

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



October 12, 2017

Uprooting the Real Issues

A cursory look at our society will depict the fact that it has given only a few people the opportunity to take advantage of all the facilities of life and live in light, and it has pushed others in the darkness; such society, without a tinge of doubt, can be considered as an infected society. And, unfortunately, this infection has infected none other than the residents of the society. Instead of continuing their blame games, the members of the society must understand how serious the infection is and how seriously it has debilitated their health and role in the society.

And the ones, who claim to change the situation and have the ideas of amendments for this infectious society, seem to face failure; and if they continue with the similar attitude and similar approach, they are bound to face failures. As long as the society remains indifferent to the infection and keeps on neglecting it, it would keep on remaining the victim and the disease would never be cured. It has to start hating the wound and the society as a whole must repel it, if it really wants to get rid of it.

It is highly important to understand that it is impossible to stop the flow of water by flowing with it. It is necessary to create a hurdle in its way so that it is stopped or at least make directions towards the desired destinations so that water may flow to the same directions. It is not possible to stop the fire by puff; the more a person blows a puff, the more the fire becomes belligerent.

In the similar fashion if a person wants to go to the other side of the river by swimming through it, he needs to swim through the flow of water, not with the flow; otherwise he may never reach to the other side. Those who try to stop the water by flowing with it and stop the fire with puff, they are really insane and they seem to have no logical understanding of the situation.

As a matter of fact, we have forgotten the real issues and we are so lazy that we do not want to reach to the roots of the issues that we are facing; that's why we are not able to solve our issues. We keep on cutting the leaves, while never touch the branches, the trunk and most importantly the root, and we expect that the leaves would not grow again, which is really weird.

We believe that changing few things here and there may solve our real issues, but that is not the case. In fact, the measures that we take to change few things are all based on the wrong diagnosis.

The medicine that we have suggested for the infection in our society is not suitable for it at all because the diagnosis is not appropriate. Unless, we have proper diagnosis, how can we suggest the proper medicines? It is really impossible that the medicine for fever must cure tuberculosis.

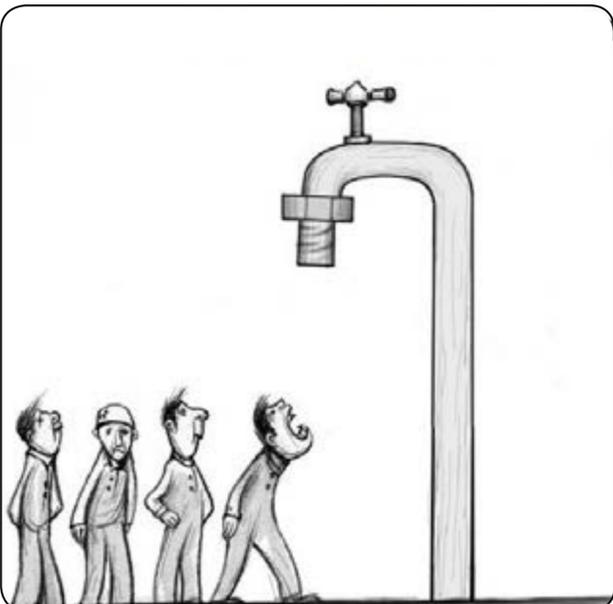
There are many in our society, among our so-called leaders, the most intelligent among our government authorities and intellectuals who claim that they are paying service to their countrymen, and they believe that they have the treatment of all sorts of our social diseases and infections. They keep on insisting that they the society has the same disease that they have cure for; they do not let us know that it is possible as well that our disease is of the type they do not have any awareness about. Nonetheless, now we have to decide that how long these sorts of insane and illogical approaches and practices would continue? How long would we keep on suffering from the, otherwise, curable infections?

Now is the time that we adopt a somewhat logical and reasonable approach. We require understanding that we have to change the society as a whole if we are really interested in curing its disease. We need to rebuild and strengthen its immune system so that it is able to resist against the infections successfully.

We have to make it believe that it can live without an infection and that it has a choice to do so. We need to make it appear beautiful and clean and let its susceptibility to diseases shrink. We need to fill its stomach with the hard-earned and easily digestible food, and make its veins filled with the blood full of energy and life.

We need to strengthen its bone with the vitamins of determination and iron will. We need to make its mind clear and able to think logically and rationally. We need to make its legs and hands supportive enough so that it will be able to stand on its own and do things independently.

There is no more room for mistakes, laziness and ignorance. The time would never wait for us and the history is never lenient to the ones who are not prepared and who waste their time in repeating their errors. We need to re-diagnose the infections of our society and need to suggest medicine as per the proper diagnosis.



Why the World Turns a Blind Eye to Narcotic Drug?

By Muhammad Ishaq Arifi

The product of narcotic drug is one of the great challenges in Afghanistan and has supported the war. This is also an international issue and devastated a large layer of human society. Its harm to mankind needs the attention of international community. Based on census, there are three million addicted individuals, including one million women, in Afghanistan.

Despite this fact, combating the cultivation and smuggling of drug is not included in international agenda regarding Afghanistan. In the "Region Counter Narcotics Senior Experts' Conference" held on Monday in Kabul, Afghan counter-narcotic minister said that the sporadic and single struggles of state would not be a remedy for this problem. The states had to prioritize a common strategy for combating drug.

Brig. Gen. Abdul Khalil Bakhtyar, deputy minister of counter-narcotics, said regional countries should increase their cooperation in terms of fighting drugs. He said cultivation, smuggling and use of drugs were major challenge to stability and peace in Afghanistan.

In an interview with BBC, Afghan President Muhammad Ashraf Ghani came with the question that although the Taliban are the greatest producer of narcotic drug around the globe, why the world does not pay heed to this issue? Since the cultivation of drug is the mainstay in Taliban's militancy and it also destroys the lives of many people in human society, this question is very significant.

The cultivation of drug resulted in streams of blood and horrific destruction around the universe causing millions of people to suffer forever. Every day, it targets the human sentiments and inflicts excruciating pain on mankind. Its bitter drops put groups of people in the quagmire of addiction and leave them without honor and identity.

The world of one's happiness and cheer erodes and people succumb to death behind the advantageous business of narcotic drug. The Taliban, along with many terrorist groups, trigger terror and resort to killing and destruction being backed by narcotic drug.

Although the Taliban banned the cultivation of narcotic drug during the last years of their regime, the United Nations announced, in the meantime, that there were stocks of drug in the Taliban-dominated areas. It added that the reason behind forbidding the cultivation of drug was to increase its rate in international market. Drug is still one of the great supporters of the Taliban's war.

Drug is cultivated in the Taliban-dominated areas and the borders to neighboring countries are also under their

control for trafficking it. There is an unnoticeable relation between the Taliban and drug traffickers. The Taliban receive ransom from smugglers and support them in return. The smugglers also seek Taliban's control in drug trafficking routes.

Meanwhile, this issue is still not included in the agenda of the countries which are combating terrorism and seeking peace in Afghanistan. It is crystal clear that the most effective way for combating terrorism is rooting out their financial support which has high achievements with low cost. The question is that why there has been no serious campaign against it? The location of drug manufacturers - which operate without dilemma - seem to be clear in Afghanistan's soil. Similarly, drug trafficking routes are obvious and national and international forces are believed to have easy access to drug traffickers but still no serious step has been taken in this respect. Therefore, Afghanistan's presidential palace asks that why the world does not pay attention to the issue of narcotic drug?

With the silence of international community, the phenomenon of cultivation of drug in the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) - held in Kabul in 5 October - was not taken into account as it should have been.

This silence puts the macro strategies for combating terrorism under question. How the strategies of fighting terrorism will come to fruition without eradicating their financial resources? Why the significant negotiations for bringing peace do not consider the main source of war and violence? Why the safe places for drug production are not attacked? These are the questions to be answered by the international community.

Hence, the international community will have to include the campaign against drug dealing in its agenda and pave the ground, in harmony with Afghan government, for the eradication of drug manufacturers, cultivating drug, and the heads of drug traffickers. It is imperative that international forces stationed in Afghanistan target drug traffickers and deal with drug trafficking seriously and legitimately.

Having the main burden of combating terrorism, the international community should disclose the names of individuals and governments that support drug trafficking networks. In another item, citizens should know drug trafficking monsters and the trafficking routes need to be struck to put an end to the funding source of terrorism. Otherwise, the national and international struggles made in bringing peace will not bear the desired result.

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The Role of Teachers

By Hujjatullah Zia

Verbally, Afghans hold teachers in high respect and call them "spiritual fathers" who seek to promote a nation spiritually. The key role of teachers in a society is undeniable. They beckon the society to the right path through broadening the horizon of students. Teachers are the backbone of a society and their sweat is shed to save a society from death or downfall.

This is teachers that uphold virtue and moral values of a society. Knowledge will strengthen the individuals' conscience and inject humanity and ethical code in a nation. Teaching and learning will purify one's soul and define the dignity of mankind to the public. Suppose that there were no teachers in the world, how human societies would realize human values and dignity?

If there were no teachers and teaching, the world would be in the deep quagmire of cruelty, ignorance, and barbarism. Indeed, to borrow Thomas Hobbes's words, we would live in a society that "Man is man's wolf" and there was the war of all against all.

A society without teachers will be void of humanity and moral and cultural values. Similarly, the world will not promote without teachers - who are the stock of knowledge. In other words, teachers convey knowledge from one generation to another through verbal and written instruments.

The contemporary scientific advancement and modern technology are the product of teachers' struggles. Teachers spend all their energy and time to promote a nation and generously offer their knowledge and information to the public. It is not only teachers' words to teach a society but also their daily behaviors.

Teachers are believed to be the paragon of virtue and humanity. Their acts of kindness and human characteristics will teach students how to behave with others. Abraham Lincoln writes to his son's teacher as, "Try to give my son the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone is getting on the band wagon. Teach him to listen to all men, but teach him also to filter all he hears on a screen of truth, and take only the good that comes through."

He further adds, "Teach him to scoff at cynics and to beware of too much sweetness. Teach him to sell his brawn and brain to the highest bidders but never to put a price-tag on his heart and soul." Such teachings, indeed, are the responsibilities of teachers.

The teachers' spiritual status has also been emphasized in religious texts. The idea of spiritual father originated from religion and Prophet's statements. Moreover, learning is considered an obligation in Islam. Prophet Muham-

mad (PBUH) said, "Learning knowledge is an Obligation on all Muslims." It reflects the fact that there is no difference between male and female in getting education and schools should be open to all regardless of their gender, race, color, etc.

It should be noted that a good teacher can play a prominent role in making the future of their students, while a corrupt teacher can only harm their students. For instance, a number of children are radicalized in some seminaries in Islamic societies by their teachers who cherish radical mentality. They implant their own poisonous mindsets in the minds of their students and divert them from the right path. That is to say, those radical and corrupt teachers jeopardize the life of their students and others rather than saving life. Generally speaking, those teachers who spread false information, hatred, and radicalism, tarnish the names of dedicated teachers and drive the society towards destruction. After all, radical individuals such as the Taliban discriminate females on the grounds of their gender and burn their schools. According to them, women should be engaged within the four walls of home rather than attending schools. Such kinds of mindsets are against religious tenets and Prophet's sayings.

However, good teachers create historical milestone in a society. Some of the great teachers were the cause of political and industrial revolutions around the world. Their vision helped various societies to gain freedom and independence and release from the yoke of colonialism.

To view teachers in Afghanistan, they are wrestling with many challenges, mainly financial problems. They are not paid sufficiently despite their tireless efforts. This will necessarily decrease their motivation for working hard. Thus, if teachers do not work honestly, students will be affected negatively. Teachers expect the government to pay them sufficiently so that they could be able to solve their financial constraints. There is no doubt, if the government does not attach importance to teachers, there will not be enough incentive for teaching energetically.

On the other hand, some teachers are not qualified for teaching, especially in remote villages. With their rudimentary knowledge, they simply waste the time of students - who are supposed to build the society. Besides increasing the salary of teachers, the government will have to monitor them and employ teachers on the basis of a certain criteria or else there will be less hope for promoting the country.

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