

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



May 16, 2015

Women and the Basic Rights

The Legal Rights of Women refers to the social and human rights of women. One of the first women's rights declarations was the Declaration of Sentiments. From women's involvement within the abolition movements, women of the early 1800s became aware of the male dominance in society. From there onward, women struggled for equality, and were largely rewarded.

Violence in many forms against the women is in practice even today in Afghanistan and other under-developed countries. Physical along with mental torture are on rise in places where illiteracy rate is high. At some places, women are regarded by man as a property, and so goes their undue forceful domination over them in unjust way.

In regard to violations on women folk, In December 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated 25 November as the international day for the elimination of violence against women. The UN invited governments, international organizations and NGOs to organize activities designated to raise public awareness of the problem on this day as an international observance. Despite resolutions passed by the United Nation, rare implementation over the said matter is observed around.

The women's movement is in part of a struggle for the recognition of equality of opportunity with men, and for equal rights irrespective of sex, even if special relations and conditions are willingly incurred under the form of partnership involved in marriage. The difficulties of obtaining this recognition are due to historical factors combined with the habits and customs, history has produced.

Through a combination of economic changes and the efforts of the feminist movement in recent decades, women in most societies now have access to careers beyond the traditional one of "home-maker". Despite these advances, modern women in Western society still face challenges in the workplace as well as with the topics of education, violence, health care, and motherhood to name a few.

In all the societies, with few exceptions, women are subjected with discrimination. The equal status for women in male dominated has never come to view. Women suffering from educational, societal, political discrimination are still many in numbers. Most of the jobs with better salary, position and career are specified for man class. It is still hard for a woman especially in a country like Afghanistan to come out of the home for putting her share in the overall progress of the country. Still, Ignorance ruling societies with the restrictions imposed over the women are parochial to see them contributing in the reconstruction process of their home-land.

Countless may be the women who may eagerly want to contribute their parts in different walks of life but on account of societal and religious parochialism, they find themselves bounded in this regard. The inborn faculties bestowed by God Almighty go all wasted in presence of chains, put to subdue women unfairly. Among the basic rights of women, there are access to health centers, educational institutions, political fronts, the right of decision-making, and societal equity.

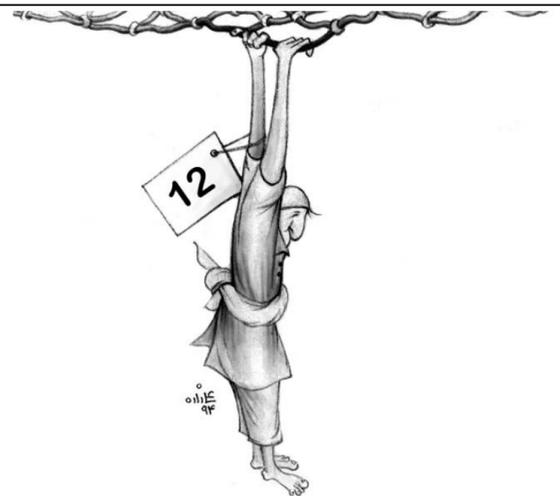
According to traditional frames of mind, women have to be restricted within the four walls and do the household chores with their lips sealed. They should live under the dominance of their husbands and created to satisfy their carnal desires. Their presence in social life is toxic to the society on the grounds that their devilish charm will challenge men's faith. Ultimately, men will be tempted to their feminine attractions and divert from the right path. Therefore, women have to live behind a screen.

At present, in many countries of the world women face hindrance to their participation in politics. These barriers are to be found in prevailing social and economic regimes, as well as in existing political structures. In 2005, the rate of female representation stands at nearly 16 percent globally. Although this figure has increased in recent years, minimal progress means that the ideal of parity still remains distant.

Increasing the level of female representation and participation in decision-making bodies requires well-developed strategies and information on which measures have worked successfully in different countries with different political systems. In this respect, Afghanistan with rather good number of female representatives, when compared with the past time, stands sound on the track to promote equality irrespective of gender. Among the radical rights of women, access to health care is another. It is very misfortune of us that a large number of health facilities do not have a single woman in their staff. So, culture-dominated societies in the country are only in favor of the treatment by women doctors.

More than one million of Afghanistan's primary school age girls are not enrolled in schools which show how many girls are still denied the right to go to school. So, for a nation endeavoring to rebuild itself, to grow, to become more stable, and to restart the economy, every one of the 1 million girls represents a wasted potential for the country.

Any how, only and only earnest measures taken by the government and the world community in this respect can mitigate their sufferings and distresses which are inflicted because of the gender.



Making Daily our Affairs Straighten!

By Asmatyari

The renown Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court during his tenure, made a major contributions to criminal justice reform, civil rights, access to the courts, and Fourth Amendment jurisprudence, once said, "Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do." Ethics are about making choices that may not always feel good or seem like they benefit you but are the right choices to make. They are the choices that are examples of model citizens and examples of the golden rules.

We have all heard the golden rules: Don't hurt, don't steal, don't lie, or one of the most famous: Do unto others as you would have done to you. These are words of wisdom that any productive member of society should strive to live by. Let's say that I believe that it is important to be an honest person. What do I do when I make an error at work? Do I admit it or do I cover my error and hope that no one finds out? I may rationalize, "If I tell my boss, he will be disappointed in me. I may not get that raise that is coming up next month. There is no harm in not telling him."

Honesty refers to a facet of moral character and connotes positive and virtuous attribute such as integrity, truthfulness and straightforwardness along with the absence of lying, cheating or theft. "Honesty is the best policy" is a famous statement. If they are doing anything that even could be perceived as questionable, that should be confronted. Integrity is a concept of consistency of actions, values, methods, measures, principles, expectations, and outcomes.

We humans tend to weigh the benefits and consequences of our actions and we look for the path of least resistance, where we will suffer the fewest consequences. When we are deciding what to do with our error, we need to ask ourselves, "Do I really value honesty like I say I do? If I am willing to lie to cover up my error, what am I really valuing?" When we lie to cover up our error, we are doing so to protect ourselves from the consequences of our actions. So, what is the greater value to us, honesty or self-protection?

Leaders must always be cognizant of the fact that they are in a fish-bowl and how they behave is clearly visible to others. If we consider country an organization and politicians its employees then the rule of business and sanctity of oath, must be kept intact and political ethics must be strictly followed. Political ethics provides a framework for evaluating choices and making a decision based on fairness and reasonable behavior, as well as previous precedents. Politics can involve a wide variety of ethical issues, ranging from accepting campaign financing to balancing the conflicting needs of a constituency. Politicians can struggle with ethical dilemmas every day as they struggle to run a campaign or a legislative office fairly and with the best interests of the public in mind. The ethical and integral values bound to societal uplift should be imbibed and practiced by leaders and politicians with letter and spirit.

Transparency is operating in such a way that it is easy for others to see

what actions are performed. For example, a cashier making change at a point of sale by segregating a customer's large bills, counting up from the sale amount, and placing the change on the counter in such a way as to invite the customer to verify the amount of change demonstrates transparency.

Political accountability is the accountability of the government, civil servants and politicians to the public and to legislative bodies such as a senate or a parliament. When a government's meetings are open to the press and the public, its budgets may be reviewed by anyone, and its laws and decisions are open to discussion, it is seen as transparent, and there is less opportunity for the authorities to abuse the system for their own interests. As an aspect of governance, it has been central to discussions related to problems in the public sector, nonprofit and private (corporate) worlds. In leadership roles, accountability is the acknowledgment and assumption of responsibility for actions, products, decisions, and policies including the administration, governance, and implementation within the scope of the role or employment position and encompassing the obligation to report explain and be answerable for resulting consequences.

The common masses do not have any direct way of holding elected representatives to account during the term for which they have been elected. Additionally, some officials and legislators may be appointed rather than elected. Constitution, or statute, can empower a legislative body to hold their own members, the government, and government bodies to account. This can be through holding an internal or independent inquiry. Inquiries are usually held in response to an allegation of misconduct or corruption. The powers, procedures and sanctions vary from country to country. The legislature may have the power to impeach the individual, remove them, or suspend them from office for a period of time.

Ethical behavior is not just about me knowing right from wrong, it is about my willingness to admit it when I have done something wrong and accepting the consequences for my actions. It is about valuing integrity even if it hurts. Ethical behavior makes organizations succeed. A country and organization that do not value honesty, integrity, transparency and accountability and do not "walk the talk" of being ethical will find themselves at the bottom of the slippery slope and wonder when and how they crossed the "line."

In country an organization, workplace behavior ethics should be a core value. Aside from doing the right thing, conducting ourselves ethically has great rewards and returns. Being ethical is essential to fixing problems and improving processes. It is needed to establish baseline measures and increase efficiencies. Most importantly, it is essential to having strong working relationships with people. On the other hand, covering up our unethical behavior does the opposite of these important workplace practices and impedes on our ability to grow as leaders, as workers and as people.

Asmatyari is permanent writer of Daily outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at asmatyari@gmail.com

Old Wisdom, Latest Problems!

By Muhammad Rasool Shah

Today's article includes of a number of real life stories with aim of seeing the things from a different angle. Such an understanding is much important for Afghans who are slowly and gradually emerging and excelling towards stability, prosperity and civic understanding and etiquettes. The stories belong to a friend of mine who lives in Kabul.

During the civil war, his family was also among millions of other Afghans who had to leave the country and get refuge in Pakistan. They went to Peshawar and rented a house in the most expensive and luxurious part of the city, the Defense. A high-ranked army officer owned the house and he had asked the property dealer to rent his house to a foreigner. They rented the house and started initial decoration and renovation. After a couple of days, the owner of the house came and got angry on the property dealer that he had given the house to locals and not foreigners. When he was informed that the family was not local and were Afghans, he got even more upset as he did not have good perceptions about Afghans. The head of the family intervened and offered to empty the house in three days' time to find and move to another house. The house owner noticed that new tenants had already made some expenses on renovation and decoration so he did not agree with that but he came up with two tough conditions; the tenants would pay in advance the rent of a year and there would be 10% increment in the rent of the house every year. The family head accepted the conditions and they started living in the house. In two years, they came to know each other and both the families discovered the good qualities of each other that he did not increase the rent after the second year and he stopped collecting the rent in advance. The rent remained the same for more than a dozen of years until the Afghan family decided to return to Afghanistan in 2010.

When the family moved to the house, neighbors came to know about it and as a traditional and cultural practice; they sent the food for many days and did not let them cook in their house. Similarly, a neighbor used to send them with a lot of vegetables and fruits from his farms. One day, one of his brothers had to go through surgical operation. The house owner learned about this after the surgery and was very unhappy, as he was not informed on time. Later on, he refused to take six months' salary, saying it a gift from his side to the sick family member. It made a huge sum of money in those days and the family refused to accept this but this request was not entertained. When the conditions started worsening in Peshawar and the family decided to leave the house and move to Kabul, the head of the family called his sons and directed them to renovate the house before leaving. They polished the tiles, replaced all the broken items, added some new and much-needed items to the house, painted the house and made the house look like a new one. It was the reason that, when they left the house, the house owner had one condition to the property dealer, 'find me a tenant who should be Afghan.'

My friend told me another story about his visit to India with one of his friends. They went to India for visiting a factory and ordering some products. When they arrived to India, they found out that the

factory was in another city and there was no direct flight to that city. However, the factory owner had reserved a special compartment for them in the train. This air-conditioned VIP compartment of train was more comfortable than an airplane. The journey took slightly more than three hours and they spent all the time in eating different things sent to them by their host. They got special treatment of VIP guests. When they arrived to the said factory, the factory owner said, 'Before you decide upon your purchase, I want you to visit all the factories of the city, check their quality and prices and then come back and if the quality and price of my factory's products still attracted you, you can purchase from me but if not, you can make your purchase from wherever suits you the most.' He then accompanied with them a luxurious car with a driver who took them to different factories where they checked the products and learned about the prices. They found out that the prices and product quality of the factory owner was the best in the city.

At the end of this visit, he said, 'The reason for my special treatment of yours was not to ink a business deal. I wanted to make a good friend from Afghanistan as well.' Indeed, he was successful in his effort and they are still very good friends.

After hundreds and thousands of years, sayings of great scholars like Aristotle, Confucius, and others surprise the readers. Their small sayings carry mighty messages for leading a good life. Thousands of us read them, admire them, share them with others but hardly ever implement them in our lives because it needs efforts more than reading books. It needs a special character, a positive attitude towards life, better attitude while talking or making deals with others and ignoring temporary and material losses for permanent and meaningful gains.

Speech of President Ashraf Ghani at the American Congress was an example of this strategy on political level. He poured the US president, taxpayers, military personnel, army generals, and relief workers with praise and appreciation and members of the congress showered him with standing ovations and long rounds of claps. This resulted in the improvement in the relations between the two countries that had fallen to its lowest level in last couple of years of Mr. Karzai's government. Both the sides complained against each other. If Americans were not happy of the corruption, mismanagement and other drawbacks of Mr. Karzai's government, Afghans were also not happy of the ineffectiveness of US government and forces in tackling militancy. However, it remains a fact that Americans may or may not need Afghanistan, but Afghanistan is in desperate need of American and allied powers' support and assistance until the country becomes self-dependent. The accusations and blaming only resulted in the widening gap between the two countries and did no good for either Afghanistan or USA.

Apart from the relations of Afghanistan and USA, same wise strategy can be used to improve our relations with different nations of the world and bring the people closer inside the country. Our country has been through decades' long war and destruction and we need to

Muhammad Rasool Shah is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at muhammadrasoolshah@gmail.com

Chairman / Editor in Chief: Dr.Hussain Yasa

Vice Chairman: Kazim Ali Gulzari

Phone: +93 799 005 019/799 408 271/777 005 019

E-mail: mail@outlookafghanistan.com, outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

Address: V-137, Street 6, Phase 4, Shahrak Omeed Sabz, Kabul, Afghanistan

Sub Office: Shora Road, Street 10, District 6, Kartey 3, Kabul, Afghanistan

