

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



May 21, 2016

The Role of Educational Institutions

The role of educational institutions within a society is immense, especially in a society that has a serious consideration about knowledge and learning. Educational institutions shape 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 an individual into a useful member of society.

Educational institutions transmit our cultural values to the next generation. During the process of teaching, the teacher while teaching learns the socio-cultural norms himself. He himself is socialized first in the cultural ways of life. While teaching he adds his own experiences in the knowledge that he received from his parents and teachers. He does not transmit the same without change. By adding his experiences he makes knowledge up-to-date and according to the requirements of the society. He, by transmitting the new knowledge, educates the new generation and thus brings social change.

It implies that the process of teaching and transmitting change the teacher, 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.



The "Light Movement" Supporters in Kabul

By Ahmad Shah Karimi

The demonstration that was held on May 16, 2016 in Kabul was on changing the route of 500KV electricity (power line) from Salang route to Bamyan. The demonstration had many reflections which showed that people are no longer eager to launch movements that will result in conflict and violence. They just wanted to let the government know that they do not want their rights to be violated. They want their voices to be heard by government. In addition, the protest was aimed to show that people do not like the discrimination that the high officials have exercised for many times and continue to do so. People emphasized that they will stand against the decision so that the government reverts it to the original plan. A team of German engineers, after a sensitive and comprehensive survey approved that through Bamyan route the TUTAP project will be easily done and it needs a low budget than the Salang route which is extremely insecure and during winter it is quite hard to work on due to heavy snow.

The first reflection of the protest was that it was held by hundreds of thousands of people in Kabul as well as in other countries by Afghans. Fortunately the protest in the Kabul ended up without violence. Unexpectedly, it was quite peaceful and extraordinary because the protesters handed over flowers to security forces and cleaned up the streets from the things which they consumed by the protesters which was the first in its kind in the history of Afghanistan and no one expected such behavior. Unfortunately the government locked down the route through the presidential palace with containers.

On the other hand, these protesters were not keen to see any instability and all that they want is equality and the equal rights that they deserve. Additionally, the time has come that President Ashraf Ghani should honor the promises that he gave during presidential campaign to the people of those provinces. That time he assured people that if he wins the election he would implement the electricity which was approved by previous government.

The second is that if the 500 KV transmission line is routed through Bamyan province, the people of Bamyan and other related provinces will have the blessings of electricity which will brighten their life and most importantly, by implementing this project through Bamyan there will be lots of opportunities as ten and thousands of people from Afghanistan and other countries come to pay a visit and see the treasures that this province has. However, more people will be attracted to this province and businessmen will invest in this province since they get

benefits from investing their money in the province and lots of job opportunities will be provided to the poor class of the society and overall it has a great advantage for entire nation and increases. Therefore, the economy of Bamyan and related provinces will grow up rapidly when the project is done.

If this project goes through Samangan and Bamyan provinces, it will help the coal mining in Samangan province and iron-ore of Hajigag mining in Bamyan greatly and going to be one of the greatest supports for the economy of the country. In addition, this route will be safer as compare to Salang route and it would be safe from natural disaster.

Furthermore, when the work of this project starts the people of central provinces those who live in poverty will have employment opportunities.

The forth reflection of this peaceful protest was that, during past 15 years the central provinces had a vigorous contribution in many parts of the country's development, for instance, the election, civil works, and other walks of life but in return they were excluded from such development that obviously brings a vast difference in their lifetime. So, by the implementation of TUTAP project through Samangan-Bamyan which will transit from adjacent provinces too, will show the people of these areas that the government care and want their welfare. It not only increases the trust of people on government and their justice but also they will have an active part far better than past in every case that needs contribution of all classes of people which is based for the betterment of this brave nation.

On the other, Bamyan has many other tourist attractions such as Band-e-Amir and the two biggest Buddha Salsal which has the heights of 54 meter high and Shammamah which is 34 meter. However, the implementation of this project will guarantee the future of Bamyan as it was given the name of OSCAR by international community.

Hence, those countries will continue to support and aid Afghanistan since they feel that this nation is keen to shape their future and want civilization and development, and everything is done for the interest of all people.

To wrap up, in this civil movement people participated to ask the government to work according to law and constitution of the country not for their own self-interest.

If this project starts as it was planned through Bamyan route lots of the problems will be solved and the role of National Unity Government (NUG) will be preserved.

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Improving Governance in the Arab World

By Marwan Muasher

A recent survey of 100 Arab thought leaders conducted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace revealed a sweeping consensus about what underlies many of the region's problems: a lack of good governance. Indeed, those polled emphasized domestic problems resulting from that failure - authoritarianism, corruption, outdated education systems, and unemployment - over regional concerns, including the threat of the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS) or interference by regional heavyweights or outside powers.

This is not new information. The Arab Spring uprisings brought to the fore the inadequacy of the region's outdated social contracts in the face of current political and economic challenges. Yet Arab governments still seem not to have gotten the message.

Five years after the uprisings erupted, Arab citizens have little - in some cases, even less - voice in running their countries' affairs. Moreover, they depend on rentier economies that are unable to create enough jobs for their young, educated populations. And they face an alarming absence of the rule of law, leaving them with no assurances that they will be treated equally, regardless of gender, ethnic origin, or religion.

But poor governance today does not mean the Arab world is doomed to failure. Tunisia serves as a beacon of hope. After the 2011 revolution, it pursued a consensual, inclusive process to develop a new social contract that upholds all of its people's individual and collective rights.

While Tunisia still faces serious economic and security problems, the national dialogue that the country has undertaken is the crucial first step toward resolving them. Other Arab societies now must undertake similar dialogues, with the ultimate goal of creating economies and institutions that meet their people's needs. History has taught us that such transformational processes take time. The long-suppressed ideas and energies unleashed by events like the Arab Spring must mature before having their full effect on society.

Consider the uprisings in Europe in 1848, in which citizens protested against authoritarian, feudal systems and the lack of economic opportunity. By the end of that year, status quo forces managed to retake the reins of power, and the uprisings appeared to have been all but crushed.

But something had changed. Taboos had been broken, and during the subsequent decades, technological advances enabled the spread of new ideas. It was not long before feudalism began to dissolve; liberal and democratic values gained traction; women

secured greater rights; and economic systems emerged that could boost productivity, achieve high growth rates, and improve living standards.

A similar process is unfolding gradually in the Arab world, with citizens (especially young people) who lack trust in their governments seeking alternative sources of information and new ways to survive economically. This shift has so far gone largely unnoticed by governments, a reflection of just how disconnected they are from their own people. But it will soon be impossible to ignore.

All of this comes at a time when another important development is underway: Oil-based rentier systems are rapidly diminishing, owing to the steep decline in energy prices over the last two years. In particular, Saudi Arabia has been forced to initiate a shift toward an economic model that emphasizes investment and productivity as the main drivers of economic growth. Other countries in the region will have to follow suit and reform their economic systems, or face the wrath of their increasingly disgruntled citizens.

One important element of economic-reform strategies will be technology. Already, 240 million Arabs - largely young people - have access to the Internet through mobile phones; by 2020, it is estimated that all Arab youth will be connected. Technology is facilitating the creation and sharing of knowledge, in a region that has historically lagged in this area, and technology start-ups are on the rise.

This is not to say that technology is a panacea for the region. After all, ISIS is also using technology, but in a sinister way: to spread gruesome propaganda and recruit new members. But technology can speed up the Arab world's social and economic progress, even as countries build a modern institutional framework capable of supporting it.

Nowadays, no country can evolve without developing effective and credible institutions, establishing a meaningful system of political checks and balances, and diffusing control over decision-making. These elements are vital to enable countries to offer their citizens an adequate quality of life. In time, the Arab world will have them. While the international community is focused on ISIS or Iran's destructive role in the Middle East, most Arabs are focused on improving their lives. Their governments should encourage them. (Courtesy Project Syndicate)

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