

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



April 24, 2018

Socializing the Deviants

The people living in a society do not necessarily accept all the norms and values of the society. There are certain individuals who think otherwise and may even go against the established norms, and thus deviate from the established ways of the society. Such deviation is not something abnormal but it tends to generate many other social problems when it gets intense. In intense cases deviation may even turn into serious crimes like murder, abduction, robbery and terrorism.

When people deviate they break social manners, social code of conduct in business and mutual agreements between the parties. They may go against the social manners of family and marriage. They can break promise and law of the state. They, as a matter of fact, revolt against the codes or norms that they do not consider correct or truthful. They can either do it willfully or simply by negligence of their responsibilities. In either case, they bring about a disturbance in the perceived social order. However, all the deviating individuals do not deviate in the same manner. Some deviations may result into very minor offences, while others may bring huge loss to others and thus the societies have established a mechanism of control to deal with such deviating behavior.

When deviation takes place on a larger scale, it can break the bonds of the society. The society, then, faces disorganization that may lead to disintegration and chaos. The function of institutions and groups is affected. Social problems of unrest among people develop. Even the social control may get paralyzed and the social order may lose balance.

One of the basic reasons of deviation is the failure to learn the norms of society. In fact, socializing institutions fail to perform their roles. Family is the first institutions teaching norms of social life. Parents play important role in this process. Siblings are the second to socialize their members of family. If both or one of the parents is absent by death or by other reason, the child fails to get proper learning, required affection and needs of satisfaction in the family. He becomes disturbed emotionally and seeks protection in the company of others outside the family. He learns anti-social activities, like smoking, gambling, abusing and deceiving others in association of bad neighborhood. He gets into the habit of deviance and becomes delinquent. Delinquency enters into his social life. He becomes criminal in adulthood and gets into the company of big criminals.

School and college are the next socializing institutions of education. If a person in not attracted by study, it means there is a great possibility that he may divert his attention towards other activities. However, there are occasions when school and college do not pay much attention towards proper socialization of the students so that they are able to become active members of society and take positive part in social life and social issues. They mostly concentrate more on the curriculum and academic excellence not on the social bonding of the students.

Neighborhood can also play a role in socialization of the individuals. There are many social activities that a neighborhood can promote so as to strengthen social bonds. They can have gatherings on different occasions; celebrations can be arranged; there can be different sorts of parties and even meetings to address the social issues they are facing. Meanwhile, a neighborhood that does not have many houses and the families mostly live their individualistic life without much interactions with others is bound to generate an environment that is not favorable for socialization. On the other hand, neighborhood can also play a role in promoting deviance. If there are certain groups or houses in the neighborhood that are non-conformist, they will definitely influence others and there may be a rise in deviance in such environment.

Moreover, one of the important factor is to understand that humans strive for attaining peace and ease in their social lives. This objective is achieved by having basic facilities of life. If there is dearth of basic requirements and the concerned authorities are not able to provide those requirements, there will be an urge for deviance in such environment. People will break the norms and values and even law to fulfill their requirements of life.

Like many other societies, our society also suffers from deviance to a large extent. There are many who go against the norms and values of the society and many others who break the law. In the short-run the best way to curb the situation is having a strong control mechanism. Our law and order system, in this regard, has the key role to play. Unfortunately, that seems to be very weak in our country and is not able to control the situation. It is neither properly developed nor is it based on true justice.

In the long run, however, we would have to deal with the actual causes of the deviance and among them raising the standard of living of the people and institutions is the most important. Therefore, we must strengthen our institution and at least provide basic requirements to the people so that they have the required trust on the society, social life and realize the worth of norms and values.



Who Pay the Prices? Voters or Candidates?

By Hamid Bamik

In a country like Afghanistan where relationships between voters and candidates are defined top-to-down not down-to-top, it is easy for candidates to get the votes and forget the voters. This scenario is exacerbated when the lives of the people are mattered. So, given the above point, one needs to answer this crucial question: Who pays the prices? Voters or candidates? The annals demonstrate that those who are placed at the bottom of this relationship pyramid simply pay the prices with losing their lives. Because in a to-to-down leadership model, these are the bottom liners who need the assistance and aids of top liners. In other words, top liners consider themselves superior and better than bottom liners.

Such a top-to-down leadership model is manifested well in the relationship between Afghanistan's parliament representatives and their adherents. But with the advent of presidential, parliamentary and provincial elections, this relationship is reversed - meaning that those who are the at the top of the pyramid need the help of bottom liners. This reversion is temporary and symbolic. Why is it ephemeral? According to political scientists and leadership professionals, top-to-down leadership models are rampant in underdeveloped, illiterate, and traditional societies because in these societies the public is not well-aware of their future; therefore, they confer their political and social destiny to their leaders. If some temporary changes occur in the relationship between leaders and their followers, in other words, if the top-to-down relationship is reversed between leaders and their adherents is due to some attractive but deceptive promises. Before occurrence of the terrorist attack in sixth District of Kabul in the west of Afghanistan on Sunday, April 21, 2018, Afghanistan high ranking governmental officials and the members of parliament repeatedly asked and requested the people to go to ID registration centers for obtaining their voting cards so that they can vote on the day of election. These authorities continuously emphasize on getting voting cards by the people whenever they are invited to a TV debate or interviewed by reporters that one can easily infer from their words that they really want to get rid all the challenges that Afghanistan is encountering nowadays. But that might not be the whole reason. The reason that they urge too much on people to get voting cards is that they need their votes, otherwise, they may not bother themselves to talk about the importance of having a fair and transparent

election for improving the economic, social, educational, and security situation of Afghanistan. As it is open to the public that those who nominate themselves for parliamentary election often invite their followers for dinner or lunch to project that they really care about their adherents. During their campaigns, they constantly talk about solving their problems, promise them hundreds and thousands of jobs, comfortable lives, providing education for their progenies, improving their security, enhancing their economy, and helping them at government offices for tackling their problems. But unfortunately, once the election is over and the candidates have achieved their targets, the real personalities of these candidates are displayed - all their promises and oaths are being swept under the carpet, again their relationship reversed from down-to-top to top-to-down. So, let's not forget that those who shout out today enthusiastically that people must obtain voting cards, they may not shout out for solving our problems as willingly as they do nowadays, after the election. These representatives will not even remember us if one day we tend to meet them for solving our problems. First, it takes days and days to get an appointment to meet them. Second, we might be able to meet our representatives and talk to them face to face about our problems if we know someone who is close to them otherwise, we might not be able to meet them leave alone solving our problems.

From this analysis, we can conclude that in Afghanistan, the votes are more important than the voters. In democratic countries where there are accountability and justice and the relationship between candidates and voters is horizontal, not top-to-down, both politicians and people need each other's cooperation and support. The politicians and leaders' comfort and tranquility depend on people's and comfort and tranquility. If people's lives are hurt, the leaders and politicians will pay the price. For instance, if accidents to the extent of the blast that occurred on Sunday in the west of Kabul take place in countries where there are democracy and rule of law, people's representatives will resign from their positions because of their job derelictions leave alone dismissing and bringing to justice the responsible authorities. It echoes one pivotal point - because in those countries for the representatives, the lives of their voters are on their top priorities while in Afghanistan the votes of the voters are on the top priorities of the representatives.

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China, Afghanistan and United Nations: Work Together to Create a Community of Shared Future for Mankind

By Liu Jinsong

On April 22nd, I hosted a special reception in the Chinese Embassy and invited more than 50 colleagues from the United Nations system in Afghanistan to participate. H.E. Deputy Foreign Minister Andisha was also present. Due to security concerns, the foreign missions to Afghanistan seldom hold special receptions, except on the occasion of National Day. However, me and my colleagues from the Embassy was resolved to hold such an event. The reception was held in a warm atmosphere and came out as a great success, which is because China, Afghanistan and United Nations form a community of a shared future.

A couple of days ago, it was the occasion of Chinese Ching Ming (tomb sweeping festival). I paid a visit to the Chinese compatriots who were buried in the British cemetery in Kabul. There is a grave for a lady named Qi, who was dispatched here to teach the local people to raise silkworms in the early 1940s when the United Nations was just founded, but unfortunately, she died of disease here. More than 70 years later, Afghan people still bring flowers and pay tribute to her tombs and thank her for her contribution and sacrifice to Afghanistan. These beautiful flowers are also paying respect to the United Nations.

In the special team of the United Nations in Afghanistan, there has always been the presence of Chinese. Ms. Jin Ni of the United Nations Development Programme Legal Foundation comes from Kunming where you could enjoy Spring in all the seasons. She had comfortable living and working conditions, but she resolutely gave up everything, went away from her family, showing no fears of hardship and danger, and rushed to dangerous places with male colleagues and actively promoted the perseverance of the Afghan police, especially the policewomen, to help the suffering Afghan people wholeheartedly.

In our Embassy, there are three colleagues who once participated in the UN peacekeeping operations in East Timor or Kosovo. In the mission area far from the capital, away from relatives and friends, there was no hot water or Chinese food, only danger and loneliness, but they made it, successfully fulfilled the tasks entrusted by the United Nations, and won honors for the Chinese people. They often told me that the days when they wore the United Nations Blue Helmets are the most precious and memorable experiences of their lives. I know that there are also many colleagues who have served the United Nations in the foreign missions to Afghanistan and we need to pay tribute to all UN colleagues who serve the cause of world peace and development.

There is a special bond between China, Afghanistan and the United Nations. In 1971, when the People's Republic of China resumed its legitimate seat in the United Nations, Afghanistan cast a valuable vote. China was brought into the United Nations by friendly developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and we will never forget this friendship. We also thank the Afghan government for its unwavering support for the One-China Principle and its support for China's core interests and major concerns within the UN framework.

Today's world is undergoing a new round of major developments, major changes, and major adjustments. Uncertainties and unstable factors are unceasingly emerging. The Afghan people still live in the shadow of the conflicts. The old, the young and the women are still suffering from fear and poverty. In this context, the United Nations is playing an even more important role in international hot spots including the Afghan issue. It is expected that all countries abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter more fully and firmly, and there is more realistic meaning to insist on multilateral-

ism and peaceful resolution to various disputes.

China is a founding member of the United Nations and a permanent member of the UN Security Council. It is the first country to sign the UN Charter and also the country in sending the largest number of peacekeeping personnel among the five permanent members. China firmly upholds the international system with the United Nations at its core, firmly upholds the basic norms of international relations based on the UN Charter, and firmly safeguards the core position of the United Nations in international affairs.

China and the United Nations system have conducted fruitful cooperation on the Afghan issue. Since the emergence of the Afghan issue, China has always been on the side of international justice and the majority of UN member states and drumming up for the Afghan people. When it comes to the 21st century, China supports the efforts of the United Nations in coordinating international aids for Afghanistan, supports the UNAMA, and promotes and supports the UN General Assembly and the Security Council in adopting a number of resolutions on the Afghan issue and actively participates in various discussions in the Security Council on the Afghan issue, support and implement the "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned" principle.

During recent years, China's cooperation with the UN system on the Afghan issue has become much more substantive. Last year, the Chinese government provided one-million-dollar cash assistance to the UNHCR to provide blankets and gas cans and other winter needs for Afghan refugees. China has also provided food aid to the refugees in Afghanistan through the WFP. We are also exploring specific projects cooperation with the UNDP, UNDCP, World Bank, and Asian Development Bank.

Days ago, President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech during the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference and said "the Chinese people will continue to work together with the rest of the world and make greater contribution to humanity. No matter how much progress China has made in development, China will not threaten anyone else, attempt to overturn the existing international system, or seek spheres of influence. China will stay as determined as ever to build world peace, contribute to global prosperity and uphold the international order".

On this land, China, UN and Afghanistan belong to a community of a shared destiny and are also jointly building a community of a shared future for mankind. The security situation in Afghanistan always draws the attention of all major, neighboring countries and the international community. Whether the Afghan issue can be properly solved is a test for human wisdom and UN capacity. Our common goal is to help Afghanistan regain peace and stability at an early date, help Afghan people own sense of security, gain and happiness, and help Afghanistan become a harbor of cooperation instead of a land of confrontation among major countries.

The Belt and Road Initiative, put forward by China and supported by the UN system, highlights the geographical and resourceful advantage of Afghanistan, pushes Afghanistan to regain its glory during the times of ancient Silk Road, and helps Afghanistan create more jobs and increase exports. The initiatives of China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Cooperation and CPEC extension to Afghanistan provide a better condition for Afghanistan to improve its international environment and connectivity.

There is a proverb in both Pashto and Chinese: "Solidarity means strength". We hope that UN agencies in Afghanistan could understand the initiatives and efforts of China, and we can cooperate with each other, complement each other's advantages, and help Afghan people get more care from the international community.

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