DOT Gazette

VISIT OF THE CHAIRMAN FBR

Mr. Sohail Ahmed, Chairman FBR visited Directorate General of Training and Research Lahore on 6th February 2010. His visit focused mainly on the current training programmes in order to get a better idea of the existing facilities for the trainee officers. He was accompanied by Mr Asrar Rauf, Member Policy (Direct Taxes)

Upon their arrival the guests were given a warm welcome by the Director General, Mr Abdul Wadood Khan and Additional Director General, Mr Shahid Hussain Asad, followed by a briefing by the Additional Director General about the training of probationary officers of 36th STP and capacity building programmes for the field officers. The Honourable Chairman was apprised of the various workshops and orientation courses being organized at DOT headquarters and at sub-offices of Karachi and Islamabad.

Director General LTU Lahore was present to give a presentation about performance of LTU Lahore during the current financial year. After the meeting, the Chairman and the guests had lunch with the DOT faculty.

Mr. Sohail Ahmad took a tour of the DOT



campus to get a better picture of the training facilities available for the young officers. He appreciated the high tech computer labs, classrooms, library and well-maintained campus. He also visited the gymnasium to see the sports facilities offered to the trainee officers. The Chairman stated that the infrastructure facilities at DOT could provide an excellent opportunity to the FBR for building the professional capacity of its human resource at all levels. The Director General conveyed pleasure over the Chairman's visit and thanked him for sparing time out of his busy schedule to visit DOT Headquarters.

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Mr. Abdul Wadood Khan assumed office as Director General, Directorate General of Training & Research (Inland Revenue), Lahore, on 16th January 2010. Mr. Abdul Wadood Khan has had an illustrious career spanning over 37 years as an officer of the Customs and Excise Group. He has a rich and diverse experience of serving in various eminent positions as Collector of Customs, Sales Tax and Federal Excise (BS-20), Director General of Customs Valuation / Inspection and Internal Audit (BS-21), Member, Sales Tax and Federal Excise (BS-21 and 22) and as Advisor to the Chairman, FBR (BS-22). We wish him the best in his current assignment as Director General, DOT.



Mr. Abdul Wadood khan

Heartiest felicitations to Mr. Shahid Hussain Asad, on his recent promotion to BS-21 and his appointment as Additional Director General, Directorate of Training and Research (Inland Revenue). Mr. Shahid Hussain Asad belongs to 8th CTP and stood 17th in the CSS examination of 1979. He is an outstanding officer of the Income Tax Department and is known for his command over Income Tax Laws as well as his commitment to improving the working of the Income Tax Department and safe-guarding the interests of the officers. He has vast experience as a Tax administrator, policy maker (having worked in the Direct Tax Policy Team of FBR) and trainer. Mr. Shahid is presently Secretary General of ITSOA (Income Tax Service Officers Association).



Mr. Shahid Hussain Asad

DOT Gazette

EDITORIAL

There were some administrative changes at DOT during the first quarter of 2010. Mr. Abdul Wadood Khan joined the Directorate as the new Director General. Mr. Shahid Hussain Asad assumed charge as Additional Director General after his promotion to BS-21. Mr. Sheraz Mirza was posted as Director, following the transfer of Ms. Sameera Yasin to RTO as Commissioner HRM.

The 36th Specialized Training Program which commenced in November 2009 will be concluding on 24th April 2010. The probationers of 36th STP will appear for their FPOE in July 2010. We wish them luck for their Final Passing Out Examination.

A number of workshops on various topics were conducted during January-March 2010. Two foreign delegations-from Afghanistan and Germany visited the Directorate General. Mr. Sohail Ahmed Chairman FBR and Ms. Raana Seerat, Director General HRM, also made official visits to DOT.

The most important feature of this issue is the article regarding restructuring of the tax department, as well as a synopsis of ITSOA Income Tax Service Officers Association. Things are certainly beginning to look up for officers of the Income Tax Service with regard to future promotion prospects, foreign scholarships and deputations. We thank Mr. Sohail Ahmad, Honourable Chairman, for giving a new roadmap to the reform process- a roadmap that focuses on career progression and better service delivery.

Ambreen Iftikhar
Editor

United We Stand, Divided We Fall

INCOME TAX SERVICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (ITSOA)

The officers of the Income Tax Group had been facing a number of issues regarding their career for a long time-- inordinate delay in promotions, lack of opportunities for foreign training, foreign postings, deputation and inadequate representation in Federal as well as Provincial Secretariats at the senior level. This state of affairs had demotivated and demoralized the officers. It was against this backdrop that it was decided to give a voice to the genuine grievances of the officers of the Income Tax Service and Income Tax Service Officers' Association (ITSOA)was formed on May 24, 2009 in Islamabad.

The purpose of the Association was to serve as a platform for highlighting the problems being faced by the Income Tax Officers and to take up important issues of the Service at the relevant fora in a lawful, legal and appropriate manner. Before the inception of ITSOA, although the forum of a club by the name of Pakistan Taxation Club with chapters in the major cities of the country was available, however, that was merely a forum for social events and nothing concrete was ever done to uplift the Income Tax Service.

Mr. Shahid Hussain Asad, presently serving as Additional Director General DOT, Lahore was unanimously elected the Secretary General of ITSOA and has been actively involved in discussions and deliberations at various levels/fora including the World Bank and Establishment Division to ameliorate the service conditions of Income Tax. His dedication and commitment to a vison ameliorating the working conditions and promotion prospects of Income Tax officers have resulted in some landmark achievement for the Group. Before the formation of ITSOA, the comparative figures for promotion in Income Tax and Customs for grades 20 and 21 were as follows :-

PRE ITSOA SCENARIO

Promotion to	Income Tax	Customs
Grade – 21	Uptil 5th Common	Uptill 8th Common
Grade – 20	Uptill 10th Common (partly)	Uptill 13th Common (partly)

No DPC was convened in the financial year 2008-09 for promotions from BS18 to BS19 for ITG officers.

POST ITSOA SCENARIO
2009-10

The Promotion Board convened in December 2009 resulted in promotions in BS-20 till 11th Common and in BS-21 till 8th Common (partially). It was an unprecedented event in the history of Income Tax service whereby 16 officers were promoted from Grade20 to Grade21 and 21 officers were promoted from BS-19 to BS-20 in one go.On 19th April 2010, 35 officers of BS-18 have been promoted to BS-19.

In March 2010 three new RTOs (one at Lahore and two at Karachi was created) resulting in creation of three new posts of BS-21 officers. Seven posts of Chief Commissioners were also upgraded got resulting in addition of total 10 posts of BS-21. Prior to that two RTOs at Sargodha and Bahawalpur were also created after July 2010.

The next CSB Meeting is scheduled sometimes in May 2010 in which a substantial number of promotions is again expected which would reduce the disparity between the two service groups.

At this juncture, it is very important to point out that these positive developments would never have been possible without the support and patronage of the Honourable Chairman, FBR, Mr. Sohail Ahmad. It is due to his leadership and progressive out look that the Income Tax Service has been successful in attaining a number of important milestones over the past few months.

Prior to Mr. Sohail Ahmad's appointment as Chairman, FBR, the representation of BS-19 officers of Income Tax Group in the Senior Management Course (NIPA) was restricted to 2-3 officers per course.

On the request of Mr. Shahid Hussain Asad, General Secretary, ITSOA, the Chairman FBR very kindly sent a letter to Establishment Division suggesting that since the number of Income Tax Officers who had not done SMC was increasing with every passing year (which would create major problems at the time of promotion), at least 20 officers of Income Tax Group should be enrolled for every Senior Management Course.

As a first step, the number of officers accepted for NMC in February 2010 has increased from 3 to 9 which is a very positive development. Efforts are underway to reach the target of 20 Income Tax Officers per course, as mentioned above.

The process of reforms in FBR was initiated about 7 years ago with the aim to create a more efficient and progressive organization more responsive to the needs of the tax payers' of Pakistan. These reforms resulted

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in high-impact structural and administrative changes both in the Board and in the field formations. One of the main items on the reform agenda was the harmonization of the Domestic Taxes and the subsequent integration of Sales Tax, Federal Excise and Income Tax, creating a new service group by the name of Inland Revenue Service. The successive steps of this particular agenda item included co-location, leading to composite audit and finally to integration of all the three domestic taxes.

Till 2009, however, the initiative could not be carried beyond co-location due to persistent resistance by some officers of the Customs and Excise Group.

It goes entirely to the credit of the sitting Chairman, Mr. Sohail Ahmad, who spear-headed the process of reform with a missionary spirit, tireless zeal and convincing rationalization, that all legal and procedural infirmities obstructing the creation of Inland Revenue Service (IRS) were removed despite great resistance from certain quarters. The formation of IRS which, only a few months ago, appeared to be a far fetched conceit, is now very much a reality!

The Income Tax Service Association would like to thank Mr. Sohail Ahmad for his principled stand on this issue of national importance. The story does not end here. Mr. Sohail Ahmad's vision extends much further to ensure that the real purpose of reforms i.e. broadening of the tax base and increasing the tax-to-GDP-ratio, is realized at the earliest. The present version of the reform process breaking down the field formations into functional divisions at the Commissionerate level has failed miserably and has resulted in administrative chaos. This has caused immense loss of revenue and a failure to achieve budgetary targets due to the following reasons :-

1) Unmanageable size of RTOs

2) Problems of co-ordination and control

3) Problems in ownership of the system

4) Problems of handling sensitive case records of tax payers

5) Division of work on functional lines, preventing officers from getting on the job training in all important areas of tax administration.

6) Lack of involvement of more than half of the workforce in the core functions of assessment and collection.

The Chairman FBR envisages the re-structuring of the field formations for more effective performance and service delivery. He believes in the creation of small composite divisions headed by a Commissioner who will oversee over all functions like audit, enforcement, legal, HRM, TPFD, broadening of tax base and of course maintenance of record, to improve the functioning of the tax machinery, to recognize excellence in public service and to motivate the workforce. This can be done if the size of the existing 18 Regional Tax Offices (RTOs) is rationalized by breaking down the larger RTOs into smaller ones and merging together the smaller RTOs for better management.

The result will be more consolidated control over assessment, recovery and defending of cases before appellate fora through centralized management of all tax functions at the Commissionerate level. This extremely important change will go a long way in improving the functioning of the tax machinery, recognizing excellence in public service and motivating the presently despondent workforce.

The key to success is high performance through better working conditions and more effective administration. ITSOA ensures Mr. Sohail Ahmad, Chairman, FBR of its full support in achieving this important objective.

We might be late by 62 years, but better late than never!

Visit of German Delegation

A German delegation from "German Technical Cooperation" visited the Directorate General of Training and Research (Inland Revenue), Lahore on 25th Feb. 2010. The purpose of the visit was to explore the possibility of a meaningful interface between the two organizations in the future. The delegation was given a formal presentation on the facilities available at DOT by Mr. Shahid Hussain Asad, Additional Director General. The delegates were given a tour of the Campus and were accompanied by the Director General, Mr. Abdul Wadood Khan and the Additional Director General, Mr. Shahid Hussain Asad. The delegates were impressed by the expansive campus of the Directorate which offers a conducive ambience for academic activities. They were also appreciative of the diverse training facilities available at DOT.



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The Condition of Women and Juvenile Female Prisoners in Pakistan



By
Hira Nazir
Assistant Commissioner
(Prob)

Women prisons are facing overcrowding. Our country's female prison population has more than doubled since 1993. Many jails are overcrowded .Recently, some researchers were given unprecedented access to some of the prisons of our country .A detailed survey has been carried out on the plight of women in the different prisons of Pakistan .

It has been observed that the overall condition of their confinement is appalling .We will ,first of all ,identify the conditions in which women prisoners are kept and the problems that they are facing .We will also examine the particular impact that imprisonment has on women .Based on their observation, the researchers have come up with many suggestions and recommendations which can improve the conditions of the women in the Pakistani prisons. will do good to them in the long run.

SOME PRISON FACTS

Before going into the details of the problems that women and juvenile female prisoners are facing ,we will take a look at some of the prison facts which will give a clear picture of the current situation .In Pakistan ,the number of women offenders soared from as few as 70 in 1980 to as many as 4500 in 1990, according to Human Rights Watch (1999 report). 25% of prisoners are from ethnic minority communities .20%of those are foreign nationals ,mostly drug mules. Over half of the women prisoners suffer from some form of personality disorder .There has been a rise in custodial sentences .Ten years ago ,one in 26 women defendants were jailed ;now it is one in 13 .The number of short sentenced women is risin . One of the biggest challenges will be to accommodate this growth.

PROBLEMS CONFRONTED BY THE INCARCERATED WOMEN AND THEIR ASSESSMENT

The problems faced by the imprisoned women and girls are many but there are some key issues of concern.

One pressing issue for women prisoners is the lack of proper medical care within the prisons In many cases, prison administration often ignores or neglects the particular needs of pregnant women. Lack of proper medical attention or proper food is a problem in numerous prisons.

Separation from their children is another issue of concern. But in most cases, their minors live with them. In that condition, they are incapable of being good mothers.

Prison have a profound negative impact on child's personality. Children are not guilty of any thing. Prisons are not an appropriate place for them, not at that age. Children ,sometimes have to do compulsory labour like carpet weaving and basket making. They mingle with people who have been found guilty and tend to learn from and adopt inappropriate role models. More importantly, it is the trauma of coming into this environment and being locked behind a door, that may distort their personalities . Bullying ,of course ,is also a major problem.

A far greater problem of incarcerated women is the sexual aggression of male officers.They are there at the risk of rape ,sexual assault, sexual harassment ,violation of privacy ,physical threats and assaults .While prison abuse remains behind closed doors and out of the public eye ,policy makers ,legislators and courts remain reluctant to interfere in the daily operation and conditions of prisons.

A detailed survey shows that such women become passive, resigned and apathetic. It is true that they have committed a crime .They are deviants. But once they are in custody ,something should be done to rehabilitate them .Here is an opportunity to transform them into the useful members of society. Otherwise their lives will be ruined .They will go through a labeling process and ultimately, become social pariahs coercion creates a constant unending and intense pressure on many incarcerated women.

Sometimes, they become victims of other female prisoners and female prison staff .Nobody can guarantee their safety as they are vulnerable to violence..

Even in those countries where women's prison conditions are not violent, prison programmes are almost invariably designed for the majority male prison population ,and discrimination flows from a lack of women-oriented programming .

Most importantly, they are not blind to the question of community safety and social acceptance They know that they will be stigmatized, labeled and ostracized by the society.

There is no doubt that they have committed crimes; but to say that the bars will prevent them from committing them again, is wrong . Prisons are not a deterrent. They will go straight back out to exactly the same situation that they have left .To be there in custody does not do them any good. It does not do any good in the long run .

SOME PROPOSALS FOR THEIR WELL BEING

There must be a set of rules regarding the treatment of female prisioners .

First of all, there is a dire need to give them medical facilities within the prison environment .Better trained staff, improved medical record keeping and creation of an independent panel of outside medical experts can be of great help .

They should be given proper education and vocational training in order to ensure their employment and empowerment. They should be taken to the various vocational institutions .The focus should be on imparting those skills and knowledge which is of direct relevance to specific occupations and comprises respective pre-employment qualification or training parallel to employment as most of them are uneducated .Such vocational training will lead to a number of new job opportunities such as drawing ,typing, designing, shorthand, fabric painting, cutting, sewing and teaching .

Moral support both for educated and uneducated women and girls is essential. Encouragement to take a new start in life and regular one-to-one counseling with a psychiatrist is of crucial importance .

Proper education and better health facilities should be provided to their children as well. There is a need to comprehend the corrosive and damaging impact of custodial regimes. It is our social reponsibity and moral obligation to ensure that the plight of the women and children incarcerated in prisons all over Pakistan is mitigated . We must empower and equip them for a better future.

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Visit of Afghan Revenue Department's Delegation

A delegation of Senior Revenue Officers of Afghan Revenue Department (ARD) headed by Dr. Ahmad Shah Zamanzai, Director General (ARD) visited the Directorate General of Training & Research (Direct Taxes) Lahore on 16th Feb, 2010. The purpose of the visit was to explore the option of future training programs for the Aghan Revenue Officers of ARD at the Directorate General of Training & Research, Lahore.

The delegation was accorded a warm welcome by the Director General Mr. Abdul Wadood Khan and the faculty of DOT. The delegates were given a tour of the campus and briefed about the scope of activities, training methodology and training programs by the Additional Director General Mr. Shahid Hussain Asad. The delegates were briefed about important disciplines in which DOT is imparting training to new recruits of Inland Revenue, as well as to the in-service officers and staff of FBR. The subjects include Law, Communication Skills, Information / Computer Technology, Administration, Accountancy, Management, HRM & HRD.



The delegation expressed keen interest in the training programs and was appreciative of the infrastructure and facilities available at DOT.

At the conclusion of the visit, souvenirs were presented to the delegates by Director General.









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Reorganization of FBR Field Formations



By
SHAHID HUSSAIN ASAD
Additional Director General

Before Reforms, the basic Unit of Income Tax management was a Circle whose Officer Incharge was entrusted with all the responsibilities of maintenance of record, receipt and enforcement of income tax returns / statements, conducting audit and assessment, recovery of taxes, filing of appeals at various appellate fora, issuance of refunds and assisting the Commissioner in issuance of exemption certificates etc. Although all the work having been entrusted with one person, there was a unity of command, better understanding of issues and a sense of ownership among the tax officials, yet there was a general perception amongst all the stake holders of the system that a circle officer was over burdened with work and dissatisfied with his working conditions.

2. As a result of the report issued by a Committee headed by Mr. Shahid Hussain on reforms in the existing taxation system in Pakistan, the working of Income Tax was distributed on functional basis at the Commissionerate level, with the objective of promoting specialization and resulting into emergence of an efficient system giving quick disposal to issues and serving the taxpayers in a better and organized way. However, last five years' experience indicates that working on functional lines has not yielded the desired results. Rather it has created lot of problems of coordination amongst various functional Divisions. It has also caused problems of ownership of the system and the sensitive case record of the taxpayers.

3. The experience has also shown that an officer posted in one particular division/function fails to acquire the skills/learning and practical knowledge of the functions that relate to the other divisions. For instance, if an officer is posted in IP or Legal Division, he does not learn the assessment work and vice versa. Similarly the performance indicators of Audit and Enforcement functions are conflicting. For instance, performance of Audit is gauged with the amount of created demand whether recoverable or otherwise, whereas that of the Enforcement Division is indicated by actual collection. This compartmentalized and uncoordinated effort is resulting in raising of irrecoverable demand, thus undermining the actual performance vis a vis collection and achievement of the assigned targets. This situation has created a disinterested, demotivated and demoralized workforce which lacks sense of ownership. In the absence of a unity of command, the taxpayers have to go from one Commissioner to another for redressal of their problems which consumes more time. Since one person is not responsible for resolving all the problems of a taxpayer, the issues are not disposed of as quickly as actually envisaged because everybody's responsibility is nobody's responsibility. This state of affairs is alarming. The sole purpose of reforms must be improvement of the system, which, unfortunately, is not the case.

The sole purpose of reforms must be improvement of the system, which, unfortunately, is not the case.

4. Rationalization of work load is another issue that demands attention. There is an uneven distribution of work load in various RTOs which tends to mislead about their performance when gauged with one yard stick. The number of present 15 RTOs and 3 LTUs is too small and the volume of work in bigger RTOs like Lahore, Karachi and Multan etc. is unmanageable. The issue of maintenance of record has suffered the most serious blow because of excessive and unmanageable number. Requisition of one file simultaneously by different divisions has resulted not only in destruction/disappearance but also in creation of a duplicate set of record at a huge financial cost of photo copying/paper & stationery etc. The performance of these RTOs is much below their potential and they are unable to efficiently handle the tax issues of the taxpayers and achieve their budget targets.

5. It is proposed that small composite Divisions should be formed which would work under one Commissioner and the functional distribution of work is delegated to officers of BS 19 and below. Smaller divisions of around 30,000 to 35,000 non corporate taxpayers and 2000 to 3000 corporate cases should form a manageable division. If one Commissioner is Incharge of all the functions including maintenance of record, the things would be much better coordinated and effectively handled. Due to reasonably sized units there would be better sense of ownership/motivation amongst the officers / officials etc. It is not out of place to mention that this system is practically working at present in RTOs at Gujranwala, Sialkot, Multan, Abbotabad, Islamabad, Sukkur, Hyderabad and Quetta where a Commissioner (BS-20) is working as a Chief Commissioner and various functional heads working under him are officers of BS 19 and below. It is further proposed that all the RTOs and LTUs should be headed by a Chief Commissioner in Grade 21. Table-I shows the existing and proposed number of cases in each RTO and the desired number of officers in BS-21.

6. Each RTO should comprise of 4 to 5 Commissionerates depending upon the work load/revenue involved. Table-II indicates workload in each Commissionerate and number of Commissionerates in each RTO. Table-III shows rationalization of RTOs. Table-IV shows organogram of a Commissionarate.

7. The proposal of reorganization discussed in above paras may not be applicable on the three LTUs, because of peculiar nature and lesser number of their taxpayers. LTU's are proposed to continue with their present set up.

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Table-I
Work Rationalization of Proposed Regional Taxpayers' Offices (RTOs) Step -I

Station	Exis-ting RTOS	Pro-posed RTOs	Existing BS-21 vacancies	Proposed BS-21 vacancies	Work load in present RTOS	Work load per proposed RTOS
Karachi	1	3	1	3	**889703**	**296568**
Hyderabad	1	1	-	1	125595	125595
Sialkot	1	1	-	1	116396	116396
Lahore	1	2	1	2	**562755**	**281378**
Islamabad	1	1	-	1	189873	189873
Gujranwala	1	1	-	1	100654	100654
Rawalpindi	1	1	-	1	186328	186328
Multan	1	1	-	1	256913	256913
Faisalabad	1	1	1	1	183790	183790
Sargodha	1	1	-	1	70000	70000
Sukkur	1	1	-	1	57875	57875
Quetta	1	1	-	1	42761	42761
Bahawalpur	1	1	-	1	60000	60000
Abbottabad	1	1	-	1	14175	14175
Peshawar	1	1	-	1	112000	112000
Total	15	18	03	18		

Table-II
Proposed Commissionerates Step -II(A)

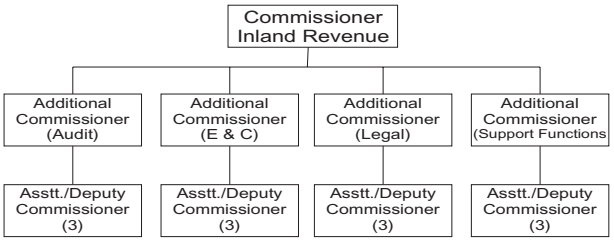
S#	RTO	RTOs & Divisions	App. No of cases per Div	Remarks
01	Karachi Corp–I	4	3000	**[All Corporate cases of Karachi along with their Directors].** **[All non corporate cases of Karachi except of Directors of Companies].**
02	Karachi Corp–II	4	3000	
03	Karachi North	4	40000	
04	Karachi South	4	40000	
05	Karachi East	4	40000	
06	Karachi West	5	40000	
07	Lahore North	4	38000	All Corporate cases to be divided equally in all the Divisions. All Non-corporate cases to be divided equally in all the Divisions.
08	Lahore South	4	35000	
09	Lahore East	4	35000	
10	Lahore West	4	35000	
11	Gujranwala	5	40000	Including existing Sialkot RTO
12	Hyderabad	5	40000	Including existing Sukkur RTO
13	Islamabad	4	40000	
14	Rawalpindi	4	40000	
15	Multan	6	40000	Including Bahawalpur RTO
16	Faisalabad	5	40000	Including Sargodha RTO
17	Peshawar	4	35000	Including existing Abbottabad RTO
18	Quetta	2	21500	
	TOTAL	76		

Table -III
Rationalization of RTOs STEP – II (B)

S#	STATION	PROPOSED NEW RTOs
1	KARACHI	5
2	LAHORE	3
	TOTAL NEW RTOs PROPOSED = 8 RTOs MERGED* = 5 ADDITION IN RTOs = 3	

*Sialkot + Gujranwala = Gujranwala RTO
Abbottabad + Peshawar = Peshawar RTO
Bahawalpur + Multan = Multan RTO
Sargodha + Faisalabad = Faisalabad RTO
Sukkur + Hyderabad = Hyderabad RTO

Table - IV
ORGANOGRAM OF COMMISSIONERATE



Winds of Change

By
Dr.Tanvir Hussain Bhatti
Assistant Commissioner (Prob.)

There is a wind of change,
The news of which is in the air;
People would get justice at their doorsteps,
The treatment they are bound to receive, would be fair;
My countrymen would prosper everywhere,
And the pockets of poverty would be rare;
Patriotic fraternity would be the cementing force,
For each other, every countryman would care;
If we follow 'unity, faith and discipline',
To threaten our country, no one would dare.

SUGGESTED READINGS

The Limits of Influence
By Howard B. Schaffer

Forged in War
By Warren F Kimball

Down Bureaucracy Lane
By Talat Rahim

Deception Point
By Dan Brown

Mirage
By Aileen Keating

Karachiwala
By Rumana Husain

Riding with Reagan
By John R Barletta

The Travels of Ibn Battutah
Tim Mackintosh-Smith

Hijacking From the Ground
By Aminullah Chaudhry

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Mr. Sheraz Mirza, joined Civil Services Academy on 18th October, 1984. He holds BSc degree from Peshawar University and MBA from Punjab University. He has attended a number of capacity building courses and workshops.

He successfully completed 2nd Senior Management Course (SMC) at National Management College (NMC) Lahore, in 2007.

His professional career is spread over two decades. He worked in different formations, which dealt with variety of corporate and non-corporate sectors.

Apart from his field assignment, he had been performing duty as Departmental Representative before Appellate forum during the year 2006-07,

He had been imparting "on the job training" to the newly graduated officers from DOT in the areas like application of law and procedures, investigative techniques and time management.

While executing his assignments he has contributed to the national exchequer by achieving / exceeding the given budgetary targets.

He has been given rewards, a number of times, for his meritorious services. We wish him the best during his current posting at DOT.



Mr. Sheraz Mirza

Is Modern Civilization a Failure



By
Muhammad Imran
Assistant Commissioner
(Prob)

Civilization stands for a superior and organized way of living as upheld by the developed nations led by the United States. Civilization also implies political stability, economic prosperity and social harmony. In other words, being civilized means spending life in the lap of comforts and luxuries without an iota of backwardness and deprivation. But the question arises whether modern civilization has elevated man to the pedestal of superman or has rendered him the most barbarous creature that has ever been created by God. The topic "Is 'modern civilization a failure" is infact , an indirect criticism on the so-called superior civilization, which is actually hollow and sham. In the following lines, it will be discussed that modern civilization is merely a self deception as it has robbed man of essential spirituality.

Historically speaking, the seeds of a superior and organized way of living were sown by the European colonialists in the minds of their people. They colonialized the far-flung areas of the world just to preach their brand of modern civilization but, in actuality, they had their own vested interests and ends. They exploited natural resources of the colonies causing much misery and suffering

Two major developments namely Agricultural revolution and industrial revolution instilled the idea of a superior level of existence in the minds of the Europeans. They amassed immense wealth through their modern means of production, transportation and trade. This wealth made them fight for power. Hence they developed sophisticated weapons. Lust for power and wealth led them to two world wars. These wars claimed hundreds of thousands of innocent lives. This attitude of belligerence and aggression clearly speaks volumes of the failure of the modern civilization.

To establish superiority of the modern civilization , man formulated various philosophies or ideologies--- Nazism, Fascism, Capitalism, and communism. But all these proved to be mere tools for self aggrandizement by the modern man. Instead of providing a refined way of life, they have entangled the modern man in the rat race for power and pelf. These engendered spiritual barrenness in man.

Naturally, man has two needs- physical and spiritual. The prime focus of modern civilization is on the physical needs glossing over spiritual needs. Spiritual elevation is tantamount to upholding the cherished human values like justice, kindness, sympathy, tolerance, forgiveness and fair play. But these values are a curse for material progress in the eyes of modern civilized man. Hence he has discovered a void in his money-mongering and self-centered approach towards life. Collapse of the Soviet Union and the recent crunch of the US economy are glaring examples of failure of modern civilization.

In the widely changing globalized world, the US, being the claimant of the sole superpower, is ruling the roost. It aims at spreading democracy as the superior form of Government. It believes people can be made more civilized and cultured. But the US acknowledged defeat in Vietnam , Iraq and Afghanistan has unearthed the hollowness of the modern civilization.

A nation can judged by the morals of its individuals. Un fortunately, modern man has become internally hollow, He does not rely on his own powers, but depends on machines and materialistic gains to "improve" his life. Without these, he is as helpless as any poor creature can be. Thus he has degraded himself from the high pedestal of " the crown of the creatures" to the nadir of chagrin and disgrace.

To conclude, it may be argued that the modern civilization has won laurels for the modern man materially. He has learnt how to explore the mysterious universe and how to do the undone. But spiritually, he has fallen to very low depths, Therefore the call of the time demands that he revisit his ideals and his approach towards life. A changed view of life based on uplifting moral values can ensure man's peaceful existence on the planet called earth. The progress of man depends on higher moral standards rather than materialistic gains.