

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind



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## Broad-minded Approach Towards Others

So as to exist with cooperation in an exceedingly diverse society, it's necessary to develop respect and broadmindedness for others. While not these factors, it might be terribly troublesome to tighten the social bonds. The varied societies have inhabitants from totally dissimilar cultural, historical, religious, ethnic or sectarian milieus. Such societies, although have the advantage of being diverse and culturally wealthy, are noticeably at risk of conflicts, also. As there are teams of individuals with totally different ideologies and practices there are prospects that there are frequent clashes and disturbances. Therefore, it's necessary in such societies that totally different teams ought to settle for one another's existence.

The open-mindedness for others is best developed by realizing the actual fact that others have their reasons to be what they're. They need their own backgrounds and values and their own practices that have developed among them through their distinct history. However, people don't seem to be able to do so in such a large amount of cases. They, in fact, become the victims of utmost partisanship. They observe and perceive others in their own views and check out to weigh them as per their own values, that don't offer correct and just result. They base their analysis and understanding depending on their own frame of reference that is certain to be biased as they do not look after the objective truths. The biased and ethno-centric approach towards others is certain to end in clashes and chaos. Such a state of affairs is actually noticeably prejudicious and might be used by others for their personal edges. History approves the actual fact that the heterogeneous societies that have had clashes among their completely different strata were dominated by others who solely reinforced those clashes through political means and in that manner pursued their own motives. In short, the societies that have such clashes are politically used by others and that they suffer severe loss as a result.

It is, therefore, essential for heterogeneous societies to develop a culture of co-existence. A way of belongingness to an oversized body; may be a sense for attachment to some national feelings, will solve the problem to a particular level. Binding themselves to national levels, the heterogeneous teams within the society might surrender their trivial matters and begin thinking in broader perspective. They need to be instructed to grasp that it's solely through collective efforts that they'll improve their survival potential in today's society. Their collective efforts will grow to be a synergy that may give them the chances of facing the overgrowing challenges of life successfully and dignity.

One of the simplest ways in which to exist in an exceedingly heterogeneous society is searching for the similarities among totally different teams rather than distinguishing the variations and creating them the bone of rivalry. In fact, the similarities among totally different human groups are larger than their variations. One of the most common similarities among all the groups of people is that they're human beings and share an equivalent earth to survive on.

However, such ideas are solely thought of ideal and unworkable. In reality, people are divided into totally different strata and that they have myriads of disparities. There are fights among them and that they use deadly weapons in their fights that kill many at a time. Each cluster, in pursuit of proving itself higher or correct, makes machinations to decimate others. Others are aliens, foreigners, infidels and wrong-doers. Religions and social and political ideologies that have got to bring folks along have, in fact, compelled them to stand largely apart and divided. This can be extremely pathetic and doesn't show in the least that humans are the most superior of creatures and have the intelligence and gumption. Afghanistan is one among the societies that are heterogeneous to a particular extent. There are folks from totally different ethnic groups who have their sub-cultures. Although they have embellished Afghan society with variety; however, there are instances when these strata have had clashes among each other. These clashes resulted in civil wars and influenced Afghan society negatively to a large extent. However, nowadays Afghan society is standing in an exceedingly different position. It's in the course of developing a peaceful life for its folks. At this important juncture, it's extremely necessary that Afghan society should stand united and face challenges as a powerful nation. It should not let the variations among various strata to dominate their national integration. The younger generation will play an amazing role in this regard. They're educated and they have previously experienced the implications of decades of instability and wars; so, they'll better decide which path to choose.

If Afghan people want to guarantee their national integration within the times to come, they will be tested by the challenges. They have to find out the way to hold one another's hands tightly and check out to assist one another in nation building. They need to grasp that the varied groups within the country are essentially different elements of a healthy body and while not the support of any of them it might not be able to create the body complete and make it work and perform properly. Otherwise, the socio-political conditions might prove to be noticeably unkind and they might gust away, like light-weight straws, all people who are at odds.



## Democracy - An Afghans' Dream Never Come True

By Hujjatullah Zia

Following the downfall of the Taliban's regime, Afghans dreamt of a democratic society where they could exercise their rights and liberty. It was believed that Taliban's fall marked the end of militancy in the country and Afghans would be able to live a peaceful life. However, the Taliban's ragtag militants resurfaced and ushered in spilling the blood of people indiscriminately.

Democracy and human rights were supported to a great extent in the post-Taliban Afghanistan. Freedom of expression, which was strongly suppressed during the Taliban's regime, emerged and all individuals and social activists are able to express their thoughts and feelings. Afghan Constitution was approved to advocate the rights and dignity of people and put an end to discrimination, injustice, and atrocities. Recognizing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the United Nations Charter, the post-Taliban constitution is a highly significant landmark in the history of Afghanistan. This constitution is based on democratic principles and supports the rights and liberty of each individual regardless of their race, color, and creed. The constitution states in article 6, "The state shall be obligated to create a prosperous and progressive society based on social justice, preservation of human dignity, protection of human rights, realization of democracy, attainment of national unity as well as equality between all peoples and tribes and balance development of all areas of the country." It supports the "inviolable" rights and dignity of people, freedom of thought and expression, democratic discourse, etc.

On the other hand, conducting presidential and provincial elections was also the elements of democracy. Unlike the Taliban's dictatorial regime, the public will was held significant in the government's body and Afghans were bestowed suffrage. Afghans celebrated democracy through flocking to ballot boxes with the hope of having a civil and peaceful society where no one could violate their rights to life, liberty, or property. Similarly, a large number of Afghan refugees returned to the country with a strong sense of hope. They believed that their blood would no more be spilled under a democratic state and they would live a peaceful life.

Nonetheless, the lull in militancy did not last long and the Taliban guerrilla fighters resurfaced. They carried out large-scale attacks spilling streams of blood, which was a strong blow to Afghanistan's nascent democracy. The conflict was ushered across the country and people

sustained heavy casualties, which shattered their hope. Within the past years, Afghans fluctuated between fear and hope. They hoped and prayed that Afghan government and its international allies would win the war on terror or at least bring the Taliban outfit to the peace table. During Hamid Karzai's government, the Taliban played the game in a foul way. Their precondition, which was releasing a number of Taliban's prisoners, was met but they refused to come to negotiating table. After all, Afghans hoped that the High Peace Council (HPC) would be able to persuade the Taliban to hold talks so that people no more suffer from insecurity.

Despite the public hope for a peaceful life and democratic society, the insurgency continued up to now. To the unmitigated chagrin of the public, Afghans' rights and liberty were violated flagrantly as a result of escalated militancy. The Taliban insurgents, along with many other terrorist networks, showed no respect to human rights or democratic discourse. They respected neither national laws nor international instruments. Their harsh practices and radical mindset left no room for democracy. Through targeting civilians and killing them on the grounds of their race, color, and creed, the militants trampled upon Afghan constitution. To repress democracy in a stronger way, the militants sliced up some individuals' fingers, which were inked during the election. Hence, the cruel practices of the militants did not only slow down the process of democratization but also shattered Afghans' hope for a peaceful society. Although militancy was the main obstacle before democracy, corruption in the government's machinery and political cleavage between officials also hampered democratization. Corruption, mainly in judicial system, impeded the implementation of constitution and injustice did not come to an end. Political tension in the government's machinery also took its toll on people and outshined national interests. In brief, Afghans believed that they would have a prosperous life under a democratic state, but all this issue narrowed the room for democracy. To sum up, democracy did not take root in Afghanistan as a result of militancy, corruption in the government's body, and political tension. The dream of Afghan people for a democratic society did not come true since the militants continued their insurgency and violated the rights and freedom of people without hesitation. Thus, this nascent democracy is also exposed to threat and peaceful life still remains a dream.

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## The Educational System of Afghanistan in Need of Decisive Change

By Mohammad Erfani

Historical study of economic development and educational evolution of developed/developing countries pinpoints their strict consideration on improvement of education systems and promotion of educational organizations in the communities. Accordingly, now, in most of the countries, the change in the last educational years of high schools and diverse sections of universities has become a very important cultural/social phenomenon.

The educational systems/institutions are the most essential and infrastructural elements for the growth of economy in a country. Meanwhile, it's the only kind of institutions to which all people are somehow connected and respect it. Due to very specific objectives, the educational system of every country needs the very strict consideration and observation to the doctrines and circumstances.

Worriedly, Afghanistan is a country with the lowest level of educational skills in the region and even in the world. According to the statistics given by the United Nations; 66 percent of Afghans are totally illiterate and only 34 percent are literate most of which just know the basic reading and writing. In order to compete the quick global changes in human lives, the educational system of Afghanistan must change. Education brings the opportunity to encounter social evolutions and even can generate such changes. Whatever currently exists as an educational system in our country, can't satisfy the needs of the community. This system is neither able to nurture innovations and nor it is able to encourage the creation of a sustainable desired future. Presently, it's to be agreed that our education system couldn't yet managed its undertaken obligations and responsibilities. While, there are thousands of people in the employed in the government by the educational ministries, spending huge amounts of governmental budget. Nevertheless, this broken educational system not only hasn't subtracted anything from the people's problem but has added to. Although education in other countries is an element of sustainable development, but it's shown very ugly and worse than ever in Afghanistan. However, concerning extensive facilities available for today's era, our people are living many decades back. This community is faced to tough crisis like pollutions, hunger, poverty, disease, deprivation etc. most of people are sacrificed of the old and useless institutions. The structure of Afghanistan's education system is as old as it can't achieve the new objectives of today. The system which is running is a system built in back for already old objectives and the very little changes made in the recent years isn't considerable enough. The fact that most of graduates of the universities are jobless, suggests for the establishment better educational institution in this country. This is a very unsolved problem of our higher education system. Professionalization of the educational system in the lower levels especially in the middle schools has a good impact, but yet, our efforts for this purpose hasn't been successful.

The government has increased the quantities of universities and schools instead of building quality-based educational patterns. More regretfully, even the pedagogues' community of Afghanistan is opposite of changes in the system more than others. If the teachers didn't get trained/harmonized with the modern educational system, any efforts for innovation in the education would fail. Afghanistan has no place in academic ranking list of the world. Having no teaching methodology pattern and lack of skilled teachers/professors are the main problems that our educational system is suffering from.

In different educational periods, our students stand at the lower levels of knowledge of reading and writing and when they enter universities, they learn very hard due to their academic weaknesses. Despite

the strict situations that Afghans passed, they are so much keen to attend their higher education as well, but this purpose is more culture-oriented rather than future-oriented.

The fact that higher education guarantees the employment as an honorable means of affording family expenses; and despite changes in circumstances resulted by modern economic conditions, the Afghans still haven't change their old mindset about higher education.

During last 13 last years, the academic system of Afghanistan has expanded in term of quantity, but with no innovation and quality to help the community with achieving their aims and objectives.

The present system of education is about generating diplomas and certificates. Therefore, the outputs of this system is to produce jobless, semi-jobless, illiterates or individuals who couldn't be utilized. So far there has been no effort to modernize the current higher education so that the educated individuals can satisfy the demands of the job market. Unfortunately, any measures taken to reform of the current educational system has yet faced to strict opposition.

In the higher education system, especially among the teachers/professors, and at a lower level between all the employees, such an organized tendency exists which lets not the current system to change by any mean/anyhow. Now it's necessary to verify the educational institution systems in order to rescue the young generation from illiteracy; and develop the country. In recent years, our educational institutes have grown collaterally with the other institutions in the country. But unfortunately, this growth has happened just in term of quantity. In term of quality, the governmental sectors and private sectors both have failed due to lots of shortages. Now, the academic institutions need to be upgraded and developed to dynamic educational system. It should be upgraded to both quality and methodology.

Besides upgrading the academic institutions, another important factor that should be considered is to attract the skilled and experiment teachers/professors. But regretfully, the higher education system isn't free of corruption in both the governmental or private sectors and this obscurity has been shown in several instances. Existence of discrimination and illegal relations is one of the barriers led to lack of quality based-growth of the educational system. These teachers/professors teaching in either government or private universities must be assessed, whether they are qualified or not?

Indeed, the academic conditions of the universities in Afghanistan, matches no any fixed academic standards globally. All the private universities are like literacy courses and most of them have just one principal as the only cadre of the institutions. Most of universities don't have the needed academic cadres; or they lack faculties, departments and even they may have no specified buildings. The owners of these universities are mostly those who were previously armed fighters during the civil war, or they are the sellers of lands. Hence they may just think of their financial profit rather than academic standards. Another painful point to be mentioned is that the students are also inattentive to this condition and have no objections, but additionally, they themselves pass their credits by forcing or cheating. This is why both sides (the educational system and the students) are blameful against the future of this country.

Thus, rebuilding the educational institutions in the country is a very tough and long-run obligation for both the government and the people. But it's to sacrifice for the great objectives. Our community will not achieve the real sustainable development unless every individual of this country benefits from all academic facilities, development, and innovation; and to understand the objectives of their lives.

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