

Objective Resolution 1949

The **Objectives Resolution** was a resolution adopted on 12 March 1949 by the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan. The resolution, proposed by the Prime Minister, Liaquat Ali Khan, proclaimed that the future constitution of Pakistan would not be modeled entirely on a European pattern, but on the ideology and democratic faith of Islam.

The principles of Objectives Resolution passed by the Constituent Assembly were:

- In the name of Allah ,The Beneficent , the Merciful:
Whereas sovereignty over the entire universe belongs to Allah Almighty alone and the authority which He has delegated to state of Pakistan through its people of being exercised within the limits prescribed by Him is a sacred trust;
- This Constituent Assembly Representing the people of Pakistan resolves to frame a constitution for the sovereign independent State of Pakistan;
- Wherein the state shall exercise its powers and authority through the chosen representatives of the people;
- Wherein the principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance, and social justice enunciated by Islam shall be fully observed;
- Wherein the Muslims shall enable to order their lives in the individual and collective spheres in accordance with the teaching and requirements of Islam as set out in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah;
- Wherein adequate provision shall be made for the minorities freely to profess and practice their religion and develop their cultures; Wherein the territories now included in or in accession with Pakistan and such other territories as may hereafter be included in or accede to Pakistan shall form a federation where in the units will be autonomous with such boundaries and limitations on their powers and authority as may be prescribed;
- Wherein shall be guaranteed fundamental Rights including equality of status, of opportunity and before law, social, economic and political justice, and freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, and association, subject to law and public morality;

- Wherein adequate provision shall be made to safeguard to legitimate interests of minorities and backwards and depressed classes;
- Wherein the independence of judiciary shall be fully secured;
- Wherein the integrity of the territories of the federation, its independence and all its rights including its sovereign rights on land, sea, and air shall be safeguarded;

The Objectives Resolution, which combines features of both Western and Islamic democracy, is one of the most important documents in the constitutional history of Pakistan. At the time it was passed, Liaquat Ali Khan called it "the most important occasion in the life of this country, next in importance only to the achievement of independence".

Strengths of Objective Resolution:

1) Role of the Constituent Assembly in Framing of Constitution:-

In Objective Resolution, it is stated that "The Constituent Assembly representing the people of Pakistan resolves to frame a constitution for the sovereign independent state of Pakistan." which means that, the members of Constituent Assembly which are the representatives of the people of Pakistan will have the power and are responsible to frame a constitution by keeping the proposals of the people and for the benefits of the people of Pakistan. The role of Constituent Assembly was according the thinking of Quaid-e-Azam in Objective Resolution. According his speech which he delivered on 11th august 1947 he told that "I sincerely hope that with your support and your co-operation, we shall make this Constituent Assembly an example to the world. The Constituent Assembly has got two main functions to perform. The first is the very onerous and responsible task of framing our future constitution of Pakistan and second of functioning as a full and complete Sovereign Body as the Federal Legislature of Pakistan." This shows that the Quaid-e-Azam was also in the favour of role of Constituent Assembly in framing of constitution of Pakistan.

2) Exercise of Powers Through Chosen Representatives:-

In Objective Resolution, it is stated that “Wherein the state shall exercise its powers and authority through the chosen representatives of the people.”According to this principle, the people of Pakistan will choose their representative in the government through Democratic way, like elections . It is not that anyone can grab power and claim that the power to his or her.

Due to Objective Resolution, the people of Pakistan have complete right to choose their representative on whom they have their sacred trust ,the person who they want to see in the government and they believe that their representative will protect their fundamental rights. On June 14, 1948,Quaid-e-Azam said when he was addressing to the military staff college “Never forget that you are the servants of the state. You do not make policy. It is we, the people’s representatives, who decide how the country is to be run. Your job is to only obey the decisions of your civilian masters.”

3) Fundamental Rights Will Be Provided:-

According to the Objective Resolution, the fundamental right should be guaranteed to everyone i.e. believers of every religion living in the state of Pakistan. It means that everyone has the right to live peacefully, have equal status, opportunities, social and political justice and freedom to think .Everyone has also the freedom to worship and to live their lives according to the religion and culture. As, Quaid-e-Azam said in his speech which he delivered on 11th August 1947 ”You are free, you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other places of worship in the state of Pakistan.”

4) Independence of Judiciary:-

It is stated in the Objective Resolution that “Wherein the independence of judiciary shall be fully secured.” This means that the judiciary will not be controlled by any person, political party and any other power. The judiciary couldn’t be influenced by anyone. The judiciary has all rights to take action against the anyone who is following the law. According to the Objective Resolution, the judiciary is independent because it is their duty to provide cheap and quick justice to the people. In any country, if justice is not given to their people the country will be ruined.

Weak points of Objective Resolution:-

Following are the weak points which are stated in objective resolution:-

- Wherein the principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance, and social justice enunciated by Islam shall be fully observed;
- Wherein the Muslims shall enable to order their lives in the individual and collective spheres in accordance with the teaching and requirements of Islam as set out in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah;
- Wherein adequate provision shall be made to safeguard to legitimate interests of minorities and backwards and depressed classes;
- Wherein adequate provision shall be made for the minorities freely to profess and practice their religion and develop their cultures;

In all the points stated above, the only thing which is prominent that muslims and people who believe in other religions are shown completely different from each other. This is a complete contradiction of Quaid-e-Azam vision. According to the Quaid-e-Azam vision, there are no minorities on the basis of religion. On 11th August 1947, Quaid-e-Azam said “You may belong to any religion or caste or creed- that has nothing to do with the business of state”. He also said that “We are starting with this Fundamental principle that we are all citizen and equal citizens of

one State". Due to the clear distinction between religious majorities and minorities, the rights of non-muslims have been sealed. Due to the principles stated in objective resolution, the provisions relating to muslims being enabled to lead their life according to Islam has opposed the concept of secular state. If we observe today's situation, we are watching that minorities have become depressed due this resolution. According to this resolution, the Islamic laws are forcibly imposed on the non-muslims. If during Quaid-e-Azam life, this resolution have been introduced, Quaid-e-Azam would never have given assent to it, because Quaid-e-Azam always wanted to be a secular state not a religious state.

Conclusion:-

In short Objectives resolution was passed but was not passed by the Non-Muslim members of assembly and that is a big question mark on Liaquat Ali Khan, his cabinet and other Muslim members of assembly. They failed to satisfy the objections of Non-Muslims and due to this many controversies started. Pakistan became an Islamic state as theocrats had their wishes fulfilled and the idea of Jinnah's vision of a peaceful liberal democratic Pakistan was buried in history. Objectives resolution was passed but not with majority and that's why it has been criticized from day one to until now.