

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



September 07, 2015

The Cure for Grief is Action

The stretched out darkness of the night flows into the light of the dawn, and gets enlightened in the next beautiful morning. The day, after passing through its definite time, turns back to night. The seeds grow into plants and then trees and at the end become woods for burning or may become a piece of furniture. This is how nature works – it flows and moves and never stops. Nothing remains constant, and everything changes, as change is the nature of the nature. So are the feelings, moods and conditions of human beings. If today someone is sad, the other day he may be quite happy. Some changes may occur themselves while others may require considerable and untiring actions on the part of the human beings. Action basically creates balance in the equation of life, the equation of society and the equation of civilizations. The action that repels the negative forces and abandons them from increasing and the action caused by the grief and misfortunes aims at stopping the cause of its whole power. So the only cure for grief is action.

The grief showers the sadness on the faces of the people, the tears on the faces of newly widowed women, who have lost the affection of the loved ones, the newly orphans that would never have their fathers back, nor their affections. Sisters who remain waiting for their brothers at door, and brothers, shed tears having the cadavers of the brothers in their laps. Grief takes all the happiness, smiles and laughter of the innocent people of the world including our nation. The darkness of grief is to be torn by action.

The society with no unity causes no action, means it gives way to grieves, welcoming the darkness and bloodshed in future. It is depends on collective psychology of a nation that how they approach mishaps and misfortunes. If they are ready and committed enough they can face them with dignity and strength. Therefore, it is suggested that hopes are not given away people must keep on fighting hard against grieves they face as whatever they may be, they are not permanent. Every time in the face of history, the flood of grieves has been stopped through the action because no other option is optimism in its way to cure the grief. But the action causes grief in the cause and relaxation in the effect, and thus balances the scenario of wildness of human kingdom on earth.

To give up hope is to surrender and to surrender means to give the causes more chances to enter our homes and threaten us. We should never give up our will, as it reveals our strength, our deterrence against invasions, our hope, unity and determination, and our action that will last to the end of the grief. If the grief is again caused to us, the cure is always the same, the one and only mighty action.

It is a common experience that if a hole in a cloth is neglected for sometimes, it grows so big as to require many stitches. What is true of a hole in a cloth is also true of social, political, and moral problems. If these problems are not mended for a long period, a time comes when they become irreversible and solution for them becomes unattainable. So for our better future, we must not get late for an action and cure our grief. Life is full of such instances, which prove that much harm can be done by a little thing which is overlooked or is altogether neglected; like a crack in a boat if not immediately looked into, grows so big that no effort can save the boat. A little fire if not immediately put out, develops into a huge conflagration after a few hours. A leaking roof which is not repaired in time proves a source of much trouble and inconvenience in the rainy season.

Still there can be no optimism that it is not too late for remedy and taking action. Therefore, we have to leave the comforts of our cozy abodes, move to the ground and be counted; otherwise, the history with its weak memory may forget our existence without no time.

Keeping in view the today's practical world and the competitive mood of state of affairs in the world one must be quite active and energetic to bring his ideas into life by taking suitable and favorable acts/steps against the customary problems so that he could promise his survival through the tough and rapid pace of political and economic struggle.

Currently we are suffering the worst form of terrorism and disorder yet again we lack the unity of thought and no clear vision to overcome the prevailing pathetic condition of the people. We are scattered into many groups and schools of thoughts. We are ill with the differences existing among us and on the other hand we wish to beat the present miseries. Every single person must strive to come together, join hands with one another and think with broader perspective, removing all our personal clashes and differences in order to bring about constructive remedies to our tribulations. But one has to bear in mind that these are only miraculous ideas which may never ever be acted over or even mused upon. Or if we consider them with better understanding, we will be capable enough to change these ideas to strong practical measures.



Violation of Children's Rights

By Hujjatullah Zia

The heavy war and violence have rendered children highly vulnerable to social harms. Their rights to life, liberty and education are trampled upon with impunity. Children suffer mentally, emotionally and physically amid the horrors of war and bloodshed. Reports say that a large number of Syrian, Libyan, Palestinian and Iraqi children were forced to abandon school on the grounds of insurgencies and destructions.

A report by the United Nations Children's Fund cast a sobering new light on the subtle long-term destructive consequences of violent conflicts that have convulsed a region encompassing all or portions of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Yemen, Libya, Sudan and the Palestinian territories, particularly Gaza.

More than 13 million children are being denied education due to conflicts in the Middle East, the UN has said, warning "the hopes of a generation" would be dashed if they cannot return to classrooms. In a report on the impact of conflict on education in six countries and territories across the region, the UN's children fund UNICEF said more than 8,850 schools were no longer usable due to violence.

It detailed cases of students and teachers coming under direct fire, classrooms used as makeshift bomb shelters and children having to cross active front-lines just to take their exams. "The destructive impact of conflict is being felt by children right across the region," Peter Salama, regional director for UNICEF in the Middle East and North Africa is quoted as saying. "It's not just the physical damage being done to schools, but the despair felt by a generation of schoolchildren who see their hopes and futures shattered."

Based on the report, one in four schools have been closed since the conflict erupted, causing more than two million children to drop out and putting close to half a million in danger of losing their schooling. Additionally, more than 52,000 teachers have left their posts, saddling the country's crumbling education system with an acute skills shortage. "Even those Syrian teachers who have ended up as refugees in other countries have faced obstacles which prevent them from working," the report said. "The killing, abduction and arbitrary arrest of students, teachers and education personnel have become commonplace".

Violation of children's rights to education is the tip of the iceberg. They encounter with life-threatening challenges triggered by insurgencies. As a result, a number of the victims' children lose their lives while seeking refuge to Europe. Off late, a heart-rending picture of a toddler's lifeless body washed ashore on a Turkish beach sparked horror as the cost

of Europe's burgeoning refugee crisis hit home. "The images of a child lying face down in the surf at one of Turkey's main tourist resorts has once more put a human face on the dangers faced by tens of thousands of desperate people who risk life and limb to seek a new life in Europe. Wearing a red T-shirt and blue shorts, 3-year-old Aylan Kurdi from the Kurdish-Syrian city of Kobani was believed to be one of at least 12 Syrians trying to reach Greece who died when their boats sank. The body of his 5-year-old brother, Galip, washed up on another part of the beach."

Aylan's heart-wrenching picture outraged the public conscience and aroused a sense of deep sentiments around the globe. The image was widely posted on the cyberspace of Facebook with strong comments emanating from burning emotions. Similarly, harsh remarks were made against the IS group who are the main factors behind these tragedies.

The war victims who take refuge, along with their children, to foreign countries to breathe in a climate void of violence and bloodshed and flee the IS's murderous acts and toxic ideology, succumb to death on a large scale. The children, especially the female teens, bear the brunt of war in Middle East. As a result, a considerable number of underage females fell victim to systematic rape perpetrated by IS group. Hence, it is not only the issue of education but they suffer manifold problems created by radical elements.

The IS's fundamental ideology is a serious menace to the entire globe. It is likely that their atrocious acts have outweighed the Taliban and al-Qaeda's practices. There is no doubt that the Taliban militants challenged the hegemonic powers and counter-insurgency strategy did not bear the desired fruit. Similarly, the "war on terror" in Iraq and Afghanistan was proved abortive. If the IS group does not be battled internationally, it will change into more life-threatening issue. In other words, it is time for the international community to combat the IS militants with strong mechanism or it will blackmail the globe.

The international community has to uphold children's rights and dignity and empower them through schooling. In another term, the terrible effects of war and persisting challenges of refugees and war victims will have to be mitigated via global campaign against extremism and providing education for teenage asylum seekers. After all, the perpetrators of war crimes and violators of child rights have to be pursued and prosecuted in the first instance. Meanwhile, it should be noted that education is highly critical for the children's future. Their illiteracy will compound the challenges. It is hoped that today's war-afflicted generation will not be the heir of illiteracy, war and destruction of tomorrow – this is possible through eliminating the warring parties and their toxic ideology.

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Emergence of Solar Power in Afghanistan

By Kushagra Gautam

Exclusive for the Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Three Hundred sunny days with abundant free solar irradiation to generate solar power and strong support of the Government of Afghanistan; make the country an attractive destination for setting up photovoltaic solar power projects. The country currently uses large quantities of diesel for power generation, which can be significantly reduced by setting up MW size solar power stations in various provinces of Afghanistan.

Solar power is not new to Afghanistan. It is widespread, albeit on a much smaller scale in the form of rooftop installations. Rooftops have already penetrated into vast number of household and commercial establishments. Solar power has become the lifeline of these users in many provinces and towns. The largest solar power installation at a single location in Afghanistan is Bamyan. This complex has multiple solar power generating plants having an aggregate facility of 1 MW.

Government of Afghanistan and the national utility, De Afghanistan Brishna Shirkat (DABS), has taken its first initiative by planning a 10 MW solar PV power plant in Kandahar, which is envisaged to be set up as an Independent Power Plant by the private sector. The project would be awarded to the bidder who quotes the lowest tariff based on an international competitive bidding process.

Afghanistan is slowly and gradually developing into a competitive market of solar EPC services and all major components needed to construct the best in class solar PV system are available in the country, through a large number of vendors, who import the critical components from the Asian market. A number of reputed international companies are working with local solar service providers for implementation of various solar power plants in Afghanistan. Most of the key components like solar panels, grid-tied inverters, irradiation sensors, etc. are imported mainly from China and some other countries, who have experienced solar power equipment manufacturers. The key factors that need to be considered and analyzed for implementation of best optimized solar plant are:

- Solar Irradiation at site.
- Temperature and climatic conditions.
- Design parameters of the plant.
- Solar panel and inverter efficiency.
- Module degradation in 25 years.
- Generation losses.

Some of the modern features of a solar photovoltaic plant are:
□ Synchronization of a Solar Plant, Utility Grid and the Consumer Load is such that the solar current is given priority to enable the injection of solar energy first priority into the system.

□ Even Grid failures do not interrupt the power supply through Solar Plant as the Smart Inverters are synchronized with already installed DG sets of the consumers, thus saving appreciable diesel consumption cost.

□ The errorless solar system reacts first in any kind of faults related to Grid by efficiently isolating itself from the whole system in fraction of a second.

□ All these technical advancements with 25 years of guaranteed generation bring the payback period within 4-6 years depending on the government utility tariff, power interruptions and power consumption profile of the user.

With all these technological advancements and emerging solar market competitiveness in Afghanistan, an investor/ developer/ owner can easily install and use/ supply solar power from at least 100 KW solar system, if a suitable site is available. Even a small size solar PV plant models can demonstrate to the consumers that by embracing a solar system they can manage to secure themselves against escalating power tariffs as well as helping directly in reduction of carbon footprints of the country.

Kandahar Solar Project is a 10 MW capacity Solar-Diesel-Grid hybrid power project that is being looked at as a key solution to provide interim relief to the Kandahar electricity consumers (Industrial Parks, Commercial Centres and Residential). Successful installation of Solar PV project which is proposed to be built as IPP (Independent Power Plant) will not only meet the demand of Kandahar, but also act as a model that could be replicated in the other parts of Afghanistan.

The project is being looked at as an important development as part of a larger objective of the United States Government (USG) in coordination with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) for the development of Kandahar region. The program is being implemented with the help of USAID with a consortium of companies (Phoenix, KPMG, Tractebel, RIAA LAW). The RFP is expected to be published in mid-September 2015, which will be followed by a pre-bid meetings and Roadshows. The objective will be to enable selection of suitable developer through international competitive bidding, eventually leading to most competitive tariff for power consumers in Kandahar. The selected IPP will own, operate and manage the project under a long term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with DABS.

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