

Dayaar-e ishq mein Apna muqaam paida kar

**Comments by Dr Syed Zafar Mahmood (as requested
by Mr S. M. Talha) on the Concept Note for the
proposed Bihar Muslim Manch (BMM) dt April 30, 2026**

The concept note repeatedly says that a sense of political consciousness needs to be created among Muslims and that the proposed body would reach out to the political dispensation and ask them to increase Muslim representation.

However, it is not mentioned anywhere as to why the political dispensation would even listen to such a body. They may refuse to grant an audience to you. How would you make yourself heard ?

In my well considered view the purpose of creating consciousness should not be just reaching out to the political dispensation simply ASKING them to give representation to the community.

Instead, the effort for Muslim empowerment should aim to identify the areas where ground level productive work is required to be done systematically.

The Prime Minister's High Level Justice Rajinder Sachar Committee already identified such areas. It's report runs into 400

pages supported with 375 authentic graphs, charts and boxes giving data and facts culled out from the entire government of India plus the various state governments, the judiciary and various other bodies in India which have any relationship with the power structure or social justice, including the universities, other educational bodies, various commissions and after massive interaction with the multiple stakeholders.

Then, the Sachar Committee arrived at the conclusion that Muslims in India are lagging behind all others (including the scheduled castes) - in social, economic and educational fields - **BECAUSE MUSLIMS ARE THOROUGHLY UNDER REPRESENTED IN INDIA'S GOVERNANCE.**

The governance is broadly of two types: (a) administrative-cum-judicial and (c) legislative.

So, there has to be ground level work to be done for empowerment of the community by increasing its representation in the governance of India - without depending upon the doles from the political dispensation.

The Ummah has to claim its own space.

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In India, more than 90% of the governance is done by the administrative machinery.

There are more than 800 districts in India, and in every district more than hundred decisions are taken every day in the government files and hardly any file is ever signed by any politician.

Educated youth regularly join the administrative machinery based on competitive examinations conducted by the central and provincial statutory bodies.

I am not only talking of the UPSC civil services where only about one thousand persons are nationally recruited every year. In any case, for these services the community has become conscious between 2007 and 2026 and there are good results - but that too is thoroughly insufficient.

There are 29 provincial public service commissions and 25 high courts and a central staff selection commission. Together, they make recruitment of youth to join the government every year. The figure of such annual recruitment runs into several lakhs.

Roughly about half a million boys and girls are finally recruited annually to join the government at different levels and that structure runs the administration of India.

So, if at all any effort has to be made at the ground level, it has to be for identifying qualified boys and girls for their induction into the governance. Incidentally, Justice Sachar Committee had documented that, at any point of time in India, there are more than twenty five lakh Muslim graduates looking for jobs.

And mind you, more than half of the above mentioned government vacancies are filled at these levels by those candidates whose educational qualification is only class 12th. Many a time, there is no interview, final selection is made on the basis of written examination which too is often digital. However, mostly Muslims are not even aware of this incredible potential for self-empowerment.

Habitually, Muslims think that the boy or girl who is going to pass class 12th must appear in NEET or JEE so that he or she can go into Medicine or Engineering. That's fine. But not more than 4 or 5 percent succeed in that effort.

What about the remaining 95% ?

Also, substantial percentage of those who pass class 12th dropout from further studies.

So, this huge floating body of Muslim boys and girls should be reached out and should be told that massive opportunities always exist for their personal empowerment - and the community's through them. We should systematically and institutionally provide coaching to them for competitive examinations. A competitive culture has to be induced.

That way, the Muslim community would begin being part of the governance in India.

Secondly, for legislative under-representation of Muslims, Justice Rajender Sachar Committee had documented that the basic reason thereof is **FAULTY DELIMITATION OF WARDS & CONSTITUENCIES**.

There exist good laws and rules for Delimitation in India, but their implementation is often faulty.

So, ground level work has to be done for getting the anomalies corrected. Identify these anomalies and reach out to the provincial

election commission under right to information act, monitor the progress and get the errors rectified.

That's how this work has to be done and there are successful results for such an approach.

If these two works are taken up at the ground level then there is possibility that from within the system the Ummah would start having its voice.

And once you start having your voice and weight, then only a body you propose can successfully reach out to the political dispensation and ask them to better listen to the community and do not be unjust to it, better ensure it's justified representation in the governing bodies. Then your voice would be heard.

And, thirdly, not much organized non-political effort is usually done in India for ensuring that at the time of elections the Muslim vote does not split. That is another reason for Muslim under-representation. For that purpose too, effort is required to be done systematically.

These three items should be the agenda of the proposed Muslim Manch.
