

Problems in education

2018

Hate material in text book

Peshawar: In 2016 Mr. Asad Qaisar (then Speaker of the KPK provincial assembly) of PTI made a special effort to have the precept of ‘end of prophethood’ (KN) included as part of school syllabus in Islamiat. He knew very well that mullas use the KN as a theme and an excuse to bad-mouth Ahmadis. However Mr. Qaisar, now Speaker of the National Assembly, called an official meeting in October 2016 of ulama and officials of the Education Department, and directed them to proceed with the task of inclusion of KN in school syllabus and also produce text for inclusion in the prescribed text books.

This was done. As apprehended by Ahmadis, the text includes hate material and derogatory remarks against the holy founder of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat. Also, only one-sided aspect of this dogma is shown, other arguments put forward by past ulama of great standing that support the Ahmadiyya view have been deliberately denied to the students.

The sub-chapter Khatme Nabuwwat is placed at pages 43-46 of a book titled “Islamiat for classes IX and X”, issued by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textbook Board Peshawar. This book is published for academic year 2018-19 and is approved by the federal Ministry of Education (Department of Syllabi) Government of Pakistan, Islamabad.

On page 45, it is mentioned in this context that Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian “made a fake claim in 1901 to be exactly the same person (*aine*) Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah,” and has termed his claim to be a great mischief (*fitna*). Also, it is asserted that, “Anyone who, after the Holy Prophet (pbuh) claims to be a prophet, is a liar, a great liar (*kazzab*), an apostate and outside the pale of Islam, according to the Quran, Hadith and the Consensus of the Ummah.” Here the sources have been falsely quoted, as according to the Holy Prophet the future messiah, Isa, to appear in latter days, will be a Prophet of Allah (*Sahih Muslim*).

The text also mentions violent moves against historical figures like Aswad Ansi and Musailma who claimed to be prophets; however it fails to mention that these individuals had rebelled against the nascent Islamic state, raised armies and undertaken slaughter of Muslims. So the reason of fighting them was not religious, it was the political revolt involving bloodshed.

At the end, on page 46, the article quotes Imam Abu Hanifa as, “One who asks a proof from a fake claimant to Prophecy, will himself be expelled from the Islamic community (*Dairah Islam*).” We are not sure if the Imam is correctly quoted because he left behind no self-written text, however it is bizarre that KPK children are being taught to be deaf to arguments and proofs of competing theories.

Ahmadi student faces hatred and life threat

Lala Musa, District Gujrat; August 6, 2018: Mr Hamza Farooq is an Ahmadi from Lala Musa. He is a student of BSIT in Superior University, Kharyan. His university fellow Ali turned hostile for his faith. He propagated hatred against Hamza for being an Ahmadi; whosoever sat with him would be outcast from Islam. Many students opposed Hamza.

Ali issued life threat to Hamza and said that he would kill him by the end of the semester. He sought assistance from mullas for this purpose. He told people that killing Ahmadis was a rewarding act. He sent Hamza's photo to different people.

Hamza and his father were advised to meet the university administration and ask for action; if necessary also report the situation to the police.

Denial of right to higher education on fabricated grounds

Faisalabad; September 26, 2018: Ms Atika Shahid, an Ahmadi young lady, an M.Phil. student at National Institute of Bio-technology and Genetic Engineering was expelled by the administration from the course on September 26, 2018 without formally giving a reason. The Institute is linked with Pakistan Atomic Energy Council.

On Ms Shahid's insistence, she was told verbally by the staff that she had not been cleared by the security agencies, and they had not intimated the reason to the Institute. It was however mentioned that she had visited her relatives in Qadian (India) in 2014. She had gone there, in fact, to attend the traditional annual gathering of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat.

The above is a poor excuse to deny higher education to an Ahmadi. A human right has been denied to a bright student for her faith. Ms Shahid has done her M.Sc in Bio-technology and was awarded Gold Medal.

Pakistani bigots seem to know how to deprive the country of its brilliant and gifted scholars.

Anti-Ahmadiyya activism in schools

Mughalpura, Lahore; November 28, 2018: An Ahmadi's daughter in class V of Iqbal High School Muslim Abad, Mughalpura reported that her teacher taught the students that, "Qadiani are not good people ... they call themselves Muslims but are very bad. You should not meet them." The teacher also badmouthed against the founder of the Ahmadiyya community and spewed hate against the Ahmadiyya community for two consecutive days.

An Ahmadi was going to his office on November 28, when he saw approximately 50 students of a school picketing against the Ahmadiyya community near the Lal Pul. Their teacher was with them. They were carrying placards with inscription: "Qadianis are Non-Muslim according to the Constitution of Pakistan."

Similarly a Khatme Nabuwat walk was organized in The Arqam School on November 28. Students participated in it. Different charts and digital flexes were displayed regarding Khatme Nabuwat.

Tahrike Labbaik Pakistan organized a protest against the Ahmadiyya community on Shalamar Link Road. Approximately 60 men participated in it, including students from different schools.

It is apparent that hatred against the Ahmadiyya community is taught in Mughalpura schools thus polluting young minds with sectarian hatred.

Conspiracy against an Ahmadi-owned school

Kot Shera, District Gujranwala; September 2018: Ahmadiyya community is running G.A. Girls Middle School here; it enjoys good reputation. The school is serving the locals for the last 25 years. Recently the local mulla conspired against this educational institute, and thereby posed a threat to the peace of the locality.

The mulla wrote the names of the founder of the Ahmadiyya community and his successors on a piece of paper and made it public that Ahmadis had thus included the preaching of their faith in the syllabus. He incited the locals against Ahmadis over this and made a plan to attack Ahmadis' houses and loot them. In this he obtained the cooperation of Tehrike Labbaik party.

The president of the local Ahmadiyya community came to know of this dangerous plan of the mulla. He approached an influential member of the locality Mr. Salahuddin who had been a counselor in the past and informed him of the situation. The latter went to the mosque to meet the mulla. There he convinced the worshipers that the mulla was misguiding the locals, and the Ahmadis did not teach any such thing in their school. "I know that, as my own daughters go to the same school", he said. He also told the mulla, "You'll go away leaving behind enmities. Refrain from such activities and don't disturb the peace of the locality."

The issue got defused for the time being.

Ulama board to help amend school curriculum – and a great deal more in the Punjab

Lahore: The daily *Dawn* published the following story in its issue of January 26, 2018:

Ulema board to help amend school curriculum

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to empower the Muttahida Ulema Board to help the government amend the curriculum.

Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan told a meeting of the board here on Thursday that the government would amend the relevant law(s) to formally empower the clerics' board helping the education authorities in preparing school curriculum.

The education secretary has also been asked to get clearance from the board in case of adding or deleting any text regarding Islamic injunctions, he said.

The minister also directed the secretary to consult the clerics before induction of reading material in text books regarding creating awareness among the children about their physical safety. The board meeting had been convened to reset the requirements of education of children in the light of Quran and Sunnah, a press release said.

It was attended by board chairman Sahibzada Fazalur Raheem, Dr Raghav Hussain Naeemi, Allama Zubair Ahmad Zaheer, Dr Muhammad Hussain Akbar, additional chief secretary (Home) Azam Suleman, secretaries of auqaf, special education and Textbook Board.

Mr. Sanaullah urged the clerics to help the government raise awareness in society on crimes against children and bringing a positive change in accordance with religious requirements in the academic curriculum of children.

This is the same Ulama Board at whose call the provincial government has already banned all the written works of the founder of the Ahmadiyya Community. The board has been instrumental in banning

the Holy Quran published with translation by Ahmadis. The chairman of the Ulama Board mulla Fuzlur Raheem had all the Ahmadiyya periodicals banned even those meant for Ahmadi children and women. This gagging is blatant violation of the Constitution and is against the federal policy of free press and freedom of religion even though very limited for Ahmadis. The provincial Home Department most probably has instructions to do all that these mullas of the board 'recommend'. Now the Education Department is told to follow suit.

It is noteworthy that the law minister promised the mullas that the government would amend the relevant law(s) to formally empower the clerics' board in this regard. This amounts to handing over to them the education text books policy and implementation. This is more than even what the KP government had done where Jamaat Islami was part of the governing coalition.

After entering into a dishonorable agreement with Mulla Khadim Rizvi of TLYR at the Faizabad sit-in, some bigots and timorous elements in the government went beyond the requirements of the imposed agreement. They declared that the year 2018 will be celebrated as one of Awareness of End of Prophethood. The ministry of religious affairs initiated a competition in writing thesis on the subject of 'End of Prophethood and Muslims' Responsibilities, in the light of teaching of the Holy Prophet (pbuh)'.

The Punjab Government entered into its own peace with the dissidents of the TLYR of Faizabad. The sit-in and the government' inability to handle its lifting made them faint-hearted and compliant. The chief minister in Punjab held an End of Prophethood conference on 7th January at CM House in Lahore where a large number of even petty Mashaikh and mullas were invited, assured and feted at great public expense.

Mulla Allah Wasaya of a Khatme Nabuwwat organization had gone to the Islamabad High Court on the issue of end of prophethood. There the pious judge, finding the government on the defensive and on the run, issued his moot judgment, even telling the Parliament to "also take measures which can completely terminate those who scar this belief (in end of prophethood)." Sky is the limit.

Since long a section of the local intelligentsia and majority of the international community have noticed with concern that all is not well with educational syllabi in Pakistan as some of its content promotes inter-communal hatred, even violence. Past federal governments had reluctantly acknowledged the need for the revision and steps were taken discreetly to revise the most unacceptable parts. However, now the Punjab government (the biggest province) has decided to take a major leap backward to worsen the present position regarding curriculum and text books.

Some political analysts have expressed the view openly that the then ruling PML-N, particularly its disqualified prime minister were prepared to go to any length to maintain and perpetrate their political hold on the country. Rana Sanaullah's homage to the Ulama Board was a part of that policy.