The Evolution of Microfinance in Afghanistan

By Rasuldad Danish

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T here is no doubt in the fact that freedom of speech has suffered in Afghanistan because of many reasons, among which patriarchal and short-sighted thinking of different authorities have been respon- sible. In a country, the presence of a system based on democracy after the downfall of Taliban, there has been some encouragement to media, intellectuals, artists, politicians and individuals to express themselves freely. However, a great deal of work still needs to be done to make free- dom of speech flourish in the country in true sense.

In the last few years or so, the deteriorating security situation has influ- enced Afghan media to a large extent. In some cases, they have been di- rectly attacked by Taliban and Danish insurgents. However, the efforts and opposition from the international community have largely helped the people to pave the way for freedom of speech. Highlighting one of the efforts, Vice-President Sarwar Danesh on Monday said that the gov- ernment was committed to supporting the freedom of speech. He also called the media an important value for a democratic society. Danesh’s statement was, “I am very happy Afghan has been placed in a better spot in freedom of expression at the UNESCO level. We thank the international organisations for this donation. I can say for sure Afghanistan’s new policy shows the government’s commit- ment not only to the freedom of speech, but to protecting this important and crucial value of democratic society from assault. It is really im- perative that Afghanistan must continue efforts for freedom of speech, which will ultimately promote democratic culture within Afghan society and would ensure smoother transition towards a better democratic sys- tem, and also because it is the right of every individual to have freedom of speech.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights says, “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart informa- tion and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

The greatest virtue of human is wisdom and the greatest act of wisdom is to share knowledge through expression. Expression or speech, in its passive form, is a thought, while in its active form it is a voice. As a mat- ter of fact, it is difficult to recognize the being of a human without his voice. It is a voice of truth which will ultimately lead humanity to recognize the being of a human being. So, it is important that we talk as long as we live. The ones who do not have the opportunity to talk, they feel that the unspoken words spread through their bodies like poison and snatch their happiness.

Therefore, everyone must be given a chance to speak their minds and let the words flow through their tongues and reach others, so that they can listen to them and understand them; in this way the speaker would not feel that his words were not given due respect. A very limited reservoir of knowledge is available, and in such a time, the Taliban has degraded the Afghan nation from red category to green in supporting the freedom of ex- pression. Danesh in his statement, “I am very happy Afghan has been placed in a better spot in freedom of expression at the UNESCO level. We thank the international organisations for this donation. I can say for sure Afghanistan’s new policy shows the government’s commit- ment not only to the freedom of speech, but to protecting this important and crucial value of democratic society from assault. It is really im- perative that Afghanistan must continue efforts for freedom of speech, which will ultimately promote democratic culture within Afghan society and would ensure smoother transition towards a better democratic sys- tem, and also because it is the right of every individual to have freedom of speech.

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