Women's Rights and Social Status Determined by Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)

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Role of Information Technology to Spread Sectarianism in Context of 5th Generation-Hybrid Warfare in Pakistan

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Abstract: Pakistan has been severely stricken with 5th Gen war\ Hybrid war. The emotional and illiterate psyche of Pakistani nation helps to grow the curse of sectarianism. There had been some sort of sectarian hate and differences among the people from the times of independence and this weak point had been exploited by many different enemies at various stages of our history. But it was ten-folded with the introduction of SNS (Social networking Sites) and the planted hate speech started to reach even more people, most of them being illiterate, war monger, brain washed, underprivileged and were ready to be exploited. So a vital and powerful tool was being mishandled by wrong people and by the deliberate arch-enemies of Pakistan. This research will be qualitative, for that different article, analysis, news reports and research papers will be under consideration.

Scope of Study: This research reveals the tactics of anti- state elements to weaken the country and defame the name of Islam to divide Muslims in different sects that promotes hate and extremism among Pakistani Muslims, to make a way to bring waves of terrorism. It is focused on spreading false information to put nation on fire, which mostly used by information technology

The purpose of this research is to highlight the importance of IT during 5th generation war and to identify it as one of the most effective lethal tool of 5th generation war and to further more prevent its wrong usage in future to avoid social collapse and national destruction. This topic is important as the Muslims in the world in general and Pakistanis in particular (in Pakistani social scenario) are the main reason why the real and positive image of Islam has not been portrait and presented before the rest of the world. It appears that the name of Islam has been hijacked and manipulated for their sinister hidden agenda. As Islam is the modest religion and a way of life and extreme ideas have always been rejected by Islamic teaching, so here we take the liberty to say that there is no space of extremism in Islam.

Literature Review: The study focuses on how IW (Information Warfare) works in Pakistan. It explains the tactics of Indians to impose IW on Pakistan through cyber-attacks, spreading disinformation and propaganda against two nation theory and Pak forces and how it becomes serious threat for Pakistan's nuclear assets and program.

The other study elaborates new media technology's negative impacts on Pakistani youth. It claims new media technology effects family lives, damages social norms. Youth adopt inappropriate behaviors like using abusive language, sharing unethically photo shopped pictures etc. which proofs that this media is a tool for spreading hate and disinformation.

This study narrows down the interconnections among the usage of IT, sectarianism and 5th generation/Hybrid warfare, which has not been found in previous research works. Hence this study opens up new dimensions of research.

Introduction: As we know we are living in digital age, it leaves its marks on every aspect of life. One of the most important technologies in this age is information technology. According to Global Digital report there are 44.61 million internet users (22% of total population) till January 2019 in Pakistan.   Most of them connected with SNS (Social networking Service) as report reveals the statistics 0f SNS users are 37 million (18% of total population).

Pakistan is one of the biggest social media users in south Asia region. SNS cross fake information can be spread easily. In the light of this information we can say Pakistani nation has tendency to get effected by any kind of disinformation easily. Disinformation is a most effective tool in this age of world as new term hybrid warfare has been introduced in war history. Pakistan has been fighting against war of terror for two decades. This is the same era when information technology developed in the country especially in the field of SNS. Social media is widely used for spreading hate speech. Flood of fake information regarding ISPR has been spreading through SNS.

Social media has been spreading rapidly in the last decade particularly in Pakistan. At the year 2012 social media usage had reached up to 50%.(Muqadas Rehman, 2014)Pakistan is among the countries with large pool of its population comes under age of 29 and it makes 64% of its total population. (Pakistan National Human Development Report, 2017). In Pakistan a large proportion of users are youth so it is highly efficient and powerful tool to be used for perception management as youth is assist for any nation, as they are nation builders. So we can say social media is most lethal tool when it comes to be used in Pakistan, because nation depends on youth and youth is being controlled by social media mainly.

In the hands of anti-state-elements a particular group of people with extreme mind-set could be manipulated easily and usually fall prey for anti-state-elements and used against the country. This kind of war tactics are part of 5th generation warfare\ Hybrid war and unfortunately Pakistan had fallen into its grip for almost last two decades. Gen Bajwa stated in a speech at passing out parade in April 2018 that Hybrid war has been imposed on Pakistan. As Pakistani nation tends to be strict or should we say more of extreme in nature when it comes to religion and faiths with the level of poverty, illiteracy and weak government system, it gives a perfect breeding ground for corruption, anarchy and chaos, through paid media content sectarianism can be encouraged. In this situation using SNS for spreading hate speeches and sectarianism is first priority of anti-state elements.

Islam and Secterianism:

Beginning Of Sectarianism in Islamic Society: After the demise of prophet Hazrat Muhammad Rasullah Khatam un Nabiyyen Sallalahu Alihi Wa Aleihi Wa Sallam muslims for a short period of times distorted into different groups over selecting a successor to lead ummah and almost every time to select a new caliph, after one caliph's death. But it was never an ugly, violent nor it lasted long, with a common consent the matters were resolved quickly and peacefully.

The real lasting issues arose when a group of people claimed caliphate is only meant for ahl-e-bait (the immediate family members of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Rasullah Khatam un Nabiyyen Sallalahu Alihi Wa Aleihi Wa Sallam whereas the other group insisted upon general consensus to elect a caliph and it should not be hereditary. The first group later found a sect called Shia Muslims and other group was labeled as Sunni Muslims and they remain so till now. Later on, there came another group that (was and will always be) considered as outcast and renegades due to their certain extreme views about rest of the Muslim ummah. They always come up with a religious or political view and anyone who disagrees with it considered apostate or infidel and therefore entitled to be executed. This group initially found in the times of third caliphate and had large role in assassinating the third caliph Usman bin Affan R.A. and with their initial support for Ali bin Abi Talib R.A to become forth caliph of Islam, they paved a way and aspired for bloody war between Ali R.A and Ameer Muawiyah R.A in the battle of Siffin but later on Hazrat Ali R.A had been deserted with their new thought where there is no need for an imam and caliph to impose Islam and Shariah upon people, God is enough for that matter.

Condemnation of Sectarianism In Islam: According to Cambridge dictionary, sect is the religious group separated from a religion and having extremist and unusual believes and customs.   However the word 'sect' means a sub-religious-group of people having innovative believes with a negative and equally opposite narration against the other group. Term "ism" means ideology. Thus sectarianism means a group of people based on any ideology. According to Oxford Dictionary," it is the strong support for a particular religious or political group, especially when this leads to violence between different groups."

National unity is the core remedy for a nation, as it gives it strength, prosperity and greatness to the nation. It is unity that promises peace, justice and illumination of knowledge. That's why it is unity which gets first and directly under attack by an enemy to create unrest and spread anarchy among people and armed forces. Here comes the Islamic teaching strongly recommending the unity and enforcing its importance in the Holy Quran by saying:

 'And hold fast, all of you together, to the cable of Allah, and do not separate.'   3:103

Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Rasullah Khatam UN Nabiyyen Sallalahu Alihi WA Aleihi WA Sallam also explained in a hadith that 'Nu'man b. Bashir reported Allah's Messenger Hazrat Muhammad Rasullah Khatam UN Nabiyyen Sallalahu Alihi WA Aleihi WA Sallam as saying:

The similitude of believers in regard to mutual love, affection, fellow-feeling is that of one body; when any limb of it aches, the whole body aches, because of sleeplessness and fever.' (Sahi Muslim, book 32, hadith number 6258)

Awake Of Sectarianism in Pakistan: Pakistan was established as Muslim majority country and was created in the name of Islam and had troubled history since the beginning, apart from other issues the rise of sectarianism also came hereditary, although initially it was not as violent as the later times but shias did had this insecurity that force them to establish idara e tahaffuz e huquqshia, in 1953.

The first violent incident took place in 1970, when in Kherpur Sindh, an attack on Muharram procession was made this event lead to the series of different incidences, later on what made matters more serious in nature was due to the Iranian revolution .the Saudi-Irani proxy sectarian war started as well as the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan also took place at the same time. Pakistan in order to secure its western borders from Soviet Union, started a campaign to keep Soviet's occupied in Afghanistan the great jihad started when Americans and the west realized that they can defeat USSR in Afghanistan by helping already fighting units of afghan mujahideen organized, trained and designated by the help of Pakistan . Hence why world's might, weapon, training, money and people start to flock in Pakistan, if this was helping Pakistan to fight off its rival in Afghanistan, then at the same time this came as a curse for generations to come, as the foreign powers got access to local clerics, head of certain school of thoughts and sectarian bodies. A large scale proxy sectarianism war was possible now to wage against Pakistan.

The weapon, funding, hard core Mujahid was enough to incubate the real monster of sectarianism and provide the breading ground without proper check and balance. In late 80's many key sunni and shia leader were assassinated, consequently triggering more violent incidences to occur , followed by 9\11 and American invasion of Afghanistan under the umbrella of US occupational forces there were few extremist element within Afghanistan and Pakistan that influenced creating more hardcore khawarij-type militant groups that declared all Pakistani nation and forces as renegades and infidel hence why they must be eliminated. It took a decade for Pakistan to analyze, identify, overcome the threat, chock their financial trails, annihilate their facilitators and expose the countries behind them by launching series of operations like Rah-e-Rast, Rah-e-Nijat and Zarb-e-Azb.

5th Generation/Hybrid Warfare: The first historical occurrence of 5th generation war took place in Eastern Europe where a powerful Federation of Yugoslavia got disintegrated into several states. Here is the summary of all generations of war.

1st Generation War was when soldiers fought each other face to face with swords and arrows, Primitive fire arms, tactics of maintaining lines and columns as well as military maneuvers.

2nd Generation War was when men learnt to use siege/long range weapon such as guns, gun powder, artillery etc.

3rd Generation War was fought with planes and mechanized armored divisions e.g. the fast maneuverability, in-depth defense system and to trap enemy by passing and encircling them by cutting off their arms and supplies.

In *4th Generation War* warfare tactics has been changed. Its aim is not to defeat the enemy in battle field but to destabilize a country politically and morally. Moreover local terrorist groups as hired-guns does suicide attacks, assassinating high value targets to achieve pure military goals as well as come in handy to intoxicate the young-illiterate minds.

After the invention of nuclear weapons, the concept of war has entirely changed throughout the world because it became a massive threat now. The think-tanks intended to do wars in the shape of 5th generation war or the hybrid war which targets countries from inside rather by a foreign invader. Using local non-state bodies, infiltration in national security level software, websites, economic hubs and social networks attempts are made to harm peace, security hence creating chaos and confusion.

Information Technology as Part of 5th Generation Hybrid Warfare: With the Introduction of fast track communication apps like Imo, Whatsapp and Skype etc provided the rogue elements every means of transferring data, communication, spreading false information cheap and conveniently as well as with the issuing of false SIM cards on either fake NICs or several SIMs issued to a single NIC were also a safe and easy way for miscreants to communicate or detonate an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) without leaving a trace for security agencies to apprehend them later.

Impacts of 5th Generation/Hybrid Warfare on Pakistan: Pakistan is the only country that was built on the basis of ideology of Islam, hence why it was important to establish the country in the light of true Islamic teaching which unfortunately did not happen.

When there is a state that introduces the correct method of its political system in the country, the population tends to follow the rules but if the system is not introduced or established completely then it is natural that people will exploit its weaknesses. This is precisely what has been happening in Pakistan. Anti-state elements weakened the nation by two major basis, Nationalism and sectarianism. Latest example of nationalist factor is PTM, to which Dg ISPR Maj. Gen Asif Ghafoor gave shut up call to PTM last month. And when we take a look on sectarian conflicts in Pakistan we find a tragic history covered with blood shed.

We have entered in the phase where everything has changed, from our life style, peace and strategies to warfare. Countries shifted their war from conventional war to hybrid war. 5th generation\Hybrid warfare, unlike a conventional warfare (which is being fought openly on the basis of large army, equipment and in open battle fields) is being fought in minds, manipulation, deception, propaganda, covert operations, equipping and training insurgents and injecting them into enemy's territory as well as by defaming the law, government by separated from its own people consequently weakening the federation. The 5th generation war is the war in which non state actors takes on the state, spreading information through internet. As it is mentioned earlier Pakistani population makes a large pool of youth and it is fairly easier to distract and mislead the youth with their tender age, immaturity of mind,

emotion, and passion to do something about it, they were the prime target of enemies through Social Media. Social Media became very effective tool for 5th generation war in Pakistan. There are many reasons for that:

- Youth were selected as they were the prime target as well as they use the internet on majority bases.
- False and fake information reaches to users unnoticed without any barrier or check and balance rapidly and frequently.
- Fake news and spreading propaganda is much easier through social media, because people generally never investigate any information they get.

Resulting the massive sectarianism and hatred for each other, society increasingly become intolerable for other sect. This sectarianism swiftly had been converted into "Takfiriyat" and each group took liberty in labeling other as an infidel and therefore allowed to be killed, that mindset led to Takfiri/Khuwarji terrorism that took a heavy toll by taking the lives of 67,399 Pakistanis till 2017.

Sectarianism in 5th Generation Warfare and the Role of Digital Media: The 5th generation war has been imposed on Pakistan and spreading sectarianism is one of main factor of 5th generation war. There are many organizations operating in Pakistan on the basis of sectarianism and most of them are involved in terrorist activities. Not only religious extremist organizations but few political organizations have also been involved in terrorist activities by spreading sectarianism and hate.

Sectarianism leads to extremism which is the main cause of terrorism in Pakistan. It is proven that these tactics are made by the enemy of the state to destabilized the country and its major tool is 5th generation warfare. The main object of enemy is to drag the nuclear country Pakistan into the list of failure state and distort the image of Islam as peace loving religion.

In 2003 the new term of 'social media' has been introduced in Pakistan and it took few only years to become popular among the entire nation. People mostly used to operate with websites like Orkut before the introduction of face book and tweeter. In 2012 Facebook became a sensation with newly signed up users tenfold Facebook was now the main social media hub and people from all circle of lives start to interact with each other and start publishing their views Now there are lots of Facebook pages and tweeter accounts and several blogs on the basis of sect. they spread hate speeches and invoke people to site opposite. Government had to take action against these acts and new cyber laws had been passed consequently to overcome the issue.

According to Khaleej Times, The Information Minister informed about Government plans to control hate speeches by cracking down and setting up new authority to regulate digital, print and electronic media. He also stated that several arrests were taken place for misusing social media by issuing Fatwas and spreading extremism has been made. Pakistan has been victim of sectarianism since it was established. But two decades ago its intensity increased. According to PIPS report 2014, sectarian violence started in 2011 and became serious in 2013. This is the same period when SNS became popular among Pakistanis.

Sectarian Based Terrorist Flashpoints and Death Toll in Pakistan: Data taken from year 1989 till 2016 will split into two major parts, part one consists of the data collected from 1989 till 2002 and part second will be consisted upon the data from 2003 till 2016. The core reason to compare both eras is to show the effectiveness of IT and social media to spread anarchy and destruction vs. the absence of this very tool in another era. From 1989 till 2002 the incidences were significantly higher than the later era of IT and social media where there less incidences took place but took higher death toll, reason is the high tech, advance and rapid information transferring devices, apps and other variant which effectively and efficiently gave the miscreants an advantage to bring more destruction utilizing less resources, time and human resource.

Period	Total Incidents	Total Casualties
1989 till 2002	1796	1379
2003 till 2016	1255	3985

Preventive Measures by The Government And How To Minimize Its Effects: Government took effective steps to prevent negative activities on social media, electronic media and telecommunications, the preventive measure taken by the Government are given below:

- Identifying the operators/admins of the page and their links with foreign agencies and cracking down these pages by blocking them permanently.
- Introduction of Biometric system for mobile SIM cards, National Identity Cards and for having bank accounts.
- Tracking the fake unauthorized SIM cards and blocking them.
- Bounding the mobile service providers to issue a SIM on NADRA approved NICs.
- Holding Whatsapp group admins accountable for any vulgar, hate speech and sensational contents to share in their groups.
- Establishment of cyber-crime cell.
- Passing new cyber-crime laws in 2016

Discussion: The finding of this study reveals that IT plays a vital role in spreading hate and disinformation that leads to sectarianism, disunity and violence among the various factions of a society, which are the key tools of 5th Generation warfare/hybrid warfare. As the arch enemies of Pakistan are aware of the fact that a direct intervene or waging a full flesh war would be fatal for their own economics and security, therefore comes the most effective, efficient, secret and sinister plan of hybrid war into their consideration. When it comes to Pakistan's weak points to exploit from, the sectarianism in terms of religion, language, race, cast, region and ethnicity are huge variety to mislead Pakistanis with false reports, propaganda and news.

Islamic society fallen prey to sectarianism at its very early ages or shortly after Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Rasullah Khatam UN Nabiyyen Sallalahu Alihi WA Aleihi WA Sallam departed from this world. Despite the fact that Islam strongly condemns sectarianism, the

age we live in has infested with this curse heavily, in our geo-political scenario, Pakistan is the prime target for being the only nuclear armed Islamic country in the world.

Pakistan's 6thlargest standing army is considered to be the finest in terms of weapons, training, numbers and achievements it collected throughout its history. Therefore a chance to have a direct conventional war to achieve their goals is slim for Pakistan's enemies. That's where hybrid/5thGeneration warfare comes in the picture. Disinformation and propagandas are the largest weapon in hybrid warfare arsenal. An ordinary citizen of country becomes the victim of it, playing with their weak points like religious believes, race, linguistic division and ethnicity, they can easily be manipulated. Pakistanis are mostly emotional about the religion and its teachings, they easily get violent towards anyone who they think is intruding or harming their belief system. Hence why there had been many major violent incidences based on religious extremism where we lost heavily in terms of precious human lives as well as destruction of public and private properties. Behind all this anarchy and chaos, hidden an insidious agenda and that was to denuclearize Pakistan. As the government keep losing its control over the country politically and militarily, it would have been easier for international community to declare Pakistan as 'Failed State' too vulnerable to keep nuclear weapons and denuclearization would become essential.

Sectarianism is not only fatal for the stability of the country but it also defames or demonizes Islam for the rest of the world. This way the Planners against Pakistan took two preys with one shot. This age of Information technology (and instruments of mass media and its ability to reach even the remote corners of the world and societies) is most suitable for hybrid warfare and its tool of mass deception, propaganda, mass hysteria and hatred for others. Pakistan has also been on the verge of the Age of social media and fast track social apps and has been a victim of hybrid war for the last two decades. The SNS, Blogs and SIM/mobile phone/Smartphone played a major role in waging a hybrid war in Pakistan, as there were hardly any check and balance system introduced. People/youth have been misled, manipulated and exploited easily to create confusion, chaos and anarchy. But after various successful military operations and by introducing the new cyber laws as well as by identifying the cyber-led issues the Government has successfully minimize and contained the torrent of IT-related issues flowing in Pakistani society and prevented the total political meltdown of federation.

It has been stated above about how starting from 2003 the term social media got popular among Pakistanis and its users rose to the staggering number of millions, meanwhile terrorism and conflicts among the various groups became intense. After serious military crackdown upon social media the overall peaceful conditions in the country started to restore. Hence proven, misuse of IT was fruitful and was being used as a tool of 5th Generation/hybrid warfare to spread sectarianism in Pakistan.

Conclusion: Pakistan has been victims of 5th generation/Hybrid warfare for two decades. Disinformation and propaganda can be spread easily among the nation when there is no check and balance policy. One of effected tactics to create hate and dis-integrity among the nation is sectarianism. It is evident that when information technology especially social media became part of the lives of Pakistanis, terrorist activities based on sectarianism

increased and it has been tamed by the combined bold steps from government and military.

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