

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

# Daily Outlook

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## Youth and Crimes

Every type of crime is a matter of worry for a society and is responsible for introducing disorder. The random crimes may be treated as a normal phenomenon but different trends and organized forms of crimes can really put a society on threshold of destruction. Among the different trends of crimes, Juvenile Delinquency - the crime of the youth - is considered one of most concerning for the modern societies.

Youngsters are basically considered as the backbone of society and the future of a society highly depends on the potential of its youngsters. If they are motivated towards the improvement of the society and are optimistic about the socio-political scenario and have conformist attitude towards the prevailing social, political and economic setups, they can prove beneficial for the society as whole. But if they are pessimistic, have negative approach towards the socio-political scenario and have non-conformist attitude towards the social, political and economic systems they fall the prey to delinquency. Juvenile delinquency is always a cause of panic for a society because of the fact that it indicates the deterioration of the society as the juvenile delinquents are going to be serious criminals in future if managed improperly.

The causes of juvenile delinquency can be linked with the general theories of the causes of the crimes but all the theories that hold true for the crimes as a whole can never stand true for juvenile delinquency all the times as the juveniles do not share the same characteristics like that of the mature people. They differ from the grownups in their attitude, psychology and emotional integrity. Therefore, they have to be dealt in a different manner; even the punishments that are suggested by the courts for the normal crimes must differ in the cases of juvenile delinquency so as to compensate for the differences.

The classical theories of criminology suggest that the causes of the crimes basically lie within the individuals who commit crimes. Crime is rather a rational choice that an individual makes through his free will. He/she always has the option of an alternative and is not under any sort of compulsive forces from the socio-political circumstances. The current theories in criminology that are based on optimistic approach towards individuals suggest that the culture and society are responsible for intoxicating the individuals with the germs of crimes.

The disorganization that creeps into social institutions and their interaction determines the individuals to commit crimes. Then there are theories that suggest that crimes are basically because of the psychological reasons. Stress, strain and tension may result into psychological and behavioral disorders that result into different sorts of crimes in the society. Moreover, there are theories that have more emphasis on group dynamics and consider crimes the result of interactions with delinquent groups.

The same theories in criminology also stand true for most of the cases in juvenile delinquency occurring in different parts of the world. But, it should be kept in consideration that the theory of rational choice cannot stand as a strong theory as far as juvenile delinquency is concerned as the juveniles are not capable enough to make rational choices.

Rather the other theories that relate to social evils and psychological strain and even unchecked freedom can be considered as more reliable theories in this regard. It should be noted carefully that the youth in the third world countries are more vulnerable to be caught in the web of crimes than the youth in the developed countries of the world. It is because the third world countries suffer greatly from different sorts of social, political and economic problems that deviate the youth from normal course of behavior and lead them towards crimes. Moreover, the psychological stress and strain on the minds of youth are immense in such countries and end up in the delinquent attitude. Poverty, limited opportunities, difficulties in getting education and pursuing the professions of their will, child labor, strict traditional values, lack of proper parental guidance and many other such problems make the youth delinquent.

Juvenile delinquency is one of the major problems in our country Afghanistan, as well. The socio-political and socio-economic scenario in the country have been very much vulnerable for the youth. The circumstances are further deteriorated by the continued wave of civil wars and terrorism. Though there have been certain improvements made since the installation of so called democratic government juvenile delinquency keeps on hampering the process of improvement.

Apart from the traditional crimes like mugging, rape, robbery and murder youth in the country are dominantly caught in the web of terrorism. There are many fresh recruits in different terrorist groups who serve as potential cadre for such evil organizations and presently they have been serving as the man power for suicide bombings. In many of the cases of suicide bombings that have taken place in different parts of the country, the bombers have been youngsters. Moreover, there have been many youngsters involved in the smuggling and production of drugs in the country that has been a dominant evil for us for the last few decades.

The unchecked juvenile delinquency in the country really points at serious concerns for the future of the country. Necessary measure must be introduced by the government in this regard to curb the situation appropriately and as per the scientific approach towards the solution. Severe punishments alone cannot guarantee a crimeless society and in the case of juvenile delinquency the matter gets even more complicated. Special considerations, special laws and special treatment must be in place to deal with the cases of juvenile delinquency otherwise the circumstances may get worse rather than getting any better.

# Tackling Unemployment in Afghanistan

By Ewaz Ali Bahrami

Everyday just before dawn, dozens of unskilled Afghan laborers gather in main and crowded squares all around Kabul, desperately waiting to get a temporary job which would earn him barely one dollar a day. As employers approach the laborers, the awaiting workers race for being picked for the work of the day. Despite the generous aid of \$65 billion from international community, most of Afghans still find it hard to get employed and make a living. The unemployment rate is estimated to be around 35%, and the country is still one of the poorest in the world. With 70% of its population below the age of 25, what should Afghanistan do with its unemployment problem?

Unemployment is the status in an economy where people are willing and able to work, and seeking for occupation, but failing to find jobs. Unemployment impacts national Gross Domestic Product and has a negative effect on the society. It has been scientifically proved that unemployment has severe negative psychological effects on individuals resulting to depression, lack of motivation, anger and anxiety. When individuals do not have sufficient income and their psyche is damaged, they are more likely to turn into criminal activities, and thus the crime rate in a society goes up. Employers usually hire people with work experiences, which is another disadvantage for unemployed people. This is commonly known as the hysteresis effect. Unemployment also causes detrimental changes in family relationships, often resulting to divorce and families falling apart. Scientific researches highlight that unemployment increases people's tendency towards suicide and other acts of self-immolation.

In Afghanistan, after the fall of the Taliban in 2011, millions of Afghans rushed into gaining education and received trainings with the hope to get employed and find well-paying jobs. According to a report by Guardian, 400,000 enter the labor force each year. Yet, the economy is unable to provide jobs for this huge number of people. It is estimated that 35% of Afghans, who are able and willing to work, are not able to find decent jobs. Thus, many Afghans are gaining education while unaware that when they graduate, they may have to face unemployment. Despite the generous \$65 billion aid from the international community over past fourteen years, job-seeking Afghans still find it hard to get their desired jobs. In a post-conflict country like Afghanistan, unemployment can have devastating repercussions.

Unemployment has become a deterrent for Afghan refugees to return home. In addition to that, thousands of Afghans flee the country to Iran and Pakistan for making a living. Afghanistan still has more than 3 million refugees in neighboring countries and beyond. Ironically, insecurity is not the only cause reason for these Afghans in choosing asylum over staying at home. After insecurity, unemployment is the second cause for migration of Afghans. Not only unskilled Afghan laborers migrate, but also educated and skilled Afghans, who are in search of employment and better life, migrate abroad with no prospect for returning back home.

On the other hand, unemployment has been fuelling insurgency in Afghanistan. Youths and job-seeking people join the Taliban in order to get employment. Others, send their kids to extremist Madrassas in tribal areas of Pakistan, only because they can not feed them and the Madrassas provide them food and shelter. In some insecure provinces, people choose to

cultivate poppy which earns them a sufficient amount of money. The revenues from opium trafficking is fuelling the Taliban insurgency in the country. Therefore, the extensive unemployment has created various problems for Afghanistan such as brain drain, insurgency, drugs trafficking and huge numbers of Afghan refugees in other countries. It is unclear if the new National Unity Government will be successful to generate employment?

In order to enhance employment, the government needs to plan and implement extensive and dedicated programs. The government needs to support private sector and encourage businesses investing in agriculture and mining sectors. Afghanistan is an agrarian country, and has huge untapped mining reserves. As most of Afghans are unskilled laborers, they can be provided jobs by hiring them in these sectors. The government can provide facilitations to firms and businesses investing in agricultural businesses such as raising livestock, producing, processing and preserving food products as well as in mining sector. The government can promote private sector through supporting national or international small and medium enterprises and companies by easing various types of taxes and duties, providing loans, security and the critical infrastructural services. If the international firms are encouraged enough to invest in Afghanistan, and if they are ensured on low risk and good profits, the government would have achieved a huge leap in boosting employment in the country. Providing jobs for rural population would directly serve national security as many of the people joining the insurgency are from rural Afghanistan and areas with under-employment and high illiteracy rates. As result of rapid growth and billions of aid dollars from the international community, most of the occupation opportunities created in Afghanistan were in urban areas largely in communication and banking sectors. Many of job-seeking Afghans could not get into these industries because they did not have sufficient skills to get jobs in these sectors. Elevating agriculture and mining industries particularly in rural areas into government's top priorities will provide more jobs to Afghans, especially for those who are unskilled and living in rural areas.

In order to resolve the chronic unemployment in Afghanistan, the government needs to tackle widespread corruption and the deteriorating insecurity in the country. These two factors are main deterrents for investors interested in investing in Afghanistan. If the government makes economic development its priority, it would help resolving Afghanistan's long-standing conflict. The government should improve infrastructure, tackle corruption, create business enabling environment and formulate encouraging laws and regulations to attract investors.

President Ashraf Ghani has studied Economics at Columbia University, an Ivy league school, which is perhaps one of the best in the world. He has worked in the World Bank, and has served Afghanistan as the minister of Economy and Finance. Ashraf Ghani has had a remarkable role in designing Afghanistan's post-Taliban economic and national strategic development plans. Given that he is now the president of Afghanistan, he has to connect his economic and political strategies in a rational manner. Furthermore, Dr. Abdullah and his team can equally contribute in enforcing new economic strategies. If the president and the Chief Executive Officer manage to work cohesively together put their differences aside, Afghanistan will definitely take a major step forward in economic development and tackling the unemployment problem in the country.

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## Injustice of the Justice!

By Asmatyari

The appointment of female as senior judge in the apex court based on competence and aversion of ruling relative to Farkhunda's murderers giving them save passage are the twin developments - the former an audacious and appreciable move upholding the supremacy of merit, the later intimates the murder of justice by a justice. Earlier, President Ashraf Ghani nominated a leading lawyer, Anisa Rasooli a former juvenile court judge to become the country's first ever female Supreme Court judge. Afghanistan reserves the worst image in the international community pertaining to maintenance of basic human rights in general and women rights in particular. This decision will be deemed legitimate and levelheaded to reserve the ill perception Afghan have had concerning women rights. Otherwise the condition of functioning judiciary at present is nothing good of customary courts; downtrodden and plagued. The aversion of judgment to murderers and facilitators of Farkhunda's is a self evident account to aforesaid sorry tale.

A couple of months ago, a woman got slaughtered mercilessly by throng of angry mob; some of whom earned virtue by giving a free hit with iron rod, stick, twig and vehicle; others relied to triggering off the mob to do their part while using trash language; and some resorted to be a silent onlooker. A woman yelled, sobbed amidst stream of blood flowing down her face and body, begged forgiveness but everyone relied to witness the account of brutality but turned a deaf ear and a blind eye instead. Only rare sane voices were heard baring the mob of wreaking malice that went unheard. How could the rude mob, overwhelmed by mislead emotions control their infatuation? This sorry but a brutal tale is dead account of an unfortunate woman later recognized as Farkhunda - was ruthlessly killed and dishonored.

The brutal incident took place on the avenues of Kabul raised serious questions on the competence of state apparatus law enforcement agencies aiding judiciary to tackle a situation before that grows worse. The lady certainly had not committed a blasphemy; nonetheless the enraged mob did it by desecrating a dead body of a lady followed by putting her on an ablaze. This incidence certainly brought us infamy and tempted tarnishing our image as tolerant and civilized nation. Nonetheless, the culprits involved the killing of women must be brought to justice and should face fair trial and put to punishment that would hold off such butchery in the future.

Subsequent to the incidence the reports, of the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA) surface that declared woman guiltless, had not burnt the holy Quran. The officials confirmed that their investigations have revealed the books had Persian transcripts and there was evidence to prove the accusations against the victim. News eventually came out that Farkhunda had not burnt the holy book and instead it was an

amulet (taawiz) given to her by a religious leader of the mosque itself to 'ward of evil' and help with her illness, Farkhunda had reached out to the mosque for help where she was once for ever helped.

Responding at the mounted pressure over dozen of people allegedly involved in that heinous crime were apprehended - amidst the height of demand, justice was anticipated to be served. The four of main culprits playing central role in the murder were issued death sentence the other eight convicts were levied 16 years of imprisonment for their active role in the murder by Primary Court. The court's ruling was deemed sane given the culprits were liable of that punishment, earned wide appreciation from cross-section of the society. It was believed to be an act of justice that would play a role in discouraging such incidents to occur again. Expecting dispense of justice at this high value case would set examples streamlining the forthcoming decisions - will be deemed an exemplary shift.

Anticipating the justice will be served uninfluenced should not be considered recklessness - it indeed is. Undoubtedly, Afghanistan's judicial sector is suffering male administration and inapt officials that undertake biased ruling in frequent hearings. Identically, a deliberated twist and turn was witnessed in the judgment issued subsequent to hearing of Farkhunda's case in the court of justice. Later the Appeals Court reversed the verdict of the Kabul Primary Court sentencing three out of four men to 20 years of imprisonment and another to 10 years. Moreover, eight other convicts, who were each sentenced to 16 years of imprisonment, were also acquitted by the Court last week. Moreover, as the news reports disclose, the Court has entirely acquitted the custodian of the Shrine - Omran, who was found guilty of instigating the mob to attack on Farkhunda based on false accusations. He was initially sentenced to 16 years of imprisonment. This is a premeditated aversion of the former ruling, shocking but damaging the cause for maintenance of rule of law. This seems to be an intentional drive where a great deal of favoritism seemed to have been employed.

The biased ruling earned condemnation amongst humanitarian organizations and ordinary masses. The decision of Appeals Court has stirred loud outrage by civil society and Farkhunda's family and relative who expressed indignation over the ruling of Appeals Court. Farkhunda's parents have said that they do not accept the decision and see no justice in it. They have also said that they seek justice from the President and the Chief Executive. Following the widespread outrage over a recent Appeals Court decision to reverse sentences for key defendants convicted of murdering Farkhunda, the president has promised to reassess the case with the help of the Attorney General's Office.

Defiant to death penalty I advocate the maintenance of order even if that demands infliction of severe punishment to the culprits. The courts acquitting the culprits by letting them go unpunished - is an injustice with the justice. Making mockery of justice will further encourage the culprits and they will continue their evil deeds.

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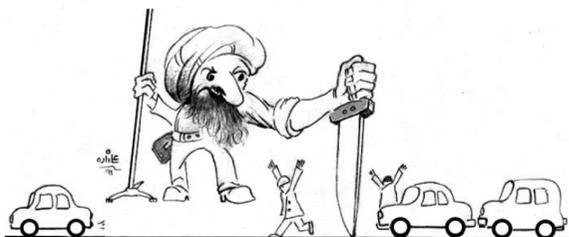
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