

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



March 01, 2018

Managing Water Resource

Our world has been blessed with different resources that support us to live our lives with ease and comfort. Among these resources water is one of the most basic one. Enough water to drink and to use is really necessary for human beings to live alive and it is also important for animals as well. In fact, most of the life cycle on earth depends on water.

Though a large portion of earth is filled with water yet there are concerns that it would prove to be insufficient with the passage of time and the usage. And there is also another important fact which is really very much unfortunate; and the fact is that though there are large reservoirs of water on earth there is a considerable population in the world that does not have clean water to drink and enough water to use.

It would be impossible for human beings to live without water; therefore, they require to use it wisely and at the same time find out new ways of providing it to all human beings so that everyone can benefit from it in the best possible manner. They have to make sure that the economic and political systems must ensure providence of natural resources to all the human beings alike - unfortunately that is not the case in contemporary world of ours. The short-comings in our administrative system have made the basic requirements seem lesser and inadequate though it is yet to face a serious threat of inadequacy.

It would be better for the world that it must cogitate seriously about every possibility of a new political economy so as to enable the world to compensate for the water and other shortages for the poor countries will have to suffer to a considerable extent as a result of the shortage of basic requirements and sources of energy.

Unfortunately, Afghanistan is one of the same countries and it will have to face serious challenges in the times to come to provide clean drinking water to its people. Decades of war in Afghanistan has affected the country to a large extent. Different sectors have been influenced by this menace. The basic infra-structure has not been able to get proper attention and people are suffering because of basic needs, among which food and water are the most basic ones.

Even the capital Kabul has been suffering because of the lack of these basic requirements. Current studies show that underground water level would deplete considerably in Kabul till 2020 and the residents of the city would face serious challenges in this regard. Currently, the water available to the people is underground water, which the people get by digging wells. Almost every house has a well that supplies water for household use. Unfortunately, there is no record of how many wells are dug in the city and how much water is being used or wasted. Moreover, the efforts of the government to establish a central supply of water which they can manage or control is almost non-existent. Therefore, the people use as much water as they want from the wells that are dug at their homes, which will ultimately result in depletion of water reservoirs to a large extent. The other parts of the country are no better but there are no data available about them and many issues that they face remain unreported. It is important that those areas should also receive attention from the relevant authorities. It is also encouraging to find certain institutions and authorities feeling their responsibilities in this regard.

It is imperative that such projects must be initiated in other parts, particularly, the remote parts of the country. And, along with such projects, a comprehensive strategy to preserve the waters in the country should also be designed and pursued. Without a long-term strategy, it would be difficult to guarantee clean drinking water for the coming generations.

The relevant ministry has already warned that ground water could become undrinkable over next three years if unplanned constructions continued, and the ministry had planned to initiate short and long term projects aimed at protecting the available ground water resources from contamination. The shortage of basic requirements itself is a sure problem, but there are many other problems that are directly linked with the hunger and deprivation that result from such shortages. Many diseases would erupt and many social evils will find their way in the society and will further deteriorate the country's socio-political scenario.

It is really important that a decade of struggle for betterment in Afghanistan must not only end in peace and tranquility but also better living standard for the common Afghan people; and if that is not convenient, they must at least be provided the rudimentary requirements like clean drinking water, and the authorities need to promise that there would be serious efforts to provide all the people of Afghanistan with clean drinking water.



The Outcome of Kabul Process

By Hujjatullah Zia

The issue of peace had its ebb and flow within the past decade and Afghans were fluctuating between fear and hope. The reconciliation process has been a rocky road for the past and present administrations. The ongoing violence shows the lukewarm response of the Taliban to peace talks.

Kabul government has frequently called warring parties, mainly the Taliban, to stop conflicts, which inflicted heavy casualties on Afghan soldiers and civilians, and resolve the issue through negotiation. Despite the series of the Taliban's attacks which killed and wounded hundreds of people, the Kabul Process was held to re-call the Taliban to peace table. To view the human fatalities, the graph of casualties in 2016 was the second highest record from terrorism incidents in Afghanistan since the ousting of the Taliban regime in 2001 and Afghanistan was ranked the second worst country, out of 163, in terms of terrorism in the world, the Taliban's attacks were said to be the deadliest. Within the first eight months of last year, 1,372 civilians were reportedly killed and 2,360 were wounded, according to the Civilian Protection Advocacy Group (CPAG). Hence, the high graph of human fatalities indicate the wide engagement of the Taliban militants in the conflicts without considering negotiation as a second option. Afghans also sustained heavy casualties within the last two months of the current year, which shows that the Taliban are unlikely to review their strategy. In spite of all this fact, the Kabul government urges warring factions to hold talks.

The issue of terrorism engendered a sense of mistrust between Kabul and Islamabad in the past years and harsh rhetoric was exchanged between Afghan-Pak officials. The lack of mutual bonhomie let the militants capitalize on the issue and intensify their attacks more than ever. In short, it led to horrible consequences that harmed both the states.

The Wednesday's Kabul Process has both its positive and negative aspects. To point out the positive side, the world's high-ranking officials convened to consider terrorism more seriously and ponder over peaceful way of resolving the issue. The world will know that Afghans paid high sacrifices in terms of combating terrorism and Kabul government will always welcome negotiation with armed parties. Meanwhile, Afghan officials were of the view to promote a friendly relation with Pakistan, which is able to play a pivotal role regarding peace talks.

On the contrary, the one-sided Kabul Process - i.e. without the presence of the Taliban - is not likely to bear the desired

result. The Taliban show no tendency in stopping the conflicts and will not succumb to the generous offers of Afghan President Muhammad Ashraf Ghani who proposed to release the Taliban's prisoners, remove the group from the sanction list, recognize them as a political party, agree with the opening of political office, issue passports for the members of the Taliban, allow freedom of travel, etc.

Secondly, although a dozen of women participated in the Process, their ideas were not asked about the peace issue. For example, the deputy to High Peace Council (HPC) Habiba Sarabi said that no women, including her, were asked to have their say in the Process. Thus, women's participation appears to be symbolic.

Similarly, the nation has no role in the peace process. Recognizing the Taliban as a political party will not be acceptable for the victims' families. A large number of families lost their members as a result of the Taliban's attacks during their regime and afterward. According to them, the Taliban are no more than war criminals due to violating the rights of civilians and must be prosecuted. Based on public perception, giving privileges to the militants and war criminals will deteriorate the situation rather than resolving the issue. First, it is a great injustice to the victims' families. Second, the Taliban's return to the government's body will curtail their freedoms besides putting the democracy under question.

Personally speaking, the Taliban will not stop the conflicts. It should be noted that the Taliban are not a political party but a radically ideologue faction and militancy runs in their blood. In other words, if the Taliban were a political party, they would welcome Afghanistan's peace offering with open arms. Further, Taliban cannot make a decision by themselves as a dependent agent of the Afghanistan Neighboring country, Pakistan. After all, the Taliban has carried out deadly attacks under the term of "jihad" within many years. Hence, they are not able to justify their past practices and killings. If the Taliban's leader sign an agreement with the Kabul government, their men will turn their Kalashnikovs to him and ask him how he would justify the past. To consolidate his position and become a hero in the eyes of the Taliban, their leader Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada will urge his men to intensify their attacks. He will remember a number of the Taliban's high-ranking officials who were assassinated due to their preparation for peace talks.

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High Birthrate: Potential Threats to The Social Order

By Mohammad Zahir Akbari

Beside other challenges, the High Birthrate has also been identified as one of the most worrying issues in the world, especially in Afghanistan. According to the most recent UN data, Afghanistan's population is estimated 36.37 million in 2018 which indicates almost 60% increase comparing to the last census nearly 40 years ago in 1979 that was estimated 15.5 million populations by an incomplete census. Accordingly, the population of Afghanistan will reach estimated 60 million after 20 years though the economic resources already come short to fulfill the current needs. As the 80% of country's land is highly mountainous and unusable for food productions and the rest 20% severely damaged due to chronic droughts. The current estimated figures equate a population density of 49 people per square kilometer or 127 per square mile. This makes Afghanistan the 150th most densely populated country in the world.

Currently, the world populations rate is around seven billion despite the fact that annually eighty million populations are newly added to the current number by each year. This shows that the entire world is facing the same crises, while the Asian countries are the most crowded and also the poorest. Experts already warned, if the world countries do not take any effective measures, the current resources on the earth will not satisfy the needs of people in next forty or fifty years. In fact, this is a great potential threat to world peace and tranquilities, especially to Afghanistan which already suffering starvation and economic dependencies. However, the government and international organizations carried out some programs but it requires more comprehensive solutions to deal all factors rooted in the context of Afghan society.

Though multiple factors recognized behind issue, the main factors consist of illiteracy, cultural poverty and security demand. In regard to social security demand, there is a kind of competition amongst Afghan family, especially in the rural areas, to have several sons and form stronger family; because small families are considered weak and easily aggressed by rural powerbrokers or rivals. Those who have few sons, think that they are more vulnerable and weaker than the families having several sons. Therefore, they endeavor to have the same number of sons and term it a big magnificence in the society. As a result, women are impelled to become the victims of such unsound competitions and inevitably deliver several babies without observing the required birth space and future consequences. In addition, family planning has not legally defined in Afghanistan ruling law except the civil law approval of 1976 discussed about family rights which need to be updated. While cultural poverty and illiteracy factors are not only the high birthrate factors but also the barriers in course of fighting against population control programs. As the resistance against new values and new world phenomenon are

the feature any uneducated and traditional countries who have not crossed this phase and often breaking the old structures are not easy. Beside this, the Population dispersion to the remote areas and around large mountains are the other challenges in the way of implementation of population control programs. There are many distant towns and villages which are completely deprived of health and hygiene services, due to its long distance, mountainous isolation or security problems. Especially, the mothers and children are more vulnerable because of mentioned reasons.

Based on a survey about children and mothers' situation in the world (investigated over 179 countries) Afghanistan ranked 152. According to this study, Afghanistan is a country where the life condition is not favorable for women and children. As per the survey report of the World Health Organization, still Afghanistan kept the highest record of child and maternal mortality rate in the region due to lack of accessibility to required healthcare services and other factors. According to the figures released by the ministry of public health, as many as 1,600 mothers died in every 100,000 often due to giving birth to a baby as result of repeated pregnancy related problems.

Frequent pregnancies without sufficient space between births not only endanger life of mother and baby, but also deprive these women of enjoying motherhood in its true sense. Women burdened by large families and battling various illnesses in their productive years fail to realize and harness their potential and are unable to raise their children in a healthy environment. Whereas, Afghanistan has the highest maternal and child mortality rates in the world also faces the challenge of population explosion. Family analysts repeatedly warn that lack of family planning methods will result that Afghanistan would have uncontrolled population in the next 50 years.

To gain success against population growth problem, there is a serious need for a comprehensive preventive population strategy considering all legal, social, traditional and economic dimensions of the matter. People should be aware that no religion advises that a woman shall bear a child even if mother mentally and physically get unhealthy; One of the most important principles in our culture is not to impose any loss to any human being regardless of their race, gender, color, religion and so on. So, when medical doctors advise that women should observe three to five year spaces between each birth and warn that multiple pregnancy affect health of the mother and newborn baby then it is on contrary to any religion teaching if we disrespect the advice of health experts. So, family planning must be suggested as a first pillar of safe motherhood and all people should be educated to undergo a healthy family planning.

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