Embracing Diversity

Living in a diverse society is always a challenge. This challenge becomes even more difficult to tackle when there are conflicts within such a society. In some cases, these conflicts may last for several decades and bring nothing else to the society, except misery and destruction. Therefore, it is important to learn the ways of living in diversity.

In order to live in cooperation within a diverse society it is necessary to develop respect and tolerance for others. Without these factors it would be very difficult to tighten the social bonds. The diverse societies have inhabitants from different cultural, historical, religious or sectarian backgrounds. Such societies, though have the advantage of being diverse and culturally rich, are very much vulnerable to conflicts as well. As there are groups of people with different ideologies and practices there are possibilities that they may have frequent clashes and disturbances. Therefore, it is necessary in such societies that different groups should accept one another’s existence.

The tolerance for diversity can be developed by realizing the fact that others have their reasons to be what they are. They have their own way to live and their own principles which developed within them their distinct history. However, because of their own principles, they are not in any way accountable for others’ wrongs. They, in fact, become the victims of extreme extremism. They observe and understand others in their own perspective and try to judge them as per their own values, which does not give proper and just result. They have their understanding and analysis of others based on their own frame of reference, which is bound to be biased as they do not care for the objective truths. The biased and one-sided approach towards others is bound to result in clashes and chaos. Such a scenario is very much deadly and can be utilized by others for their personal benefits.

History approves the fact that the heterogeneous societies that have had clashes among their different groups were dominated by others who have not only strengthened these clashes through political means but have in fact pursued their own merits. In short, the societies that have such clashes are dominated by others and they suffer great loss as a result.

It is, therefore, essential for heterogeneous societies to develop a culture of co-existence. A sense of belongingness to a large body; a feeling for attachment to something that stands for the issue to a certain level. Binding themselves to national levels, the heterogeneous groups should prove their trivial matters and start thinking in broader terms.

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