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

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The Paramount Role of Educational Institutions

Educational institutions in our society are of considerable importance. Since, our society is a backward society and it would require knowledge and education for development and progress, the role of the educational institutions become even greater. They are also important in shaping our attitudes and prepare us for behaving in a certain manner in defined situation. They can supply us instruments by which we can realize our social goals. These goals and values are defined by the system of education prevalent in our society. Hence educational institutions socialize us into useful members of society. Educational institutions transmit our cultural values to the next generation. During the process of teaching, the teachers while teaching learn the socio-cultural norms themselves. They themselves are socialized first in the cultural ways of life. While teaching, they add their own experiences in the knowledge that they received from their parents and teachers.

They do not transmit the same without change. By adding their experiences, they make knowledge up-to-date and according to the requirements of the society. They, by transmitting the new knowledge, educate the new generation and thus bring social change. It implies that the process of teaching and transmitting change the teachers, the methods, the contents of education and even those that receive education. Through education the ways of living of our ancestors are transferred to the new generation. The most important example in this regard is the study of science that is transmitted to next generation with changes that take place after research.

Educational institutions also create social organization in society by harmonizing the attitudes, ideas, habits, customs, emotions and sentiments of the people. They develop homogeneity by developing general laws of social life. Different social groups are organized together by cooperation on common principles found in educational institutions. They can, thus, pave the way for social integration. Educational institutions also support in selection of future occupation. They provide methods and ways to acquire information on various aspects of life. The individuals by this information select their professions that are most suitable for them. Moreover, the educational institutions can have links with public and private institutions that can provide job opportunities to the students; therefore, as the students complete their education, the professional institutions reach to them and hire them for different positions.

Moreover, the interactions and gatherings that are organized in educational institutions can support individuals in developing their personalities as well. By coming into contact with the people of different backgrounds and nature and different educational experiences, the students are able to add much in their knowledge and understanding, which they can use in their personality development. The same experiences can help them in living a positive life in other institutions, like family and society.

Educational institutions can support our young generation to a great extent, but there are certain problems in these institutions that create obstacles in the way. Among them the most important one is poor standard of education. Our educational institutions, unfortunately, are not developed on modern education system. The curricula that are taught to the pupils are mostly obsolete and do not have direct relation with the lives of the students. Moreover, the syllabi are designed to promote the culture of repetition and cramming.

The concepts of investigation and inquisitiveness to learn are not nurtured in our educational system. Similarly, there is no room for research and creativity. Teachers on the other hand are not trained sufficiently. They are not sure about the teaching methodology that they use. In most of the schools, colleges and universities, there is no such concept as teacher training. Teaching is a vast field and require proper training and skill development. Every person who can study well does not necessarily teach well.

However, our educational institutions do not keep in consideration such important issues. Therefore, the teachers who teach mostly use the methods that they consider to be correct. Mostly, they use force and violence, instead of motivational techniques.

Then there is a disparity between the public and private educational institutions. The private institutions are comparatively better than public institutes as far as the quality of education and educational environment are concerned. But, a country like Afghanistan, where most of the people are suffering from poverty there are only few people who can afford private institutions. All the students, therefore, should have access to better educational opportunities as members of a state and the government is responsible to ensure this.

The government has many other responsibilities as well as far as the development and growth of educational institutions are concerned. The government authorities must ensure that there should be ample educational institutions that must satiate the thirst of students.

There should be efforts to improve the standard of education, particularly, for the improvement of teaching method and teaching staff. Moreover, the government authorities are responsible to ensure that the students are provided favorable environment wherein they are not afraid to go to educational institutions and pursue their education with dedication and motivation and become responsible citizens of the country.

Combating Terrorism through Thorough Legislation

By Hujjatullah Zia

Afghans paid high casualties in the wake of militancy within the last decade and half but bore the brunt of insurgency last year. With Mullah Haibatullah at the helm, the Taliban guerilla fighters intensified their attacks and inflicted heavy casualties upon civilians, including women and children. Last year has been one of the deadliest years for Afghan people as streams of blood were shed not only as a result of Taliban's offensives but also attacks carried out by the self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The attack in late December in Kabul, which killed 42 and wounded 84 and claimed by the ISIL group, was one of the deadliest attacks in 2017.

Although the US invasion in Afghanistan, following the 9/11 terrorist attack, led to the downfall of the Taliban's regime, the civilian casualties did not come to an end. The Taliban fighters continued their terrorist attacks and targeted Afghan civilians, besides Afghan soldiers and foreign troops, to put pressure against Kabul government.

To view the large-scale terrorist attacks, Afghanistan can be called the capital of terror in Asia as France is entitled the capital of terror in Europe. Afghanistan in Asia and France in Europe came under severe terrorist attacks within past years and both nations sustained heavy casualties.

To mitigate terrorist attacks, France tightened security measures especially after Charlie Abdu Office was attacked in January 2015. The state sought to adopt strong anti-terrorism measures so as to bring terrorism to an end. However, this did not bear the desire result it rather widened the gap between executive criminal policy and other criminal policies, including legislative and judicial criminal policies.

The same issue was observed in criminal policy of Afghanistan within the past years.

According to a source, Afghan government established a particular court for reaching out terrorist issues in Bagram. That is to say, those who are involved in terrorist acts are prosecuted in this court. However, this issue could not reduce militancy in the country. Despite this strict measure, militancy has mounted in the country within the last couple of years.

To ponder over the issue of adopting strict measures regarding the acts of terror, one will draw a conclusion that policy had a strong influence over legislation both in France and Afghanistan. In other words, instead of legislating policy, law has been politicized.

Hence, law was exploited by politicians. For example, adopting strict measure in terms of terrorist acts following the attack on Charlie Abdu Office in France rooted in political issue without having the result analyzed by legislators, sociologists, or psychologists.

Similarly, Pakistan started hanging the Taliban prisoners after the attack on a military school in Peshawar that left more than 150 students dead, including 133 students aged between 9 and 16. The Taliban called the backlash a revenge. So, this was also a political issue that influenced the law.

Legislating policy will play a constructive role in a society and will ensure the public rights and freedoms. But politicizing law will not bear the desired fruit since it is short-term and superficial. In some cases, adopting strict measure will be counterproductive and change criminals into more dangerous ones. So, it should be noted that violent punishment will not necessarily reduce the crime rate. Legislation should not change into a political tool or else the fundamental rights and liberty of the public will carry no weight.

In some states, adopting strict preventive measures for reducing terrorist issues curtailed the rights and freedoms of citizens. For example, security institutions had information about the secret issues of citizens, including their financial and medical issues. Violating one's privacy for security issue will put an adverse effect on citizens who will be disturbed mentally.

It is believed that analyzing the consequences of law and legislating on the basis of legal, sociological, and psychological reasons will mitigate the crime rate, ensure the public rights and freedoms, and strengthen the security issue. Legislators, rather than political figures, should play greater role in legislative issues. In short, if legislation is viewed from political lens, it will not be effective enough.

Moreover, the form and nature of law should go in a parallel way. In Afghanistan the nature of law regarding terrorist issue is very harsh, but the form is the same as it is applied in normal crimes. If the form and nature of law are not similar, it will not come to fruition.

To sum up, politicizing law is not an appropriate strategy for combating crime, including terrorist issue. However, legislating policy and approving a law parallel in form and nature will ensure the rights and freedoms of citizens and reduce militancy.

To combat terrorism and prevent from civilian casualties, Afghanistan is also in need of adjusting the law about terrorist issues. It is worth saying that only approving law will not reduce the challenges but it must be enforced properly.

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Why our Public Sector Organizations Need Business Process Re-Engineering?

By Sakhi Rezaie

Ambiguity in purpose, complicated operation, low efficiency, low results and low profit are the main organizational issues that Afghan public sector organization faces in the country. And organizational inefficiency and ineffectiveness are the main outcomes of such organizational problems which ultimately led to customers (people) dissatisfaction and distances people from the government.

As a result, our public sector organizations require some significant changes in their organizational structures to provide quality service to the Afghan citizens.

Business Process Re-engineering is a one of the mechanisms that enables an organization bring changes in its structure and in process within the business environment. The entire technological, human and organizational dimensions may be changed in the Business Process Re-engineering. When an organization undergoes BPR successfully, it may have changes in the following areas.

1. Clarity of Purpose

The first step to any successful implementation of BPR is to be sure that the leadership has a solid grasp on all of the aspects of its business, from the organizational mission statement to customer base. Going in with faulty information undermines the process, so the leadership has to make sure that everything is what it should be.

It might seem strange to think about, but it's not uncommon to find faulty information or assumptions somewhere within the organization business structure. Businesses change over time, whether it's because of a changing market/industry or internal evolution, and, because of this, your goals and other important driving factors will too. While going through BPR, the leadership can re-familiarize itself with the organization business, making sure that all operations are oriented towards the correct goals and moving towards them by using the right information.

2. Simple and Streamlined Operation

At the end of (BPR) process, the organization is left with a business that has streamlined its functions and cut out superfluous processes that used to slow things down. The result is that efforts become more directed towards the clear goals that the leadership set out during BPR. Instead of jumping through complicated process to get things done, employees can now take the shortest path between the start of a project or a business and successful completion. Careful analysis and reform of the organizational business processes will cause daily operations to make more sense. With more logical processes, employees will find it easier to follow procedure and complete tasks. In addition, no one likes having inefficient processes forced upon them, so simpler operations can even increase employee satisfaction.

3. Increased Efficiency

Increased efficiency comes hand-in-hand with a streamlined operation. By paring down operations and tweaking processes, the leadership cause things to move through the company both easier and faster, greatly increasing overall efficiency. Instead of struggling through organizational red tape, employees have more time to perform meaningful work. Less time spend working through inefficient organizational structures means time better spent in the workplace.

4. Better Results and Products

Efficiency and focused goals allow the leadership and the employees to put more energy towards the organization products, which will improve them. In addition, better organizational schemes and lines of communication foster improvement and innovation as well as insulating your business by making your company more reactive, improving results all around.

Re-engineering your processes provides improvement in all areas of your business, and those improvements trickle down to your product.

5. More Profit

All of these results come together to bring more profit to the organization business: 1) Lower operational costs as a result of streamlining and eliminating some processes 2) Better organization and goals creating more productive (and maybe happier) employees 3) Better products driving more sales.

In sum, Afghan public sector suffers heavily from ineffective structures and complicated processes. These issues are the causes of low organizational productivity.

Thus, it calls for implementing calculated changes in our public sector organizations to improve organizational productivity and reduce the gap between the people and government.

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