

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



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## Government Must Curb Unemployment

The menace of unemployment is influencing almost every province of Afghanistan. Though Afghanistan has a very young population, which means that it has great potentials that can support the country in development and economic growth, the country has not been able to provide job opportunities to its youngsters and thus it is not able to take advantage of this distinction.

As the country has been largely dominated by different era of disorder and instability, the socio-economic infrastructure has not been developed much and as a result the job opportunities have always been limited. Though Afghan society is an agricultural society, the sector has not been able to absorb a large number of unemployed people. Mostly the people have been engaged in agricultural activities on personal basis and the sector has not been developed into an industry on modern grounds; therefore, the ones who own lands can benefit from them while the ones who do not own such lands are bound to remain out of work.

Undoubtedly, unemployment has done great damage to Afghan society. The people who have not been employed have mostly become the part of terrorist networks or the filthy business of narcotics, or even they have become addicted to drugs. As they do not have any other work to do or any way of making both ends meet they do not have much option but to join insurgency.

There are many educated youth in the country, who have no other choice but to join the ranks of insurgents as there are no job opportunities for them.

It is really vital that the government must understand the link between the growing unemployment and increasing insecurity and instability. More than any other thing, government must concentrate on providing job opportunities to the educated youngsters and thus pave the way for prosperity and development. It is really unfortunate to note that the youth who should be having a constructive role in the country are now supporting the ranks of the terrorists.

It is essential for Afghanistan to create job opportunities for its population. Job opportunities would definitely enable the residents of the country to make positive use of their capabilities for betterment and development of a society. It is important to understand that a state and its population are highly dependent on each other. It is difficult to imagine any of them living separately. As the state guarantees better life opportunities for its population, the population in return must, through thinking and action, strive to make the state stronger. However, if the job opportunities remain limited and the unemployment remains rampant, the consequences will be really severe. Though unemployment in itself is a severe problem, it is also the root of many other problems. Unemployment is basically an injustice done to a population. It is basically the unavailability of jobs when there are people who have the required qualifications to be employed for different positions. Thus it is injustice, as the qualified people do not get what they deserve – a respectable profession to join so as to use their education and knowledge.

The people who spend a lengthy process of completing their education or acquiring particular skills should be absorbed by the job industry as soon as they are ready to work. Failure to provide such an opportunity may influence those people to a great extent. They, in order to live alive, need to earn a livelihood, which is threatened by unemployment; therefore, they seek to find out other ways of earning a livelihood. In the process they either join a profession that may not be of their choice or they may join illegal ways of earning, which would damage the society to a large extent.

It is also feared that in the post withdrawal era, the country would face major economic challenges. The financial support has already started decreasing for Afghanistan. In near future one of the biggest challenges would be to create job opportunities for Afghan people. In absence of sufficient job opportunities, it would be really very difficult to maintain peace, tranquility and order. The international community and the Afghan authorities must make sure that they create enough jobs so as to save the country from falling into instability and economic crisis.

The role of economy is very much vital for a country. It, for a country, is as important as circulatory system within a human body. As without circulatory system blood cannot be pumped through different parts of the body, in the similar fashion without economy, money and other basic requirements of life cannot reach to different parts of a country. And the economic system can only be strengthened when the capable and skilled individuals participate in strengthening the economic system.

Especially the youngsters who get qualified from universities must be given opportunities to present and use their skills in the profession of their choice and interest. Young blood equipped with determination and patriotism can definitely play a significant role; all they need is equitable treatment from the prevailing system. Moreover, equal job opportunities must be created for girls and women as well as they form an integral part of Afghan populace and can play a tremendous role in improving Afghan economic system.

## Root of all Challenges

By Muhammad Zahir Akbari

All challenges in a nation originated from existing problems in education higher education; because higher education has recognized as foundation of all infrastructure and of the most important driver in today's competitive world! In order to improve employment opportunities, in order to fight against poverty, in order to get rid of health issue and to cope with other challenges there is a serious need to root out the root challenges of higher education. Educated citizens can be key determinant of a nation's development which builds economy and reduces poverty, as more educated citizens has capacity to innovate, learn quickly and capable of dealing with changing circumstances. For these purpose to be attained it's important to have quality education that could response to the market need of the society.

The history of modern education in Afghanistan goes back to the year 1863 by continuous efforts of Sayed Jamal-ud-din Afghan in the era of Amir Sher Ali Khan. Before that, there was no modern education in the country as people were educating themselves in religious schools (Madrassas or Masajids), by Islamic teachers known as Mullahs. At the same period, girls' education was almost negligible in Afghanistan. King Amanullah Khan was the one who for the first time addressed education for girls. In past 15 years Afghanistan has crossed big milestone towards education and higher education but considering the needs of time and paralyzing challenges we are still in its infantine steps.

Despite crossing these basic steps over the past 15 years, human resource development in Afghanistan continues to be a challenge. Improving the quality of education, expanding opportunities, addressing equality, and closing the skills gap between labor supply and market demands are of the utmost importance. Due to qualitative and quantities deficiencies also growing competitive demands, rebuilding higher education is a pressing and critical need for Afghanistan. With a critical shortage of professionals and leaders – engineers, technicians, administrators, accountants, agriculturist, and business leaders – the country found it difficult to meet the needs of reconstruction, growth and poverty reduction. Afghan universities suffered from a large majority of the problems that typically plague public tertiary institutions in many developing countries: low quality, lack of relevance, insufficient funding, and lack of appropriate physical facilities, weak links with the economy, and weak governance and management. While these problems have certainly been exacerbated by war and its negative economic consequences, they reflected deep structural dysfunctions that required careful attention.

Unlike developed countries, Afghanistan has a very centralized government system of higher education. So there needs to be major reforms. For example, giving universities more financial and academic autonomy, enhance research quality, modernize methods of teaching, and so forth. Afghanistan still has one of the lowest numbers of girls enrolled in higher education in the world. We also need to increase the number of female faculty.

Autonomy is a primary factor related to administration and governance is the issue of autonomy. Stemming from the era of Soviet control, Afghanistan's institutions of higher education re-

main centrally controlled by government agencies, and lack virtually any level of autonomy. This includes academic autonomy, financial autonomy, and so forth. According to expert, this issue is mentioned as one of the most significant factors effecting Afghanistan's higher education. Currently, institutions of higher education are controlled in terms of curricula, pedagogy, and budget. Therefore, they cannot raise funds to support the institution. In addition, they have a very difficult time procuring necessary funding for adequate facilities, curriculum, labs, and so forth. As the experts state, there is "nowhere in the world where higher education can sustain themselves solely on a centralized budget". So the Needy universities are dependent on centralized governance, and therefore cannot adequately procure necessary funds.

Other issue is low capacities; Students' enrollment is vastly outpacing higher education capacity and funding; annually there are around 500,000 volunteers but the public capacity is around 80,000 including institution (the semi-higher education). So, we extremely need for more universities. The demand for higher education is currently far greater than the available places in universities and institutions. According to the strategic plan for Afghanistan, "the issues of access, relevance, and quality extend to higher education, where opportunities for enrollment are severely constrained and formal educational offerings are few". Not surprisingly, universities are unable to provide the quality or quantity of professionals needed for the labor market, particularly in the management and technical fields where demands are critical. Favoritism is also a major problem in all sections including higher education. It is frequently complained that the candidates are not hired on the basis of their meritocracy, rather mainly on a recommendation and racial basis. Racial discrimination is the most undeniable phenomena in Afghanistan including public universities. As result where unqualified individuals are placed in administrative also in other key positions. So, controlling nepotism and corruption as well as working towards substantive, procedural, and fiscal autonomy pose many challenges to higher education in Afghanistan. Afghanistan has made very limited progress in moving toward semi-autonomous institutions, and there is still a long way to go.

Lastly the administrative corruption is the most paralyzing challenge as Afghanistan is consistently identified as one of the most corrupt country in the world. In higher education, corruption manifests itself in a variety of ways. The tendency for individuals who are getting salaries but not doing the job; It is said that in institutions where several teachers, who were being paid to teach, work in different jobs and never appeared in the classroom. Other forms of corruption include loss of funding for procurement, stealing from students, and so forth. Nepotism and corruption have created significant challenges in the way to higher education development in Afghanistan. According to experts, Afghanistan cannot be developed by its existing weak and deeply divided government-administration.

Mohammad Zahir Akbari is the newly emerging writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at mohammadzahirakbari@gmail.com

## The War Victims

By Hujjatullah Zia

The violation of humanitarian law in Syria outrages the collective conscience as women and children are burning amidst violence and bloodshed. The self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group has inflicted heavy casualties upon the civilians and continues trampling upon their rights and liberty in the worst possible way. The gory pictures of war, the riddled bodies and sliced throats of war victims lying in a pool of blood, shake the conscience of mankind.

Syrians bear the brunt of violence and have been changed into the sacrificial lamb of war and terror. By June 2013, the UN said 90,000 people had been killed in the conflict. More than five years after it began, the war has killed over 250,000 people, half of whom are believed to be civilians. Bombings are destroying crowded cities and horrific human rights violations are widespread. The civilians are victimized not only by the ISIL group but also by the pro-government forces. It is said that air strikes and shelling in rebel-held Aleppo has killed dozens this week. The bombardment restarted Tuesday after a four-week pause, part of a wider military escalation by the Syrian government and its allies, including Russia, against insurgents. Moreover, bombs launched by the Syrian government over the past three days seriously damaged two general hospitals – that were providing trauma care in the war zone and hit the only children's hospital – on the rebel-held side of Aleppo. The destruction left more than a quarter-million people in eastern Aleppo without hospital care.

The ISIL radical fighters have been changed into a serious menace to the world and spill the blood of individuals on the grounds of their caste, color and creed – the Islamic societies are the main victim of their pugnacious ideology. From the declaration of the caliphate until early 2016, some 90 terrorist attacks were either carried out or inspired by ISIL in 21 countries around the globe, from California to Sydney, with an estimated 1,400 victims killed. The Dutch counter terrorism coordinator said Friday that the ISIL group is estimated to have between 60 and 80 operatives planted in Europe to carry out attacks. Dick Schoof said that would-be fighters are also heeding messages from the militant group "asking them not to come to Syria and Iraq, but to prepare attacks in Europe." According to him, though the Netherlands has not been hit by a major attack by Islamic extremists such as those in Belgium and France, "the chance of attack in the Netherlands is real." He said, "We have seen 294 terrorist fighters go overseas in Iraq and Syria and there are still 190 over there. And what happened in France and Brussels and Germany could happen to us."

With the establishment of Al-Baghdadi's Caliphate, the ISIL fighters, operating under Baghdadi's fundamental ideology, committed the major crimes and violated humanitarian law in its ugliest manner. The ethnic minorities have lost their rights and honor under their realm of power and played the worst case scenario not only in Islamic societies but around the globe. Similarly, their strange and inhuman practices drew the world's attention towards it. Their immoral and disgraceful treatment to women, under the term of religion, spread hatred in Islamic societies and Islamophobia in Europe.

It is believed that a large member of the ISIL loyalist is mercenary fighters rather than ideological jihadists. They fight not to pursue Godly rewards but worldly pleasures and satiate their carnal desires with the declaration of "Jihad-e-Nikah". In other words, ISIL fighters come from poor backgrounds and suffered severely the pain of poverty and deprivation. Being deprived from girl friends, luxury buildings and enormous food, they resorted to violence to untie the lump in their throats through breaking social norms and violating moral standards.

Since "disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind" and respecting the natural and inalienable rights of mankind is the foundation of freedom and justice, the insurgency, irrespective of its hotbed, will lead to destruction and human casualties. It is highly shocking to hear that more than 250,000 people have been murdered in Syria's war. It is an unmistakable fact that the more it continues the heavier casualties it will leave behind. Isn't there a peaceful alternative for the destructive war? Why simply pave the ground for the deadly acts of terrorist networks, mainly ISIL?

As the democratic discourse is hotly debated around the globe, why murder men, women and children as a last resort? The world approved the Human Rights Law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), following the World Wars, to alleviate the pain and sufferings of human societies and put an end to violence and bloodshed. The International instruments declared that men and women are born free and endowed with natural rights and dignity. However, the challenge is that these instruments lack sanctions and not put into force strictly. It is the international community to bring the Syria's government and anti-government group to the negotiating table so as to prevent from casualties and protect the rights of the individuals and launch a worldly military attacks against the ISIL. It is hoped that streams of blood no more ooze from the sliced-throat of a child, man or woman slaughtered on the basis of their race, sex or beliefs.

Hujjatullah Zia is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at zia\_hujjat@yahoo.com



Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Hussain Yasa  
Vice-Chairman: Kazim Ali Gulzari  
Email: outlookafghanistan@gmail.com  
Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019  
www.outlookafghanistan.net



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