Support for the Least Advantaged

There are many parts of Afghanistan where the people are suffering from the depths of rudimentary requirements of life because of decades of instability and improper attention to the basic issues of people and failure to develop the basic infrastructure, the poor people in these areas have gone through very tough times. The government has not been providing any essential services to the remote areas and there are major governance issues in these areas. The youth are mostly unemployed, which makes the situation more tragic and challenging when these areas have to face the surge in insurgency or go through frequent weather changes. Therefore, they do not have proper food, cloth, shelter and health facilities.

Afghanistan's Bamyan province is one of the examples. Though the province is equipped with some natural blessings and historical importance, the government and administration have failed to play any major role in utilizing the advantages. Therefore, the people have kept on suffering to a large extent.

A crisis of poverty is developing in most areas of the province. Poverty is not a new phenomenon near the Buddha statues in the province suffering from poverty, health issues and deadly animals such as snakes and scorpions threaten their lives. Around 3,000 caves are dotted around the famous Buddha statues, inhabited by 250 families from Bamyan and other provinces of the country. According to the Bamyan government, there are no other facilities here. Moreover, as they do not have any source of income, their children and family members have to be content with eating breads and unhygienic leftover food collected from restaurant waste.

Raising under subzero winter temperatures and other day-to-day privations, the cave residences do not have blankets – much less other home appliances. Resultantly, starvation, illiteracy and deadly animals such as snakes and scorpions threaten their lives.

In such condition, the place could be best used to attract the tourists, where they could be shown the historical importance of the place but what they can find is misery and an ugly shape of administrative arrangements.

People of Bamyan, like all the other Afghans, require proper and due attention of the government authorities. GovernmentSpokesman Abdul Akhundzada, who was asked about the situation, said that over 20 percent Bamyan lived under the poverty line and at present, the government has been focusing on providing food aid from poverty and other problems. He claimed that the government had succeeded in providing the basic needs to the people in the province.

In 2014 as many as 120 families were provided with shelters and they now 20 families are left who are destined to live on this earth. It is the fact that the local government tried to coordinate distribution of assistance so that deserving families could get the assistance.

Nevertheless, looking at the condition it is easier to draw a conclusion that there is something seriously wrong our administrative and legal mechanism in dealing with the people's challenges. The question at this crucial moment is whether the country can go ahead with such a setup where to go to seek solutions when they are confronted with corruption. Fewer than half of those who experience corruption report it to the police and less than 2 percent of those report it to the relevant institution. While the problem is not a new phenomenon, in our country, the response is very weak. According to the Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, Afghanistan ranked 158 in the world in 2016, with a score of 35.

The government claimed that the ACJC was designed to try senior officials who had been found guilty of corrupt activities, including those that fund militant groups. However, several surveys have found out that the legal and judicial institutions are more corrupt than others though their key responsibility is to enforce laws and abide by them.

The government needs to listen to the voices of the people who are suffering from lack of basic requirements of life and it needs to look into the situation of the people in these areas that are the least developed and where the needs are extremely hazardous.