

Foreign Cultural Effects on Muslim peoples of Bangladesh : An Analysis

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Abstract: *About 91% people of Bangladesh are Muslim. Islamic culture flourished in this country gradually from the time when Muslim entered in this area in the remote past. From the ancient "past as a part of Indian Sub-continent this land played multi-cultural role. It experienced both normal trans-migration of culture and also cultural Effect. Here reigned Hindus, Buddhists and Zains. So, in the past this land also observed above religious cultures. Intruders like Suk, Hun and other Effects from west such as Greek also carried with them their own culture. So, here occurred inter cultural migration time to time by various ways. Such as conversion to other religions, getting marriage with the women of other cultures etc. Once Islamic culture became an influential culture of this land. Majority of the people here became Muslim. So, Islamic culture was observed everywhere in this land. But cultural Effect continued. During the recent years this activity became more powerful due to various Medias. In this paper this problem is discussed mainly.*

Keywords: *Islam, Muslim, Culture, Bangladesh.*

1 Cultural History

Bangladesh is a land which is proud for a rich Islamic culture. From the past thousand of years its Muslim cultural heritage enriched. Islam is a missionary religion. In the past followers of this religion preached their faiths with Zeal and enthusiasm. Once in a nice day by an unknown preacher some one was converted to Islam here. Day after day Muslim population increased in this land. Initially devoted Muslim from the other Muslim area of the Middle East took this responsibility. First here entered Muslim saints, Preachers, traders. By them Muslim cultures were introduced to the people of this land. Many of the local people admired this religion and converted to Islam. Then victorious generals like Ikhtiar Uddin Muhammad Bin Bakhtiar Khilzi entered Bengal time to time. Muslims rules were established. Although there were conflicts between pre-Islamic and post Islamic culture in this land yet gradually majority of the people of this land accepted the Islamic culture as their own culture. So, in this land from the past thousand years a glorious heritage of Islamic culture is existing.¹ In the present Bangladesh this culture is deeply rooted which is the result of Muslim success in this land.

In the present Bangladesh in all aspects of human life various agents of Islamic cultures are observed. Islamic culture is having great influence in their thought, speech, verbal communication, family creation and dealing, social ideology, marriage ceremony, arts and crafts and architecture etc. everywhere². From the birth to death Muslim communities here are the devoted followers of this culture. Crossing a long way our cultural heritage reached to the present status. In the name of secular ideology cultural Effect of our neighbouring country is working here very Effectively. To some intelligentsias, secular ideology means the culture of Hindus and other idolaters of Calcutta. That means the culture of Hindu population of Bengal. So, Pre-Muslim Bengali

culture is only the culture of this land. To them Bengali and Hindu carries, the same meaning. So, them secular culture is nothing but the Hinjujiilture;³

In the present Bangladesh we know about 90% of its population are the followers of Islam. Rest 10% belongs to other ethnic religious groups, such as Hindu, Christian and ancient religions of our hilly areas. Although state religion of Bangladesh is Islam yet above people are interested to impose culture of our neighbouring country even over our national programs. As for example in the front of Shahid Minar on 21st February candles are lighted. It is nothing but Mongol Prodip culture of certain ethnic religious groups of this sub-continent. Hindus of our country also follows this cultural norm. In the Bengali new year on 1st Baishak from the last few years we are observing people gathering in the street in the name of Mongol Shova Jatra. In Dhaka Charukala Faculty of Dhaka- University organises such festival in each new year. Gradually more and more people are joining such Mongol Shova Jatra. This is also due to cultural Effect. Other population group like Christians is keeping one minute silence to remember their death and honor their departed souls. This is another example of such cultures. It is certainly the result of cultural Effect over our culture. Following such foreign cultures a group of Muslims started Shrine (Majar) culture here. They • ,put floral wreath in the honor of dead saints. Whatever it may be putting flowers, on the foot of Martyrs memorials, grave yards, in the grave of f,4path saints, religious and political personalities all are against our . n^jjipnal culture. These are new additions. Those who introduced such 'activities in the name of Bengali culture unknowingly or intentionally they were working to wipeout Muslim culture from this land. Certain other later groups are very interested to support those all. But these are against Islamic ideology. Modern electronics Medias are also propagating many types of foreign cultural activities that may Effects on the character and beliefs of our youths. So, Sky culture is also a type of Effect.⁵

Muslim culture does mean showing jealousy towards Hindu or other religious cultures or becoming their enemy rather Islamic culture teaches patience, co-operation and humanity. Islam permits other ethnic groups to follow their own path. Hence they are permitted to perform their own cultural activities. But in the name of secular culture and atheist western culture our national cultures are dishonored. They are successful in their heinous ill designs. In the name preserving the memory of the liberation war in their language they are constructing various idols in the name of sculpture. Sculpture in front of the Gazipur zilla parishad and road crossing of Gazipur chourasta and other specific places of different Government Universities are best examples of such activities. In the year 1996 secular Government of that time in the name of Sculpture by the Fuller road, Gulistan crossing, in front of TSC and around the Dhaka University many idols are established. These are their creation. In the name of memorials of the liberation war inside Dhaka cantonment and Ramna Green (Old race course maidan) two burning flames are established. They are Shikha Anirban and Shikha Chironton respectively. None can say those as the symbol of Islamic culture. Establishment of idols in the name of sculpture is never a Muslim culture. Burning flames like above flames is the religious rituals of the Zoroastrian. Few intellects who claim themselves as the follower of progress start their meeting burning Mongol prodip (candle). It is certainly the result of a cultural Effect. In the birthday party candles are lighted and then cakes are sliced to distribute. In such parties song and dances of the birthday are arranged. Such cultures were not existed in Islam earlier. These also result of cultural Effect. For such Effect in Bangladesh licensed prostitutes, unlicensed free sex, living together without marriage are increasing. For such activities daily news paper, magazine, literature, textbook, cinema, drama and such cultural activities are playing very important role. In Bangladesh art school, fashion show, photogenic beauty contest, concert, exhibition and

different type of fair, advertisement industry, beauty parlor, message parlor, sea beach, motel, park, pornography, etc are new addition⁶ These are also result of western cultural Effects. In the street bill board, in the electronic Medias there are new types of advertisement. In the advertisement against AIDS their appealing sceneries may also appeal sex to the young generation. So, they are becoming prostitutes and addicts. Free mixing with women illegally and becoming homosexual are also result of such types of propagation. Many of the intellects are talking against the polygamy. But many of them feel mixing with other girls without marriage is faultless. Even women of such ideologies do not hesitate to mix with many men for sexual enjoyment. Women of such category are increasing day by day. As a matter of fact such intellectuals are encouraging prostitution or free sex. Now certain persons from intellects and sociologists named prostitutes as sex workers or sex artists. Many of such men and women do not get marry but they have sexual relation with more than one woman. Such system is never permitted by the Islamic culture⁷.

It is very interesting here, if some one talks about western nude culture. He is attacked from the different corners. He is termed as anti-progressive, reactionary, communal and fanatic. None comes forward to help that revolutionary voice. Rather they support those intellectuals who are talking for western nude culture. They condemn the permission of more then one marriage of Islamic culture but they encourage free sex, living together without marriage, enjoying many girls without marriage. Although such cultural activities are widespread through out the western world yet these are not supported by their own religion. As Christian Roman Catholic Pope and Hindu religious leaders never support nude culture.

But in western industrialized society religion has very minor importance. To them worldly life is only life. So, best worldly enjoyment and various recreational activities in the name of entertainment are their prime object of life. What will happen in the life here after is not their headache. So, called Muslim progressive intellectuals of this country are in favor of worldly life like them. To them Pope and religious leaders of the other religions are also fundamentalists. What our nation will get from those intellects? At present many of the members of this nation are suffering from AIDS. Many are carrying HIV. Other sexual diseases are very common to those who visit prostitutions and having extra marital relation with the other girls. It is worth mentioning here that western cultural Effect in this country introduced by the western colonial rules. Then they established charity house, church leader got the responsibility to make cultural Effect here. After the independence of 1947 from the British rulers also churches remained here. Church leaders are doing their cultural duties. But they are not that such active like our educated intellects who are working to materialize their ill designs. Now it is clear that they are successful in their efforts.

From the history, it is known that there were conflict between Islamic culture and Jew-Christian culture. But in course of time culture of the Muslim proved to be the superior culture than them. Followers of the Hindu culture left their few religious cultures like Sati-Daho (Virgin burning). Their fanatical ideas about few of their Deities are even not accepted by the Hindu intelligentsias. In the teaching of the Buddha religion there is no clean idea about the god. So this religion encourages atheism. Among the other major religion Judaism is the oldest. It is now practiced by a small human group. So, in a broad sense it is not accepted. Christianity is not practiced by majority of its followers. They do not like the strictness of the church. Even they together showing enemy like manners towards Muslim from the beginning of Islam. In this regard they helped idolaters. Such practice is still not ceased. In the eighth Christian era to eleven Christian era there were crusades between Christian and Muslim world. Then after the formal cease fire of that religious war cultural war continued. Christians and Jews feel themselves enemy of each other but they were always united against the Muslims".

Now by electronic medias they are together to propagate against Islam and its culture. Now to few Muslim intellects noble appeal

of Islamic teaching is lost. In fact they are the main agents working for the western culture. They spare time to propagate western culture. They are taking every possible step to import western culture in this land. They preach for western materialistic and atheist philosophy. They feel western nude culture is better than our national culture. All these they do because somehow or other their brain are washed by the western culture. They want secular education system in this land. They want to replace polytheism in place of monotheism (Tawhid). They always show irony attitudes towards Mosque, Madrasha, Muslim rituals, Muslim family and social traditions. Muslims dress i.e. pajama, panjabi, their beards, caps, Muslim festival like Eids, sacrifice etc. It means they want by Western cultural Effect to destroy Muslim cultures in this land. For such ill design Sky culture (Akas Sanskrity) is very Effectisive. By that immoral cinemas, dramas, song and dances, modeling, beauty contest etc. are transmitted. Our young generation is attracted by those easily. Nudeness is always prohibited in Islam. Beauty contest is also against the ideology of Islam. These are harmful to the young⁹. To the western these are not against their ideology but Islamic ideology does not support such activities. It is fact that Christianity is also a revealed religion. As the time passed due to lost of correctness of Bible for various reasons it lost its modern and practical teaching. Thus Bible lost its deep appeal like the time of Jesus Christ (Prophet Hazrat Isa PBUH). As a result in the Christian west there is very less influence of religion in their life.⁶ The same they propagate in their electronics and other types of Medias. Very easily the people of this land are influenced by that propagation. Soon they accept their appeal. In the near past Our Christian population was seen to follow first the newly propagated western culture. But now Muslim youths are so inclined to the west that they don't need to wait to see their Christian brethren. It is the Effects of very powerful cultural Effect of the west. Present Bengali literature is also having Effects over Muslim Population of the land. Even during the time of Kaji Nazrul Islam Muslim writers were influenced by the Hindu writers. Their Philosophy, ideas and symbols were seen in the works of the Muslims. For example Nazrul also talked of having loved his beloved through thousand cycles of births and rebirths". Till date modern Nazrul singers also sing such song. It has Effects over modern listeners. This may give birth to conflicts in the mind of Muslims of this land. Now a days cinema's also are propagating anti Islami culture. Even in advertisement this industry is gradually increasing nuders both in paper and Media propagations. Even few Cinemas directly or indirectly Critisize Islamic norms and cultures. People of this industry even use one religions festival days like Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha for their business. They use such programme which is anti Islamic in nature but viwers feel those to be the parts and parcel of the Islamic culture. Our young generation soon become increased to follow those¹.

2 Conclusion

Now everywhere in the world from various corners Muslim are facing culturing Effect. Muslim young generation are attracted by the ill designs of the Effects. Thus their human values are changed. In a describes, "Human Values are the habits of though each of us acquires cultural agression 'habits of thought' is changes. People's idea about reigion is also be changes. So they are going away from the religious practices. Observance of religious teaching seem very tough to them. They are loosing character. They feel foreign cultures are their own cultures. The same happen to the youths of Bangladesh also. This trend of our young

generation should be stopped with immediate Effects. Guardians, intellectuals, leaders of the Muslim communities and administration of the country should come forward to take preventive measures against foreign cultural Effect.

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