All Children Must Get Education

January 24, 2016

A couple of weeks earlier a report by United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) presented a very gloomy picture of the plight of Afghan children. According to the report, forty percent of children in Afghanistan are out of school, which is mostly because of decades of instability and conflict in the country. The report also revealed that Afghanistan is 4th among 22 countries affected by conflict.

It is really unfortunate that so many children in Afghanistan do not get the chance of going to school and gain education, as without one, they may remain a part of contributing to the ignorance among the population. They may remain uneducated and cannot provide back to the society. As a result, the number of illiterate people will increase, and the gap between the educated and uneducated will increase over time.

In fact, for many families in Afghanistan, sending the children to school is a luxury which they cannot afford. As the economic and social conditions are troublesome, there are many families that cannot even afford the rudimentary requirements of life; therefore, the children can support their family by doing menial work, which is far from the education that the children are supposed to pursue. The children also have no right to receive education, and instead send them to madressahs. Particularly, they have been deprived of education; there are many incidents where the children have been discouraged. Their schools have been burned or poisoned. Their families have been victimized and even acid has been thrown on the girls who go to schools. These all factors contribute largely in discouraging the children from going to schools.

If the children are not going to school, they also have the disadvantage of becoming the victim of so many evils. The government’s focus must be so that the children should enroll in schools and start receiving education. But at the same time, the children should be protected from physical harm. Sometimes the government lays too much blame on the Taliban, but the other political groups must also be held responsible if they hinder any good cause. The government needs to pay equal attention and encourage children to enroll in schools. The recruitment that is carried out by militant groups is mostly for the purpose of pursuing their agenda, and the reason behind this recruitment is that these groups believe that it becomes a way of earning money.

There have been many incidents of suicide attacks in different parts of the country, wherein the attackers were below 16 years of age. Apart from that the children are also misled by the militant groups with the intention to have a cadre that they can train in accordance to their own agenda. Hence, the adequate steps need to be taken to eradicate the menace. The recruitment of the children by militants will definitely result in violent and rebellious activities. The report also highlights the fact that the training camps in their training centers are usually filled with children, and there have been certain incidents wherein the trainers of such camps have made use of children to execute their missions. These children were beheaded and tortured and even raped by their tutors.

In general, the children of Afghanistan are sometimes targeted due to the cause of the conflict. The children are the most vulnerable group in the society, and their rights should be protected by the government. It is the responsibility of the government to protect the rights of children. The children are the future of the country, and their education is essential for the development of the country. The government needs to pay equal attention to the education of the children, and the children should be provided with equal opportunities to receive education.

The education of the children at all cost of violence, their proper nourishment, their character development and particularly their education are necessary, for the government is really serious to safeguard the rights of the children. The same children are going to be the builders of future; their proper care should be acquitted through every possible means. Apart from that the government needs to provide them with proper facilities and education. The children in Afghanistan need education and proper nourishment and their rights must be protected. The government needs to provide equal opportunities to the children to receive education and to lead a proper life.

 targeted Free Press in Afghanistan

By Abdul Ahad Bahrami

The Wednesday attack in Kabul is going to be a major test for the talks, as the Taliban carry out their financial activities. The Taliban have claimed their first major militant attack selectively targeting the media in Afghanistan, the country is now one of the world’s most dangerous for journalists. By targeting media men and journalists, the Taliban and other like-minded groups are trying to control the flow of news, and the activities of the free press in Afghanistan. Pursuing such a policy against media is a serious violation of the rights of the public and the press. The Taliban have carried out such attacks as a way of avenging the death of veteran journalist Arif Surat.

The School of Journalism at Kabul University has condemned the attack and said that the freedom of expression must be non-negotiable, referring to the recent talk between the government and the Taliban about the release of the 20 journalists who were arrested during the weekend. The Taliban’s refusal to abide by this agreement is unequivocally characterized as war crimes.

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