

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



May 20, 2017

Consciousness about the Social Life

Human beings are social beings and they are largely dependent on the society. They are largely influenced by the society wherein they live, and in return, they influence the society as well. There is no way they can avoid social existence, particularly after where they have reached today as far as social and political evolution is concerned. They need society; therefore, they have to be aware of it. They need to have consciousness about both the social and political affairs so that they have an active and agile social existence and play their part as responsible human beings.

Socio-political consciousness aids the individuals in the society to make thoroughgoing usage of shared life as it is by the dint of social life that human beings have made stunning accomplishments. The tasks and activities, which are else difficult to be achieved, become very common and are achieved without considerable exertion through supportive actions. Socio-political consciousness, however, is not in human character by instinct. It has to be settled within him through appropriate sustenance and inculcation. Socialization, in this regard, has a very compelling role. Children who are born in a society do not essentially become social in the actual sense of the word. Particularly in today's society when the people have become very much motorized and worldly, it is tough to see children get effortlessly allied with the social and political collections. Social isolation is prevalent and social interactions are now upheld through technology. Having such a scenario in hand, it is vital that children are socialized suitably and this has to be instructed to them that their relation with the society is of great standing and they have a responsibility to the surroundings wherein they reside.

In this connection, the role of family is immense. As family is the primary institution in which human beings learn and practice their social lives, the outlook, conducts, thinking and notions that are settled in the start of family life are indeed very hard to disremember. Parents who are able to give sufficient time to their children and share love and warmth with them have the aptitude to make their children accountable social and political beings. Cooperativeness among the family members makes them comprehend how they can produce collaborations through collective exertions and make human beings human in true sense. Sense of responsibility, task-sharing, dependability and adoration can initially be developed in children through their families. Schools, colleges and universities can also play a marvelous role, but eventually it is the overall society wherein the individuals get their education and involvements of socio-political live. Hence, they have to obtain everything from the society. There are certain means that can be agreed within the societies by the individuals to develop socio-political consciousness. One of the most imperative steps in this regard is to have the nerve to play a role within a society in a productive way. Solution-oriented approach can play a remarkable role in this connection. An individual wishes to make sure that he has a role, in one way or the other, in the solution of skirmishes within the community or society. Some people strive to circumvent conflicts and are limited to their comfort zone; nevertheless, such an attitude would never benefit them be a responsible being.

An important way of attaining socio-political consciousness is to have more information about the society nearby. It is central for an individual to know about the social issues and ills and attempt to play a part, no matter how small, in their eradication. Today, in human societies there are evils like poverty, bigotry, discernment, chauvinism and some others; they all play their role in making human societies suffer. It is essential for an individual to recognize them, receive them as issues and try to face them in certain techniques.

It is, without any doubt, easier to live a secluded life and always be limited to one's comfort zone. Yet, it is really significant for socio-politically sentient individual to come out of his comfort zone and be counted within the social life. It is also vital that an individual should be the part of multiplicity, and must strive to intermix with others so as to acquire from them. It will also develop a sense of broad-mindedness for others and supports in upholding coherence.

Displaying kindness and responsiveness can play a farfetched part in getting nearer to others and fastening the social bonds. Comprehending the pain of others when they are hurt and understanding their position is of key importance to invigorate the social responsibility. Courteousness and responsiveness are also obligatory in this regard. It is also central for an individual, who craves to develop socio-political consciousness, to be prepared to listen to others and ask them for response regarding his attitude and conduct. However, it should be kept in mind that the borderline between what is social and what is personal should never be despoiled as it is one of the rudimentary requirements of consciousness. Being excessively social may interrupt the social ties and associations, and may even cause skirmishes.



Partition will be a Disaster for Syria

By Manish Rai

Exclusive for the Daily Outlook

Since the creation of de-escalation zones inside Syria with Russia, Iran and Turkey as guarantors the talks for partition of the country is gaining momentum. This idea of de-jure partition of Syria was officially the Plan B of John Kerry, the US secretary of state which he announced in February, 2016. But at that time other major powers operating in Syria does not showed any interest in the Plan B of Kerry. Now the situation has drastically changed all the major powers and their proxies have accepted that they can not prevail in whole Syria and they have to be satisfied with a share of Syrian territory which they control.

That's why this de-escalation zones have been established and even being referred as "Soft Partition" by the analysts. This so called "Soft Partition" can be a first step in the direction of permanent partition of Syria. Even U.N.'s Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura is cautions about this development hence he says that plan crafted by world powers to establish safe zones in the war-battered country should only be seen as an "interim" arrangement and not a precursor to partition.

Main irony in this whole episode is that Syrian people are not even consulted.

Despite the deep divisions between Syrians all of them agree that partitioning Syria is not an option. Let's have a look at some of the factors which will make any potential partition a disaster for the country.

Demographic Challenges

The proposed partition has been drawn up along ethnic and religious lines, however, people living on the ground are not easily divided into these groups. Therefore, transforming these heterogeneous areas into homogeneous ones, based on sectarian or ethnic divisions, will likely create new waves of mass internal displacements accompanied by violence. The ethnic and sectarian composition of the Syrian society and the distribution of the population across the country make the partition of the country impossible.

Economic Challenges

None of the proposed mini-states will have sufficient resources to be self-sustaining and as a result of partition and its political implications, hostile neighbours will make imports extremely difficult resulting in a resources war. Moreover, Syria is a small country and natural resources are not equally distributed between the regions. It is most likely that the pre-existing tensions between these proposed states will make trade negotiations a challenge and undermine the potential for investment opportunities. As each state struggles to meet the de-

mands of its population and begins to look elsewhere a battle for resources will ensue.

Regional Implications

Divided Syria could have consequences for the wider region. Territorial separation here could be viewed as a panacea for solving political problems and encourage secession elsewhere.

The Kurds, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Libya, even Shiite regions of the Gulf would be tempted to solve political problems on a purely territorial level. This would probably spark off conflicts and separatist wars and the region would be placed in an explosive situation with no certain end that could have negative repercussions at an international level.

Breeding Ground of Extremism

Weakening and division of Syrian state means an even greater potential for the Levant to become a breeding ground for Jihadist militancy and protracted violence. Studies have always proved that small states are more vulnerable to terrorism and militancy. Creating new microstates would only threaten fragile lives with even greater uncertainty, instability and fear.

It is worrying that some short sighted politicians believe that the partitioning of Syria would provide a solution. Those who advocate it clearly see the potential short-term benefits but appear to ignore the severe consequences of this quick-fix for Syria, its population and the entire region.

All indicators suggest partition would be extremely difficult to implement, creating mass displacement and destabilizing the region rather than restoring stability. Thus the political cost of dividing Syria could be significantly higher than the costs involved in pressuring the warring parties, especially the Syrian regime, to begin a political transition in the hope of building a civil, democratic, inclusive and united Syria. If history is any guide, partition is no guarantee of peace.

Indeed, it can ignite the very conflicts it means to forestall. The time has come to work for unity and lasting peace, where the people of the Levant forge a future for themselves, for a peace that originates from the grass-roots and is not imposed by one sided conferences taking place in Europe. Syrians may be in a position to unify Syria again through promoting nationalism which can act as the unifying force.

Using the negotiated territories as a starting point, representatives from each can come together to form a new Syrian government. The focus should be on to rebuild a state based on tolerance and diversity rather than creation of impotent state lets.

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Immunization Independence

By Helen Saxenian and Paul Wilson

The first years of this century have been heady ones for global health. International donors - whether national governments, such as the United States, through its PEPFAR program, or new international funding initiatives, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance - have invested billions of dollars in national disease-control programs and health systems, saving millions of lives.

But now some of the countries that have benefited from these programs face a new challenge: sustaining the gains they have made once external support is withdrawn. Ultimately, it is on the basis of this transition that donors' initiatives - and the health aid enterprise as a whole - will be judged.

Consider Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Founded in 2000 by a partnership of major donors, international agencies, and vaccine industry leaders, Gavi's goal is to help the world's poorest countries introduce new lifesaving vaccines and strengthen their immunization programs. When a country's annual per capita income rises above a certain threshold - currently \$1,580 - it becomes ineligible for Gavi support.

Of course, Gavi doesn't just cut off funding all at once. Support is phased out over a period of several years. During this transition period, countries rapidly increase their financial contribution to their immunization programs and prepare to assume full responsibility.

This approach, which enables Gavi to concentrate its resources on countries with the greatest need, has been in place since 2010. But it is now being put to a stern test: one-third of the 73 countries to which Gavi extends support are either in the midst of the transition process or have just completed it. The group includes countries as different from one another as Armenia, Bhutan, Honduras, and Vietnam, as well as India and Nigeria, which have the largest birth cohorts.

The Gavi model is now under the microscope. Will countries be able to continue purchasing and delivering the vaccines that were introduced with Gavi support? Equally important, will that commitment hold up over time? If government budgets are cut, will immunization be protected, along with other essential health services? Will countries be able to introduce new lifesaving vaccines as they become available? Will they sustain and strengthen disease surveillance, so that outbreaks are detected and addressed quickly?

Or will fiscal pressures lead, in some countries, to vaccine shortages, to declines in immunization coverage, or even, in the worst case, to vaccines being dropped altogether from national programs, reversing the hard-won gains of recent years?

The answers to these questions are important not only for the countries themselves, but also for their neighbors, which could be put at risk by backsliding on immunization. After all, infectious diseases do not respect national boundaries. The recent yellow fever epidemic in Angola, for example, spread to its much poorer neighbor, the Democratic Republic of Congo. The experiences of countries that have "graduated" from Gavi assistance will also hold important lessons for other international health programs and their beneficiaries.

With so much at stake, international agencies must do whatever they can to prepare countries for "life after Gavi." For some of these countries, especially those that have adopted many new vaccines, obtaining adequate and sustainable financing is one of the most daunting challenges posed by the transition.

Although immunization programs require only a relatively small share of health budgets and yield exceptionally high economic returns, securing the needed financing requires careful planning.

A new resource can help countries as they wrestle with this challenge. Immunization Financing: A Resource Guide for Advocates, Policymakers, and Program Managers provides information on estimating immunization costs, assessing the pros and cons of various sources of financing, shaping purchasing strategies, and navigating policy processes.

It does not prescribe one way forward, but rather provides relevant information and expert analysis. Countries can then evaluate options in light of their own circumstances, and advocates can ask the right questions. With Gavi support, close to 580 million children have been immunized since 2000, and more than eight million future deaths have been averted.

These are impressive gains that are worth celebrating. But only if countries successfully negotiate the transition from Gavi support can they be confident that future generations will enjoy the same health protections. (Courtesy Project Syndicate)

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