

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



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Reasons and Eradication of Crimes

There are myriads of societies living in our world. Each one has its own characteristics. However, it should be noted that no society is perfect. Every society has certain evils and disadvantages. Some may have a large number of these problems while others may have only a few. The societies with lesser evils and disadvantages are considered as the best societies. Therefore, every society, by maintaining its own distinction and uniqueness, strives to put an end to these evils, which basically guarantees the society's evolution. However, it is important that the society must realize that there are evils in it and they are to be eradicated.

Social evils are the factors that may disrupt the social life to a large extent. They have the capacity to introduce disturbances and troubles in the lives of the individuals inhabiting the society and the overall social norms, values, relations and activities. Some of the dominant social evils include poverty, crime, corruption, drug addiction, juvenile delinquency, robbery, theft, begging and many others. Some of these evils are closely inter-related and have the cause and effect influence over one another. Nonetheless, all of these evils join hands together to challenge the civilized and better living conditions in human societies.

There cannot be one particular reason behind the social evils. There are different reasons that are responsible for introducing these evils and incapacitating a society to perform well for its inhabitants. One of the basic reasons is the absence or weak adherence of rules and regulations. Without proper rules and regulations that are based on justice and fairness, it would be very difficult to have a society without social evils. Most of societies in the modern world enact their rules and regulations through a system of law and order. Strong law and order system strives to achieve justice and minimize the social evils. Through effective law enforcing agencies, including police, courts and prisons, an active law and order system makes utmost effort that justice is served to the people. The ones who are culprit must be punished while the ones who are innocent must not suffer ill treatment.

However, some suggest that only law and order system alone does not guarantee the eradication of social evils; some who possess extreme opinion even suggest that the law and order system itself is responsible for giving birth to so many social evils. Even a moderate view would suggest that a law and order system not based on true justice fails to eradicate the social evils. Talking about the reality, it can be observed in the some of the present societies of the world that law and order system tends to favor few while discriminating others. The favored few are mostly the part of the ruling elite. Due to their authority in the society they tend to over-power the law and order system. Therefore, the law enforcement agencies fail to bring them to justice and trail them for their crimes and misdeeds.

Some of the views also suggest that social evils are the outcome of the corrupt human nature, rather than the unjust and inappropriate social system. They suggest that human beings are corrupt by their nature and tend to commit crimes and corruption as a part of their nature. However, it is really hard to believe such an opinion. Though some individuals may have abnormalities at their birth, which cause social disorder in them and they are not able to play constructive role in the society, they are only occasional and can well be counted in exceptions.

Otherwise, mostly human beings are born with an innocent nature and their social orientation decides whether they become criminals or social workers.

However, this does not suggest that human beings are totally determined to commit crime. On certain occasions, crimes and other evils that they commit are a part of their choice, which they make from amongst the available choices.

To control social evils, punishment is considered as one of the most effective ways. However, there can be a circumstantial debate on what should be the nature of the punishment and how it should be conducted. It is important the punishment should make a culprit amend himself. If the punishment further worsens the attitude of the offender, it cannot be said to have served its purpose. It, then, rejects its own philosophy and must be altered. Nonetheless, this is not to suggest that there should not be any punishment.

Another way of controlling or eradicating social evils can be through the values that are disseminated by the social institutions. The social institutions can inculcate within the individuals the awareness about the evils and the ways to avoid them. Among the social institutions, families and education systems can play an important role in this regard.

They can play a tremendous role in establishing the characters of the individuals and making them aware so that they are able to make better choices in the society that may not benefit their individual lives but the social life as well.

The roles of cultural and social institutions are also of utmost importance in this regard. They have high social value and influence and through the same they can bring about positive changes in the society by making the members of society abhor and avoid social evils and condemn them in every possible manner.

Indo-Afghan Strategic Partnership

By Abdul Ahad Bahrami

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Kabul visit marked a key milestone in the long-standing cordial relations between Afghanistan and India. During Prime Minister Modi's visit to Afghanistan, the new compound of the Afghan parliament was inaugurated and the country delivered three fighter helicopters to Afghanistan. During his visit to Kabul, Mr. Modi called on the regional countries and Afghanistan's neighbors to cooperate for peace and stability in Afghanistan. He said that a secure and stable Afghanistan as a hub for Ideas, trade, energy and investments in the region would benefit all regional countries. He added that aimed on this goal, India strives to connect Afghanistan to Iran's Chabahar port. The Indian leader expressed hope that Pakistan would help in the future to connect Afghanistan to the South Asian nations and beyond.

The visit by the Indian Prime Minister to Afghanistan is overwhelmingly hailed by Afghans and the country's activists and political spectrum. India has won hearts and minds of Afghans. Afghans overwhelmingly view India as a helpful and trustworthy friend for Afghanistan. India has played a crucial role in helping reconstruction and development of Afghanistan in the past over a decade, and is set to continue to be an indispensable security and economic partner in the future. India has had a major presence in Afghanistan's economy. Many Indian companies have been running reconstruction and development projects in the past over a decade. The two countries signed a long-term strategic partnership agreement during former Afghan president Hamid Karzai. The landmark visit of the Indian Prime Minister to Kabul is meant the country's crucial role in helping reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. During his visit, Indian Prime Minister is also committed to provide new aid packages for Afghanistan's reconstructions and economic sector.

India has been one of the major donor countries for development of Afghanistan. In addition to funding of the new compound of the Afghan parliament, the Salma dam in western Afghanistan is one of the major projects funded by New Delhi. The country is undoubtedly the biggest supporter of Afghanistan in developing the country's human resources and skilled labor forces, training and providing expertise to thousands of Afghan youths. India has been providing scholarships on annual basis for Afghan students to get higher education and return to the country as skilled work force. Struggling to boost Afghanistan's defense capabilities against the insurgent groups, former president of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai demanded India to provide Afghanistan with heavy weaponry including tanks and helicopters. Since the signing of the strategic partnership between Afghanistan and India, India has moved to boost the country's cooperation with Afghanistan in security and defense areas to a new level.

For sustainable stability and development, Afghanistan needs

to count on not only on its Western backers but also on friendly regional countries. While the West is withdrawing from Afghanistan and the NATO-led coalition is shrinking, long-term allies could play key roles in helping peace and stability in Afghanistan and developing the country's defense capabilities as it is coping with the insurgency. India has responded positively to Afghanistan's request for weaponry and ammunition for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). It can play a crucial role in supporting ANSF battling the Taliban and other insurgent groups in terms of training, equipment and weaponry.

India is a true friend for Afghanistan in all seasons. India's contribution to building the post-Taliban Afghanistan aimed at shaping a modern and peaceful country has been significant. Afghanistan needs to continue to expand relations with India in all areas including security, education, and economic areas. While on one hand, India and Afghanistan need to improve relations and expand economic and security cooperation, on the other hand, both countries need to assure other countries that improved relations between Afghanistan and India would not be against interests of any other country. The mutual relations between India and Afghanistan should be focused at promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan and the whole region. Such mutual relations focusing on trade and economic cooperation would benefit all regional countries.

Pakistan has long been suspicious of Indian presence in Afghanistan. This is while Afghanistan needs to improve relations with the two South Asian countries and maintain balanced and friendly relations with both countries. The reason for this is obvious. Pakistan has a major say in Afghanistan's security and stability, while India has always played an indispensable role in development of Afghanistan. While expanding bilateral relations, India and Afghanistan need to do more to assure Pakistan of the peaceful nature of the improvement of relations between the two countries. Afghanistan needs to develop its relations with the regional and neighboring countries with the aim of promoting a regional cooperation for helping security and development of Afghanistan.

The relations among Afghanistan, India and Pakistan are entering into a new phase with the start of construction of the Central-South Asia gas pipeline (TAPI) and the growing trade and economic cooperation between the three countries. The pipeline project is one of the biggest economic enterprises in the region, and has turned to a so-called diplomacy of pipeline promoting peace and cooperation in the region. The pipeline diplomacy has the potential to transform political relations between the three countries. The project is only a starting point for the three countries to focus more on improvement of economic relations and trade. There is much more for the three South Asian states in areas of trade and economic cooperation.

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Cultural Decline

By Hujjatullah Zia

Our cultural values are left at the mercy of swift changes as the younger generations, including male and female, show great tendency towards modern styles. The moral standards and social norms are on the verge of decadence. The past virtue remains nostalgia of the present and the former spirituality has left a deep vacuum in social life. The male sacredness and female chastity are lacking in the community.

Whenever I walk on the street in capital city of Kabul, the girls' colorful dresses make me think of fashion show or wedding ceremony. Similarly, the boys' clothing remind me of Hollywood actors. However, a number of women used to wear dark-blue burqa (a meshy veil) about a decade ago and long clothes were customary for men.

After all, there seems to be a competition among the them. It is believed that scores of girls present in the updated fashion, irrespective of their fathers' blistered hands and profuse sweating, to outweigh the others. Likewise, the stylish girls are used in advertising gimmicks to lure more customers and in artistic and musical programs to magnetize more viewers. In a nutshell, feminine beauty and dignity are used for self-interests and banal goals. It should be noted that "Femininity is not just lipstick, stylish hairdos, and trendy clothes. It is the divine adornment of humanity. It finds expression in your qualities of your capacity to love, your spirituality, delicacy, radiance, sensitivity, creativity, charm, graciousness, gentleness, dignity, and quiet strength."

In some remote areas, however, men dress in long garments and turbans and women wear burqa concealing their faces from non-chaperones to protect the cultural values which held sway during their forefathers. But their mindsets did not change either. They show inclination towards extreme traditionalism and this group would be more perilous than the first one.

We live in imbalanced society and people's movement towards two opposite directions namely secularism and traditionalism imperil the society culturally and politically. It is believed that the armed militants who rebel against the status quo are born from the heart of extreme traditionalism. They show religious intolerance and resort to arms under the title of "corruption of blood". Their traditional worldview justifies them to spill the blood of their compatriots who have embraced modern style. They maximize their realm of authority and will finally succumb to the ideology of the

hardliners. We live in imbalanced society from one more perspective. One resides in skyscraper regardless of his/her neighbors whose faces are pale with hunger. There are some who lay their heads on bricks in the chilling weather. They do not melt the hearts of licentious passersby but of those who bear, at least, a tinge of humanity. They are frozen to the bone, resist coldness and hunger and fight for their life. The charitable culture, generosity and Prophet's Sunnah are fading away. One hardly ever feels the pain and sufferings of their human fellows.

Historically, Afghanistan used to be the hotbed of great thinkers and it is the birthplace of prominent personalities. People cherished religious values to a great extent and practiced high moral standards. Therefore, they lived a peaceful life and treated one another as brethren. Their selfless acts of generosity, humanity and divine virtue created a quiet atmosphere. They were not inattentive of their ailing neighbors. They neither spilt the blood of their compatriots on the grounds of their cast, creed or color nor violated their rights and dignity for their self-interests. Isn't it nostalgia for the present?

Charlie Chaplin, a British comedy actor, who is highly famous in the history of Hollywood, writes a piece of fatherly advice to his actress daughter Zheraldin. He writes, "Your job is very difficult. I know that. Your body is covered only with a piece of silk. Because art can and will appear naked on stage, but to come back from there in wearing and cleaner ... But nothing and no one else in this world deserves to see even the nails of the feet of a girl. Nakedness is a disease of our time. I am old and my words might sound funny. But me, your naked body must belong to one who loves face your soul."

Chaplin's letter carries great moral messages - to be practiced upon chiefly by the girls of our era. Our actresses should know that they can keep their morality safe not only on the streets but also on theatrical stages. Those who live in the world of music and dances must not forget the pains and sufferings of the actors and actresses who dance or sing with hungry stomachs. Neither do the occupants of luxury apartments forget their poor neighbors who sleep with empty stomachs in mud-built houses. Let's live in the world of humanity and do not forget moral practices and keep our culture safe from erosion.

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