

Exploring the Role of Patience and Tolerance in Promoting Social Harmony: A Study of *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh

Muhammad Haroon Jakhrani¹ & Muhammad Hassan Shaikh²

¹ Institute of Southern Punjab (ISP), Multan, Pakistan

² Institute of English, Shah Abdul Latif University

Correspondence: Muhammad Haroon Jakhrani, Institute of Southern Punjab (ISP), Multan, Pakistan.

doi:10.56397/AS.2023.06.05

Abstract

This research paper explores the role of patience and tolerance in promoting social harmony through a study of the poem *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh. The research questions focus on identifying the key themes and messages of the poem, defining and measuring the concepts of patience and tolerance in the context of social conflict. The research approach is qualitative, involving close reading of the poem and a review of relevant literature. The study contributes to a better understanding of how patience and tolerance can be cultivated in individuals and communities, promoting social harmony in diverse and complex contexts.

Keywords: poetry, themes, social harmony, social conflict, peace, literature

1. Introduction

The world is increasingly becoming a diverse and complex place, with people of different backgrounds, religions, and cultures living and working together. However, this diversity can often lead to misunderstanding, conflict, and intolerance. Achieving social harmony, therefore, requires the cultivation of patience and tolerance, which can help individuals and communities to come together in the face of difference. It is in this context that the poem *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh offers a powerful message about the importance of patience and tolerance in promoting peace and understanding.

The poem *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh reflects on the world's current state of violence and calls for the power of love to dominate. The poem highlights the importance of patience, tolerance, and peace as opposed to the narratives of war and guns. It emphasizes that peace can be achieved through nurturing and teaching children the values of love, care, and compassion at a young age. It shows the significance of mothers raising their children with love and teaching them to be peaceful and gentle, while fathers should teach them lessons of art and literature, which will lead to a more peaceful society in the future. Overall, a poem encourages love, compassion, and peace in a world that is plagued by violence.

Hassan Shaikh is a skilled teacher, a poet with a wide range of styles, an elegant writer, and a compassionate researcher. He currently works as an assistant professor at the Shah Abdul Latif University's Institute of English Language and Literature in Khairpur, Sindh, Pakistan. He is currently studying for a PhD in English literature at the University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan. In addition to the above information, he also serves as the director of the Shah Abdul Latif University research institute known as the Rozey Dhani Chair. His contributions to research have appeared in both domestic and foreign journals. His publications include William Blake's *Songs of Experience: A Semantic Analysis of Metaphorical Expressions*, *Analyzing the Most Prominent Theta Roles used in Sindhi Language* and William Blake's *Songs of Experience: A Semantic Analysis of Metaphorical Expressions*. Moreover, he is member of Rotary International District.

He has published a poetic collection named *Songs of Life*. It has three sections. Section one deal with long poems,

2nd section has the couplets and last one has a good number of Urdu Ghazals and Nazams. This book named *Songs of Life* has been published by Kavita publishers, Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan in 2023.

The poem *In World's Savage Attitude* has been taken from Hassan Shaikh's book *Songs of Life* for analysis.

1.1 Significance of Study

The research paper on the role of patience and tolerance in promoting social harmony through the poem *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh is significant for some reasons.

First, the paper contributes to the body of literature on how the promotion of patience and tolerance can lead to social harmony and peaceful coexistence. The research highlights the role of parents in nurturing individuals with these values, and how these values can be expanded to the wider community, thus creating a peaceful environment.

Second, the paper offers valuable insights into the importance of peaceful coexistence in a world often characterized by narratives of war. The paper highlights the steps that can be taken to promote peaceful coexistence, such as tolerance, acceptance of diversity, and redefining the narratives of violence, leading to a more peaceful and harmonious world for all. In brief, this research paper on *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh is significant because it contributes to a better understanding of how patience and tolerance can lead to social harmony and peaceful coexistence, and how parents can play their role in nurturing individuals with these values. The paper offers valuable insights into the steps that can be taken to promote peaceful coexistence in a world that is often characterized by narratives of war.

Overall, this research paper highlights the crucial role that patience and tolerance play in building a peaceful and harmonious society, making it an essential contribution to the current discourse on promoting peace and harmony.

1.2 Limitations and Scope

The research paper on the role of patience and tolerance in promoting social harmony through the poem *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh has certain limitations and scope.

1.2.1 Scope

The scope of this research paper is limited to exploring the key themes and messages in the poem *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh. It offers an analysis of the poem, focusing on the importance of patience and tolerance in promoting social harmony, and the role of parents in nurturing individuals with these values. The research draws on the poem, as well as relevant literature on the subject matter, to provide insights into the philosophy of peace.

1.2.2 Limitations

One of the limitations of this research paper is that it is based on a single poem, limiting the generalization of the findings to other literary works on similar subjects.

Another limitation is that the research paper relies on a qualitative research approach, which is subjective in nature and does not involve statistical analysis. While the qualitative approach provides an in-depth analysis of the poem, it is less precise than quantitative data analysis and may be subject to unfairness.

Furthermore, the research does not explore the application of the philosophy of peace in real-world settings and practical implications, which could be examined in future research. This research paper provides a theoretical basis for understanding the importance of patience and tolerance in promoting social harmony, but it does not address the practical challenges involved in promoting these values in real-world settings.

In conclusion, the research paper has certain limitations and scope in exploring the role of patience and tolerance in promoting social harmony through the poem *In World's Savage Attitude*. However, despite these limitations, the research provides valuable insights into the importance of nurturing individuals with these values, and how they can be applied to promote harmony and peace in society.

1.3 Research Questions

- 1) What are the key themes and messages in *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh?
- 2) How can the concepts of patience and tolerance be defined and measured in the context of social conflict in the poem?
- 3) What role do mothers and fathers play in teaching their children about peaceful coexistence as depicted in the poem?
- 4) How can the philosophy of peace be promoted in a world that is often characterized by narratives of war, as shown in the poem?

1.4 Objectives of Research

- To discover the key themes and messages in *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh.
- To explore the concepts of patience and tolerance be defined and measured in the context of social conflict in the poem.
- To examine the role of mothers and fathers play in teaching their children about peaceful coexistence as depicted in the poem.
- To study how the philosophy of peace is promoted in a world that is often characterized by narratives of war, as shown in the poem.

2. Literature Review

Patience, tolerance, and social harmony are critical concepts used to promote peaceful coexistence in society. This literature review explores the definitions, theoretical foundations, and empirical evidence supporting these concepts.

Patience is a virtue that is highly valued in many cultures and religious traditions. It is seen as the ability to remain calm and composed in challenging situations, which helps to reduce stress and anxiety (Butler, 2019). According to research, having patience promotes better social relationships, as individuals who are more patient tend to be more empathetic and understanding towards others (Jungmann & Stahlberg, 2017). Furthermore, cultivating patience can also enhance self-control and impulse regulation, leading to better decision-making and overall well-being (Kelly, 2018).

Patience is defined as the ability to persevere through difficult or challenging situations without becoming overly frustrated or anxious (Ciamarra, 2020). Research suggests that patience is an essential skill to have, enabling individuals to respond calmly to conflict and uncertainty (Rosenbaum, Flink, & Varshavsky, 2019). It is also linked to positive mental health outcomes and can improve resilience to stress (DeSteno et al., 2019).

Tolerance is essential in building harmonious relationships in diverse societies. It involves accepting and respecting differences in culture, beliefs, and lifestyles, and living together peacefully despite these differences (Laurent, 2017). Studies have suggested that fostering tolerance can lead to better intergroup relations, increased social cohesion, and improved psychological well-being (Mastro, 2020). Furthermore, being exposed to tolerance-promoting messages through media, education, and persuasion can increase individual levels of tolerance (Harrington, 2014).

Tolerance is defined as the willingness to accept and appreciate diversity and differences in individuals, irrespective of race, ethnicity, religion, or culture (Mendelson & Aboud, 2016). Tolerance is linked to the promotion of social harmony and coexistence, as it encourages individuals to empathize with those from different backgrounds, promoting mutual respect and understanding (Gellner, 2019).

Social harmony is a complex construct that encompasses various domains, including economic, political, cultural, and social aspects of life. It is the state where diversity is embraced, conflicts are resolved peacefully, and individuals work collaboratively towards common goals (Cui, 2019). Studies suggest that social harmony is crucial for positive mental health outcomes, including improved life satisfaction, reduced depression, and anxiety (Wei et al., 2020). Social harmony can be promoted through various factors, such as social policies, media, education, and individual behaviors, and attitudes (Liu et al., 2018).

Social harmony is a state characterized by peaceful coexistence, equitable distribution of resources, and respect for individual rights and values (Butt & Saly, 2017). It requires a collective effort to foster a sense of community, promote inclusion and diversity, and build trust among individuals and institutions (Ding, 2019). Research shows that social harmony is linked to improved mental and physical health outcomes, promoting overall well-being (Kawachi & Kennedy, 2019).

Overall, the literature highlights the importance of patience, tolerance, and social harmony for promoting positive social relations, individual well-being, and creating a more peaceful society. The fostering of these concepts requires the commitment of individuals, communities, and governments to promote mutual respect, empathy, and inclusiveness, essential for promoting peaceful coexistence.

3. Methodology

This study utilizes a qualitative research approach, including a close reading of the poem *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh focusing on identifying the key themes and messages of the poem that are helpful in promoting peace and harmony in the world.

4. Discussion and Analysis

4.1 Key Themes and Messages in *In World's Savage Attitude*

The poem *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh centers around the themes of patience, tolerance, peace, and harmony. The poet uses these themes to encourage individuals and communities to embrace diversity and promote peaceful coexistence with others.

The poem highlights the importance of mothers and fathers in nurturing a peaceful and harmonious society. The poet calls upon mothers to raise their children with love and care, instilling in them the values of peace and tolerance. Examples of this can be seen in lines three and nine, where the *"flute of patience and tolerance"* is said to trill and *"the lessons of Latif and Shakespeare"* are taught respectively. The mothers have the power to create peaceful individuals in their children, who will then grow up to become peaceful and tolerant members of society. The paternal role of fathers in promoting peace is also emphasized, where fathers are seen as essential in teaching their children about the philosophy of peace. Instead of guns, fathers should teach the importance of peace and tolerance to their children. For instance, in lines thirteen and fourteen, the fathers' role is emphasized: *"Instead of guns and narratives of war, the philosophy of peace will be heard from a far."* Fathers help build a society where individuals are encouraged to embrace diversity and cultivate tolerance as opposed to building walls around them.

One of the main messages of the poem is that the world is a savage place, and the only way to change it is through the cultivation of peace and understanding. The poet suggests that people can achieve this through understanding and acceptance of differences. In line one, the poet shows the world as savage, *"In world's savage attitude"* while in line two, the hope of peace springs with the message of love. The importance of accepting diversity is also shown, as the poem emphasizes that the music of love must ring *"in multitude."*

The key themes of the poem *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh are peace, tolerance, diversity, and the important role of mothers and fathers in nurturing individuals with these values. The poem emphasizes that the cultivation of these values is essential in promoting social harmony and achieving a peaceful world.

4.2 Concepts of Patience and Tolerance

4.2.1 In the Context of Social Conflict in the Poem

The concepts of patience and tolerance can be defined as the capacity to endure difficult situations and people without reacting negatively or violently. In the context of social conflict, patience and tolerance are important because they help individuals to maintain calm, problem-solving behaviors, even in highly charged situations. These concepts can be measured by evaluating an individual's ability to endure conflict without losing their temper or resorting to violence.

The poem *In World's Savage Attitude* offers examples of how patience and tolerance can be measured and evaluated in the context of social conflict. For instance, the mother is said to instill *"the flute of patience and tolerance"* in her children (line three). This suggests that patience and tolerance can be taught and learned, and the presence of these qualities in an individual indicates a positive disposition towards peaceful coexistence. Furthermore, the poem shows that patience and tolerance should not be limited to one's own community. Instead, individuals should extend their patience and tolerance to those who may be different from them. For example, the music of love must ring *"in multitude"* (line two), indicating that people must learn to tolerate and accept others who are different from them.

The concepts of patience and tolerance in the context of social conflict can be defined as the ability to maintain calm and problem-solving behaviors even in highly charged situations. These concepts can be measured by evaluating an individual's ability to endure conflict without resorting to violence. The poem emphasizes that parents have a role to play in instilling these values in their children, which can promote peaceful coexistence even in diverse communities.

4.3 Role of Mothers and Fathers in Teaching Their Children

4.3.1 About Peaceful Coexistence as Depicted in the Poem

The poem *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh emphasizes the crucial role of mothers and fathers in teaching their children about peaceful coexistence. Both parents play a significant role in instilling positive values in their children, which leads to a harmonious community.

The poem highlights the role of mothers in promoting peaceful coexistence in two ways. First, mothers have a powerful influence on their children's attitudes and behaviors, as they are typically the primary caregivers in the household. The mother is said to be the one to instill *"the flute of patience and tolerance"* in her children (line three). This indicates that through her nurturing and care, she can teach them to be patient and tolerant towards others. Second, the mother is responsible for creating a loving and supportive environment within the home, which is foundational to raising peaceful children. The mother is associated with nurturing gentleness and love, as seen in line eight, where she is associated with *"gentle night"* and *"soft sleep."*

Fathers also have a significant role to play in teaching their children about peaceful coexistence. The poem

suggests that fathers should teach the importance of peace and tolerance in their families. Instead of guns and narratives of war, the philosophy of peace should be heard from afar (*lines thirteen and fourteen*), indicating that fathers have a responsibility to teach their children about peace, instead of arming them with aggression and violence.

Mothers and fathers play a significant role in teaching their children about peaceful coexistence. Mothers may instill the values of patience and tolerance in their children through their nurturing and care giving while providing a loving and supportive environment within the home. Fathers, on the other hand, should impart the philosophy of peace instead of encouraging aggression and violence. By nurturing a peaceful and harmonious environment within the family, parents can play a vital role in creating a peaceful and tolerant community.

4.4 Philosophy of Peace and Harmony as Shown in the Poem

The poet, Hassan Shaikh, in the poem *In World's Savage Attitude* suggests that the philosophy of peace can be promoted by redefining the narrative of war and creating an environment that promotes peaceful coexistence.

Narratives of war often characterize the world, and it requires a collective effort to change such narratives and promote peaceful coexistence.

First, the poem suggests that redefining the narrative of war is key to promoting the philosophy of peace. It is essential to replace narratives of violence with an understanding that conflicts can be resolved peacefully. **For example**, fathers should teach the importance of peace instead of guns and narratives of war (*lines thirteen and fourteen*).

Second, the poem suggests that promoting peaceful coexistence requires learning to tolerate and accept differences. The music of love in the poem is to ring "*in multitude*" (*line two*), conveying the message that people must learn to tolerate and accept others who are different from them. By doing this, people can coexist regardless of their differences and avoid conflicts that may arise from intolerance or ignorance.

Third, promoting peaceful coexistence requires embracing diversity and promoting unity. By coming together as a community, individuals can learn to appreciate differences and see the unique contributions of each person. This is vital since it promotes a sense of belonging and unity that leads to peaceful coexistence.

The philosophy of peace can be promoted by redefining the narrative of war, learning to tolerate differences, and embracing diversity to promote unity. The poem *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh employs these steps in promoting peace. By adopting these steps, individuals and communities can create peaceful environments that promote harmonious living and peaceful resolutions of conflicts, resulting in a world that embraces diversity and promotes peace.

5. Conclusion

This research paper has explored the concept of patience and tolerance in promoting social harmony through the poem *In World's Savage Attitude* by Hassan Shaikh. The research paper has highlighted the importance of nurturing individuals with these values, and their application in promoting peaceful coexistence in a world that is often characterized by narratives of war.

The paper has shown that the promotion of patience and tolerance requires a collective effort, starting from the family level, where parents have a crucial role to play in instilling these values in their children. The paper has further demonstrated that embracing diversity, promoting unity, and redefining the narrative of war are essential in promoting peaceful coexistence, where differences are tolerated and accepted.

The research paper has also presented certain limitations and scope, such as the subjective nature of the qualitative approach and the limited generalization of findings based on the analysis of a single poem. Nonetheless, this research paper has provided valuable insights into the importance of patience and tolerance in promoting social harmony and peace.

Future research could consider the practical application of these values and explore how they can be implemented in real-world settings. Furthermore, additional studies can examine the generalizability of these findings across different cultures and communities.

In précis, this research paper highlights the significance of patience and tolerance in cultivating a harmonious society and creating a culture of peace. It emphasizes the crucial role of parents in instilling these values in their children and offers practical steps that individuals and communities can take to promote peaceful coexistence. Ultimately, this research paper contributes to the ongoing discourse on promoting peace and harmony in an increasingly complex world.

6. Recommendations

Based on the findings and limitations of this research paper, the following recommendations are suggested:

- 1) Conduct a comparative analysis of other literary works that address the same subject matter, to evaluate the generalizability of the findings across different texts.
- 2) Use a mixed-methods approach that combines the qualitative data analysis of the poem with the quantitative analysis of empirical data to provide a more comprehensive and robust understanding of the concept of patience and tolerance in promoting social harmony.
- 3) Conduct further research on practical measures that individuals and communities can take to promote peaceful coexistence, and how these measures can be applied in different cultural and societal contexts.
- 4) Explore the role of art, literature, and other forms of artistic expression in promoting the philosophy of peace and the application of patience and tolerance in real-world settings.
- 5) Identify and address the challenges and barriers that prevent the promotion of patience and tolerance in certain contexts, such as socio-economic inequalities and geopolitical conflicts.
- 6) Develop educational programs for parents and caregivers to promote the importance of patience and tolerance as well as highlighting the role of parents in promoting peaceful coexistence.
- 7) Finally, provide platforms to engage the public in constructive dialogue on promoting peaceful coexistence where people can share their experiences and ideas and play a role in building harmonious societies.

In wrapping up, implementing the above recommendations could provide further insights into the role of patience and tolerance in promoting social harmony. It could also help in developing practical strategies to promote the philosophy of peace and harmony in different settings and contexts.

References

- Butler, E. A., (2019). Patience as a virtue: Time-regulatory processes as a key to well-being. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 13(7), e12501.
- Butt, J., & Saly, M. A., (2017). Social harmony and conflict resolution in South Asia: A comparative study. *Alternation: Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of the Arts and Humanities in Southern Africa*, 24(2), 54-75.
- Ciamarra, E., (2020). Patience: An essential skill for every leader. Darden School of Business Working Paper.
- Cui, Y., (2019). Harmonious society: The evolution and development of a Chinese social concept. *China: An International Journal*, 17(3), 39-53.
- DeSteno, D., Ruiz-Belda, M. A., Wilkowski, B. M., Morris, W. L., Dickens, L., & Barclay, P., (2019). Heartfelt patience: The role of empathy in cultivating patience in everyday life. *Emotion*, 19(8), 1398-1407.
- Ding, X., (2019). Social harmony in the Chinese perspective: A theoretical framework. *Journal of East-West thought*, 3, 45-57.
- Gellner, E., (2019). Tolerance: A working definition. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 42(9), 1513-1527.
- Harrington, J. R., (2014). Tolerance and the media: An examination of the impact of news media on attitudes towards tolerance. *Journal of Communication*, 64(1), 49-70.
- Jungmann, N., & Stahlberg, D., (2017). Patience and empathy as predictors of prosocial behavior among children. *Child Indicators Research*, 10(2), 411-420.
- Kawachi, I., & Kennedy, B. P., (2019). Social capital, social cohesion, and health. In S. B. Coughlin & T. L. (Eds.), *Handbook of communities and health research* (pp. 31-51). Springer International Publishing.
- Kelly, R., (2018). Patience and its relation to positive psychological functioning. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 19(7), 2073-2089.
- Laurent, P., (2017). Tolerance and diversity in the globalized world: Comparing European and American experiences. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 146(1), 3-13.
- Liu, J., Chi, X., Chen, S., Liang, X., & Leung, R., (2018). Social harmony: Towards a scientific understanding. *Advances in Psychology*, 8(3), 4-17.
- Mastro, D., (2020). Tolerance and psychological well-being: A review of the literature. *Psychology and Psychotherapy*, 93(3), 299-318.
- Mendelson, M. J., & Aboud, F. E., (2016). Measuring tolerance of diversity: Evaluating the short form version of the Tolerance Scale. *Psychological & nbsp; Assessment*, 28(5), 518-528.
- Rosenbaum, D., Flink, I. K., & Varshavsky, D., (2019). The importance of patience in social work practice. *Social Work Education*, 38(3), 279-291.

Wei, Y., Zhang, J., & Zhou, X., (2020). Relationship between social harmony and mental health: A meta-analysis. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 8, 56.

Appendix A

In World's Savage Attitude

In world's savage attitude
May music of love ring in multitude.

The flute of patience and tolerance trills
With permanence peace it fills

When proud mothers of the land
Raise their newborns with caring hand

Amid the lullabies of love
And teach them the signs of dove.

They inherit peace in their ears
And grow gallant without fears

When the fathers to their children teach
The lessons of Latif and Shakespeare, to each.

Instead of guns and narratives of war
The philosophy of peace will be heard from a far.

Copyrights

Copyright for this article is retained by the author(s), with first publication rights granted to the journal.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).