

Rise of atheism in Pakistan



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Preface

Working on such a sensitive topic like Atheism is not an easy job to do as we cannot find much on this topic especially regarding a particular country like Pakistan. People do not want to talk much on this topic as just talking on this issue is considered as an act of blasphemy for many. Many people in our society don't find it very appealing to discuss Atheism publically or in open discussions. Pakistan is a Muslim majority country and most of our population has so much strong feelings regarding Islam that they could not even think about talking anything contradictory of it.

This does not mean that Atheism should not be discussed. Atheism is a very important topic especially regarding current situation of our country. Now days there are a lot of people who adopted a modern life style and there is no presence of religion in their lives and implementation of religious practices mean nothing for them. I always want to know what people with different attitudes think and spend their lives. I found the topic of atheism in Pakistan very interesting and decided to work on it.

The basic objective and purpose of this research is to identify the reality of Atheism and try to figure out its effects on our people. These are the main things which should not be known before talking on any particular topic. In order to help people of Pakistan who are affected from Atheism I tried to find out the Reasons for its spread. Finding reasons always play an important part in analyzing any problem because it help us to treat the problem more effectively after we diagnose it.

This is my attempt to spread enough awareness so that the individuals can easily detect if any of their loved ones are getting attracted towards Atheism. The impacts of Atheism can only be minimized when we know all relevant details regarding it and its reasons. Awareness can only be possible when we have proper solutions. So from this work I like to help our new generation and all others who are getting attracted towards Atheism. This is also my intention to present such a explained work so that we could do something

to prevent Atheism with the help of Authorities. Saving fellow Muslim brothers and sisters is my prior objective and the main reason behind choosing this sensitive topic.

This topic of research has much significance and scope. Not much work been done on this topic. There is work done on the topic of Atheism but not much on Atheism regarding any particular country. So this research will be a good help to figure out this issue and the solutions will be helpful in order to eliminate it. There are people in our society who are actually Atheists but they are not openly admitting this but do talk about this secretly. A very strong reason behind not openly and publicly admitting it is the fear of people. This practice is not accepted by the society on a whole. People don't accept this. That's why most of the time it's on their mind that what people might think about them, what would be their reaction and what will be the aftermath of that? They have made secret societies of their own. In front of the society they portray themselves as liberals and not Atheists. This research will help figuring out the reality. When we have enough knowledge regarding any issue only then we would be able to solve it properly.

I reviewed a few books of famous writers on Atheism in an attempt to find out the reality of it but could not found much available material on specially regarding Pakistan. The names of few of those books are as follows:

- *The Case against God* by George H Smith
- *The Devil's Delusion: Atheism and its Scientific pretensions* by David Berlinski
- *The Twilight of Atheism: The Rise and Fall of Disbelief in the Modern World* by Alister Mc Grath
- *The Selfish Gene* by Richard Dawkins
- *Origins of the French Revolution* by William Doyle

And a few more but all these books helped me in understanding Atheism in its general terms and Atheism in other parts of the World.

First I explained about Atheism in general, its introduction and its history, from where it evolved and how it reached its climax in the western world. After explaining Atheism in

general I discussed Reasons and motives of Atheistic trends. These factors are the important ones as they are responsible for the spread of Atheism in any society. It includes Liberalism, secularism and few more factors which cause the beginning of questioning the existence of God. Those other factors are also very important for example presence of scientific theories, such as the theory of evolution, existence of Evil in the society and so on.

I also discussed the latest strategy use by Atheists now days. As we all know that technology is more advanced as compared to a few decades ago. Internet has become the basic need of individuals. Facebook and twitter are the most common applications available on the social media to interact with one another. Atheists use this tool to communicate to one another and spread awareness regarding Atheism. Their prime target is the intellectual and educated class as they believe that if they got successes in converting the intellectual and educational class into Atheism then it will be a great opportunity for them to see Pakistan as a liberal, secular and Atheist State with a very low importance of religion in the hearts of the general population.

On social media there are a few pages of Atheists. On those pages there are many things of blasphemous nature. I also mentioned a few pictures posted by Atheists and Liberals on Social media. On Atheism there are a lot of books available but there are no books on Atheism in Pakistan. It was hard to find material regarding Atheism in Pakistan so I tried to find out details on the internet. To my surprise I found a lot of things on the social media. Social media is a prime tool for a lot of Atheists to have secret discussions, they also use this tool to propagate their beliefs and help people in converting into Atheism.

Apart of this, the real effort I done was to find out some Atheists and took their interviews. Those direct conversations were of a great help and they provided a more detail picture of Atheism in Pakistan. This project of mine is an attempt to identify Atheism in Pakistan and provide a few recommendations to eliminate this from our country.

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First Chapter

Atheism

1.1 Introduction of Atheism

Denial of God is not something which is new. In various societies it was present since long ago. In present times we know that denial of God has been on rise. There are people who refuse to believe in the existence of a God. This denial of God is known as Atheism. There are many definitions of Atheism according to different people. Many of them define it in their own ways. Atheism is known as “the rejection of belief in God or Gods”.¹ At another place Atheism is defined as “the denial that there is a God”.² Atheists believe in stated principle of rejection of God. Atheism is “the disbelief in the existence of deity and it also means the doctrine that there is no deity”³

¹ “Atheism”.Collinsdictionary.com.<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/atheism> (accessed June 6, 2016).

² “Atheism”.Ahdictionary.com.<https://ahdictionary.com/word/search.html?q=atheism> (accessed June 6, 2016).

³ “Atheism”.Merriam-Webster.com.<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/atheism> (accessed June 6, 2016).