

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

# Daily Outlook

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## The Social Standards in our Society

A society is recognized by its values and standards. Better societies have better standards in every facet of life; nonetheless, it is arguable what better standards really mean. The standards that are humane, based on the well-being and development of the society as a whole and that are as per challenges raised by the socio-political circumstances are mostly thought to be better than the ones that do not uphold them or negate them. On the other hand, relevance to the context does not always stand for perfect and positive standards. For instance, in contemporary modern world, modernity is one of the agreeable standards but it cannot be concluded to be positive.

Setting universal standards for the societies of the world is always a difficult task as cultures and social settings differ and even contradict. However, the main point is to comprehend that the standards that depict the actual position of human beings; their positive role and behavior – the one that is sensitive to the well-being of others, care and kindness for the fellow beings, true encouragement for science, arts, creativity and innovation are basically the ones that must be fortified and protected.

Today's human beings are led astray. They have become materialistic excessively and saunter aimlessly in their spiritual life. They are unable to realize the true purpose of their existence and are turned into beings that they are not by the conditioning of systems and circumstances. They are caught at a position where they are the cause of their own infamy and annihilation. They urge for love, affluence, pleasure and material comfort and they are prepared to pay any price for it. This urge has given rise to a man who flawlessly fits in today's materialistic societies but may not be successful in achieving the requirements of being a true human.

A cursory look at the standards in our society are necessary at this instance. Our society is well-known and easily recognized because of its egotism and bigheadedness. Inequitableness and discrimination are the commonly acceptable behavioral trends. If a person brings another person anguish for his own benefit or if a person betrays another person, it does not seem to be weird as it is normal exercise within our society. Since the socio-political settings and the objective conditions have paved the way for such types of actions and thinking, imagining something different would be ridiculous. As the rule of the race is to thrust others back so as to win the race in any way; therefore, victory kisses the feet of those who are follow this rule in its exact form.

Considering today's society, it can be claimed that a person who is not cunning and self-seeking is principally unwise. Alternatively, the crafty evils cannot be censured, too. As a matter of fact, in our society, when a person does an evil act, he is not all the time guilty for it.

On the other hand, the kindness and service to others are not responded in the way they should be. The people are so much accustomed to wrongdoing and cunning behavior that even if they receive sincerity and kindness, they are able to respond it properly. They may even think that they are being flattered and therefore their response is mostly a discouraging one.

In this society, if a killer is not a relative to the prey, it is really odd. Attachment, adoration, belief, uprightness and devoutness are the values that are only important to few of the people; else, these are only words which the people of our society use so as to conceal the crimes of their conscience and the evils of their intents. We are mainly bounded by lies and false exhibition and if we are able to defend our truth, it would be a great accomplishment. Nevertheless, the company and ownership of truth is truly wearisome. It involves bearing seclusion and accepting the responsibility of being dissimilar. Yet, it is not something to be discouraged about. A human can be disenchanted from another human but should not be disenchanted from humanity, because human beings live for a definite period of time but humanity has always lived and will live persistently.

The significant point is to deliberate why the kind of society, wherein a person has to lead another person by going over his cadaver, should not change. Why should not we modify the system wherein human beings do not need the sustenance and collaboration of others for the improvement of society in its entirety, but need for their selfish benefits? There is something utterly wrong with the society that does not have love and brotherhood as its standards but inspires the people to have negative rivalry so as to own as much material coziness as possible. The society we reside in is in desperate need of true humanity, true affection and true warmth.



## Dealing with the issue of mobility

By Dilawar Sherzai

Capitalism has always been in controversy because it has been a class-based system. The presence of three major economic classes in the system has always kept the discussions among the economists and politicians very hot - few considering it the failure of system while others suggesting it to be the beauty of it. Recently, in the protests that were carried out in different parts of the world, one of the major issues in the international economic crisis was the growing disparity among the different economic classes. Though the ideal form of capitalism emphasizes meritocracy, its real form has not been able to achieve that. Moreover, in the very beginning of the story, the marriage of democracy with capitalism was able to eradicate the strict lines drawn among different classes. It was the mobility through the classes that the system was readily acceptable and even today makes it acceptable if the mobility is maintained; however, today this mobility is being hindered and making many people uncomfortable. Before, the discussion is further carried on a discussion about mobility would not be irrelevant.

Mobility, or to be more accurate, social mobility means movement through different social positions. This movement may be both horizontal and vertical. Horizontal mobility means movement from one position to another within the same social level, or moving between social groups having the same social status. On the other hand, vertical mobility means movement through social positions in a social hierarchy; suggesting movement either from a social level to a higher one or a lower one. Mobility is basically dependent to a great extent on the factors including economic capital, cultural capital, human capital, social capital, physical capital and symbolic capital. But among them the economic capital plays a dominant role and most of the others are intertwined in it.

The factors that influence mobility (mostly vertical mobility) to a large extent may differ from one society to another. The societies which are considered as the modern and developed societies have the mobility which is largely influenced by the factors like welfare, education, public transport and professional commitments. Whereas, the societies that are not very much developed and are considered comparatively backward have mobility that is greatly influenced by the factors like religious affiliations, caste membership, or simple geography. Therefore, it is very easy to find strict social classes and less mobility among the social classes in the tribal societies and the societies that are largely influenced by religious extremism, or even the ones that have strict caste systems. To be very accurate one can say that the rules of mobility differ in different societies. This rule can be either based on Ascription or Achievement. Achieved status is a position that is acquired because of merit, hard work or achievement. And a system that is based on such a rule is called as an open system. Within an open system individuals can move up or down in the social rankings based on the true principle of meritocracy. On the other hand Ascribed status is a position based on who a person is, means it depends on a person's family background, caste or financial position. Ascribed status is basically found in closed system and within a

closed system the mobility becomes very difficult.

So it suggests that the mobility through different social, or to put it in more accurate term, socio-economic classes guarantees more opportunities to the people to change their status. But if the mobility is decreased there are lesser chances that people change their social status. Therefore, it may result in increase in frustration and deprivation. The lines among the classes become more vivid and the classes are further divided on the basis of their cultural and psychological aspects. Moreover, the classes with higher social ranking have more opportunities of getting an important part in political life and therefore participate in the decision making process of their societies. So, they most of the time get inclined towards using the power they enjoy because of their socio-economic status for the betterment of their own acquaintances and their own class, while the poor who do not have such support have to remain poor for many generations. Modern democratic capitalist systems have to have swift mobility because unlike monarchy, feudalism or tribalism they are to be based on meritocracy. Some of them are very open systems and make sure that mobility is swift in them, yet some of them are facing some problems in that regard. Western societies have been considered as the lands of opportunities. It has been believed in those societies any person can climb up the corporate ladder if he/she possesses the capability to do so. There have been many examples as well in that regard. Unfortunately, that trend has diminished to a large extent and the mobility is becoming harder. The current protests against economic hardships that were carried out in different European countries and US had to something with the decreasing mobility and growing frustration.

No doubt there were many reasons behind the protests, among which the international economic crisis had been the main reason, but the decreasing mobility is further adding fuel to the fire. Most of the people do not understand the tough theories of economics and the different ideologies about different economic and political systems. What they understand is their own lives. If they find themselves in a miserable condition, deprived of even their basic rights and experience their children also in the same conditions even after having the ability and going through hard work, they will be frustrated, and their frustration will further be strengthened by finding some of people having all the luxuries of life without the required ability and even without noticeable hard work. Definitely, the modern democratic capitalist systems can not calm down the people unless they deal with the issue of mobility. They have to make sure that the mobility through different classes is smooth and it follows the concept of meritocracy. They have to appreciate the Achieved status and develop a positive competition among the people and try to discourage Ascribed status as much as possible. Socio-economic classes must only serve as the variety in the society and must not become the root cause of discrimination of one class in the hand of the other ones; otherwise the result is frustration and demonstration.

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## Building Library Essential for Social Development

By Mohammad Zahir Akbari

The library occupies a very important place in social, economic and cultural development of a 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 developing country. There is nothing more wonderful than a book! 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 contribute 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.

Considering the critical economic condition while education and valuable books are increasingly expensive, public libraries provide information and educational opportunities free for all, regardless of their socioeconomic status. In addition, modern libraries can present classes and discussion programs, and some even provide online continuing education courses such. Many focus group participants noted that libraries "level the playing field." While many people of higher socioeconomic 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 educa-

tional, 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.

Despite all the educational resources and opportunities, unfortunately Statistics of book readers are almost zero. There are verities of factors but what is, somewhat, practical to call is to cultivate the reading habit instead opium cultivation and endorse 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, misleading and poisonous resources. Hence, it is needed to be managed and monitored along with the mass media.

In the other terms, the success of library depends largely on the proper selection of books, journals and periodicals. There need to be a small committee of teachers or experts, for selecting the right books for library. The guiding principles in selection should be not the experts own idea of what books the students or the people must read but their natural, the social and psychological interests and needs must be considered. It is absolutely true to tell me what you read and I'll tell you who you are.

To step up practical steps, there are need to highlight certain objectives. First, we need to specify some of the incredible work in which libraries are engaged. From tiny public libraries to huge city institutions with multiple branches, libraries across the country are building community and supporting local culture in exciting ways. Hopefully, they will encourage librarians interested in community services and cultural outreach to make connections with each other, share ideas, and build partnerships. Second, as we all know the value of libraries. It's time to take the value we add and use that to advocate for better funding and more resources. Those who argue that libraries are becoming obsolete do not know what public libraries do in the twenty-first century. Libraries build citizens. They educate individuals and foster thoughtful communities.

Finally, it is important to draw the attentions of policy makers, business men, leaders and international donors to invest and establish modern libraries in different parts of the country in order to get rid of illiteracy and abolish entire terrifying ground from Afghanistan. And recognize that properly funded library services contribute to the peace, social, cultural health and well-being of communities.

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