Universal Children’s Day

Yesterday, November 20th, was celebrated as Universal Children’s Day around the world. The basic objective of the day is to advocate, promote and celebrate children’s rights and encourage dialogues and actions that will build a better world for children. The day is celebrated on November 20th because it was the same day in 1959 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It was also the same day in 1989, when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This year the theme of the day was “It’s a child’s TakeOver!” and United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) encourages people from around the world taking over key roles in media, politics, business, sport and entertainment to voice their support for millions of poor children who are un schooled, unprotected and unprepared on 20th November. The day was also celebrated in Afghanistan. Several media organizations gave children the opportunity to take over segments of their programming. ETV, 1724, Shabberk, TOLO, RDK and Radio Free Europe as well as Pajhwok news agency and the Killid media group all participated in the celebration.

The day was named: “Children in Afghanistan are very important to give children a voice because they are a very big part of this country’s young society. However, girls and boys in Afghanistan are literally ignored as citizens and we need to give them the chance to speak up. Today, in a day for children to ‘take over’ and speak with their own voices. And we need listen.” It is really vital that the voices of the children should be heard, their issues should be understood and, most importantly, there must be efforts to solve the issues that they face.

The prevailing instability in Afghanistan is influencing all the sections of the society to a large extent, but the weaker sections of the society, especially children are the ones who fall easy prey in such a situation. The violent incidents have not only been carried out by the terrorists, but there are certain other issues of violence against children that are carried out by the society, as a whole, and for that the habitual incursions and sick mentality of the common man are responsible.

Many children, because of improper birth or because of lack of health facilities and insufficient nutrition often eat in the very beginning of their lives, or are not able to drink on their lives with certain physical deformities and serious diseases. Most of the children of the society are not able to access to education, education, either because of the financial problems or the traditional hatred of the parents towards modern education.

The girls in this regard suffer even more extreme levels. Moreover, the children who do not get a chance to be admitted in school are then sent out for work. In this way, they can prove to be helping hand for their parents and, in the process, they are left at the mercy of the social evils.

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