Managing the Rapidly Increasing Population

By: Dilawar Sherzai

A state cannot exist without population and, at the same time, the size of the population greatly influences the nature of a country. In Afghanistan, the size of a population is significant as the management of the population has to be maintained as per the resources of the state because the larger population does not always bring prosperity. There are many examples throughout the world of states that have enough resources as per their large population and, therefore, suffer a lot because they cannot manage the population and try to keep it under control, otherwise, it may give rise to different sorts of problems which would prove to be a hurdle in the way of development and progress of the nation.

Therefore, if a country has enough resources to support large population it may keep that population stable, but states that do not support large populations should limit their population, or else, they will suffer from different types of economic and social problems. Afghanistan is one of the same sorts of countries that suffer from merits of economic and social problems. Severe poverty prevails in most parts of the country because of continuous wars and natural catastrophes. The political and economic infrastructures are almost non-existent. In such circumstances Afghanistan is having a considerable population. The number of people living in Afghanistan at the moment is more than 32 million, which is just a rough estimate.

As a matter of fact, this number is declared from an earlier census but, this number does not represent Afghanistan’s population correctly. The actual number may be more than the one mentioned above. It has been one of the greatest misfortunes of the country that there has been not any comprehensible scientific population census in the country, which is really necessary for the control of social and economic progress.

It is really difficult to administrate a population without knowing its composition correctly. Reportedly, the population growth rate in Afghanistan has been in elevation, as well. The rate for Afghanistan, according to the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) is 2.3 percent. If the same rate remains the population in the country will be doubled within two decades.

Currently, it is accepted that the population of Afghanistan is around 32 million, in 2025 it may reach to more than 42 million. This clearly indicates the serious nature of the growth taking place in the country. Definitely, this growth rate is going to test the capabilities of Afghan resources and Afghanistan’s government. The government would have to think about the necessities of protection of the country, the people and the natural features of the country. The government would have to plan, implement, control, and manage the effects of the population growth.

The Afghanistan government has to work for the population and to control the population. The government would have to work for the future of the population. The government would have to work for the betterment of the population. The government would have to work for the planning of the population. The government would have to work for the control of the population. The government would have to work for the management of the population. The government would have to work for the development of the population.

The most dominant reason behind the rapid population growth in Afghanistan is that the people are not cognizant of the issue at all. Most of them consider children as the blessing and never ever think that they can turn into curse if not nourished adequately and there are also some who believe that they should not think about the problem which they consider very much supplementary in nature.

Population growth rate in our country has been unchecked since the war and, this has created a lot of problems. The government in this regard has to take serious and practical steps to control the issue as soon as possible. There should be intensive basic programs for the overall development and the population growth should rather be started from the college and universi- ty level. Such awareness programs should be started from the very beginning of the citizenship of the country and the people of the country should be educated from their childhood.

Looking ahead, what are we to think? What should we do? Population growth is not only a problem of the state and economy, but it is also a problem of humanity itself, and a piece of that humanity has now been scarred.

The French President Emmanuel Macron, who for two years has appealed for unity in rebuilding Notre Dame, has urged every reader to do the same. We the people are the masons, the carriers of hope, of holy hopes, of greatness and gentility. Like you, like every one, I am heartbreaking.

The tragedy invokes a slew of memories. Victor Hugo’s immortal classic, “Les Misérables,” of the Hunchback of Notre Dame, of course, comes to mind. So, too, does the verse of Louis Aragon:

“Nothing is as strong, not fire, not lightning,
As our Parisis defending Paris.
Nothing is as beautiful as this Paris of mine.”

One also recalls an opening line from Baudelaire: “I am beautiful, O mortals, like a dream in stone.” It was not written about Notre Dame, but it certainly could have been. The memories extend well beyond the written word. The cathedral itself has borne witness to centuries of French history, including episodes that are now the stuff of legend. It has stood with France through its mystical knighthood, in its glory and in its gloom. I think of the mass in celebration of Paris’s liberation in 1944, and of a younger sister’s conversion there. I weep with her, as I weep with all Christians who have stood with France through its mystic knighthood, in its glory and its gloom.

“A church has fallen. In a way, Notre Dame has fallen. In a way, humanity itself, and a piece of that humanity has now been scarred.”

I think of the words of Hugo and Aragon are still there, dancing in my inmost heart. I ask myself how I will face the day. How will we face the years to come? Hugo supplies an answer. In his book, “The Hunchback of Notre Dame,” while observing Notre Dame’s fate, he declares: “Time is the architect, but the people are the masons.”

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