

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



August 17, 2016

## Diligence Can Make our Fortune

The necessity of diligence may, indeed, be regarded as the main root and spring of all that we call progress in different civilizations. In every walk of life happiness is a fruit of which labor is the seed. We cannot enjoy the fruit without sowing the seed. Fortune has often been blamed for the blindness, but fortune is not as blind as men are. Those who took into practical life will find that fortune is usually on the side of industrious and perseverant and the winds and waves are on the side of the best navigators. Success treads on the heels of every right effort, and though it is possible to over-estimate success as the gift of deity, still in any worthy pursuit it is the diligent and painstaking who go the longest and win the most. Success is seldom dependable; like money earned by gambling; such hits only serve to hire one to ruin.

Those who fail in life are, however, very apt to assume a tone of injured innocence, and conclude too hastily that everybody excepting themselves has had a hand in their personal misfortunes. Generally, they consider themselves born to ill luck, and make up their minds that the world invariably goes against them without any fault on their own part. But such complaints against fate or luck, if we look into the matter closely and critically, we shall discover, are altogether futile and baseless. Fate is not a conscious being that can make or mar our happiness. It is creation of idle fancy, an invention of superstitious brains.

When men cannot examine and acknowledge their own weakness, say owing to their excessive self-love or lack of courage, not be able to attribute their failure to other, they take a convenient shelter under fate. Hence, it will be found that those who lament their luck are indeed in some form or other repairing the consequences of their own neglect, mismanagement, incapacity, or want of industry and application. Many ways of achieving fame and fortune have been suggested but as Samuel Smiles says, "The common highway of steady industry and application is the only safe road to travel."

There is no other secret of success. The proverbs of every nation abundantly testify. "We make our fortunes and call them fate," "No pains, no gains", "No sweat, no sweet", "Work and thou shalt have", "The world is his who has patience and industry", "heaven helps those who help themselves", "It is better to bear out than rust out"; such are the specimens of the proverbial philosophy, embodying the hoarded experience of many generations, as the best means of thriving in the world. They have stood the test of time and experience of every day still bears witness to their accuracy, force and soundness.

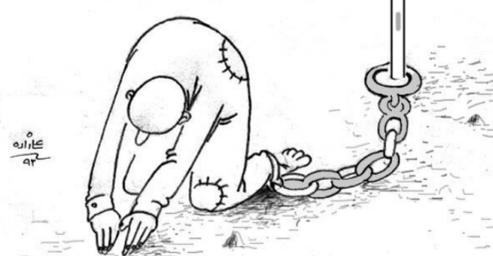
Not only the proverbs but the lives of great men bear an ample witness to the fact that success, and happiness are achieved not by those who move along the 'primrose path of dalliance' but by those who 'scorn delight and live laborious days'.

Diligence has been a necessary principle of happiness, progress and prosperity not only in the life of the individuals but also in that of the great nations. The vigorous growth of any nation on the face of the globe has been mainly the result of the free energy of individuals and it has been contingent upon the number of hands and minds from time to time actively employed within it, whether as cultivators of the soil, producers of articles of utility, contrivers of tools and machines, writers of books, or creators of works of art.

Things which are today the pride of human race were achieved through the diligent and untiring efforts of man. It was continuous labor that built immortal pyramids in the plains of Egypt. It was by virtue of slow and steady perseverance that the wall protecting the territory of China was raised, the peaks of Alps and Himalayas enveloped with clouds and snow were conquered and flourishing cities, states and nations brought into existence where once wild forests and mountains existed. It is the untiring labor of man that has discovered unknown islands and covered the breast of sea with ships, revealed the secrets of nature, sealed the heights of heaven, counted stars of the infinite cosmos and produced imperishable works of art, science, literature and philosophy. But one thing has to be borne in mind in this connection. Diligence would never lead to any worthy and valuable achievement unless it is coupled with intelligence.

Labor pays when it is applied intelligently to achieving a certain end. Carlyle has said that genius is the capacity of putting in infinite amount of labor. With labor a genius may achieve his objective but it does not mean that labor can create genius. The essence of life is activity, adventure and struggle. We live in deeds not in years. Let us, therefore, find our responsibility and the objective both as individuals and as a nation and leave no stone unturned in achieving that objective.

Pol - e Sokhta



## Library is the Hospital of Mind

By Muhammad Zahir Akbari

Many of mind diseases are Communicable and its poisonous viruses can rapidly spread through new media among the society. More than ever, there are seriously needs for hospitals of mind but there is no better hospital for mind than library. Whatever the cost of libraries is, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant and ill nation. The nation who does not use library or read books will frequently repeat the history, and the man who does not read books has no advantage over the man who cannot read books. In fact, library is the center of intellectual thinking, social activities and production of thoughts in a growing country. In the other word, Library is the delivery room for the birth of ideas, a place where history comes to life and there is nothing more wonderful than a book! We may sit in our library or pick up a book and yet are in all corners of the earth and history. A message to us from the dead, — from human souls whom we never saw, who lived perhaps thousands of miles away; and yet these, on those little sheets of paper, speak to us, teach us, comfort us, open their hearts to us as brothers.

Libraries largely contributed to long term processes of human capital formation, the maintenance of mental and physical wellbeing, social inclusivity and the cohesion of communities. This is the real economic contribution that libraries usually make to a nation. The fact that these processes are long term, that the financial benefits arise downstream from libraries' activities, that libraries make only a contribution to what are multi-dimensional, complex processes of human and social development, suggests that attempting to derive a realistic and accurate overall monetary valuation for this is akin to the search for the holy grail. What it does show is that measuring libraries' short term economic impact provides only a very thin, diminished account of their true value.

Taking into account that chronic poverty is adversely dominating society education and valuable books are beyond the fiscal ability of students and people to buy; only public libraries can equally quench the thirst of people and students regardless of their socio-economic status. In addition, modern libraries can present classes and discussion programs, exchange the ideas and online education courses for unemployed men and women. Many focus group participants noted that libraries "level the playing field." While many people of higher socio-economic status routinely purchase books, subscribe to periodicals, and conduct their research online without ever visiting a library, many lower income individuals and families do not have that option. Universal access is one of the most important strengths of the library. The availability of resources, technology, and educational opportunities provide everyone with

the availability to improve themselves and their life circumstances. Even those patrons in higher income brackets need to prioritize their spending. As the library is not confined to traditional libraries in today's life; rather it can consist of vast sources to non-stop learning opportunities including old traditional library, electrical, visual and so on. For instance, a purposeful learner can find television very educational, the minute somebody turns it on, he can go into the library and read a good book or when a client waiting for his paper work at a government office, he can use his mobile as a library before his job get done.

In spite of all the educational resources and opportunities, unfortunately Statistics of book readers are almost zero in Afghanistan. There are verities of factors but what is, somewhat, practical to call is to cultivate the reading habit instead opium cultivation and to promote reading culture instead of systematic cultural discriminations. Secondly, we need to warn the society that when a child opens a book or turns on an electric device he pushes the gate that separates him from elsewhere. It gives him useful or harmful choices of opening the door to unknown, maybe, misleading and poisonous resources. Hence, it is needed to be managed and monitored along with the mass media.

In the other terms, because the success of library depends largely on the proper selection of books, journals and periodicals, there is a strong need to establish a small committee of teachers or experts, for selecting the right books for library. The guiding principles in selection should not be the experts' own idea of what books the students or the people must read but their natural, the social and psychological interests as well as national needs must be considered. So, common saying is absolutely true to tell me what you read and I'll tell you who you are. Therefore, it is crucially needed to table certain national solutions: First, we need to start a constant national campaign to convince all that Afghanistan cannot be changed unless by book. People should support those who really support educational development in Afghanistan. Secondly, in terms of national budget management education and libraries should be on the top of the priorities. Besides being determined against terrorist, all developmental strategies should be changed towards removing illiteracy from Afghanistan. Education should be added as compulsory duty for every citizen in national constitution. Those who disagree we must identify whether they do not work for Afghanistan or do not know what a miracle education and libraries do in the twenty-first century. Only libraries and educational organization can build a nation, nation is not built on the surface of earth it must be built in mind and in heart of people.

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## Migration Fact vs. Migration

By Peter D. Sutherland

Migration continues to dominate political debate in many countries. Rightly so: the issue affects economies and societies worldwide. But public opinion on this crucial topic tends to be shaped by emotions, rather than facts. The result is a lack of open and effective dialogue about migration's risks — or its many benefits.

Populist leaders, in particular, have been eager to manipulate the migration debate, using inflated figures and other gross exaggerations to stoke popular fears. Such incendiary rhetoric directly hurts immigrants, even those who have long lived in their new country. In the United Kingdom, reported hate crimes against immigrants surged 42% year on year in the run-up to and aftermath of June's Brexit referendum.

But the impact of anti-immigrant sentiment extends far beyond national borders. If populist fear-mongering drives their countries to embrace exclusionary, protectionist policies, the effect on the global economy — and the livelihoods of millions of people around the world — would be disastrous.

It is now up to rational political leaders and mass media to reintroduce facts into the debate. They must publicize the actual figures for migration flows, both into and out of their countries. They must make clear to citizens that many of the problems for which immigrants are blamed are not actually their fault. And they must highlight immigrants' large social and economic contributions.

The Brexit vote was driven by a distorted picture — eagerly painted by tabloid newspapers and populist politicians — of a country overflowing with migrants. And, in fact, surveys show that in most countries, residents greatly overestimate the number of migrants in their midst. In some Eastern European countries, Muslim migrants are perceived as being up to 70 times more numerous than they are. The truth is that the share of people living outside their countries of origin has barely increased in recent decades, standing around 3% of the nearly 7.5 billion people alive today. In the last five years, 36.5 million people — just 0.5% of the global population — have left their native lands.

It is a myth that all developing-country citizens seek to reach wealthy Western societies. Those who do migrate are far more likely to stay in their own region. Less than 1% of Africans have relocated to Europe. Meanwhile, plenty of advanced-country citizens — including 4.9 million UK nationals — are represented in global migration figures.

Claims that migrants are a drain on national budgets are similarly inaccurate. In the UK, immigrants generate more in taxes than they draw in benefits. In fact, many advanced countries need migrants. Of the ten countries with the highest share of people over the age of 65, nine are in Europe. While industrialized countries often suffer a shortage of low-skill workers — Hungary recently acknowledged that it needs 250,000 foreign workers to fill the gaps in its labor market — immigrants are not necessarily uneducated. In 2010, 29% of

immigrants to the OECD had university degrees.

Beyond contributing to host economies as workers, entrepreneurs, investors, and taxpayers, migrants (and refugees) support development in their countries of origin through remittances. Indeed, remittances account for a significant share of GDP in many developing countries, and are often the largest source of foreign-currency earnings. Not only do remittances help pay for critical imports; by improving the balance of payments, they allow countries to borrow at lower interest rates in private capital markets.

Of course, there are challenges associated with migration. But they can be overcome. The refugee crisis in the Mediterranean, which has spurred panic across Europe, could have been addressed effectively with coordinated international action, as occurred in the past. In the 1970s and 1980s, the international community rallied to resettle more than a million Vietnamese. In the 1990s, when the Balkan conflicts displaced almost four million people, Europe stood up and helped.

But the political atmosphere today is less welcoming. Donald Trump, the Republican US presidential nominee, portrays Syrian refugees fleeing for their lives as a security threat, despite the thorough screening procedures implemented by the current administration, which has committed to taking 10,000 refugees by the end of the fiscal year. Hungary is set to hold a referendum in October on EU refugee quotas. As advanced countries fight to keep out asylum-seekers — in Hungary's case, just a few thousand — developing countries are housing millions of them. Five countries that together constitute less than 2% of global GDP — Turkey, Jordan, Pakistan, Lebanon, and South Africa — provide shelter to almost half of the world's refugees. The world's six wealthiest countries — the US, China, Japan, Germany, France, and the UK — account for 60% of global GDP, but they hosted fewer than 9% of all refugees last year. This is no accident. From 2010 to 2014, European states spent more than €1 billion (\$1.1 billion) on walls and borders. These attempts to "regain control" by erecting new barriers force migrants into the hands of exploitative smugglers and undermine trade and cooperation. As it stands, only 7,200 of the 22,504 non-European refugees that the EU pledged last year to resettle have arrived. Thousands of unaccompanied children, the most vulnerable of migrants, have yet to find a place. Beyond the legal obligations of all signatories of the 1951 Refugee Convention, this is a test of humane values and decency — one that the so-called advanced countries are largely failing. It is time for these countries to recognize that the best way to ensure orderly migration is to open legal channels for refugees and migrants. As for integration, some of the practical hurdles can be overcome through more local investment and more coherent policies across government departments.

People have always moved, either by choice or when forced by circumstances. This will not change. It is time to stop resisting it and, armed with facts, start managing it. (Courtesy Project Syndicate)

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