



Challenges toward the Implications of Official Urdu

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Abstract: Urdu is associated with the Muslims of the subcontinent region before the partition of Pakistan and India. It is the national language and one of the official languages of Pakistan. English and Urdu are spoken, written, and understood throughout the country, although the Urdu languages are spoken throughout many regions of Pakistan, including the local and regional languages. For the same reason, Urdu was declared Pakistan's national language after the country gained independence. Afterwards, certain bodies were established for its proper implementation as the official language of the country. Implementation of this constitutional obligation, though, requires a thorough exercise and hard work for the development of languages in Pakistan, such as the competing status of Urdu and English. Therefore, academia, constitutionalists, and the general public are suggested to come forward to help the government official fulfil this obligation.

Keywords: Urdu, language, development, legal obligation, challenges

Introduction

Historically, it is the national language and one of the official languages of Pakistan, along with English, and is spoken and understood across the country, whereas the Urdu languages spoken throughout many regions of the country are the provincial languages. Pakistan, as a newly formed state, was undeniably a place of multi-linguistic culture. Of course, in animosity toward socio-cultural challenges, Urdu was announced to be the national language of Pakistan. Quaide-Azam announced it as national language of the Pakistan, but this decision suffered two different issues. In spite of this, the Urdu language is chosen as a token of unity and not to give any preference over the other native or local languages. As a result, the Urdu language is spoken and understood by the vast majority of people, including the vast majority of rural and urban dwellers. Although the people from different provinces may have different domestic languages, Urdu is written, spoken, and used in all provinces or territories of Pakistan, as a result, it is the ground language of the country. Urdu is now spoken in many countries around the world and has long been regarded as an elevated and aristocratic language in South Asia. It continues to conjure a subtle, polished affect in South Asian linguistic and literary sensibilities. Thus, it continues to be preferred for songwriting, newspapers, poetry, and calligraphy, even by non-native speakers. This paper aims to briefly review the Urdu language and identify the issues faced by Pakistan's government in implementing Urdu as an official language, specifically the Modern Standard Urdu language, which is a consistent register of the essential language and literature globally.

Literature review

Pakistan is a trilingual and multiethnic country with 73 languages in use. The linguistic landscape has become very complex, which requires careful planning to create a sense of unity and satisfaction among all linguistic groups. In this linguistically complex landscape, Urdu occupies the central place among all languages, and the same is reflected in the language policies of the country devised at various times. Some critics also argue that Pakistan's language policies have served to over-patronize Urdu, viewing it as a united national symbol, at the expense of other languages a sense of unity and satisfaction among all linguistic groups. In this linguistically complex landscape, Urdu occupies the central place among all

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languages, and the same is reflected in the language policies of the country devised at various times. Some critics also argue that Pakistan's language policies have served to over-patronize Urdu, viewing it as a united national symbol, at the expense of other languages. Historically, Urdu was the native language of more than one million people who migrated from northern areas of India like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and, Bihar and settled in the Sindh Province, which is in the south-east.

Pakistan Since they settled in the urban areas of Sindh and had higher education, they occupied most of the bureaucratic places in the country despite the fact that they were in the minority. Urdu is the native language of approximately 8% of the country's population, but it still provides a common means of communication for the people hailing from different linguistic backgrounds. It is also used as a medium of advice in educational institutes, besides its role as a lingua franca in the country. The National Language Authority was established in 1978 with the goal of supporting Urdu and meeting national language demands. Urdu, the national language of Pakistan, is the embodiment of the country's people's national identity. It unites all the provinces and minor units with the federation, and it also connects all the communities in the country with one another in a way that they could communicate with and understand one another. Though, Urdu was declared the national language of Pakistan in 1948, as mentioned earlier, this status of Urdu as the national language was acknowledged in the Pakistani constitution in 1973. The constitution of Pakistan of 1973 states that the national language of Pakistan is Urdu and that arrangements shall be made for its being used for official and other purposes within fifteen years from the day it was adopted and that the English language may be used for official purposes until arrangements are made for its replacement by Urdu. English, although not an indigenous language, is mentioned in the constitution because of its colonial associations. Even after independence in 1947, the importance of English has stayed on as a British legacy. One example of the elitist power of the English language is that even the constitution of the country is written in English. English is also used as a medium of instruction in the education sector. In Pakistan, English is taken as a status symbol and a passport to a bright future. A person who is proficient in the English language has more opportunities. English has served as a vehicle to achieve development in the field of science and technology, to become modern, and to advance economically on an individual as well as national level. English is handled as a language of The competing status of Urdu and English in terms of power and prestige English is widely used for executive, legislative, and judicial purposes The English language, as a British legacy, remains in use in all important power spheres. The status of the English language is that of a second language in Pakistan. Being the legacy of British colonizers, it is considered a status symbol and is spoken widely by a highly influential portion of the population. English is considered a social capital, and various institutes that teach the English language speak a lot about the inevitable role of English in the country. English is supported by the ruling elite as it ensures the social distinction possessed by them. It is taken as status sign and the tool of upward mobility with its increasing importance in the upper social classes. English and Urdu have been two important languages of this geographical area even before the birth of Pakistan. Both Urdu and English are the languages of education and are developed in various spheres of life and are the languages of the domains of power. They have been competing for a better status as well as a medium of deraction. The earliest dispute could be traced back to the English medium education proposed by Lord Macaulay and the demand of Sir Sayyed to use Urdu as medium of instruction. After the birth of Pakistan, efforts were made to devolep Urdu which remained successful but Urdu could never replace English in the domains of power. The trend of English medium schooling not only remained but became more popular, as mentioned earlier the constitution of Pakistan formulated in 1973 also declared that within 15 years Urdu will replace English as official language (The constitution of Pakistan, 1973) but unfortunately this vision could not be materialized. The dilemma of the situation is that English still remains irreplaceable despite repeated efforts by the governments.

Some contribution for the prevailing situation may be credited to the globalization and internationalization of English while an equal responsibility could be credited to the lack of seriousness and unwillingness of the authorities. The government of Pakistan initiated a program to give Urdu the status of official language and under this program the constitution of The competing status of Urdu and English 145 the country and other major laws are being translated. The ground is being smoothened practically for Urdu to replace English as an official language. In this phase of transition which was promised in the constitution of 1973 it becomes necessary to re-assess the status of these two languages in the eyes of the common public.

The earliest verse dates to the 15th century and the golden period of Urdu poetry was the 18th -19th Centuries. Urdu religious prose goes back various centuries, while secular writing establish from the 19th century to onward. During the 14th and 15th centuries, much poetry and literature began to be written in Urdu. More recently, Urdu has mainly been connected with the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent, but there are many major works of Urdu literatures today. The arrival of the Muslims in the sub-continent of Indo-Pakistan was a remarkable incident of the history of subcontinent. It influenced almost all departments of the social life of the peoples. History as compared to other national languages.. After

the creation of Pakistan, though there was a nation-wide desire to declare and implement a national language. However, controversy began when this demand was raised on regional and ethnic basis. The issue was debated thoroughly amongst the ruling elite and intellectual circles of Pakistan. Urdu speaking population, particularly the people who migrated from India, demanded Urdu to be the national language of Pakistan. They contended that Urdu was the main language during the independence movement, and is also known to be the language of Muslims. Therefore, it should be implemented as national language of Pakistan. Language is the basic tool of learning. Policies regarding Implementation of national and official languages of the country directly affected the education system. Some of the contribution to the prevailing situation may be credited to the globalisation and internationalisation of English, while equal responsibility could be attributed to the lack of seriousness and unwillingness of the authorities. The Pakistani government initiated a programme to make Urdu an official language, and the country's constitution and other major laws are being translated as part of this program. The groundwork is being laid for Urdu to replace English as the official language. In this phase of transition, which was promised in the 1973 Constitution, it becomes necessary to reassess the status of these two languages in the eyes of the general public.

Implementation of Urdu as an official language

Instead of taking measures for declaring Urdu as official language, the parliamentarian indulged in promoting the local languages. In 2010, a bill for declaring 'Balochi, Punjabi, Pashto, Sindhi, Shina, and Seraiki' as national languages along with Urdu was tabled before the National Assembly. This bill was debated in detail in National Assembly. The linguists and educationists of all the major languages were consulted and deliberations were made in detail. However, the same was rejected primarily on the ground that it contradicts Article 251 of the Constitution, 1973. While rejecting this bill, historical remarks were passed by Special Secretary, Ministry of law, Justice (Rt.) Raza Khan, that "the country had already suffered the East Pakistan tragedy in 1971 as a result of the decision to declare both Urdu and Bengali as national languages."

Judicial Insight

Till today, various petitions have been filed before the apex court of Pakistan for the implementation of Urdu as an official language. However, such petitions and orders passed therein by the apex court could not change the mindset and behaviour of government functionaries in this regard. Among those, the judgement in the case of Muhammad v. Government (2015) is worth mentioning. However, the response of the government was so thoughtless that the Supreme Court, on a hearing, remarked, "During the course of this year alone, these petitions have come up for hearing before this Court eighteen times. "However, despite the time the Court dedicated to this crucial issue, no substantial progress was made."

Challenges to implement Urdu as an official language in Pakistan

Language is the basic tool of learning. Policies governing the implementation of the country's national and official languages had a direct impact on the education system. A language teaching policy was formulated during the first educational conference held at Karachi on November 27–December 1, 1947. To this day, the same policy is followed. The main purpose of the conference was to implement Urdu as the official language of Pakistan and make its learning necessary in schools. On the other hand, with the exception of Punjab, the NWFP (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK)), Baluchistan, and certain parts of Kashmir, Urdu was not used as a medium of instruction in many parts of the country. Sindhi was the medium of instruction in schools in Sindh, particularly in the territory that became part of Pakistan after independence. However, after the American Revolution, a large number of people known as Mohajirs migrated from various parts of India and settled in cities, particularly Karachi. Therefore, the number of Urdu-speaking people increased, and they also demanded schools and educational institutions in Urdu and English in Sindh. Apart from Sindhi, Gujrati-medium schools were also present, but with the passage of time, Sindhi and Gujrati schools decreased, whereas those of Urdu and English medium increased. Urdu was though recognized as a language at later stage, and prior to that certain local languages were in field being spoken by a large number of people. However, soon Urdu made its place leaving behind other languages. This process has been termed 'ashrafization' by a Dutch anthropologist namely Oskar Verkaik in his book 'Migrants and Militants: Fun and Violence in Urban Pakistan' published in 2004. He describe 'ashrafization' as a "long-term process of making Urdu the language of global and distinction Although, Urdu was announced as the national language of Pakistan in 1948 after the historic announcement by Quaid-e-Azam, but it also became a big challenge for successive governments, and constitution making bodies of the country. However, despite of many movements and legal measures in favors of making Urdu as the official language of the country, however, the purpose could not have been achieved.

Suggestions

Genuine and serious efforts are needed to raise public awareness about the cherish of Urdu as the national language and to provide the groundwork for the replacement of English with Urdu. English continues to influence the official working environment. English is used for executive, legislative, and judicial Aims even after 70 years of Pakistan's decolonization

and despite a Supreme Court ruling in 2015 that federal and provincial governments use Urdu for official purposes. Under this ruling, all government officials were required to deliver speeches in Urdu.

- The government should conduct all events, programs, meetings and related in Urdu.
- All documents of national importance should be translated into Urdu.
- Official forms corresponding to government, semi-government and private institutions should be in the national language.
- Books of all disciplines should be translated into Urdu (with technical terms retained in brackets in English).
- Translation bureaus should be set up in order to translate all books into Urdu language, especially books on science and technology.
- Universities should offer translation studies programs in Urdu.

We need to promote Urdu as the national language of Pakistan because all nations advance materially, economically and scientifically when they educate and train students in their national language.

Conclusion

After going through the above-mentioned aspects and discussion for implementing Urdu as official language of Pakistan, we can infer that there is no agreement among the government functionaries and proponents of this moment. Even if the government functionaries pretend themselves to agree under their constitutional obligation, they have not taken any step in this regard to show their intention to fulfill this constitutional and legal obligation. This obligation existed since independence, when Urdu was declared as national language and an advisory board was established to take steps for implementing it as official language of Pakistan. However, no concrete steps were taken at administrative level and those in power; seem reluctant to take any step in this regard for one reason or the other. Enforcement of this constitutional obligation, though requires a thorough exercise and hard work, but is not impossible. During last decade, we have seen judicial activism for implementing Urdu as national language. Even the Supreme Court made the matter clear in its judgment in 2015 but almost five years have passed and we have not seen any positive step to implement the judgment of the apex court. More serious and sincere efforts are required to create awareness among masses as to assert the importance of Urdu as well as to create practical grounds for the replacement of English by Urdu if at all it has to be made possible. The competing status of Urdu and English Therefore, academia, constitutionalists, and general public are suggested to come forward to realize the government functionaries to fulfill this obligation, if needed, to invoke all the legal remedies to get the judgment of 2015 implemented by the apex court of Pakistan. Baluchistan and in certain parts of Kashmir. In Sindh, particularly the territory which after independence was included in Pakistan, Sindhi was the medium of instruction in schools. However, the position was changed after independence as a large number of people called as Mohajirs migrated from different parts of India and settled in cities particularly Karachi. Therefore, Urdu speaking people increased and they also demanded schools and educational institutions in Urdu and English medium in Sindh. Apart from Sindhi, Gujrati medium schools were also present, but with the passage of time, Sindhi and Gujrati schools decreased, whereas that of Urdu and English medium increased Urdu was though recognized as a language at later stage, and prior to those certain local languages were in field being spoken by a large number of people. However, soon Urdu made its place leaving behind other languages. This process has been termed 'ashrafization' by a Dutch anthropologist namely Oskar Verkaaik in his book 'Migrants'. He defined 'ashrafization' as a "long-term process of making Urdu the language of cosmopolitanism and distinction". Although, Urdu was declared as the national language of Pakistan in 1948 after the historic declaration by Quaid-e-Azam, but it also became a big challenge for successive governments, and constitution making bodies of the country. However, despite of several movements and legal measures in favor of making Urdu as the official language of the country, however, the purpose could not have been achieved.

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