

## Should Muslims forgive Modi?

The Indian Prime Minister has been critically analyzed for ages now over his role in the riots of Gujarat in 2002. The triumphant results of the elections have reduced the noise of raised questions but have not completely muted them. The former Chief Minister of Gujarat has been speculated over the scale of his involvement in the riots that followed the “Godhra” incident. The incident that claimed thousands of lives in the mass agitation was somehow blameworthiness on Modi and his ruling in the state.

The riots that were a result of the Ayodha incident turned to be imprudent in Gujarat. The state witnessed death of its citizens irrespective to the religion of the deceased as a consequence of the riots. Narendra Modi was accused for his reluctance towards taking necessary actions to curb the violence. Modi denied any culpability at all, but he was widely condemned for failing to use his authority to prevent the killings. In April 2012, a special investigations team appointed by India’s Supreme Court absolved Modi of any responsibility in the riots, although one of his former senior ministers was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for her role in the massacres.

Modi in his entire rally towards achieving the chair for Prime Minister never talked about religion and never discriminated between the two religious groups. Post elections he made it a point to be thankful for the support of Muslim country men. No victory was possible without the support of Muslims in the country; BJP won the elections with massive success winning over 282 seats on its own (without alliance). India accounts the world's second largest Muslim population with about 176 million Muslims making up 14% of the population. The election was largely decided on by the outcome of two states: Uttar Pradesh, which has 200 million residents and 80 seats in the Lok Sabha, with a Muslim population of 18%; and Bihar which has about 100 million and 40 seats with a Muslim population of 16.5% turned out to be a major support this victory.

The BJP won 71 out of 80 seats in the populous northern state of Uttar Pradesh, where Muslims are over a fifth of the population. This feat would have been mathematically impossible if all of the state’s Muslims voted for non-BJP candidates, even if their votes were split among several parties such as the Bahujan Samaj Party, the Samajwadi Party, and the Congress Party. According to BJP party spokesman Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, around 14-15 percent of India’s Muslims voted for the BJP. This is a vast improvement over the 2-3 percent garnered in previous elections.

‘Islam says the person who has been hurt has the right to pardon the accused. So don't ask me on whether I will pardon Narendra Modi or not. Go and ask this question to Gujarati Muslims who have been hurt’, were the words of Shia cleric Maulana Kalbe Jawad Naqvi. According to the cleric; the Muslims are a part of this country and success of the country depends on their shoulders too, so if they see progress and success in a leader they should vote and support him over their reluctance for the past. The Muslims in Gujarat have been voting for Modi thus letting

him continue his office for two consecutive terms. The state shows progress incomparable to other states in India. The Muslims in Gujarat own their business and have equal economic status as the Hindus.

While representing the economic aspirations of many Muslims fed up with successive Congress governments that bled to nothing but failure. Although the Congress party had traditionally enjoyed the allegiance of the minority community, its support base among Muslims has eroded significantly in the past twenty years in the face of gains by many of the regional parties. According to government reports, Muslims remain one of the most economically disadvantaged communities in India during the UPA rule. As a result, many of them now feel that successive Congress-led governments have failed them. Giving the need of the hour the minority has voted for progress and development.

The Muslims in the country especially the youth of the nation have shown strong support to Modi and have considered voting for BJP only because of his presence. The Muslim youth of the nation wants to heal the scars of the riots and overcome the disgrace by development of the community. There have been riots in the country prior to 2002 and have been forgotten without keeping grudges in mind.

The result of this election shows that the community is not apprehended by the leader but supports development instead of being just considered as a vote bank. The sense of security that every human being demands irrespective of the religion should be one major agenda on the list of the new government. The Prime Minister has to prove his worth that the minority has entrusted him with. The government in the past made policies for filing the documents instead of implementing them in reality the present government needs to initiate the process of development by providing equal opportunities to the people in reality not on mere papers. If one considers the role of Muslim minority in the recent elections it is clear that the community has shown trust over the leader and chose to forgive him for the past. The burden of proving himself right and worthy of the trust lies on the shoulders of the leader hereafter. Evaluate the government of pressing issues and judge it for the tenure needs to be the attitude of ever Indian.