

The Business

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Renewable energy

The Power Division has finalised the draft Renewable Energy Policy 2019, envisaging 25 percent of total generation capacity from Alternative and Renewable Energy Technologies (ARET) by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030. The government aims to achieve the most environmental-friendly and affordable electricity mix compared to the heavy mix of imported fossil fuels of the past. The policy covers projects in the public and private sector; or public-private partnership will be implemented with alternative and renewable energy technologies for producing power whether for sale to a public utility or for private sale to a consumer if the producer wishes to avail any or all incentives available in this policy. The technologies covered under this policy are both conventional renewable energy including solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, as well as alternative technologies like biogas, syngas, Waste to Energy (WtE), storage systems, ocean/tidal waves, as well as all kinds of hybrids. However, hydel projects are reported not to be covered under this policy. In addition, any proprietary technology, or new technology to be developed during the applicability of the ARE policy, would also fall under its ambit. Pakistan so far has only five percent of its total generation from renewable power - mainly from wind, a bit from solar and a bit from bagasse as captive power plants at sugar mills. Reportedly, the 1000MW Quaid-e-Azam Solar plant set up by the Punjab government in the deserts of Cholistan has not delivered anywhere near the rated output. Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) is the sole representative agency of the Federal Government that was established in May 2003 with the main objective to facilitate, promote and encourage development of renewable energy in Pakistan and with a mission to introduce Alternative and Renewable Energies (AREs) at an accelerated rate.

Today, nearly whole of Scandinavia is on wind and waste to energy. Europe is catching up. Even the Middle East with abundance of oil resources is going for solar energy by exploiting the abundance of sun power. India is one of the countries with largest production of energy from renewable sources. Pakistan produces one of the world's largest waste. But, nearly all of this is used for land filling, burned to ashes or scattered around the cities as garbage. All of it can be used to fuel 'Waste to Energy' - the technology of which is simpler and much of it can be indigenous. Many countries are claiming carbon emissions credits under the global environment fund established for the purpose and utilising the earned amount to subsidize the tariffs in this segment of energy generation. Unfortunately, however, Pakistan, until now, has set up no mechanism to be part of global regime to register and

The case against torture

HUSSAIN H ZAIDI

A more deplorable incident couldn't have taken place this World Teachers' Day. In Lahore, a 10th grade student was beaten to death by his heartless teacher for failure to memorize some lesson. In an apparently unrelated, but in reality an interlocking incident, a mentally-challenged person had died in police custody allegedly of torture a few days before.

Academic institutions being a microcosm of society, physical punishment is to schools what violence or torture is to society at large - a way of life. Each in its own right is a convenient instrument in the hands of the 'authorities' to solve problems or answer questions, which otherwise would require buckets of hard work. Thus for the police giving an accused a good stick is the time-tested means to extract information and coerce confession. Only the stubbornly thick-skinned can remain silent in the face of torture.

By the same token, primary and secondary level education institutions by and large continue to hold fast to the maxim, "Spare the rod, and spoil the child." If a student is not regular or punctual, is short on discipline, is slack on doing their homework, or is otherwise weak in studies, caning or smacking him is considered to be the only remedy. Torture in police stations, schools and elsewhere is inspired by the deterrence view of punishment. Its proponents maintain that the sole purpose of punishment is to deter others from doing a wrong act. Hence, punishment-awarding authorities should make an example of the offender. This view of punishment leads to two conclusions, both of which are difficult to accept.

The first conclusion is that if the only purpose of punishment is deterrence, it does not really matter whether the convict is guilty or innocent and thus there is no need for a fair trial. All that's needed is to create fear in society. The second conclusion is that since the degree of deterrence

depends on the severity of punishment, it does not matter whether punishment for an offence is too severe. Thus if the proponents of the deterrence view have to choose between amputation of hand and imprisonment for stealing, they will prefer the former for being more severe and thus potentially having a greater deterrence effect.

Punishment is a necessary implication for living in society. In an ideal society, everyone is responsible and law-abiding and there is no need for punishment. However, in reality, no society is completely law-abiding. There are people who kill and rob and show little regard for the rights of others. Punishment of such persons is necessary for ensuring sanctity of law and respect for the rights of others and preserving the social order. And this very purpose is defeated if punishment is awarded for its own sake, an innocent person is punished, if punishment is awarded without a fair trial, if punishment is more severe than the offence, or in case it undermines the dignity of the person.

Thus punishment is not only necessary; it must also be justified. Is torture or corporal punishment justified? As already mentioned, the deterrence view of punishment leads to unpalatable conclusions. However, there's much more to both torture and corporal punishment than deterrence. Over centuries, confession has been known by the term 'the queen of proofs.' The essential idea is that the suspects' response to immense physical pain constitutes the basis for establishing their guilt or innocence. If torture doesn't make an accused talk, he's innocent; otherwise he is guilty. Since very few can withstand infliction of extreme physical or mental pain, torture can make almost everyone confess regardless of whether they are guilty. In this way, torture entails miscarriage of justice. However, for the authorities, it is a simple, quick and sure-shot way to find out the 'truth.' Whether the courts are willing to buy the torture-manufactured truth is another question.

Physical punishment in school serves a

similar purpose. It induces quick and costless (for the teacher) behavioral adjustment in errant students but at a great social and personal cost. It freaks out students, grinds down their confidence and erodes their self-respect. A teacher should be seen as a role model, not as a holy terror. In the forbidding atmosphere of schools where corporal punishment is in vogue, the spirit of inquiry takes the backseat, the use of logic and reason is looked upon as taboo and rote learning is prized as a grand virtue. Not only that, the behavioural change wrought by corporal punishment is at best a passing phenomenon, as the underlying cause of a student's indiscipline or unsatisfactory performance is left unaddressed.

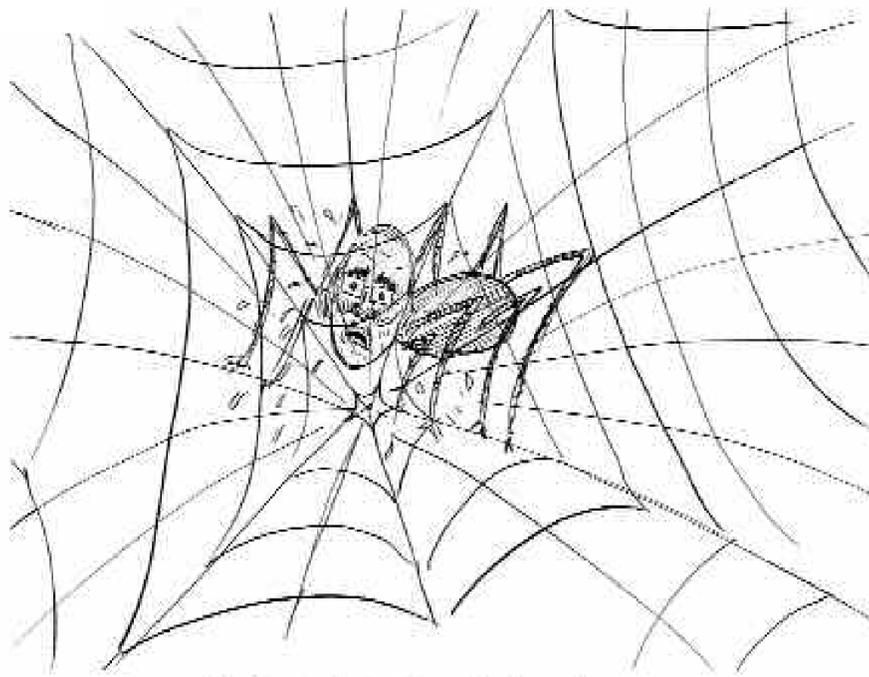
Both torture and corporal punishment are symptoms of an increasingly sanctimonious society. 'Innocent unless proven guilty' is the fundamental legal norm in all civilized societies. However, this golden precept is turned on its head in a sanctimonious society, where others are treated as guilty unless they prove themselves innocent to the satisfaction of the former. In a civilized society, a distinction is made between an accused and a culprit. If a person is charged with a crime, say robbery, the prosecution has to establish beyond reasonable doubt the veracity of charges against him. Only after the accused has been convicted in a fair trial is he then called a culprit. But in the eye of the self-righteous, mere allegations or perceptions are sufficient to make a suspect an offender.

A large and growing segment of our youth has been taken in hook, line, and sinker by the self-righteous. For such youth, tolerance, dissent and ratiocination are the unmistakable signs of moral weakness, while reviling, demonizing and punishing 'enemies' are the highest virtues of a patriotic citizen and a true believer. Such toxic narratives suck a society dry when their exponents come to wield power. Political opponents are stigmatized as plunderers and dacoits, while the government casts itself as being on a mes-

sianic mission to root out corruption and demonize and damn those who by a freak of fate find themselves to be on its wrong side.

Pakistan is a signatory to the United Nations' Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment (CAT), which is unequivocal in prohibiting torture. No exceptional circumstances can be invoked as a justification for torture. All acts of torture have to be treated as offences under criminal law. The convention requires that education and information regarding prohibition against torture is included in the training of law-enforcement personnel as well as in the rules or instructions issued in regard to their duties and functions. The CAT stipulates that in case of torture, prompt and impartial investigation shall be carried out. The legal system must provide that the victim of an act of torture obtains redress as well as adequate compensation. Any statement made as a result of torture can't be used as evidence in courts. Other acts of inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment which do not amount to torture are also prohibited.

Thus in compliance with the CAT, the federal and provincial governments are required to take effective legislative, administrative and judicial measures to prevent acts of torture in their respective jurisdictions. That said, our entire criminal investigation system is based on torture and most of the 'evidence' that is produced in courts is extracted by torturing the accused. From time to time incidents are reported in which the police tortured a suspect to mutilation or death. It may be of interest to the reader that the CAT is on the list of the international conventions whose membership and effective implementation is mandatory for the European Union's GSP Plus scheme, which grants duty-free treatment to substantial imports from Pakistan. Thus from an economic point of view as well, there is a strong case for putting an end to torture and other forms of degrading punishment.



Modi stuck in lok -Rasheed

Media: A gendered propaganda



SANA MALIK

We live in times of significant rapid transformations characterised by globalisation, prolific information revolution, and an unrestricted technological explosion. Modern media is a powerful tool of control, functioning as a state apparatus in the age of digitalisation. Its influence on society is an undeniable reality which targets a vast audience in sharing knowledge, providing entertainment, and character formation. Hence, media is an integral part of purporting dominant attitudes and dictating lifestyles. It actively shapes our relationship with the world and vice versa, and bridges the gaps between our private lives and in determining our place in the global community.

An aspect of this is how in more than 100 countries, 46% stories in media uphold gender stereotypes as researched by the Global Media Monitoring Project (2010). According to UNESCO, women were the focus of 10% of news and comprised 20% of experts interviewed in 2018, while 73% management positions are occupied by men. Gender discrimination has been of a magnitude that has innovated new forms of oppression and exploitation. Media portrays prevailing male-dominated perspectives in mannerisms that objectify females, allow fewer female opinions and become barriers to glass ceilings to female professionals, hence legitimising their status in society as dependents needing protection. Stereotypical perceptions on gender are also endorsed with narrow spaces for moving towards gender sensitivity and equality reformation processes.

WHO shows that 1 in 10 women have experienced cyber violence since the age of 15. When women engage online, they experience more intense forms of cyber violence: a global problem with potentially far-reaching economic, socio-cultural and

mental health consequences. With social media, women still lag behind men in access and technological savviness. Females in developing countries have limited access to the internet, impacting their educational and employment opportunities. The use of internet as an instrument for empowerment purposes increases vulnerability and is compromised on multiple fronts.

Another highly centralised agenda in the entertainment industry is how the female "image" depicts femininity as subsidiary to men, deliberately focusing on negating and not utilising their individuality for good effect. This causes dissatisfaction amongst women as they are conscious of their bodies with pressures of creating the "perfect" body, causing a rise in eating disorders and mental health issues.

Domestication of females in media further reinforces gender binaries and male-dominated societal power structures are internalised. Relationships show traditional roles for women and normalises violence, and enables unacceptable behaviour towards women as the norm where men validate exercising dominance and aggression. This has repercussions for the achievement of SDG goal 5, which focuses on eliminating gender-based discrimination.

Although media has played a dangerous role in promoting negativity for women, there still is hope women's voices will be heard. Overtime, women activists have spread their messages through media during different waves of the feminist movement. Similar to many industrial spaces, media is an avenue struggling to harbour gender balance. It is imperative to understand it plays a pivotal role in moulding lives and more needs to be done towards women centrality. Excluding one is not giving the respective party a rightful voice, which becomes the norm for a society in projecting inaccuracy. Media platforms should strategise content to ensure that women are given equal opportunities as powerful agents of social change, and in overcoming the gender digital divide.

The world must wake up



MALIK ASHRAF

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet while addressing the 42nd session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on September 9 expressed her reservations on the human rights situation in Indian-Occupied Kashmir in the strongest possible words by saying "I am deeply concerned about the impact of recent actions by the government of India on the human rights of Kashmiris, including restrictions on internet communications and peaceful assembly, and the detention of local political leaders and activists. I have appealed particularly to India to ease the current lock downs or curfews, to ensure people's access to basic services, and that all due process and rights are respected for those who have been detained. It is important that the people of Kashmir are consulted and engaged in any decision-making processes that have an impact on their future." Her statement amply proved that the violation of human rights is an issue of international concern. Her observations constitute a rude snub to the Indian claims of the situation in Occupied Kashmir being its internal matter. Her reiteration was that it was important that the people of Kashmir were consulted and engaged in any decision-making processes that have an

impact on their future. While she did not clearly mention the implementation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir which grant the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir, it surely was an implied endorsement.

The UN Human Rights Council in a joint statement signed by more than 50 countries from across the globe also called for the protection of fundamental human rights in Occupied Kashmir; immediate lifting of curfew, ending communications shutdown and release of detained people; halting excessive use of power and access of human rights organizations and international media to Occupied Kashmir; implementation of the recommendations of the OHCHR including establishment of a UN commission of Inquiry to probe egregious human rights violations; regular reporting by the UN high commissioner for human rights on Jammu and Kashmir and above all peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute through the implementation of UNSC resolutions. The foregoing episodes coming in the backdrop of the endorsement of UN resolutions by the UNSC meeting, reports of the human rights and civil society organizations, Amnesty International and the international media which have expressed serious concerns about the humanitarian crisis in Occupied Kashmir as a result of complete lock-down of the valley, represent a roaring success of the diplomatic offensive launched by Pakistan which has rightly laid greater emphasis on the humanitarian aspect of the situation.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in his interaction with the media in Geneva rightly cautioned the world about the likely 'holocaust' in Occupied Kashmir as there were credible portents suggesting that possibility and even an

armed confrontation between the two nuclear states. The action by the Modi government on August 5 to scrap articles 370 and 35-A of the Indian constitution, thereby ending the special status of the state and paving the way for changing its demographic features is not only a well-conceived plan to subjugate the people of Kashmir but it is also a part of the bigger scheme to target Muslims all over India for as per the objectives of Hindutva. Depriving 1.9 million Bengalis - residing in Assam for centuries - of Indian citizenship is irrefutable evidence of the Modi government trying to target Muslims in line with the RSS philosophy of Hindutva. The publisher of 'Dhaka Tribune', K Anis Ahmed, in an article carried by the 'New York Times' on September 11 refers to the situation as: "The process by which the register has been compiled wasn't just flawed; it was heavily politicized, as well as rife with prejudice. Since the overwhelming majority of the nearly two million people excluded from the registry are thought to be Muslim, the effort looks far more like an ethnic purge than anything like a census. It is the convergence between Assamese nativism against Bengalis and the BJP's Hindu-nationalist agenda against Muslims."

Ahmed fears that the move is fraught with great danger of communal riots and the possibility of providing fodder for jihadist propaganda. His conclusion is that despite these dangers "The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will stop at nothing, it seems, to target and repress India's Muslims. It recently locked down the entire state of Kashmir. It has fomented mob violence throughout the country. And now, in Assam, it is trying to strip Muslims of their citizenship. Military force, popular animus, administrative

fiat - no measure is too big or too small when it comes to enacting the BJP's dangerous prejudices."

No wonder then that the chairperson of the UN Human Rights Council in her address - in addition to expressing concern on the humanitarian situation in Occupied Kashmir - also expressed reservations on the Indian action in Assam by saying: "The recent National Register of Citizens verification process in the northeast Indian state of Assam has caused great uncertainty and anxiety, with some 1.9 million people excluded from the final list published on 31 August. I appeal to the [Indian] government to ensure due process during the appeals process, prevent deportation or detention, and ensure people are protected from statelessness." The Modi government is a follower of the fascist ideology of the RSS which is even more dangerous than the philosophy pursued by Hitler and Mussolini. The world needs to take immediate notice of the burgeoning storm before it unfurls its destructive dimensions. It needs to act and move beyond merely showing concern and giving statements as rightly demanded by Prime Minister Imran Khan and urged by Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Dr Maleeha Lodhi in her meeting with the UN secretary-general. The big powers that pride themselves as the flag-bearers of human values and human liberties need to rise above their strategic and commercial interests to prove their humanitarian credentials by not only stopping India from pummeling human rights in Assam and Kashmir but also by making sincere efforts for the implementation of UN resolutions that granted the right of self-determination to the Kashmiris. Kashmir is undoubtedly a nuclear flashpoint and it is in the larger interest of the region and the world that the global community and the UN act deci-