend mental health treatment to primary care.

IPRI organised a roundtable on *Psycho-Social Toxicity in Pakistan: A Fallout of Terrorism* on 15 January 2020. Giving his opening remarks, **Ambassador Vice Admiral (R) Khan Hasham bin Saddique**, President IPRI welcomed the participants, and highlighted that terrorism has been the biggest problem for Pakistan for many years. He shared that IPRI has initiated a series of discussions to understand various facets of terrorism and counter terrorism in order to objectively chalk out a strategy and way forward for a peaceful Pakistan, free of extremist elements. President IPRI opined that given the very little information and discussion on the psychological fallout of terrorism on Pakistan's society in general, and on mental health in particular, a national level debate is vitally needed.

Giving his Keynote Address, **Dr Shakil Jehangir Malik**, Professor of Psychiatry from the University of Sussex, UK, argued that Pakistan has been the victim of unremitting, unprecedented levels of psychological toxicity. The aftermath of years of war on terror, manmade and natural disasters, ethnic and sectarian conflicts, poverty, inequality, insecurity and injustice have etched the psycho-social fabric of the country adversely. According to him, psycho-social toxicity manifestations have caused loss of compassion; social, cultural, ethical values; and a sense civic and social responsibilities, resulting in aggression, violence, drug use and crime.

Dr Malik warned that insecurity breeds xenophobia which then leads to stereotyping as well as ostracising of vulnerable and marginalised groups. Unfortunately, the state's role in curtailing such societal schisms has been very weak, especially in terms of mental healthcare facilities. He said that neuroscience research can identify the mechanisms of learning and the sources of individual differences in learning ability in order to develop cognitive skills needed in hybrid

frameworks of future battles.

Neuroscience should be integrated in the National Security Policy of Pakistan.

Dr Malik was of the view that given groundbreaking new frontiers in neuroscience on the various ways brain stimulation can enhance thought and behaviour, a much needed review of its applications is required within policy and academic circles. He warned that the era of robotic warfare is here, and next generation drones will be guided by the brain. Under the guise of Fifth Generation Warfare, states are investing in technologies and research on how a country can be devastated through low intensity warfare using terrorism. Dr Malik urged that the changing shape of mind-based techniques for future low intensity warfare requires an adequate response from Pakistan in producing medical intelligence studies, and raising a Military Neuroscience Branch.

The Chair and Moderator of the symposium, **Dr Muhammad Tahir Khalily**, Vice President (Academics) from the Department of Psychology at the International Islamic University, shared that mental health issues are increasing at an alarming rate in Pakistan, specifically in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan because of insurgency and violence for over a decade.

There is a need to develop strategies to deal with the negative impacts of social media as it is causing psychological issues in youth. This century was supposed to be one of dialogue, but unfortunately, it has been a century of prejudice, social anxiety, trauma and discrimination.

Dr Khalily lamented that addressing mental health problems remains a low priority at the policy level. He pointed out that massive quantitative and qualitative changes are required so that mental health services are made a component of basic medical packages.

Discussing trauma, **Dr Uzma Masroor**, Chair, Department of Humanities, Air University, said it is an overwhelming state with adverse effects on the human body and psyche. According to her, trauma has become part and parcel of everyday life. She suggested three ways to deal with it:

1. Providing social and emotional security to citizens by addressing social disparities, and providing emotional counselling.
2. Resource building by revamping the education system along modern lines.

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Newspaper/Research Articles

NEWSPAPER/RESEARCH ARTICLES

Dr Talat Farooq

Sr. Consultant

"Iran and the Great Power Competition"

Express Tribune

Dr Talat Farooq, Scott Lucas & Stefan Wolff

"Predators and Peace:

Explaining the Failure of the Pakistani Conflict

Settlement Process in 2013-4, *Civil Wars*, DOI:

10.1080/13698249.2020.

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Muhammad Nawaz Khan
Research Officer

"Water Security"

Daily Times

"The Socio-Psychological

Impact of Terrorism and

Pakistani Society"

Asia Dialogue

Khurram Abbas

Research Officer

"Expulsion of US from the Persian Gulf?"

The Nation

Amna Ejaz Rafi

Assistant Research Officer

"President Xi visits Myanmar"

Daily Times



ISLAMABAD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Contact Information:

Address: Fifth Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex,
Sir Aga Khan Road, Sector F-5/1,
Islamabad, Pakistan

+92 51 9211346-49

ipri.editor@gmail.com

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3. Bridging intergenerational gap, and encouraging responsible social media usage.

Dr Salma Siddiqui, Head of the Behavioral Sciences Department from the National University of Sciences and Technology, was the view that as a society, Pakistanis have become desensitised to 'trauma' and 'traumatic experiences' given their almost daily occurrence. She stressed the importance of family values, character building of youth since the 'family unit' acts as a buffer against the trauma of violence or manmade crisis.

Dr Adeela Rehman, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology at the Fatima Jinnah Women University, urged that to address the issues of extremism or terrorism, social capital needs to be improved through capacity building and developing gender-specific, holistic public health strategies since women and men are impacted differently by trauma.

Dr Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur called for a complete paradigm shift on the policy level wherein legislation is carried out with input from relevant stakeholders about the role and importance of citizens' emotional well-being.

Mr Ali Babakhel, Director at the National Counter Terrorism Authority, said that most law enforcement officers are not aware about the KPK Mental Health Bill 2017. He lamented that in Pakistan, legislation is done without taking input of relevant researchers, academia, and professionals due to the state's security-centric or secrecy-centric approach. He discussed role of the media vis-à-vis coverage of violent incidents and insensitive reporting of

traumatic events which has a multiplier impact and contributes to psycho-social disequilibrium. Mr Babakhel stressed that media should be trained to follow an ethical code of conduct in their reporting and content.

Brig. (R) Babur Barlas suggested that mental health concerns should be included in the National Action Plan which is a corner stone of national policy; while **Dr Talat Farooq** remarked that there are many regions in the world which face poverty, illiteracy, religious emotionalism, and hyper-nationalism, but all of them do not become terrorists. It is the feeling of 'Us versus Them' which leads to polarisation within society, she said.

Recommendations

- Given groundbreaking new frontiers in neuroscience, a much needed review of its applications not only in security and military sectors, but also on ordinary citizens is the need of the hour.
- The Ministry of Health should develop mechanisms to provide robust and inclusive mental health services to all citizens, especially youth and children.
- A multidisciplinary approach at the policy level is required to better understand trauma generated by terrorism with emotional coaching and healthy mentoring, especially of children.
- There is a need to revitalise intergenerational communication and propagate responsible use of communication technologies.
- Social capital needs to be improved through capacity building and developing gender-specific, holistic public health strategies; and revamping Pakistan's debilitating primary and higher education sector.
- Media should be trained to follow an ethical code of conduct in their reporting and content.