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Role of youth for progress of peace in Afghanistan

Introduction

Afghanistan is a country of diverse environment and demography. It's rich and plentiful resources had made it a target for many nations wanting the benefits of the land. But Afghanistan was not always as portrayed by the media. There were tranquil and peaceful times much before the illegal occupations and skirmishes of the power hungry countries. Even today, hints of this still exist in the country acting as a ray of hope for the wretched youth.



Kabul before civil war

I truly believe that youth are the very foundation on which any nation is built upon. They have the power to make or break a nation, as we have very prominently seen in recent world events. Youth are the backbone of any nation - their minds strong and voices loud; they are driven by might and progressed by thought, their bonds strong and unbreakable, making them in every way a vital tool for any nation if used with caution and discretion.



Afghan's before civil war

This is the very reason why the youth are also gullible for negative actions. The war lords and terrorists make use of these very advantages and powers of the youth to distort their minds and beliefs to their own advantage. They scout and recruit youth for no other reason, because without the youth they are nothing, with them they are everything. Hence this is the very ideology that the nations around the world must use to enhance the youth's power in a positive aspect. The governments should reach them before any other and use the underutilized youth as an effective means for development and prosperity of the nation.

Civil war and its affect on the society

Civil war—the fight of brothers with brothers. Wise men say people are divided by their nation and their religions. I humbly beg to differ. They are divided by more trivial matters existent in the society. Sex, caste, color, topography, language, and the interests that one has, do not bind, but divide people. Blood feuds and revenge killing for one's honor is prominent in Afghanistan from time immemorial.



These very standards are exploited to turn people against each other. While the more developed countries were having their 'Eggs Benedicts' for breakfast, youth in my country were drowning in pools of their own blood, fighting a civil war to protect the very things mentioned above. Such civil war brought much social instability and insecurity through widespread thievery, kidnapping for ransom, looting – only to 'fight for survival'. This was worsened by the onset of poverty. Sons, husbands and brothers went off to fight wars while the women and children died out of starvation and poverty. Each household has a story to tell - a story of utter dismay. In 1994, electricity, sewage, clean water systems and telecommunication were destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of people died and many more suffered till to date. I was one of the lucky ones. This is the very reason for writing this – it's my responsibility to speak out and right to be heard.



Kabul during Civil War

The very leaders who strived for civil war are now the leaders of our nation. The new democratic Afghanistan is nothing but the old war ravaged lands. The government is unable to tackle the problems of unemployment, education, poverty, malnutrition, illegal opium trading due to the lack of experienced and intellectual leaders. The youth are kept in the sidelines with no work, frustrating them to fulfill their needs by illegal and immoral means. United Nations with its allies provide enormous funds to Afghanistan for development and eradication of hunger, but nobody knows where all the funds go. The situations remain the same. The people have no authority to keep the government in check. Lack of transparency and highest level of corruption has rooted deep into the



Afghan's children works cause of survival

nation. While the few rich officials get richer in their million dollar houses and cars, the poor and the needy drown deeper into poverty. Only last winter over 150 children died in tents by frost bites and hypothermia. Such very preventable events take place every day in different ways. When one dies from suicide bombing, another gets killed by village feuds and honor killing. After a decade of so called life changing democracy, 8 million people still suffer food shortage and over 500,000 disabled orphans are left. Furthermore Afghanistan has over 10 million land mines killing innocent people every day.

Power of the youth

Only after the eradication of the parasitic Taliban did the young men and especially women get the chance to utilize themselves. Even with the lack of infrastructure and aid from the government, the youth emerged strongly in different areas of the nation holding their nation's head high with pride. A fine example is the role of the up and coming cricket team of Afghanistan. They showed that the youth do not need billions of dollars like the corrupt officials of



Afghan Cricket team in South Africa



Afghan Youth during employment

peace and weapons before the mighty pen. But today they are ever ready to step up and wipe the tears of the crying orphans and the mourning widows.

government to bring up the name of their nation in the world. All they need is mutual understanding and belief in each other, the need and love for their country and finally being proud of who they are and where they come from. Only the youth has the power to change the face of a nation ridden with decades of civil strife, and they with proper assistance and guidance from national and international spheres can make Afghanistan a model democracy.



The youth were born to learn war before

Solution for youth development

Apart from many other developmental measures for the youth, I believe these are the most important:

1. Youth must be encouraged to form Youth organizations free from political and religious aspects.
2. Such organizations must have assistance and guidance from national and international experts.
3. The organizations should have international

recognition by allowing them to participate in international events and conferences. But this is easier said than done. Most will say the international opportunities are provided but



Inauguration of Youth council in Qazni province

they lack to get the visas and other facilities for them to travel. Apart from this, such conferences are mostly held in European countries rather than countries which badly need the publicity and awareness.



Afghan's Students

One of the utmost priorities of the government shall always be to effectuate a positive system of belief in the youth of the country. After all, the youth are the nuts and bolts of a nation. They are the present and the future of the nation. To bring this system of belief, the youth should have an ability to rejoice in their own positive thoughts. The thoughts shall be such to affect their actions as part of their daily life. Then such actions evolve into an enhanced projection of habit, which portrays the dignity bestowed by one on oneself.

Then and then only one can be positive about their destiny and what to expect out of oneself. This shall have an obvious impact on the people near you and finally on the whole community. It always starts from one, but has the power to affect millions.

Thanks for reading: Jafar Askandary