

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



August 13, 2017

## The Curse of Unemployment

Afghanistan is facing different sorts of problems simultaneously; among these problems, unemployment is a dominant one, and it is also causing many other problems as well. The people are getting frustrated with each passing day because of lack of employment opportunities and they are compelled to seek illegal ways for earning livelihood. They have been showing their concerns as well but there is no one to listen to them seriously and solve their issues.

Though people belonging to almost all walks of life face the evil of unemployment, the laborers are the ones who are influenced to a large extent by it. Their earnings are made on daily basis; therefore, if they find no work, they, along with their families, will have to remain hungry and deprived of many other basic requirements of life. They are not part of any particular union or organization that can guarantee consistent support for them; therefore, all they depend on is the daily opportunities that they get. Unfortunately, that seem to be decreasing as well.

Various reports show that a large number of laborers in capital Kabul complain that joblessness has increased during the past two years and they are unable to find work for a week in a month. The joblessness has forced them into borrowing money from friends, while the government has failed to generate jobs and honor promises.

Even the relevant government institutions themselves agree that joblessness has increased in Afghanistan over the past two years. They believe that joblessness has surged after foreign forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan and reduction in international aid. Though they claim that they are taking measures to improve the situation, the scenario depicts a totally different picture.

The government needs to understand that unemployment is one of the most serious issues in a society. It is because of the unemployment that the valuable human resource within a society is not brought to use or it is mostly used for negative purposes and therefore results into disorder and disturbance instead of being used for development and prosperity.

It is said that an idle mind is devil's workshop; therefore, the people who are unemployed do not get the chance of bringing their minds and their skills to work; therefore, they are used elsewhere – mostly somewhere where they can find any sort of opportunity without the thought of considering the negative and positive aspects or the concept of right and wrong. Though most of the countries in the world today face the issue of unemployment, the underdeveloped and the developing countries suffer from this menace to a large extent. As, the basic infrastructures in such countries are not developed and they lag behind in the process of industrialization, they are not able to create ample financial and developmental opportunities; therefore, new jobs are not created, which generates challenges for the authorities to compensate the ever-increasing population. The number of the capable people who have required qualifications and can work increases but the society and systems cannot compensate for them appropriately and, therefore, they become a part of the detestable unemployment.

It is not only because of the lag in the industrial revolution but unemployment has also to do with lack of determined and honest efforts to create job opportunities for the people. The agricultural societies, though may not be on the top regarding the industrial development, can also play a great role in creating opportunities for the qualified people. Some of the developing societies in this regard have taken some great initiatives and they have been successful as well. Therefore, it is also important that there should be determined and honest efforts to create new and innovative opportunities so that more and more of the human resource can be brought to work. Afghanistan needs to take the issue of unemployment seriously. Though insecurity and terrorism are important, the most important issue being faced by the country today is poverty and unemployment. There are direct links between the insecurity and unemployment, which are neglected altogether. Unfortunately, behind the hyped news of terrorism, the issue of unemployment has become less important. However, it deserves as much attention as the growing insecurity and terrorism and even more than that. This issue should be dealt immediately by Afghan authorities because it is becoming as the root of many other social issues in the country. The social problems like insecurity, immigration, drug addiction and crimes are mainly because of unemployment. If there are people who deserve to be working somewhere but are not provided the opportunity, there is huge likelihood that they will opt to join the ranks of the terrorists, become drug addicts and commit crimes or plan to migrate. Therefore, the Afghan government must deal with this problem on top priority basis. The issue of unemployment is more dangerous and urgent than the issue of insecurity and terrorism. Having solved this issue, Afghan government would be a huge step closer to solving the issue of terrorism and insecurity.



## Afghanistan and the Challenges of Socialization

By Hadi Miran

Socialization refers to a set of views and attitudes acquired by members of a community from several ways. In the early nineteenth century, this paradigm was first introduced by Emile Durkheim in sociological literature and subsequently changed into a great point of view in the field of the analysis and interpretation of social conflicts. From this perspective, ethics and behavioral patterns of people in the community is considered a structural process that members of community will change with bringing positive alteration in the content of educational and training centers. According to Durkheim, ethical code and behavioral pattern of a society are the product of the culture ruling social relations and the fruit of institutions where members of a society are socialized. Hence, the more modern and efficient these institutions are the more fruitful its effect will be on the process of socialization.

Anthony Giddens, a British sociologist, nurtures similar view to Durkheim. According to him, "socialization is the process whereby the helpless infant gradually becomes self-aware, knowledgeable person, skilled in the ways of the culture into which she or he is born". In brief, socialization is a process by which norms and other behavioral regulators are transformed into personality elements. He believes socialization is not simply a one-way process in which an individual learns how to fit into the society. He may also redefine his roles and obligations and as a result, he affects society. The individual and society both are dependent on each other for their existence. Thus, socialization can be described from two points of view, as individual learning and as a process of cultural transmission by the community as a whole. The process of socialization is highly down in Afghanistan since educational and training centers could neither introduce a favorite behavioral pattern or ideal attitude nor pave the ground for a sound and healthy way of socialization. Afghanistan is a mosaic of various tribes, culture, and religion and its inhabitants hardly experienced tolerance and coexistence for lacking national emotion and process of socialization.

Afghanistan's history reflects highly bitter and bloody episodes which stemmed from ethnic and religious discriminations and led to a dispersed and ill society, where poverty holds strong sway. Segregation, ethnic intolerance, linguistic and religious sensitivities and lack of national emotion prevail in the process of socialization as a paradigm which has shaped the character of the people in this land. Therefore, ethnic sub-cultures were considered mainstay and cultural superiority in this land. Virtually, this issue narrowed the opportunity for emerging national emotion and

sensitivities. That is why Afghan nation could not gain an intra-national knowledge to be used as an axis for national gathering and smooth the path for tolerance and coexistence. In brief, the process of socialization in Afghanistan grows within tribal culture and custom and tribal emotion remains as a lifetime identity and restricts the possibility of coexistence.

The establishment of a political system based on pillar of development and welfare seems next to impossible in Afghanistan due to the insufficiency of collective wisdom and the stagnation of culture and thought. This issue hampered the process of modernization. This situation has further led to the recognition of ethnic segregation on the one hand, and the strength of the walls of culture and custom against the infiltration of modernism on the other hand. These walls are so strong that neither Islamic tenets nor Marxism, as a modern ideology, could collapse them to pave the ground for exercising modernism. Little wonder, many of the intellectual elites of the society, in spite of their modern education and contact with the intellectual products and outcome of contemporary schools of thought, are restricted within ethnic sensitivity.

The youths and teenagers, who are to be the future builder of this society, are most likely to be the main victims of this turbulence. Based on their age, they are in sensitive stage and disregarding them will hinder the process of social development. Afghan youths are the silent victims of the society and experienced war and violence rather than love and affection from the very beginning of their life. Similarly, rather than going to school, they proceeded to war and pulled the trigger of gun, forced to backbreaking labor, and took refuge with great exhaustion. No one, however, breathed a word regarding this tragedy or adopted a strategy to curb the issue. These individuals will be socialized in the state of war and amidst bloody battles, and horror and terror. But no source has pondered upon the ethical and behavioral effects of these individuals which might lead to a great tragedy. So far, Afghanistan could not get out of the isolated island of tribal and ethnic custom or pave the ground for socializing the individuals in intra-tribal structure. There are a thousand and one reasons that social and cultural institutions – which are considered the center of socialization – could be affected by tribal culture and sentiment and failed to adopt a mechanism for promoting ethical and behavioral patterns. Pointing out all insurmountable challenges hampering the process of socialization is beyond the capacity of this article.

Hadi Miran is the newly emerging writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at the outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

## Tension between US and North Korea is at its Peak

By Hujjatullah Zia

A strong tension between North Korea and the US ensued North Korea's July 4 and July 28 tests of long-range missiles that may be able to reach the American continent, and the UN Security Council's decision on August 5 to impose new harsh sanctions on North Korea. These sanctions will lead to irreparable loss for the North Korean if China and Russia agree.

The flurry of threat between the US president and his North Korean counterpart has triggered a sense of global consternation, mainly following the Donald Trump's harsh rhetoric against North Korea.

George W. Bush's administration treated North Korea as a rogue state, while it subsequently redoubled its efforts to acquire nuclear weapons in order to avoid the fate of Iraq. On October 09, 2006, North Korea announced it had conducted its first nuclear weapons test. Moreover, Barack Obama's position towards North Korea was to resist making deals with them for the sake of defusing tension, a policy known as "strategic patience." With the Trump's administration, it is most likely that a whole new ball game will start.

Following the death of Kim Jong-un's father, Kim Jong-il, on December 17, 2011, North Korea tried the White House's patience through developing its nuclear arsenal despite international condemnation. Notable tests were performed in 2013 and 2016. On July 04, 2017, North Korea successfully conducted its first test of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), named Hwasong-14. Three weeks after its first ICBM launch, North Korea tested a second ICBM from Mupyong-ni, in the far north of the country, near an arms plant.

It traveled 621 miles laterally for 45 minutes and landed in the Sea of Japan, inside Japan's Economic Exclusion Zone, about 88 nautical miles west of Hokkaido. It marked the longest flight of a ballistic missile in North Korea's history, according to the Pentagon. South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff said that the ICBM had traveled 2,300 miles into space. Experts fear that if North Korea angled the trajectory of that missile, it could potentially travel as far as Washington or New York.

In a statement, Trump condemned the launch, saying that North Korea's "second such test in less than a month" is the "latest reckless and dangerous action" by Kim Jong-un's regime. Nonetheless, North Korea said it would complete plans by mid-August to fire four intermediate-range

missiles over Japan to land near the US Pacific island territory of Guam, after Trump said any threats by Pyongyang would be "met with fire and fury like the world has never seen".

Furthermore, the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) blamed Trump for "driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of a nuclear war", calling the US "the heinous nuclear war fanatic."

Donald Trump's harsh tone towards North Korea has likely shocked the world, mainly Korea's neighboring countries that fear that a war breaks out between the two nuclear powers which will bring the world on the verge of destruction.

The world still remembers the Korean War, which lasted from 1950 to 1953, in which more than one million combatants and non-combatants were killed and almost every substantial building in North Korea was destroyed. In brief, it led to indescribable sufferings.

Therefore, Chinese President Xi Jinping urged his US counterpart to avoid rhetoric which could stoke tension with North Korea as an escalating war of words raised global alarm. Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that "verbal escalation" was the "wrong response" to Pyongyang's heated rhetoric, and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said his country was equally worried about US talk of a preemptive strike and North Korea's warning of an attack near Guam.

In its editorial board, Washington Post Newspaper has pointed out two options for the US, "One is to live with a nuclear North Korea, as we have long lived with a nuclear China, hoping to deter its use of nuclear weapons by assuring Mr. Kim that his regime's destruction would immediately ensue. The other is to assemble a coalition of nations to impose economic sanctions sufficiently punitive and targeted at the regime that Mr. Kim decides he would be better off making a deal."

It further adds, "It is worth trying the latter before accepting the former." To sum up, the world recommends a peaceful solution to the challenge and will never prescribe war as a panacea for the issue. Indeed, breaking out war between the two nuclear powers will pose a serious threat to the entire world and the situation will go from bad to worse. Perhaps, posing stronger sanction might be an eye-opener for the North Korea to curtail its nuclear activities and missile tests.

Hujjatullah Zia is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at zia\_hujjat@yahoo.com

Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Moh. Reza Huwaida

Vice-Chairman: Kazim Ali Gulzari

Email: outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019

www.outlookafghanistan.net



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