

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



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Educational Fund Finances Insurgency

We admit the role of quality education central to development of every country we aspire to associate with, anyway. It is believed education is one of the elements; entailing dynamic programs of socio-political and economic riches –it can only transform us from underdeveloped state into fully developed state. We have been narrating tales of technological progress, economic gains and educational developments the rest of the world has achieved, bidding to create an inspiration to our fate makers’ so that they could steer the country on the agreeable course of sustainable success.

It is anticipated the government and concerned departments launches the state of emergency meant not only to increase the students’ enrollment but also assures the provision of competing education. The allocation of most of resources into this sector is the cognition of aforementioned reality –pleading a parallel flow of resources into the said sector. Being driven by motives of change, the government diverts every saved penny for educational excellence is day dreaming. The level consideration levied to educational uplift depicts the stance of government which is characterized by negation, underestimation, exclusion and refutation. Earlier the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) reported the alleged involvement of the officials from the Afghan Ministry of Education (MoE) in providing fraudulent data to donors in order to personally profit off of donations for schools. The elevated concerns of corresponding donor agencies are equitable stance and must be tried for reversal. Reportedly, SIGAR, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) had spent 769 million USD to support education in Afghanistan since March 31, 2015.

It is heart wrenching to find education sector meagerly administered and poorly governed –the cry for lack of resources is high, however when substantiated is defrauded. Afghan education sector already suffering of poor management, is struck by sever stroke of fund misappropriation. Education sector is worst hit by meager performance –the allegation of fund embezzlement adds to its complication.

Following the SIGAR report the Officials from Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission’s (AIHRC) office in Ghor province have reported findings that fraudulent school statistics have allowed commanders of illegal armed groups operating in the area to embezzle millions of Afghans intended for teachers’ salaries. Former MoE officials were accused in the report of embezzling millions of dollars by providing fake school statistics to the donors. The investigation of AIHRC officials has revealed numerous “ghost schools” in Ghor province, meaning, schools that exist on paper and receive funding, but in reality do not exist or are not operating. The funding intended for these schools is said to line the pockets of local powerbrokers and militant leaders. According to the AIHRC office in Ghor, nearly 70 percent of the province’s schools are closed, and tens of local lawbreakers and illegal armed group commanders receive salaries designated for the schools’ teachers.

Earlier an official claimed the school teachers were being recruited and appointed by the Taliban in the Shah Joy district. This worrying stance is affirmed by the serving head of the province confirming salaries of teachers were being pocketed by the Taliban as a number of insurgents have been appointed as instructors in the schools. It’s outrageous to recognize the funds reserved for educational betterment in a province are flowing into the accounts of militants and local commanders who are consecutively unleashing terror plots against the innocent civilians. It is unbelievably frightening the monetary allocation for education is funding heinous crimes –education is shunned in ignorance and militancy is supported instead. Regrettably, incriminating education which undoes the fear out of the mind and heart of people is camouflaged in the constant cloud of terror and endless fear –unluckily parasitizes on its very existence.

The government whether ignorant or restrained to avert the whole state of affairs marks an in-depth negligence or criminal complicity. What about the credibility of whole statistics of ministry of education after the emergence of this report. Doesn’t it reflect the statistics provided about the rest of province are also merely paper work? Will the government ensue the case of such grave fraudulence and punish the culprits devoid of their socio-political standings? There are several questions emerging in the minds of every loyal afghan waiting to be responded –one being is how long will the masses be put to mercy of power players.

This act of betrayal is shocking to learn when public officials side the wrongs means of exploiting the public resources –it ultimately earn us disgrace and indignity. The reprehensible act is analogous to self immolation –education fundamental to collective uplift is enrooted by cutting instead of adding the resources going to this department. The minimally performing education sector is deliberately pushed to abysmal of negation. The concerned public officials instead of choosing to resign after the news got public, shamelessly sticks to defend their ill deeds. Sticking to state of constant denial, owing the responsibility of mishaps undertaken in one’s realm marks an in-depth degree of incompetence whilst negating any expectancy of betterment.

At these very dismal circumstances the government has to turn education sector into one of the well funded sector, aiming to rid the country out of calamity of illiteracy. It is right time the government gets this sector streamlined well nurtured capable to compete with developing counties of the world. A nation reaches to prominence, turn unbeatable and matchless, only when greater intrepid steps are taken to eliminate illiteracy by declaring the state of educational emergency.

Jalriz Incident: Failures, Ambiguities and Distrusts

By Abdul Ahad Bahrami

In the wake of the deadly Taliban battle between Taliban fighters and Afghan security forces in Jalriz district of Maidan Wardak province, there have been growing public and political pressures on the government and the security agencies to appropriately investigate the incident and clarify the reasons behind the apparent negligence over the issue. Many high-level government officials, analysts and MPs have raised questions whether there have been some sorts of conspiracy behind the incident and collusion with the Taliban that led to the carnage which left around 27 local police forces killed. The lack of action from the Afghan security agencies have been widely criticized by the public, the media, and top political figures, some even suggesting possibility of betrayal from fellow security forces serving in the district and the Afghan security agencies.

A number of high-profile political figures and officials of the National Unity Government, including Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq, the Second Deputy of the Chief Executive Officer and Sarwar Danish, the Second Vice President, have severely criticized Afghan security agencies and top security officials for negligence and apparent lack of action to help the embattled security forces trying to repel the Taliban attack. In a heated parliamentary session, MPs in the Lower House of the parliament, the Mishrano Jirga, decided to shut the house for one day in protest to the deteriorating security and the Jalriz incident. The Speaker of the Mashrano Jirga, Fazl Hadi Muslimyari, explained how police forces fighting the Taliban were not backed up by reinforcement, saying “there was certainly a conspiracy involved with the incident”.

With the related events and reactions unfolding, there is now more information being released regarding how the battle in Jariz district developed and how the Afghan security agencies failed to send reinforcement in time. It is said that local police forces were left alone in the face a large-scale Taliban attack and their request for support had gone ignored by local authorities and the security agencies in the center. There are reports by local media that all attempts from the embattled police forces to contact and request for help have been ignored or diverted with false information.

The apparent lack of action and perceivable betrayal from local and central security officials has created a lot of ambiguities around the incident. It is widely believed that a range of individuals and agencies are implicated in the apparent lack of action and betrayal from local and security authorities. Shortly after the incident took place, Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq raised serious questions in a blunt way, saying why only check posts belonging to Hazara police forces were attacked, why other police forces in the area avoided to help the embattled Hazara local police soldiers, why the Taliban assault ended only when all Hazara police forces were killed.

The events related to the battle and the death of the soldiers raised serious questions over the leadership and management of the war efforts against the Taliban. In several cases, Afghan forces serving in

remote posts and in volatile provinces have been left alone in face of ferocious attacks from the insurgent groups, resulting to high casualties on the Afghan army and police forces. The incidents suggest the major gap existing in the security agencies to efficiently lead the war efforts and provide timely reinforcement when needed. Afghan military lack the ability to efficiently support and reinforce the army and police units fighting in remote areas of volatile and precarious provinces. However, what makes the Jalriz incident unique is that the local police forces trying to repel the Taliban attack did not receive back-up and reinforcement while it was quite possible for local authorities and central agencies to provide the required help within hours.

President Ashraf Ghani has established a fact-finding commission to investigate the incident and report to the government. Establishing a commission is the least the National Unity Government can do to address the public skepticisms and widespread suspicions over performance of local authorities and central agencies before and during the attack in Jalriz. There are now widespread suspicions that the apparent lack of action from local authorities and central security agencies may not be sufficiently investigated and addressed by the government. The commission should be able to find the answers for the systemic failures and the apparent betrayal from all related security agencies and the provincial authorities to provide reinforcement to the forces fighting the Taliban for hours.

The incident in Jalriz also led many to conclude that the Afghan security agencies failed to provide support for the embattled soldiers because of the rifts existing in the ranks of the Afghan security forces around ethnic lines. The Afghan military has usually been praised for its capability to fight the insurgent groups. However, incidents like the Jalriz attack highlight the need for more cohesion and integrity in the ranks of the army and police forces. The systemic failure of the security agencies and provincial authorities in the Jalriz incident showed how Afghan security agencies are vulnerable to arbitrary actions from government authorities and political players.

The incident with its controversial aftermaths is further increasing public disappointment of the government in security matters. Such attacks discriminately targeting members of specific ethnic groups will exacerbate the hidden conflict and tensions among ethnic groups at a time when Afghanistan needs national and inter-ethnic harmony and unity. The leaders of the national unity government need to realize that enter-ethnic differences and distrusts could potentially result to and expedite political disintegration.

The attack in Jalriz province once again showed how residents of central provinces are vulnerable to the growing insecurity and the resurgent of the Taliban and other militant groups. The people need to consider local resistance and protection units against the militant groups who are attempting to increase their activities in vulnerable areas like the Northern and central provinces. Jihadi and key political leaders will also need to consider helping formation of local resistance groups to protect the people against the Taliban and other militant groups.

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Man – The ‘Principle of End’

By Hujjatullah Zia

Men’s dignity and rights are transgressed widely across the globe. One’s blood is spilt for his particular color, race or beliefs and one falls the victim of rape for her sex or just for pleasure. Torturing or abusing the individuals physically – which flagrantly insults their dignity – is changed to normal practice. Man’s dignity is of high significance in Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and humanitarian law. Dignity is the basis of man’s natural and inalienable rights in human rights instruments. The very first article of UDHR states, “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

Based on this statement, men’s “dignity and rights” are natural and mankind has to be treated equally. Similarly, the philosophy behind his rights and dignity is being bestowed “reason and conscience” by their Lord. Hence, dignity is a divine blessing which roots in religion and should be deemed sacred. Ultimately, this attitude will pave the way towards peace and brotherhood across the globe.

It is an incontrovertible fact that man’s dignity is absolute and inviolable under any circumstances. In other words, it is more instrumental than one’s rights to life. As a result, taking individuals’ life during war is allowed but transgressing their dignity or torturing them, which is considered offensive, is forbidden at any time.

Immanuel Kant underlines three rules regarding man. Firstly, he believes that contrary to animals, man is autonomous and able to decide rationally. Secondly, man’s dignity originates from his autonomy and this differentiates between men and animals. Thirdly, he speaks of “principle of end”. Kantian morality is based on a moral principle: “treat all mankind equally and as natural principle of end”. So, since man is “principle of end” he must not be used as instrument by others.

Based on Kant’s third rule, slavery is unlawful for it is man’s mere exploitation and human is not considered as “principle of end” in such a case. Moreover, since human’s dignity is ignored in love affair, it is a taboo. Same is the case with gambling, committing suicide or selling parts of body for earning money, or abusing women’s body or beauty for satiating carnal desires. According to him, in committing suicide man uses himself as instrument to get rid of anguish and suffering, in selling a part of body he violates his dignity and in abusing women their dignity is ignored and they are used totally as instrument. Man is “his own master” not his “owner” and has to value his rights and dignity.

Dignity is “unconditional” and “absolute worth”. In another

term, man is naturally dignified irrespective of his race, color, sex, beliefs, etc. whether people hold him in high esteem or not. Moreover, dignity as “unique worth” is on the top of worldly worth – which surpasses all material values.

After all, man’s natural rights have long historical roots – Cicero, Romans orator, opined about it before Christ. Natural rights are universal which transcend the time and geographical limitations. These rights are unchangeable, inalienable and a real barometer – which means that these are in accordance to man’s nature and any rules contradicting the natural rights are invalid.

The rules like “do not kill others” originates from the natural rights of “harm no mankind” or “certain punishments must be considered for certain misdeeds” originates from “each perpetrator must be punished”. Therefore, natural rights are the barometer for man-made laws and suit men’s nature.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) has uncovered the reason behind violence and violation of men’s rights and dignity and also suggests the prescription for healing the men’s chronic wounds as it states, “Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world, Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people...”

Nonetheless, men suffer bitterly from violation of rights and dignity – especially by the militants. For instance, Jihad-e nikah which was proclaimed by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) was a flagrant transgression of women’s dignity. Based on this immoral ideology, women were considered to satiate the militants’ carnal desires under a sacred cover – using women as mere tool. According to Kant’s aforesaid idea of “principle of end”, mankind must not be utilized as instrument and this is highly wicked of the religious radicals. Violating man’s rights and dignity will continue unabated unless we listen to the call of our conscience and uphold code of ethics in individual and social life. In the same way, men’s natural dignity – which is also mentioned in religious texts – should be considered seriously regardless of people’s ethnic backgrounds. Additionally, the state has to put its peremptory law into practice transparently so as to prevent from flagrant violations. Since “disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts” people have to hold one another in high esteem and “act in spirit of brotherhood” – this will be the only way to remedy the chronic problems of human societies.

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