The Plight of Afghan Refugees

February 22, 2016

The bodies of seven Afghan refugees, drowned in the Arabian Sea while trying to reach to the European countries, were returned to Afghanistan recently by the authorities. The number of Afghan refugees that have retired to the country is increasing with each passing day. The authorities say the victims were members of three families who were related. Afghan authorities announced recently that over 250,000 Afghans have sought refuge in more affluent industrial countries. However, since last year, hundreds of Afghans have lost their lives trying to reach to European countries. Unprecedented level of immigration of Afghans into foreign countries has evolved as a major challenge for the Afghan government. The problems highlighted in the plight of Afghan refugees desperately trying to reach Europe. While many have already taken the perilous journey to escape abroad, many others are desperately trying to leave the country in search of better living or because of fears of persecution or civil conflict. Many of the refugees trying to reach to European countries suffer untold hardships and sufferings, and so losing their lives. The pull factors of destination countries and the West of the continent. The efforts to take a collective European additional Pull factors in the destination countries not as adverse as they expected. Disappointed, the refugees demand help for returning to their countries of origin. On the other hand, the destination countries are gradually taking tougher stances over the ongoing migration.

Along with security and economic challenges, migration is going to be a long-term challenge for Afghanistan. Seemingly, more and more Afghans are planning to leave the country, and there is no sight for the humanitarian crisis in a near future. Hundres, and sometimes thousands, of Afghans, mostly youths and young people, queue in front of the Afghan passport department to apply for receiving visas. The Afghan government has been unable to curb the flow of people out of the country as the internal challenges in the country continue to worsen. Instead, it has so far attempted to take measures which do not address the root causes of the current wave of people leaving the country. Many believe that the government is tactfully en- couraging the European countries to send back the Afghan refugees by saying that it would accept the returns.

Given the scale of the problem, and the position of the situation, more Afghans will try to get out of the country. The ongoing insurgency in Afghanistan and the Afghan war, which has been raging for almost four decades, has caused millions of Afghans to lose their lives. The refugees pay big amounts of money to people smuggling to take them to Europe. This is while an increasing number of people are left behind in the conflict zone, and are naive enough to succumb to their radical ideology. Recruiting children, especially those who are above the age of 12, has increased over the last few years. Taliban managers use the same tactics used in the war from the very beginning. I remember vividly when a large number of children was in military training in Kunduz in the beginning of regime in every nook and cranny of the country. Their minds were loaded with fundamental dictates to propel them for militancy and terror.

The Taliban’s apparent strategy to throw increasing numbers of children into battle is as cynical and cruel as it is harmful. But the efforts of the Taliban to force their children to engage in armed conflict have not been without repercussions. The Afghan government has been unable to curb the flow of people out of the country without considering security and protection.

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By Hujjatullah Zia

Urge has intensified within recent months and ayear ago. More and more children are falling victim to violence. Most of the Afghan children bear the brunt of problems and Afghanistan is an unlucky place for them. Female children fall victim to violence as well as male children. The Taliban’s dominant role is from the very beginning. I remember vividly when a large group of children was recruited in military training in Kunduz in the beginning of regime in every nook and cranny of the country. Their minds were loaded with fundamental dictates to propel them for militancy and terror.

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The Plight of Afghan Refugees

By Dambay Moyo

Over the past decade, income inequality has come to be ranked alongside terrorism, climate change, pandemics, and other threats to humankind. However, little effort has been made to understand the forces driving inequality and how to reduce it. To be sure, much progress has been made. Over the past 50 years, as countries such as China and India posted double-digit economic growth, the global Gini coefficient dropped from 0.65 to 0.55. But further headway is unlikely – at least in the near future – because the world is suffering from a range of complex and interrelated challenges in the 21st century.

Economic growth in most emerging economies has slowed to single digits, the population of the poor is rising, and income inequality remains a puzzle.

But societies do not flourish on economic growth alone. They suffer when the poor are able to use a path toward better health, education, and security. Usage of natural resources is declining, underachieving faith in the "American Dream" across the world, and political institutions are continuing to lose heavy state intervention. By defying the principles of different political and economic systems, the two countries have roughly the same level of income inequality. Each country’s Gini coefficient – the most commonly used measure of income equality – is roughly 47.

In one important way, however, their situations are very different. In the US, inequality is rapidly worsening. In 1970, the top 1% of the US population was ten times richer than the rest of the country. Today, the average income of the top 1% is 27 times larger than those at the bottom 99%. During the same period, inequality in China has been much more stable.

This poses a challenge for policymakers. Free market capitalist systems have proved to be the most effective way for the distribution of income and growth. But the model has several key flaws. To begin, for-profit companies are not motivated to invest in the research and development that extend human life or reduce poverty. This is the problem. But societies do not flourish on economic growth alone. They suffer when the poor are able to use a path toward better health, education, and security. Usage of natural resources is declining, underachieving faith in the "American Dream" across the world, and political institutions are continuing to lose.

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The Inequality Puzzle

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