

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind



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Science Must Support Peace

No one can deny the fact that science has an indispensable role within human society. There is no human society in the world that does not use science in some way or the other. From the daily life to the rare circumstances, whenever and wherever human beings have faced problems, science has helped them in some way or the other. Today, it is impossible to take the society back to the old age when there were no scientific inventions and discoveries. Therefore, it is very vital that human beings must make sure that they take advantage of the science as much as possible.

However, there are certain instances and examples that show that science is not always used for peace, tranquility and development. Bloody wars and clashes within human societies have shown that science has provided assistance to the lethal weapons that have capacity to bring destruction and chaos within human world. However, there are arguments that suggest that it is not the science itself that is evil; rather, its negative use makes it so.

As a matter of fact, science can be best used for peace and development. Throughout its history, science has proved that and it can keep on doing that if human beings intend to do so, individually and collectively. However, the important point is that they should realize this fact that their survival and prosperity lie in the positive use of science and technology. To emphasize the same fact, every year November 10 is celebrated as the World Science Day for Peace and Development around the world. The day was proclaimed by United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) General Conference (Resolution 31C/20) in 2001 to recall the commitment made at the UNESCO-ICSU World Conference on Science. The purpose of celebrating the day is to renew the national, as well as the international commitment to science for peace and development and to stress the responsible use of science for the benefit of society. The World Science Day for Peace and Development also aims at raising public awareness of the importance of science and to bridge the gap between science and societies.

There is no doubt in the fact that one of the most crucial requirements for a society to develop is peace and tranquility. Without sustainable peace, thinking of prosperity is nothing more than a figment of one's imagination. With peace, a society would be on the track of a healthy evolution and it would be able to concentrate on many other issues that are hurdle in the way to bliss and contentment. In the journey from the first human societies to today's modern world, wherein human beings call themselves civilized and the best of all the creatures, there have always been fluctuations between peace and war. Unfortunately, no peace has been forever and fortunately, no war has lasted long. Wars have always devastated human civilizations, killed millions of human beings, brought miseries and pains and yet they have not been rejected as unnecessary and this fact is really very painful.

It is difficult to believe that knowing the horrors of wars, human beings have always considered them necessary and almost all the nations in the world are really ready for wars. There are many important requirements that are neglected in the society and science and technology are utilized to make a nation ready for launching war and strong militarily. It is weird to note that there are many countries on the face of earth that would not utilize blessings of science for improving the standard of the living of the people but would spend them magnanimously on acquiring modern weaponry. In fact, human beings are preparing for their own destruction and extinction consciously.

Just consider the amount and the characteristics of modern weaponry; they have the tendency to raze human beings from the surface of the earth completely. The magnitude of weapons of mass destruction at the disposal of world nations can even destroy the entire earth several times. Unluckily, some of the human beings are of the view that peace can only be achieved through wars and therefore, wars are necessary in human societies. This is the biggest misconception human beings have ever had. War does not and cannot bring peace; it in its nature is destructive. Even if war brings peace that is only after the entire human civilization is erased. Would a peace, in a world without human beings, be required at all?

Definitely, the deadly silence that the wars may bring does not guarantee peace, rather that is the sign of lifeless existence. Unfortunately, many developed nations in the world today forget this fact and promote their military strength. They even consider the study of wars as educational subjects that are formally taught within educational institutions. War is considered an art while the achievement of peace is considered only a dream, which is really unfortunate. As human beings, we need to realize the fact that thinking of human survival and working for peace and tranquility is not living in a dream but pursuing a real objective. And, science should serve human beings in that pursuit.

The Consequences of Punishing Children

By Fatima Faizi

Family plays a key and an irreparable role in socializing children. As a most fundamental environment for training, a family will put a profound effect on its members, mainly on children. Families should be supported so as to play their role in the best possible way and children need to be brought up in a safe and secure milieu to complete its mental, emotional, and physical growth in a normal way.

Although family plays a pivotal role in shaping the children's personality, it is not always a proper environment and the bulk of violence against children takes place within families. That is to say, the development of human societies could not reduce violence against children. In countries like Afghanistan where patriarchal system still rules, violence is more tangible. Children are either threatened by their parents or their brothers and sisters.

Since there are extended families in the country, violence is also extended and widespread. In such families, children fall victim to violence applied by other members of their families, as well. The ruling culture suggests that parents should ignore violence taken place against their children by other members of families or else it will generate further conflict in the family.

There is great possibility for the death and harassment of children in extended families rather than by strangers. Within the past days, harassing children made national headlines. For example, a little girl was killed by her father in Herat province in a tragic way, a two-year-old boy was killed in Iran, and a man beheaded his ten-month-old child and its mother in Nimroz province. There are tens of such reports making the headlines in this society but they are turned a cold shoulder. Mostly, families are involved in the issues.

There are many types of violence against children that will put a pernicious effect on their minds in one way or another. In other words, children's harassment starts from depriving them from food, shelter, clothing, and parental love to inflicting physical harm, which sometimes may lead to amputation of their limbs or even to their death. Generally speaking, harassing children are divided into four categories which include sexual violence, physical violence, mental violence, and negligence.

Physical violence against children is highly blatant. There are hardly any children who have not been punished by their parents, which is done for training them. Regardless of the fact that punishment make children more stubborn, it will be applied severely next time.

Some may have discerned the fact that the children who suffer more physical punishment will be less fearful and show more tendencies on tasks forbidden by their parents. Parents

compound the punishment out of anger that may result in serious harm.

Emotional harassment is the next kind of violence against children. A large number of children are appalled by remembering their parents' anger. This is a small example of emotional violence that will put a seriously destructive impact on the minds of children. Accosting children and addressing them with foul languages or degrading them are also kinds of violence. Saying that you hate children, comparing them with their playmates, controlling them strictly, castigating them, threatening or letting them not express their emotions will inflict mental and spiritual harm on them.

The Consequences of Punishment

The effect of physical punishment will be eroded soon. Children will turn stubborn versus punishment. The more parents add to the severity of their punishment the more children will show disobedience. With the erosion of its effect, parents will not be able to get the desired result. Perhaps, parents will lose their control and resort to a serious action that will harm children seriously or even lead to their death. The next effect of punishment is that children will learn that violence and conflict are solution to challenges.

Hence, they will also resort to violence for resolving an issue. Rather than being changed into a suitable person, a child will cherish revenge and perform what enrages their parents such as sabotaging instruments at home, harassing their siblings, etc.

With punishment, children will lose their self-confidence. During punishment, parents may utter words that fill children with disappointment and contempt. Children will deem themselves inferior to others, especially when being compared to their friends and playmates.

This article does not have the capacity to scrutinize the consequences of punishment in detail. There are many consequences that have been shortened in this article. Escaping home, depression, resorting to prostitution or addiction at early age are all the adverse effects of punishment.

Solutions

Since playing an important role, parents form the cornerstone of children's personality. Children are the society's future and if they are not brought up properly, both families and society will be harmed.

First and foremost, parents are supposed to learn the way of bringing up children. Many parents think that punishing children will be a better way for training them. However, it should be noted that punishment will not only fail to reduce the challenges but it will rather add to the issues.

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Muhammad Iqbal - A Charismatic Leader

By Hujjatullah Zia

Pakistani philosopher and thinker Muhammad Iqbal - also called the 'Spiritual Father of Pakistan' - played a highly crucial role in social, cultural, religious, and political arenas. He is known as an eminent poet by regional and global scholars of literature since he articulated his thoughts in soulful poetry.

Iqbal waxed nostalgic about the past glories of Islamic civilization and delivered the message of spiritual focus on Islam as a source for socio-political liberation. He denounced division within and amongst Muslim nations on the grounds of race, sect, or color. He cherished a philosophically lofty ambition for Muslims and dreamt of a civil society void of violence and aggression.

As a religious intellectual, Iqbal felt deeply the excruciating pain of Muslim Ummah and sought to alleviate this unmitigated suffering through releasing Muslim society from the clutch of colonialism. Moreover, the erosion of religious tenets and decline of ethical code and cultural values were the main heartache of Iqbal. He made great efforts to resuscitate religious, cultural, and moral values.

In his poetry, he mourns the decline of Islamic society urging Muslims not to rest on their laurels. His words are replete with strong sentiments as he smoldered with pain about the downfall of Muslim nation. He beckoned Muslims to prophetic practices and Islamic Sunnah and broke the chain of slavery from the feet of his nation through political rehearsals and cultural activities. He freed his people from the political domination and economic exploitation inflicted upon them for years. Factional divisions, sectarian tussles, and radical acts filled him with an outpouring of grief. Therefore, he stressed religious tolerance and moderate practices of Islamic Sharia. He criticized the "intellectual attitudes" of some Islamic scholars as having "reduced the Law of Islamic practically to the state of immobility." He constantly tolled bell to keep society awake and mobile.

In terms of women, Iqbal called them to protect their hijab and dignity in accordance with Islamic principles. He believed that women have the right to learn knowledge; engage in social, cultural, and political activities; and play their constructive role in society without barriers. According to him, women should be respected in the society and freed from traditional restrictions and superstitious stereotypes which have no rational or religious basis.

Iqbal was a real intellectual who never spread violence or hatred. He neither confirmed radical schools of thought nor secular mentalities - both of which have constituted challenges for Islamic societies. The former have resulted in violence and bloodshed and the latter left a vacuum in the soul of mankind in modern world. Iqbal truly fathomed Islamic principles and devoted himself to articulate those messages

to people through his mystical and heartening Persian and Urdu poetry.

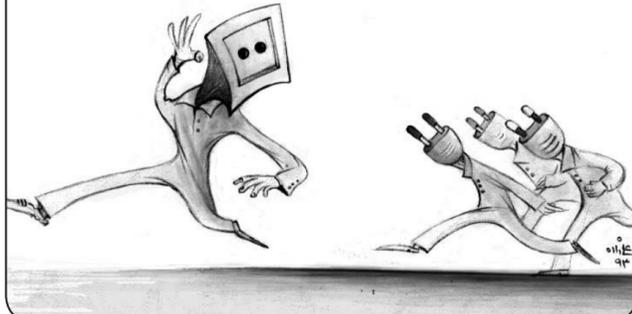
Iqbal lived an honorable life and was the epitome of spiritual leader. He was a man of virtue and principle. He did not choose to live like a Sufi - who is indifferent to social and political issues of a society and prays individually from dawn to dusk that will never be a panacea for the challenges of a community. On the contrary, he took active part in social and political activities and, as a devoted intellectual, played his role constructively. Iqbal was a morality-orientated individual and valued moral and spiritual life. He called Muslims to safeguard the pure Islamic culture and not divert from the path and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). His message to Islamic society was to resist against moral turpitude but must not miss the train of civilization in modern era. To put it succinctly, he did not prevent Muslims from modernization but urged them to live a religious life in the heart of modernity, practice upon moral values, and safeguard their social norms. He was of the opinion that modern charms and attractions should not outshine religious tenets or human practices.

Iqbal's school of thought will be prolific for all human societies. Iqbal delivered the message of freedom and independence. Although he is the ideological founder of Pakistan and outlined Two-nation theory his political view is productive for all nations and freedom fighters. He dreamt of a utopian world for all mankind and stressed the spirit of brotherhood. It should be noted that his Two-nation theory will not have to be misconstrued as sowing the seeds of discord between nations. He respected the rights, freedoms, dignity, and independence of all nations and wanted to have them respected for Muslims, too. He wished a peaceful coexistence for the entire nation.

To sum up, Iqbal's statements and poetry carry much weight not only in enhancing literary genre but also in kindling the sensitive individuals and intellectuals. His poetry injects lifeblood into Islamic society. He had his say from the bottom of his heart and his words were tinged with strong sentiment since Iqbal felt the tragedy of his time. That is to say, cultural nakedness, moral corruption, and religious decline filled him with indescribable agony. Therefore, he felt a strong urge to revive the past glories and reform religious Sharia.

To have a healthy society, all members of the human family need to pledge themselves to practice upon the prolific ideas of Muhammad Iqbal, i.e., uphold human rights and dignity, revive moral standards, exercise tolerance, strengthen the spirit of brotherhood, and maintain peace and stability - which were all the dreams of Iqbal for living in a civil community and utopian world.

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