

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



November 01, 2015

Undeterred Accountability Checks Collective Progress

Sticking to the very oath one takes prior to joining a public position that calls for unconditional sincerity to the assigned undertaking ever tests a person's faithfulness. Every deed we undertake on account of greater interest is deemed a divine service that earns us virtue and fortifies our faith. If one tends to cut down or exploits the amount of time, authority and resources at his dispense for some heinous purposes is deemed an evil practice and unforgivable deed. This is an act of corruption and equally condemnable deed. This evil practice give birth to thousands of harms, crucifixes justice, equality, peace and order turning the society a breeding ground of viciousness and initialize the cycle of evil.

Afghanistan stands among the poorest countries of world with more than 60 percent of its population living below or slightly above the line of poverty; still some officials do not sympathize with Afghans. The most prior reason behind the failure to strengthen the backbone of Afghan economy is the severe security problems and deep-rooted corruption. No significant progress has been made albeit elongated international efforts to revive Afghanistan's economy improve the living standard of people and create greater job opportunities provided that the menace of corruption constantly depleted the rate of progress is minimized.

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 was also reported that the school teachers were being recruited and appointed by the Taliban in the Shah Joy district.

Following the SIGAR report the Officials from Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission's (AIHRC) office in Ghor province had 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. 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.

This irreversibly worsening state of affair is a going concern and yet the government hasn't moved to curtail the wrongdoers. The list of positional manipulation does not stop here; instead the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has come under serious criticism after America's federal watchdog found out that the agency provided "inaccurate" data about the location of nearly two dozen health facilities in Afghanistan's western zone. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction's (SIGAR) inspection of the \$259.6 million Partnership Contracts for Health (PCH) program has found "substantial inaccuracies" in the GPS coordinates USAID provided for 23 of the 63 healthcare facilities it was funding in Herat province. Undoubtedly the said organization is foreign even then the concerning public department has to keep a check over the proper functioning of the services and must have the details of standard operating procedure of the organization and its fund imbursement of procedure. The government can not delink from the said manipulation before interrogation. If the government comes up to be clear and its ratified plot is executed by the donor agency itself then government can reclaim the allocated fund. Seemingly, the unity government is all-encompassing government that contains every section of Afghan society; nonetheless it's frequently subjected to prolonged suspension over making critical decisions on significant issues, as witnessed at present relative to distribution of ministries. In spite of unexpected delays in cabinet formation, an end to prevalent corruption has rendered one of the foremost challenges for both president and chief executive -nonetheless the government has lagged behind taking the required initiatives to restrain the ongoing corruption. The unity government seems to be hung on different issues -most probably the trial of any official may test the loyalty of another official and hence complicating the affairs of government. Putting an end to this very issue requires committed leadership, owing to take serious and long lasting decisions against the elimination of the prevalent corruption. Many problems in the third world countries are associated with flawed or delayed fixation of responsibilities; the culprit either escape owning the unlawful activity or keep on shifting the responsibilities from one to another stakeholder. Finally, no one is brought to book and hence justice delayed is justice denied. Particularly, when justice is to be exercised against a high profile person, then the anticipation of recovery and evenhandedness die its natural death. The continuous tales of fund embezzlement unearthed by international organizations were small enough to earn the attention of the political rulers, in fact is sufficient to diminish their trust to be trusted. Despite these measures the corrupt officials enjoys misappropriating their positions, provided the system of general amnesty to potential power abuser are chained fast to the ground, given number of influential personalities involved in money embezzlement from public offices, heinous crime against citizens and power misuse were given amnesty without being subjected to strict measures entailing answerability. This attitude would discouraged new investments with remnants intended to downsizing and withdrawing a dire omen for progress of country needs immediate reversal by practical measures.



"History - A Fable Agreed Upon!"

By Dilawar Sherzai

Much has been said and written about history and its importance in human life. There are thinkers who believe that it is impossible to live without history and everyone must remember it so as to have better future. However, it is always debatable whether remembering history can really benefit us in making our future.

History is the record of past events. Since human beings have memory and since they started having the capacity to record events in the written form, they started forming history. The records of all the events that are available in black and white basically form our history and there are many who believe it to be source of unlimited knowledge for us. Though, these records support us in understanding the people of the past, their ways of living, their beliefs and cultures and so many other details but considering that they can support us in designing our present and past are raw assumptions. History is present in records and this very fact raises questions about its authenticity. The main problem about proving that an action really happened in past is that we cannot replay it. We just have something written about it. Now, who had written that something and did he really write the fact that actually happened? Was he not biased about what he had written, not influenced by someone else, not forced to write what he wrote? Thus, it is really difficult to justify whether the records show the true picture.

For example, in past the glorious kings had their own historians who were paid to write about the glories of the kings and their kingdoms. They neither had the courage nor the motivation to write the fact and realities. All they used to write were to glorify the kings not to record the events for the future generations to know the reality. The few who dared to write anything against them had to face severe consequences.

In similar fashion different nations have written their histories the way they have wanted. They have always strived to exaggerate their successes in the past and strived to delete the realities that have resulted in their loss or humiliation. Therefore, there are different interpretations of the same historical event and it is really difficult to find which one depicts the reality. Dan Brown in 'The Da Vinci Code' highlights the same reality, "History is always written by the winners. When two cultures clash, the loser is obliterated, and the winner writes the history books-books which glorify their own cause and disparage the conquered foe. As Napoleon once said, 'What is history, but a fable agreed upon?'"

It can be observed as well that nations, in the memory of their glorious past, tend to neglect their present. They keep on focusing about past and praising the same instead of being practical and striving to

change their fate in present. Our example (of Muslims) in this regard is very much relevant. Some of us keep on remembering the past wherein Muslims had the glory and great achievements in science, arts and statesmanship. However, in the process we fail to realize the fact that today we are far away from what we used to be and something needs to be done about it in the present. Remembering glorious past does not bring glory, we have to work hard for it, be practical and change ourselves, our societies and our destinies. Steve Maraboli has rightly said, "Today is a new day. Don't let your history interfere with your destiny! Let today be the day you stop being a victim of your circumstances and start taking action towards the life you want. You have the power and the time to shape your life. Break free from the poisonous victim mentality and embrace the truth of your greatness. You were not meant for a mundane or mediocre life!"

Another mistake that certain people and historians make is to bicker upon the minor details regarding the incidents in history. As there are different interpretations of history and different details about the same incidents, there are differences among different individuals or groups of individuals. All of them think and even believe that they are right while others are wrong. They even insist that others should change their views according to them. This even results in serious clashes and even wars. The same can be found among the believers of different religions and even the believers of different sects in the same religion. And, what has been the outcome is not hidden from anyone. Christopher Paolini, regarding the same reality, has quoted beautifully, "People have an annoying habit of remembering things they shouldn't."

Thus, it should be understood by all the sensible human beings that history is not always the truth. The different interpretations, different biases and considerations, pressures and greed, political inclinations and religious beliefs have all contributed in designing the history; therefore, it is not always the true picture of the events that really occurred and there are only limited ways of proving the facts in history. Bill Watterson says, "History is the fiction we invent to persuade ourselves that events are knowable and that life has order and direction. That's why events are always reinterpreted when values change. We need new versions of history to allow for our current prejudices."

The only way history can be beneficial to a certain extent is when we are able to see it with wider perspective; analyzing the different interpretations and avoiding being biased. Believing history blindly can only make us more extremists and make our opinions and actions more distant from reality.

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Social Media Expedited Altered Socialization

By Asmatyari

Our society is one that is always on the go. Between long work weeks, single parenting, adults going back to school, and normal household chores, anyone can find themselves without the time for a social life. With this vital role of life missing, a substitute has been created, social networking. Prior to emergence of social networking, people used to spend their spare times in amenable socialization, getting together in cafés and hotels where they could manage discussing their hardcore issues. The emergence of social media has totally altered the concept of socialization. At the present the physical segregation does not let a person in state of isolation, given the social media bridge the peers, relatives and co-workers into undying bonds. But what cost comes with this new source for a social life?

Not only it is used to talk to friends, but it is also used to discuss educational topics. The use of social networking helps improve technological skills of students, and exposes them to many diverse views about things. It also has helped with communication skills, and allows the learning of cultures from users all over the world. Also students use social networking to discuss homework topics with peers online, and to get help on assignments. It is reported that sixty percent of students on social networks have said that they talk about education, and 50 percent specifically talk about school work assignments. These students seem to have an extraordinary set of traditional and 21st century skills including communication, creativity, collaboration, and leadership skills and technology proficiency.

These networks give a person the ability to quickly and easily share information about events that they are attending, quotes that inspire, irritating experiences with local companies, even personal pictures of normal life experiences that happen throughout their day. With the need to post every detail of our daily life, things are exposed not only to friends and family members, but to the entire cyber world as well. It is easy to forget who all is looking at these pages.

SNS is known as Social Network Service, is an online service platform, or site that focuses on facilitating the building of social networks or social relations among people who, for example, share interests, activities, backgrounds, or real-life connections. SNSs such as Facebook, Twitter works like this. Adolescents who become members of these SNSs communities, they will firstly get a personal profile which will show their personal information including the name, job, photo, relationship status, religion, hobbies and so on. Except displaying a network of friends, other users can then click on their profiles and traverse ever broadening social networks. The three features including profile, friend and traversing friend list show the most crucial characteristic of SNSs.

Facebook users generally start an account, with a desire to re-connect with past friends or to open a channel of communication for current friends and family members. Having a Facebook page can be a great way to connect with distant relatives or friends that are not seen of-

ten. However, most Facebook pages will fill up with people from the past, acquaintances, and even co-workers. The more people that are accepted to a page, the more time consuming it become. Social networking has become such an integral part of daily life that everybody finds himself incomplete without getting known about his current status.

Apart of being associated with lots of goods a bit of harm also inflicted by the use, abuse or misuse of social media. It brings a certain degree of negative impact on adolescents' mental health and social development. This study that researches the negative impacts on adolescents' interpersonal psychotherapy will significantly help colleges and universities' moral educators to play the network edge, overcome the disadvantages and make use of the Internet to cultivate adolescents' sound personalities and good psychological qualities. The social networking site, like facebook, may seem innocent enough but it can negatively impact free time, privacy, and even our careers.

A 2010 Case Western Reserve School of Medicine study showed hyper-networking (more than three hours on social networks per day) and hyper texting (more than 120 text messages per day) correlated with unhealthy behaviors in teens. Hyper-networking was also associated with depression, substance abuse, poor sleep patterns, suicide and poor academic performance.

In addition these sites reduce the amount of face to face socializing and replace it with online interaction which is believed to result in low quality relationships with other people. Teens over share information to the public that can hurt them in the future when trying to get a job, and deleting the information is not good enough. Cyber bullying occurs as well, which is bullying people online in a public way, but occurs at a small percentage.

It is also found that people frequently using online social networking are also prone to social isolation which can lead to depression and decreased social skills. A false sense of security leaves social networking site users vulnerable to security attacks such as hacking, leaking sensitive information, and sending viruses. Identity theft can occur when a cybercriminal uses the network to gather personal information posted about people.

The social media is continuously advancing, and changing to fix the negative problems. One example would be accessing social networking sites using cell phones so that people can access the site on the go rather than sit at home on a computer. Most users have stated that they have had only positive experiences with social networking, and very few people experience cyber bullying. There are still problems that need to be fixed, but it seems that the positive effects outweigh the negative effects. Social networking is a very valuable tool that can be used to meet new people, and allow people to remain in contact with friends. Even though it can waste time, social networking positively affects the world by allowing people to communicate, and remain in contact with friends in an easy and convenient way.

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