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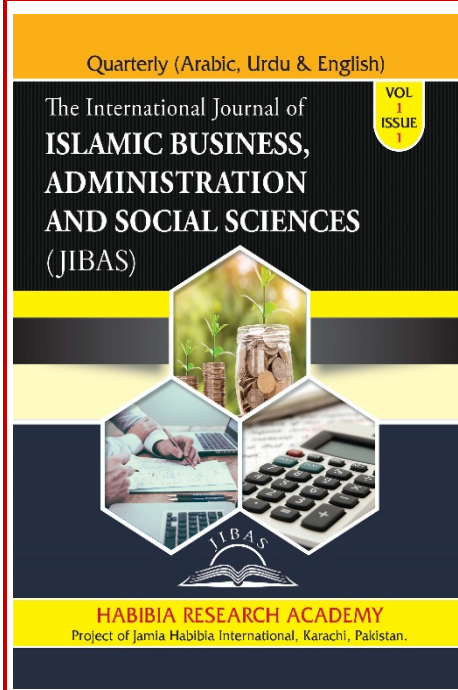
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TOPIC:

PROBLEMS FACED BY RETURNING PAKISTANI DIASPORAS

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PROBLEMS FACED BY RETURNING PAKISTANI DIASPORAS

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ABSTRACT:

Diasporas are people settled far from their ancestral homelands. This research has been conducted to address the problems of Pakistani Diasporas who then plan to back-settle in Pakistan. It also defines probable solutions to the problems. The problems have different ways to take over the minds of the returning overseas Pakistanis. They face problems due to change in environment, change in the mindsets of people, change in the communications with other people, change in facilities in terms of education and basic necessities, change in religious interactions etc. These changes cause an effect on the mindset, physical health and mental health leading to diseases such as depression, tension, mental disorder, frequent mood swings etc.

KEYWORDS: *Returning Pakistani, Problems of returning Pakistani, Diasporas.*

Diasporas

Diasporas are people who settle away from their ancestral homelands. (htt1) They are also called overseas Pakistanis. They settle outside due to various reasons why their homeland isn't safe to live in anymore. Every other overseas Pakistani has a different story of why he or she left but the basic reason is the same that they weren't being provided with the right facilities in Pakistan which forced them to move out to a country that does. When talking to a returnee Diaspora Mr. Atif, Project Manager, Crescent Bay, Karachi, we came to know that he had moved out to United Arab Emirates 25 years earlier and spent half of his life serving a country that wasn't his. The reason he gave to move out of Pakistan is that he wanted a better education for his kids and after they were done with high school he'd move back from there to Pakistan for even higher studies. There are a lot of differences in the amount of facilities provided out there and here in Pakistan. From basic life security to better paid jobs, from ease of purchase to accessibility of items, big differences.

Settlement of Pakistani Diasporas

Pakistani Diasporas are settled almost in every part of the world now. You can see Pakistani people flying even to Ethiopia, which was never heard of in the last 10 – 20 years. Almost

every country holds some or more amount of Pakistanis. But places where Pakistanis themselves try to get settled are as follows:-

- United Arab Emirates
- Saudi Arabia
- Kuwait
- United Kingdom
- Germany
- United States
- Canada

These are some of the places where Pakistani Diasporas will be found in large numbers. The Pakistanis intend to go to Middle Eastern countries as they are near from their homeland and provide tax-free high paid jobs. That is why today 23% of United Arab Emirates, 2.7 % of Saudi Arabia, 35% of Qatar, 7% of Oman is completed through overseas Pakistanis. (htt2) Pakistani Diasporas settle in the west as well for the aim to change their passports or receive what all of us call “The Green Card”. In order to get the green card, they have to work and stay on a 3 years probationary period in the western countries (US, UK, Canada, and Germany). If they succeed on that without committing any crimes or violating any laws, then they get what is called “3rd grade citizenship”.

Why do overseas Pakistanis settle back to Pakistan?

The reasons why most Pakistanis have moved back to Pakistan are different and according to the places they had lived in. Every place has its own reasons and these reasons have caused Pakistanis to settle back in their homelands. One of the reasons why Pakistani Diasporas settled in Middle Eastern countries have moved out of there because of the recent recession in the late 2000’s. The recession was at such a level that countries with large oil mines and massive economies went out of money in a matter of days. This is the reason why they asked Expatriates living in their countries to leave. Most lost their jobs. Others

were so frustrated with bad working conditions that they moved out on their own to their homelands. This had forced even Pakistanis to move out though there were a lot of them who had spent more than 30-40 years in that country. This was one of the reasons. The other reason could be because there aren't any proper universities in Middle Eastern countries, the families move back to their homeland where at least there are opportunities of better education. The reason why Diasporas in the west decided to move back was a little bit complex. Firstly, why do they move away from Pakistan? They do it because of the worsening conditions of the economy of Pakistan. To play safe they get the citizenship and move back to Pakistan. If things get even worse at their ancestral homelands they move out to the western countries. But they hardly intend to live there because of the harsh weather conditions, high focuses on racism, lack of halal food, high taxes. Etc.

Changes observed by returnees

A lot of changes are felt when overseas Pakistanis settle back in Pakistan. They are as follows:-

- **Environmental change:** The environment of the outside world is completely different from what we have in here. People tend to only do what they want and do not interfere with others a lot. The atmosphere in the outside world is much cleaner than Pakistani environment.
- **Mindset change:** The mindsets of people in Pakistan are totally different from what we Diasporas have observed out there. Life always is a race for Pakistani residents whereas people outside are seekers of peace.
- **Religious conflicts:** There are a lot of conflicts that have been observed in Pakistan. It is very difficult to follow what has been commanded by Allah. Everybody has a different sect and a different way of following the religion that contradicts each other greatly. Whereas this is not the case outside. Since Diasporas live with multi-religious people they tend to unite and call themselves "Muslims" not "Shias" or "Barelvis".

- Facilitation changes: The amount of facilities provided in Pakistan is way lesser than what is provided outside. The facilities include education, medical, security etc all being below the mediocre level in Pakistan.
- Educational changes: The educational facilities and syllabi are very outdated. This is a major factor why Diasporas feel outdated to study in Pakistan.
- Language changes: The language that is used universally is English in foreign countries. But in Pakistan Urdu is dominant. Hence returnee Diasporas face a lot of problems in communications

Problems experienced due to changes by the returnees

There are a lot of problems faced by Diasporas when they experience these above mentioned changes. These are as follows:-

- Mental problems: There is a huge amount of impact on the mental health of the Diasporas when they experience the above mentioned changes. (htt3) This is because nobody expects to leave a better place to move to a place with lesser facilities and with security risks. Just thinking about how they will manage in a place where openly hundreds of people are killed or murdered. This hits a blow to their heads and leads them into diseases such as Hyper Paranoia, Depression etc.
- Financial problems: Since Pakistan does not provide better job opportunities and has a bad economy when compared to the places where the Diasporas have lived then there evolves financial problems that Diasporas have to face. They have to seclude from earning 300-400k Rs. Average to 70k-80k average and the prices remaining the same. Hence financial problems occur.
- Security Problems: Since no one is safe at anyplace in Pakistan (because there take place pointless murders or kidnappings), the mindset of Diasporas of roaming around freely with expensive gadgets is now not an option.
- Educational Problems: Since the course of Pakistan is very old and totally not up to date, there are problems experienced in the learning systems. (htt4) A lot of times the Diasporas feel that whatever is being taught has already been taught to them.

Due to this they feel depressed about the fact that they used to study a modern syllabus and now they are stuck with a very old one.

CONCLUSION

What we can conclude from this is that Diasporas do have problems that need to be addressed if they wish for them to blend in with the community. Government needs to support people who have left behind everything they had in outside countries and should encourage people to live in their homelands rather than work in foreign countries. Returnee Diasporas are increasing in numbers day by day and hence do their problems. It is very difficult for them to survive in these harsh, facilitation-less conditions in Pakistan.

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