

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



September 27, 2016

International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

September 26, was the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The objective of the day is to provide an opportunity to the world community to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament as a high priority. It also aims at educating the public and the authorities about the real benefits of eliminating such weapons, and the social and economic costs of perpetuating them.

Global nuclear disarmament was the subject of United Nations General Assembly in the first resolution in 1946. However, complete disarmament was included in General Assembly's agenda in 1959 and since then it has been one of the most crucial and urgent objectives of UN. In 1978, the General Assembly's first Special Session on disarmament reaffirmed that effective measures for nuclear disarmament have the highest priority and every United Nations Secretary-General has supported it.

However, the fact is that there is an uncontrolled race of nuclear weapons in the world and according to the UN statistics, about 15,000 nuclear weapons still exist and more than half of the world's population still lives in countries that either have such weapons or are members of nuclear alliances. This grave situation exists largely because of prevailing economic and political conditions. The contemporary international political scenario can be well analyzed by keeping the term hypocrisy in our consideration. Basically the prevailing international politics does not function as an international integrating system; rather it functions as a catalyst to invigorate international disintegration by dividing the world into political giants and political ants. International integration, which should be a step before the first and foremost step, has been deleted from the hard disk of international politics. International integration that should be the fore-legs of civilizations has only proved to be a wheel-chair of crippled civilization that is leading it to nowhere. Nuclear non-proliferation, as propagated by contemporary politics, seems to be a very controversial term - properly designed and masterly disguised. The most interesting fact about non-proliferation treaties is the fact that they have been controlled by those who have been responsible for most of nuclear proliferation.

There are few thinkers who believe that the current slogans of peace and tranquility and non-proliferation are new techniques by the imperialists to strengthen their dominance in the international scenario. It is necessary to consider the view and analyze it as per the contemporary settings. They believe that today's imperialism is nothing more than an evolution of the same colonization. It has evolved in terms of both technology and technique. Today's technology is more modern and techniques are more misleading. Imperialism has clothed its cunning incentives by beautiful slogans. It is not what it seems. Its behavior is deceptive and nuclear non-proliferation is one of the examples of its dual nature. The slogan of non-proliferation is raised because imperialism wants a solid excuse to shun the third world nations but it is important that they should start non-proliferation from the world powers that are the storerooms of nuclear arms. The world powers have the capacity to destroy the whole world several times with their weapons. When the world powers carry out some nuclear tests the world peace organizations and test ban treaties do not seem to have much power to stop them. This is really a lame and cruel justice. There is a power game and the power is always skewed towards the countries that have large economy and are militarily strength. Most of the decisions pertaining to the world order and international law are influenced by them as they are the ones who have invented them and thus finance them.

There is no controversy about the fact that every nation has got the right of self-defense. The nations that want to guarantee complete security for their people need to acquire weapons; this is a reality that has to be accepted by everyone. If they do not acquire weapons they will be dominated by their enemies - this is how we have formed the world order and political scenario. There are many countries in the state of war and they always have certain enemies against whom they have to defend themselves. However, from this discussion it must not be inferred that there should be uncontrolled competition of weapons. The sanctions are necessary but the most important factor is that the sanctions must be just and they should be applicable against all the countries in the world - both strong and weak. If they favor just the strong, then it means they are tools for them to further their dominance and control in world politics and that means further disorder and wars. The international bodies that are formed so as to control the arms race and save the world from nuclear weapons must be authoritative enough to make independent decisions and they should also be in a position to make the countries follow their decisions.

Role of Teachers in Modern Educational System

By Mohammad Zahir Akbari

The role of teacher in modern educational system is not only imparting merely knowledge to students but also, as a real architect of new generation, responsible to build personality of modern citizens. It requires passion, patience, expertise on certain subject and enough ability to understand the role of teacher, the styles of teaching, teaching methodologies and strategies, correct usage of evaluation techniques and the psychology of the students as well as the ability to motivate the students. When a teacher knows all these things properly he or she can become not only an excellent teacher but also a great leader thereby transferring the knowledge, experience, skills and abilities from one generation to another generation through students. He teaches the subject or topic and imparts knowledge to the students. That is the primary role and responsibility of the teacher. He also acts as a friend, philosopher, guide, parent and facilitator. He is a continuous learner and an excellent listener.

The more he listens the more he learns and the more he learns then the more he teaches. That is why it is said that the teachers are lifelong learners and their learning is the real meaning of learning from cradle to grave.

In fact, Teaching is comprised of theoretical and artistic components: The theoretical parts should be studied, researched and understood but the artistic part must be cultivated by teaching experience. Anybody and everybody can cultivate this skill but human upbringing needs enthusiasm, hard work and also national investments.

On contrary to the traditional teacher-center methods, the modern student-center method or involvement of the students into the teaching process by questioning and by interacting with them is very important. Once the students are involved mentally, physically and socially then it helps in better retention. It is aptly said, "People remember 20% of what they hear, 30% of what they see, 50% of what they hear and see and 80% of what they hear, see and do".

While teaching, the teacher's oral language should be supported by the usage of blackboard or power point presentations, or cue cards. There has to be effective coordination between these two for effective teaching. It makes the students to concentrate effectively. If students fail to understand the oral language then the black board writing material will come to their rescue for better understanding and retention. The teacher while using the black board should not spend too much time towards black board as it loses the touch with the students. There has to be a fine balance between these two elements. Role-plays or demonstrations will have far reaching effects towards better teaching. Story telling is an art and if the

teacher narrates good stories which are message oriented and theme oriented then the students will pay more attention and listen effectively. Besides giving the subjective knowledge it also helps them develop good character. Socratic Method as a tool of teaching is very interesting for the students. When students pose any questions the teacher should teach them by providing answers usually generated from their questions by way of introspection and deep grilling.

It also helps the students to unlock their hidden potential. To put it succinctly the teaching skills vary from person to person depending on his or her style, nature and also it depends on the domain, topic and on the profile of the students. There is no fixed or regimented teaching formula in teaching skills. It must be remembered that the purpose of education is not to fill the minds of students with facts... it is to teach them to think, if that is possible, and always to think for themselves. So, during teaching the teacher should adopt various tools and techniques towards effective teaching.

The teacher can start the topic with an interesting or shocking or an inspiring events or happenings. It is also good if the teaching process is started with a short story to arouse interest among the students. If the teacher takes the class for the first time, breaking the ice by asking about the profile of the students is better. If the classes are conducted routinely then it desirable to question the students by asking them about what was discussed in the previous sessions thus linking the previous sessions with the present sessions. It helps in breaking the ice and helps in connecting the students naturally to the present thereby making a smooth move.

The teacher has to motivate and inspire the students by being a role model and through various innovative and creative teaching methods. We need to know what motivates the students and what are their aspirations and expectations from the teacher. Every teacher is knowledgeable and is strong in his domain. But that alone does not work out.

What works out is the ability to find the needs of the students and deliver the same. In this process it is necessary to gauge the pulse of the students.

The needs of every student are different. The knack involved is to find out the same and cater the same effectively and efficiently. A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on cold iron. Finally, great teachers are not born in the minds of the students but they are born in the hearts of the students and a good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others.

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

The Futility of Presidential Agenda

By Hujjatullah Zia

The security situation has been deteriorated recently and the Taliban fighters gained upper hand in restive provinces. The escalated militancy has filled the air with a sense of fear and disappointment. Despite the high hopes for democracy and deemed election as a panacea for political problems, the security situation worsened and a large number of Afghan citizens took refuge to foreign countries to have their rights and liberty protected.

None of the mouth-watering promises of heads of National Unity Government (NUG) came to fruition. I remember vividly when President Ghani declared his agenda during his presidential campaigns which included: establishing good governance, combating corruption, building a government based on justice, building infrastructural structure for the better economy, giving participatory role to women and youngsters, combating violence, providing nationwide security, strengthening national solidarity and building a strong nation.

Good governance means that the graph of public satisfaction should be high and people's fundamental rights to life, liberty and property are to be protected. An Afghan does not expect to live in a utopia, but get out of a dystopian society as it is stated in the preamble of the Constitution, "Form a civil society void of oppression, atrocity, discrimination as well as violence". Moreover, it is said that the rift between the heads of NUG has affected the governance adversely within the past two years. The CEO's office has said that the president's disinterest in adhering to the agreement and in not consulting with his CEO over appointments of individuals to government bodies has significantly overshadowed their relations. The political agreement on the basis of which the NUG was formed stresses that the president and the chief executive should work together when making appointments in the legal, judicial and local government institutions so that they can keep a balance in the sharing of power.

To consider administrative corruption, the Transparency International watchdog group ranked Afghanistan 166th out of 168 nations in its annual corruption index this year. Subsequently, Ghani has recently said, "we promised that we would end the corruption that violates our deepest spiritual values and pollutes the soul of our nation," adding that "there will be howls of protest and pain as the noose against corruption grows ever tighter." A number of high-ranking officials are involved in corruption, based on SIGAR report. According to public belief, the election, held in 2014, was not transparent and the electoral system will be amended soon. Similarly, corruption is exercised in judicial system on a large scale and the equality before law is not put into practice. So, the level of corruptions remains as high as ever.

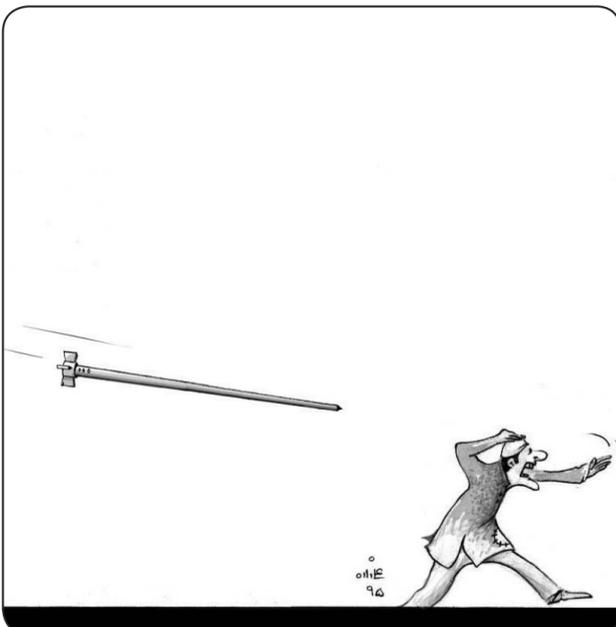
Regarding justice, people still rail against discriminatory acts of the officials and falling victim to injustice. Firstly, since corruption exists in government's machinery, mainly in judicial system, the rule is not applied as strictly to the rich or influential individuals as it is to the poor. Secondly, the development programs are not applied equally in all provinces, especially in insecure ones. For instance, Bamyan residents believe that this province has been deprived of electricity and the development has been so slow. Therefore, they urge the government to route TUTAP power line - which would connect the energy-rich Central Asian nations of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan with Afghanistan and Pakistan - from Bamyan province, where some residents still live in caves. The line was originally set to pass through Bamyan but the government decided to re-route it through the mountainous Salang pass north of Kabul. A number of Hazara people staged peaceful demonstrations asking the passing of TUTAP from Bamyan but came under a deadly suicide bombings which left tens of individuals dead and many others wounded, including men, women and children.

The agenda for economic development went no more beyond a theory. In other words, the economic situation was worsened rather than booming. Scores of people suffer from unemployment and entrepreneurs and traders have no security. Therefore, NGOs and great investors left the country in the lurch and the economy was stagnated. Similarly, the workforce abandoned the country in mass and put the Afghanistan's sovereignty under question.

Violence and bloodshed are on the rise and civilian casualties increase with each passing day. The UN said in its annual report on civilians in armed conflict that there were 11,002 civilian casualties in 2015 including 3,545 deaths, a four per cent rise over the previous high in 2014. One in every four casualties was a child, with the report documenting a 14 per cent increase in child casualties over the year.

Women also paid a heavy price, with a 37 per cent surge in female casualties. One in every ten casualties recorded was a woman, the report said. Moreover, domestic violence against women is also a serious challenge. They fall the victim of rape, honor-killings, and tortured mentally and physically in the worst possible way. To consider the President's agenda, none of his plans came to fruition within the two past years and the situation worsens politically and economically with each passing day. Hence, the challenges in the government machinery and the escalated militancy are the barriers before President's agenda. To pave the way for his agenda, the government will have to implement the Constitution and it is not possible without rooting out the corruption.

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



The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not reflect the views or opinions of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan.