

Chapter 10

PAKISTAN - A WELFARE STATE

A State that cares for the basic needs of its citizens and enables them to live a peaceful life is called a welfare state. The objectives of such a state are to eliminate illiteracy, poverty and injustice from the society and provide its citizens opportunities to help create environments conducive to the development of their innate potential. The opportunities are provided to all the citizens on equal terms.

The concept of modern Welfare state emerged In Europe as a reaction against the unequal distribution of wealth. This concept gained popularity in the 20th century and many European states introduced reforms for the welfare of their citizens. In the golden times, the duties of the state were confined to the security, maintenance of law and order and general administration of the country. But the duties of a welfare state include protection of life and property of its citizens on the one hand and on the other hand protection of their basic or fundamental rights. The state helps the backward and the handicapped on account of economic and other reasons so that they live a life at par with others. Introduction of social security system in the modern developed countries like USA, UK, Germany, France, Canada and Australia is a step forward towards welfare state. In a welfare state basic needs of the citizens are fulfilled and their welfare is the primary duty of the state. The people in a welfare state are, therefore, patriotic, bold and outspoken.

1. Islamic Perspective of a Welfare State

The idea of Welfare State is not new. Islam presented the concept of welfare state fourteen hundred years ago which was fully practiced during the period of Righteous Caliphs (Khilafat-e-Rashida 632-661 A.D). The concept of Islamic Welfare state includes:

- a. Sovereignty in Islam belongs to Almighty Allah. The state protects the life, property and honour of its individuals. Justice is for all without any discrimination. All are equal before law. The superiority among the individuals is based on Taqwa (fear of Allah).

- b. It is necessary for the one who runs the affairs of the Islamic Welfare State to adhere to the basic tents of Islam. He should be a God-fearing Muslim and act as a trustee only.
- c. The head of an Islamic Welfare state is the servant of the people. He always thinks about the welfare of its people. He lives a simple life like an ordinary man.
- d. The Islamic Welfare State is always accountable to its people. The ruler is not beyond question or criticism. Such a state develops a prosperous society, free of exploitation. It provides equal opportunities of progress to all the individuals. It provides all basic facilities to the individuals including the non-Muslims.
- e. In a nutshell the concept of an Islamic Welfare State is that it maintains "Musawat" i.e., (Equality at all levels).



2. National Goals of Pakistan

Pakistan is a sovereign Islamic state and its national objectives are:

i. Setting up an Islamic Society

The foremost national objective of Pakistan is the setting up of an Islamic Society as per the teachings of Islam and principles of democracy. Quaid-i-Azam had said that the purpose of the creation of Pakistan was not to just obtain a piece of land but the objective was to establish a laboratory where we could practice principles of Islam. Thus, it is the duty of every Pakistani to create such an atmosphere in which every person can lead his / her individual as well as collective life according to the principles of Islam.

ii. Struggle against exploitation

It is also our national objective to establish an Islamic polity, based on the principles of equality, social justice, mutual respect and cooperation. This is possible when people get equal opportunities for progress and prosperity and do not fall victim to ignorance, poverty and exploitation.

iii. State security.

It is the collective responsibility of the people and the government to safeguard the country from internal and external dangers. The protection of national identity and freedom is another important national goal.

iv. Self-sufficiency

Pakistan must be made economically self-sufficient. This would require sustained efforts at national level to work hard depend upon our own resources and promote education and scientific knowledge. A sense of "Pakistanism" is to be developed to become self-reliant.

v. Unity with Muslim countries

It is also our national objective to promote unity among the Islamic countries and unite them on one platform. We have to strengthen the role of Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) so that a uniform stand is taken on the issues concerning the interests of Muslim Ummah.

vi. Peace initiatives

Promotion of international and regional peace, reformation of the unjust international economic system and elimination of racial discrimination are also our national objectives.

vii. Struggle for Welfare State

The most important objective is to make Pakistan a Welfare State. Our resources are limited. The only hurdle in making Pakistan a welfare state is that it has scanty resources. We should, therefore, develop our resources by improving literacy rate, promoting scientific and technical education and increasing industrial products. Elimination of social evils and corruption is inevitable for making Pakistan a welfare state.



3. Need for sustained constructive efforts

The nation which has the will to progress continues its efforts by using available resource to progress continuously on the road to self-sufficiency.

But it is not possible to transform a country into a welfare state overnight. This is a sustained and constant process. It has the following important aspects:

a. Awareness about the national goals

Only those nations progress whose people are aware about their national goals. These goals are always pre-fixed and help in determining the national priorities for speedy development. This can be achieved by careful planning and proper implementation. This process continues forever. Also constant struggle and strong will is necessary to achieve the goals.

b. Dignity of labour

It means that the people should be made conscious of the value and dignity of labour. The younger generation should be taught that progress and development without devotion and hard labour would merely be a dream. Quaid-i-Azam had advised the youth to feel dignity in work and make it as their aim in life. The sense of dignity of labour should generate and start from home.

c. Nature of Education

Progress cannot be achieved through general education alone. National resources can properly be utilized through advancement in scientific and technical knowledge. Therefore, it is necessary to accelerate the pace of national construction with the help of technical education and training.

d. Guidance and Encouragement

Since the independence of Pakistan in 1947 different sectors of our economy have shown a lot of progress. Agriculture and industry have progressed. A number of mega projects have been completed and some are in the process of completion. However, these guide and encourage the people of Pakistan to undertake progressive methods of production. But the need is to continue our struggle for more development and make Pakistan a Welfare State.

e. **Welfare Programmes**

As a part of constructive effort for sustained development, some welfare programmes for the disabled and needy people have been started within the country such as,

- i. Establishment of industrial homes for the female.
- ii. Establishment of Health Centers.
- iii. Educational institutions for the deaf and dumb.
- iv. Training Centers for physically handicapped persons.
- v. Recreational spots for general public.
- vi. Establishment of anti-begging centers.



4. Self-Sufficiency in Food

Food is the basic need of the people. Lack of proper or sufficient food for the people results in poor health. When people are not healthy, their efficiency to work will decrease. The development and construction process of the country will go down. Import of food from other countries will affect other sectors of development, especially the industrial development because valuable foreign exchanges will be spent on the import of food items.

Pakistan's economy depends upon its agriculture. Majority of the population of Pakistan is engaged in agriculture. Major part of national income is obtained from the agricultural products and industries based on agricultural output. Agricultural crops like rice and cotton are the major source of earning foreign exchange. Agriculture is also important for the industries. A number of industries like textile industry, sugar industry and vegetable oil industry are dependent on agriculture products. Agricultural development is not only necessary for food but also for industrial development. Industrial products are also used for the development of agriculture. By increasing agricultural products we will be able to:-

- i. Save valuable foreign exchange which is spent on the import of food stuff.
- ii. Establish more industries, increase products and earn foreign exchange.
- iii. Decrease in the foreign loans.
- iv. Increase people's purchasing power and improve quality of life.

- v. Flourish trade and business.
- vi. Provide job opportunities to people and eliminate poverty.

The government has been paying special attention to the development of agriculture sector with an objective to make the country self sufficient in food. For this purpose following steps have been taken:-

- i. Agriculture reforms have been introduced in the country to fix the maximum limit of land holding to protect the rights of peasants and the small land holders.
- ii. Special attention is given to agriculture in the Five Years Development Plans by allocating huge funds for the development of agriculture sector.
- iii. Water resources have been enhanced through construction of dams and construction of water canals in some new areas. Efforts are being made to line the canals and the water courses.
- iv. Steps have been taken to eradicate waterlogging and salinity through construction of outfall drain.
- v. Agricultural development banks and cooperative societies have been set up to give loans to the farmers.
- vi. A number of agricultural institutes have been set up. They are providing useful advice on agricultural problems and suggest healthy seeds and fertilizers for more production.
- vii. A number of facilities have been provided by the government to purchase fertilizers, pesticides, tractors and other related equipment.

As a result of government efforts, Pakistan has become self-sufficient or almost so in a number of agriculture products like rice, cotton, wheat, sugar, and chemical fertilizers. The foreign exchange saved from the import of food items is being spent on the establishment of industries. The day is not far when Pakistan will be self-sufficient in food.



5. Universal Education

Education is recognized as a basic and fundamental right of the individuals in Islam as well as in the UN Charter. Education should be free and compulsory up to a specific level for all citizens. After this level, equal opportunities are provided to all individuals for receiving higher education. This requires increase in the number of educational institutions and other facilities. In Pakistan efforts are in progress for attaining the target of universal education. Following steps have been taken to spread education in the country.

- i. Reforms in education known as Education Sector Reforms (ESR) have been introduced. The purpose of these reforms is to introduce a system which fulfills the need and obligation of independent ideological state of Pakistan. The new system will ensure access to every citizen to receive education.
- ii. The study of Islamiyat and Pakistan Studies is compulsory to make the children enlightened and better individuals by understanding the real spirit of Islam and the importance of Pakistan.
- iii. Steps are being taken to discourage the tendency of business in education. A plan is underway to provide free education up to class-x in a phased manner.
- iv. The service structure and service conditions of the teachers are being made better, enabling them to work with interest and devotion.
- v. A programme of award of scholarships to the meritorious and poor students has been started by Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal.
- vi. Awareness campaign has been started on Radio and Television to create interest among the people to educate their children, especially in the girls.
- vii. A programme namely "Education for All" (EFA) has been started throughout Pakistan. Under this scheme Non-formal basic

education at institutions have been opened in the rural areas. Books and educational material are provided in these institutions. The number of these institutions at present is around ten thousand (10,000) which will gradually rise to about eighty thousand (80,000).

- viii. A scheme of public-private partnership has been started. Under the scheme Non-government Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) will establish institutions in the rural areas to help government promote education and literacy.
- ix. Education Foundations have been set up in all the provinces and at Federal level to provide financial help to the private educational institutions.

6. Egalitarian Society

Egalitarian society upholds the principle of equality among the people. It remains stable and progressive so long the rights of the individuals are safeguarded. A society where social justice does not exist remains disturbed and eventually vanishes out. Social justice calls for the protection of life and property of the people, preservation of their honour and provision of basic civic facilities. Facilities of education, health and recreation are provided without discrimination. This will promote national integrity, love and cooperation among the individuals.

The Government of Pakistan has been making all out efforts to promote social justice for the establishment of an egalitarian society.

7. Universal brotherhood and peace

The present world has practically shrunk into a global village. Modern scientific developments, technologies and communications have reduced the distance. Nations of the world have come closer to each other. The conquest of space and the role of satellites have further reduced the distance. An atmosphere of brotherhood has come into existence. United Nations (UN) has also played a vital role in bringing the nation's of the world closer to each other. Now, problems of the world are common to all the nations. In the event of catastrophes, famines and destruction, countries of the world quickly come to the rescue of the affected part of the world.

Pakistan has all along acted in a responsible manner and has proved itself as a peace-loving country. It has always maintained cordial relations with all the

countries of the world. It has supported the UN to maintain peace in the world. Pakistan is a member of a number of world organizations which promote brotherhood and peace in the world.

As an Islamic country, Pakistan believes in the Islamic principles of peaceful coexistence. For universal brotherhood and peace an atmosphere of love among the nations is to be created. It is, therefore, necessary that disputes between different countries are peacefully and amicably resolved and the rights and freedom of every country is protected.

8. Just an equitable distribution of resources

When the resources are limited and the needs are on the increase, neither the resources can equitably be distributed nor can the dream of a welfare state be translated into reality. Moreover, the resources of all the countries are not the same or equal. Some areas have less resource resulting in the poor standard of living of the people. On the other hand some areas are fertile and people are living an easy and comfortable life. The resources mark the difference between the rich and the poor.

The welfare state can only be established when disparities in the society are removed and class conflict and regional bias are checked with balanced distribution of national resources.

There is a difference between the production and the resources, in different parts of Pakistan. Some areas are industrially developed and some are backward. Means of transport and communication are not equally developed throughout the country. The government has been trying to overcome these problems. A network of education is being set up throughout the country. The government has, therefore, taken the following steps for equitable distribution of resources.

- i. Education, health and social welfare institutions are being set up throughout the country.
- ii. Country-wide systems of award of scholarships have been established to provide financial assistance to deserving students.
- iii. Industries are being set up in the backward and deprived areas to create job opportunities for the people.
- iv. Household and cottage industries are patronized and encouraged to absorb the people in the local job market.

- v. Agricultural products are increased by providing number of incentives and facilities to the farmers and cultivators.
- vi. Amenities of life, like electricity, gas and telephone are being provided to the remote and far-flung areas.
- vii. Through the process of privatization people are being motivated to take part in the national development, programmes. Under this policy a few industries, factories and financial institutions have been privatized to enable private capitalists to share in the efforts of government for national development.
- viii. Labour laws have been modified. Through labour reforms rights of the workers have been protected. The protection is in the form of job security, participation in the management of the institutions, annual bonus and compensation in case of accident.



9. Role of an individual in a Welfare State

When a welfare state is supposed to meet all the basic needs of its citizens, the citizens are also required to fulfill their obligations towards the state. Following are some important duties of an individual:

- i. To remain loyal to the state and get ready for sacrifice at the time of a test.
- ii. To show respect to the rights of the fellow citizens and protect their life, honour and property.
- iii. Not to misuse the facilities provided by the state for general public, like electricity, gas, water supply system, public parks, means of transport and public property.
- iv. To take part individually or collectively in the welfare activities.
- v. To keep the environments clean.
- vi. To pay the taxes regularly and not to damage government or private property at the time of protest or agitation. For example, damaging vehicles, traffic signals, shops etc.

- vii. To share hands in the welfare projects. He or she should start welfare projects on self-help basis.
- viii. To help poor, handicapped and needy people in the neighborhood.
- ix. To help government against the activities of anti-social elements.
- x. To receive education, learn skills and utilize natural resources to accelerate the pace of progress.

EXERCISE

A. Answer the following questions:

1. What is meant by a Welfare State?
2. Describe the duties of a Welfare State.
3. What is the concept of an Islamic Welfare State?
4. What are the national goals of Pakistan?
5. Why is the self-sufficiency in food necessary?
6. Why peace in the world is necessary?
7. What is the role of an individual in a Welfare State?
8. What steps have been taken by the Government for universal education?
9. Write a note on egalitarian society.
10. Why are the sustained constructive efforts necessary for Pakistan?

B. Fill in the blanks with suitable words:

- i. Government is making efforts to establish an _____ society in Pakistan.
- ii. _____ of the population in Pakistan is associated with agriculture.
- iii. Pakistan is self-sufficient in the production of _____ and _____.
- iv. Sovereignty in Islam belongs to _____.
- v. Economic development leads to _____.