

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



November 19, 2015

Stop Environmental Degradation

Among the international issues that have been influencing the human beings, the deterioration of environment through different types of contaminations is a major one. This issue, if left unattended, could lead to a major catastrophe with the potential to expedite the extinction of human race.

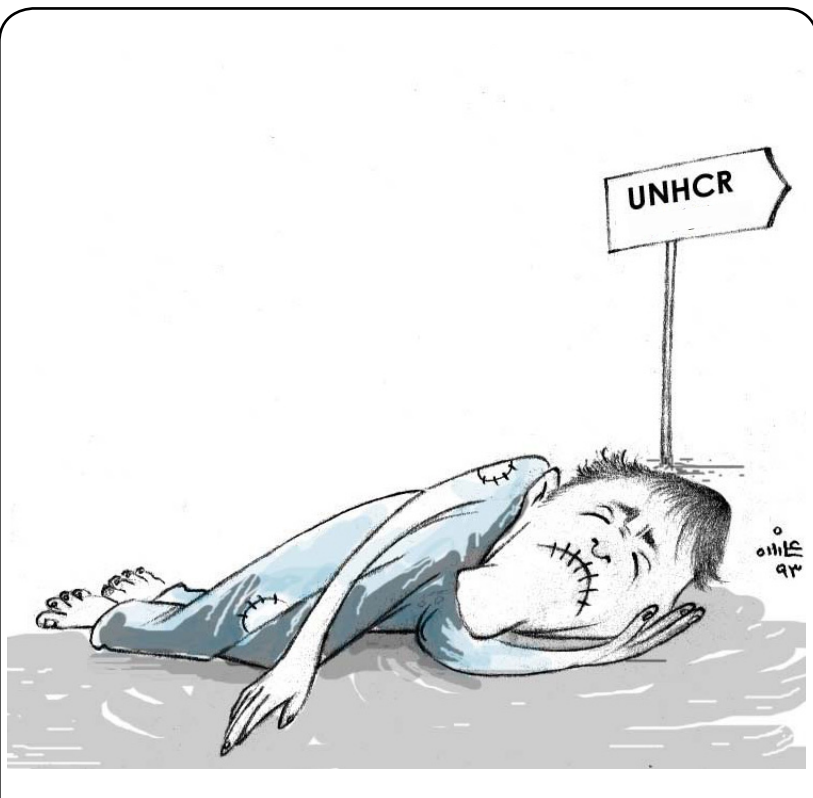
As a matter of fact, earth's environment has been experiencing certain degradation due to addition of excessive contaminants. These contaminants are basically the outcome of chemicals and products that are being invented and used with a great pace in the modern world. There is no doubt that the scientific inventions have blessed human beings with myriads of facilities; however, the improper use of these facilities and their mismanagement has brought them some evils, as well. These evils have the capacity to disturb our environment and introduce disorder within the ecosystem that is necessary for the life to exist on the planet earth. It is really important to note that the possibility of life to exist within the known universe is limited to the planet earth alone. The distance of the earth from the sun, its temperature and other physical conditions exist in such an ordered manner that life is guaranteed here. Moreover, the dependence of living beings on one another, their interactions and their reaction and influence over the environment have certain proportional arrangement, which is termed as eco-system by the scientists. If this eco-system is disturbed in some way or the other, the life is disturbed and the contaminants that are let loose by human beings in the environment has the capacity to disturb it greatly and has the capacity to endanger existence on earth.

The contaminants basically form pollution, which can influence environment in many different ways. Pollution does not affect the air alone, there are different types of pollution that include; light pollution, littering, noise pollution, soil contamination, thermal pollution, visual pollution, water pollution and some others. Though from the very inception of human beings' civilized life, pollution has been influencing human beings, nonetheless, in today's world of ours, there has been extensive increase in it. With the industrial revolution, the release of pollutants within the natural environment has kept on increasing. Today, we are standing at a stage where many serious minds think that we have to be serious about saving our earth from the menace of pollution.

There are some important concerns that most of the environmental scientists believe should be pondered upon extensively. The first one is the degradation of natural environment to the extent that can prove fatal for most of human beings. Already, the pollutants within the environment have been able to introduce different kinds of diseases in the living beings, which, if left unchecked, can go out of control. The other concern is regarding the overall warming up of the globe; this concept is known as "global warming", which, may, at maximum, result in the liquefying of the glaciers on the poles and may drown the whole world. Moreover, considerable rise in temperature may disturb the conditions of living on earth and may disrupt the eco-system and jeopardize the existence. However, there are scientists and thinkers who believe that the climatic changes may take thousands of years. There has been cycle of changes and there will be such changes in the future as well. The climate of the earth will not keep on rising rather it will keep on experiencing fluctuations after certain years. In fact, they do not seem much convinced regarding the theory of global warming. Nevertheless, it must never be forgotten that the uncontrolled release of pollution can cause serious damage to earth and its environment.

The need of time is to save the environment by adopting appropriate policies. Any effort in this regard needs to be two-dimensional. Firstly, every individual must feel his/her responsibility and must make sure that he/she does not become a reckless being and must prove helpful for the environment. However, extensive awareness programs in this regard can be really helpful. Secondly, there have to be efforts on national level as well. The governments in different countries can adopt strict laws regarding the safeguard of the environment and can make sure that different industries and enterprises adopt atmosphere-friendly attitude.

Some of the thinkers suggest that the issues that are raised regarding the global warming or too many concerns about the environment are not international issues and they are over-emphasized so that the attentions of the people should be diverted from the basic problems of the society and they become easily governable. The developing and under-developed countries cannot afford to waste time on such non-issues; rather they have many other basic issues that they should concentrate on. Such views have their importance but taking care of environment must never be neglected. There can be changes in the way the issue is treated but it cannot be neglected altogether. For example, the developed countries of the world can be made more responsible for solving the issue, while the other nations can deal with their basic issues.



Tolerance: An Indispensable Feature of Modern Societies

By Asmatyari

The mouse was passing through an abysmally dark forest, struck a sleeping lion. The lion woke up to his gnawing. Having been disturbed by his awkwardness the lion pretended to kill him. It was only then, the Mouse piteously entreated, asking: "If you spare my life, I would ensure to repay your kindness." The lion sniggered and ridiculed of getting helped by a little mouse but even then he let him go. It happened shortly after a group of hunters, cleverly netted the lion that could hardly be untied. Perhaps it was turned out to be the day the mouse had to repay. On recognizing the troubled lion, came forth -gnawed the rope with his teeth, and set him free. It was surprising for lion to find little mouse weak enough to help him out of trouble -had indeed rescued him. This holistically applies to our society where people get to discriminate on every ground a fellow; be it race, color, religions, religion ethnicity etc. Entangled among bunch of discriminating features have pulled the world to the brink of what we witness today.

The world has not been set to one pattern, nor have men been shaped in a single mould. Difference, in environment or conditions of life, causes difference in temperament and opinion. Historical evolution has led to diversities in outlook. Each distinctive outlook has its own background. A cultured person takes these into account, makes allowance for them and is ready to make concessions and compromise. Without this broad-mindedness, energy will be wasted in futile arguments. In this long run, mere passion never leads to any good nor solves any problem; passion has to be controlled and disciplined by reason and tolerance.

History has recorded that difference in religion led to mass persecution; difference in politics created bad blood, and difference in opinions ended in blows. Millions of men, women and Children across the globe are bombed to death for differences. The Crusades of the middle Ages bear out this fact. A whole community were be massacred in the name of God. Even today, purges for religious beliefs have not been banished from society. The ISIS terror group seemingly has surpassed Al-Qaida by interminably letting blood of innocent flow -driven mad by irrational divine dictates. All this intolerance comes from bigotry, narrowness and blind self-conceit. It is the result of dogmatism, advocating a single belief to be right. This is intolerance, the refusal to be just and fair-minded.

One of the fallouts of the much discussed globalization process is the demand to meet, work and live with people of totally different culture, ethnicity and backgrounds. How one manages this heterogeneity of cultures and life styles is very crucial for the survival of humanity. Thus accepting and valuing differences between people, appreciating that these differences enrich us is quality name as tolerance. It acknowledges the vastness of reality

and cherishes the many human faces of that reality. When we are tolerant we watch and listen and seek to discover how the many pieces fit together to make a wonderful whole. We are able to delight in the otherness of strangers and our intimate companions, knowing that our own lives would be less rich if everyone were more like us.

One of significant thing the month of, November reminds us the celebration of "World Tolerance Day". To illuminate the underlying worth of tolerance, maintaining eternal peace in the world, every year November 6, is celebrated as "World Tolerance Day". Seeing that, tolerance bears constitutional provision of UN -it must be propagated, practiced and taught in this landscape finding its immense significance. It is the virtue that helps us to put up with those, who have different ways and opinions, and outlook on life. Man is a social being and has to live in a spirit of harmony and co-operation with others. In this process some amount of give-and-take is necessary, a capacity for compromise.

Forbearance as a skill and an attitude to life has become essential for the very survival of humanity. The most significant facet is the acceptance of the fact that the diversity of our world's many religions, languages, cultures and ethnicities is not a pretext for conflict, but is a treasure that enriches us. We cannot persuade others unless we ourselves are at the same time ready to be persuaded by practicing sweet reasonableness. Thus it will be seen that tolerance as a social virtue, is opposed to dogmatism or dictatorship. It is impossible for one to be tolerant if one is hide-bound and rigid in views or full of prejudices.

Anarchism and intolerance seem to be on the upgrade, of late. Extremists and terrorists with the help of sophisticated military weapons are seeking to destabilize a country, taking heavy toll of innocent lives. Angry young man, challenging all established norms, now parades the walks of life. Tolerance has been cast to the winds by them. Our aim should be to tackle them with a strong hand and then, if permissible, bring them to the conference table. There is no doubt in it that tolerance is the most necessary quality of our everyday life. Having imbibed the in-depth socio-political worth of tolerance it should be practiced as an integral part of our culture. If we enculture tolerance in our individual or collective endeavor, we will be free from all the pain of envy within ourselves. Then our soul will live in peace and happiness. Children from their early childhood should develop the habit of tolerance. The elders should guide them in this respect. Tolerance as a quality is indispensable in all democratic countries alike where government is held responsible to ensure pluralistic legislation acquainted with UN constitutional provision, so that no one could dare to harass another fellow man only because he owes, views and practice religion different to him.

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On International Day of Students!

By Muhammad Rasool Shah

17th November is observed around the world as International Day of Students but majority of our students might not be aware of the importance of this day and also of an important role they can play in bringing change in their society and country. To understand this, we need to go back to 1939 to Czechoslovakia, which was then ruled by Nazi Germany. The students at the Charles University of Prague were not happy of the strict rule of Nazi Germans and in a demonstration of students, a student by the name of Jan Opletal got badly injured and then died of his wounds. On 15th November, thousands of students and professors got together in the funeral procession of Jan Opletal, which then turned into a mass demonstration against the Nazi government. This demonstration brought into action the Nazi machinery that raided to the university; 1200 students were arrested and sent to the concentration camps while 9 professors and students were executed without any trial. This also brought the closure of all the universities and colleges in the country. On the same day in 1941, the day was first marked as International Students' Day in London by the International Students' Council in which there were many refugees, who had escaped from the areas controlled by the Nazi regime.

However, this day (17th November) also became base for a number of student-involved movements, giving birth to critical changes. In November 1973, students of the Athens Polytechnic went on strike. They were protesting against the regime of military junta that ruled the country at that time. Students barricaded themselves in the university and launched a radio station from the equipment that they found in the laboratories. The broadcast of this radio soon echoed in every corner of Athens, tolling the bell of danger for the military rulers. Thousands of citizens also joined the students but the military junta came into action and crushed this movement strictly. Many students were injured in the military raid and the movement came to an end without any gain for students but it definitely left the basis for the fall of military rule in the country. This day also marks the beginning of a crucial change in Czechoslovakia. At that time, the country was ruled by the communist party of Czechoslovakia and students started demonstrations against the government, demanding more social freedom and civil rights. Soon the riot police and other law-enforcement agencies came into action and hundreds of students were brutally beaten by these agencies. However, this action of government did not bring down the morale of students and they went on strike along with actors from theatres. The following events that took place brought about the downfall of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia.

These events show that students have more power than all other groups of the society. They have the power to stir the basis of a government, to set right the wrong actions and to alter the course of history but all these things can only happen when they realize their importance. It is the reason why, it has always been the desire of totalitarian governments to keep them silent and avoid any kind of clash with them as they realize that, when students rise, they can bring a wave of awareness in every member of the society. Unfortunately, Afghan

students have not been given the opportunities and say in the affairs of society so that they should have played better role in the society. A number of fears have grappled our students. In government universities, extreme power and authority of their teachers oppress their natural confidence and talents. I personally know a number of students who are more afraid of the behavior and mood of their teachers than anything else in the world and this has created some psychological problems for them. According to them, their success in their studies does not depend on how hard they work but on a fact that how happy and satisfied they keep teachers. When they get angry from a student, a student can never be successful and he is left with no other option except to quit studies and do something else.

In private universities, they have been intoxicated by the poison of cheating and approach and if they can cheat or have good relations, they can easily pass the university without attending any lesson in it. The present circumstances invite our students to play better role in the affairs of the state. First, they will have to make a strong commitment with themselves to bring the change in their personalities before thinking of any change in the society. The personal character of students will define the character of tomorrow's society so they will have to be careful in this regard. Just like other countries, our students are also unfortunate to use internet for negative purposes and wasting their time. On the other hand, they can avail all the knowledge of the world from the unlimited treasures of knowledge given on the web.

Secondly, they will have to be careful as not to become puppets in hands of politicians. Students have energy, but mean politicians can at times utilize this energy for their heinous aims and objectives. In the same way, the extremist factors are also infiltrating our educational institutes and our students may fall prey for them. Very recently, we heard of the extremist factors on rise in the University of Nangarhar where some students demonstrated with the flags of Taliban and ISIS. Similarly, a number of extremist groups are also utilizing the social networking sites to attract students. When students will get busy in unnecessary political activities, they will definitely be distracted from their actual cause and they will never be able to accomplish successfully their goal of becoming an important member of the society.

Many students discovered their hidden talents and worked hard to expose it. They became inventors, innovators and put the basis of something new. They changed the overall shape of the society. In the same way, there may be similar talents in our students and if they have discovered it, they need to be brave enough to ignore difficulties and make their attempt to turn this talent into an achievement. Their achievement might become the achievement of the society. Students have always been on the forefront of change in the societies. Whenever students have demonstrated their power, they have brought the change. Today, it is needed that students should make their voices heard and opinions appreciated. Our hopes of today and tomorrow are pinned with them and they need to realize this!

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