

MORAL AND MATERIAL VALUES VERSUS TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUSLIM WORLD

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INTRODUCTION

Many Muslim countries have obtained their independence, they still remain, however in the 'developing nations group' and partially or totally dependent upon the developed western countries. There are of course several important factors for this unfortunate situation. No matter how rich the country and effective the chances for development may be they should not expect any substantial contribution for their progress from the developed west. On the contrary the developed world will do its best to keep its superiority over the developing world and to prevent the flow of technology to the developing countries including the Islamic world. Therefore, it must be realized that only Muslim countries themselves will change this negative state into affirmative.

First of all, the meaning of 'development' must be correctly understood. This word is generally used for material achievement. Technological progress, high value of income per capita or high rate of industrial output and nice infrastructures of a country however cannot truly be signs of development which should be understood as "moral and national values and material progress existing together". Material progress without moral and national values may not last long enough to bring happiness and prosperity. The present chaos in 'Super state', developed Russia is an example for this.

DYNAMICS OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Two important dynamics of technological development are the qualified manpower, and the means.

The manpower is the key factor in the development of a country. The administrators and scientists-technical staff from the most important group in this category. It should be born in mind that it is the administrators that will provide the required suitable atmosphere and arrangement for the technical group to produce positive results and to contribute to material development. The administrators are generally from the social science and administration areas while the technical staff are from the scientific and techni-

cal fields. A country with sufficiently qualified technical-scientific manpower and natural resources would not achieve satisfactory material progress without properly designed development policy, effective cooperation and support from the administrators. This observation is one of the main reasons of the presently confused situation regarding development in some of the Muslim countries.

The manpower that will push the Muslim world from the 'developing' group to the 'developed' group must have two distinct qualities:

a. Strong moral and national values, and

b. The highest possible qualifications. A trained person having these qualities can be briefly described as "morally and professionally best". Although, some of the Muslim countries have today highly qualified manpower (may not be in sufficient number), their contribution to the development of their country is not however at the desired level. Two reasons observed may be inadequate cooperation between the administrators and the technical groups involved in development activities, and lack of moral and national support required for the development.

These results in discouragement and inefficiency amongst the groups engaged in the development activities and slow down or hinder the development. They may also cause migration of many qualified staff to the developed western countries (brain drain) and discourage the scientists in the western world to return and contribute to the development of their own countries.

Brain drain is one of the most serious problems of the developing world today. A top scientist from a developing country without strong national and moral feelings may prefer to live in the comfortable developed society, instead of his own country which frequently is full of problems. The brain drain can only be effectively eliminated by strengthening of these feelings. Arrest of brain drain to the developing world and the transfer of developing world scientist to their own countries could produce double benefit; by slowing down the contribution of the developing world to the western scientific activities and technological development and also providing for them the urgently needed technical manpower. The Muslim world scientists in the

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West is an unused trained manpower potential for its development. Every effort should be spent and necessary measures should be taken to benefit from this ready treasury for the development of the Muslim world.

The natural resources and technological knowledge and experiences, i.e. the means are the required inputs of secondary importance for material development. It must be remembered that the properly qualified manpower is again the key element in the transfer, generation and accumulation of technology and its utilization together with other resources in the technological development. Although not having sufficient natural resources, Japan is one of the leading developed countries today. The Japanese manpower have high level of technical education and strong moral and national feelings. On the contrary, most of the Muslim countries have more than sufficient natural resources needed for their technological development, they still remain underdeveloped.

DIFFICULTIES FACING THE MUSLIM WORLD AND ITS MANPOWER NEED

One of the most serious problems facing the Muslim world is the technological gap between the West and the Muslim world. This gap is steadily widening with increasing speed, especially in recent years. The western cultural influence which is weakening national and moral feelings in their societies presents another problem. These two factors should be born in mind in the development efforts of the Muslim world.

Progress of the Muslim world must be considered as an integral project rather than the development of only a few nations within this world. A common development strategy plan can be designed specifying the targets and implementation programs at regional levels. Similar to the developed western world, the Muslim world which have several common ties should also unite their efforts for a rapid and effective development. Formation of the Islamic Conference Organization is the result of this realization. Islamic Development Bank which is set up to contribute to Muslim world development may play a pioneer role in the design of such a general development plan. The Bank is already operating an educational program to contribute to the qualified manpower need of the Muslim world.

As the Muslim world have sufficient natural resources, the solution of its development problem will mainly lie with the availability of highly qualified manpower in the fields of administration, science and technology. The development of the Muslim world can only be achieved by the emergence of a new generation having the qualities formulated above as "morally and professionally best". This can only be achieved by the proper education and training of

manpower, the transfer and employment of the ready Muslim manpower in the western countries and careful utilization of its natural resources.

TARGETS OF THE MANPOWER EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME

In the light of the above discussion, the basic target of the manpower education and training programme necessary for the Muslim world development can then be defined as: "the generation of top class administrators, scientists-technical staff with highest possible qualification and experience having strong moral and national feelings, in large number, i.e., "morally and professionally best".

The manpower education and training programme may include:

- a. Training of technicians.
- b. Under graduate education.
- c. Post graduate education.
- d. Post-doctoral programmes.

Training of technicians

It should be noted that good technicians are also the essential manpower in the successful implementation of technical and development projects. They increase the efficiency of highly qualified technical personnel. Further study is needed to determine the scope of such an activity.

Under graduate education

The Muslim world should give special importance to under graduate and post graduate educations, with a flexible ratio depending upon circumstances. High standard-higher educational opportunities should be increased as far as possible.

Muslim countries should be selected for under graduate manpower education due to the following reasons:

- a. Several Muslim countries have some good universities providing under graduate education in many fields at international standard. The under graduate programmes designed are generally more comprehensive and more suitable for the needs of developing Muslim countries compared with the corresponding programmes of the western universities.
- b. The cost of education in Muslim countries is very cheap compared with the corresponding cost in the western countries.

Post graduate programme

As for post graduate education leading to master and Ph. D. degrees, western universities may be given priority because of the following reasons:

- a. The level of post graduate education in Muslim

countries in the technical and scientific fields they need is generally much lower than that in the West due to several reasons.

b. A scientist from the Muslim world having his higher education in the West will have the opportunity to learn a western language which has significant role in the transfer of knowledge and technology to the Muslim world. In this respect the English language has a unique value that becomes a dictating factor in the selection of countries for the higher education of the Muslim world manpower. Nevertheless, Japan may also be selected due to its advanced technology in many areas and having good relations with the Muslim world.

In specifying the fields of manpower training, the decisions should have certain conformity with the short and long terms common development plans of the Muslim world which has not yet been prepared. At this stage, the importance of such a plan once again becomes clear. It is generally believed that the Muslim world needs qualified manpower only in technical-engineering-scientific fields. It is the opinion of the Author that the lack of good administration is one of the basic problems in many Muslim countries. Therefore, in the selection of fields of training, priority may be given to social science and administrative areas. Areas oriented to military use-applications, such as microelectronics, computer, military telecommunication, nuclear and material sciences, manufacturing technology, etc. are of vital importance.

The Author is aware of lack of education and medical services and also hunger and poverty prevailing in some parts of the Muslim world. Taking this into consideration, training and education programmes leading to the development of agriculture and water resources and improvement of medical and educational services may also be given priority. All these cases may well be evaluated under a common Muslim world development and strategy plan which does not yet exist.

Post-doctoral programme

The Muslim community must keep close contact with the technological and scientific developments and should also contribute to it. At the present stage, this will only be possible by sending frequently top scientists-scholars to the western universities and research organizations well known in specific, especially in advanced applied research areas. Close relations and exchange programmes may be organized with suitable western research organizations, keeping in mind that the scientists from the Muslim world would have no easy access to projects of strategic importance.

However, everything should not be expected from the

West. The Muslim world should establish its own common-regional research, documentation and super computer centers and should encourage the flow of scientists and technical manpower amongst the Muslim countries. Joint research and development-implementation projects should be designed. Such centers and projects would encourage the scientist from the Muslim world working in the West to return to these centers and contribute to the development of the Muslim world. It should be kept in mind that the arrest of brain drain and the transfer of Muslim world scientists from the West to the Muslim world is only possible by providing the required working atmosphere and facilities. The Islamic Conference Organization may play significant role in the realization of these thoughts.

CONCLUSIONS

The Muslim world still remains in the developing group of nations and can only change its position by its own united efforts. No significant contribution from the developed West to the Muslim world progress should be expected.

The properly qualified manpower is the key factor for the development of a country. The manpower needed for the Muslim world development should have "strong national and moral feelings and highest possible qualification".

Efficient cooperation between the administrators and the technical and scientific groups must be provided for the Muslim world development. The Muslim world also needs qualified manpower in social science and administrative areas in addition to manpower in technical and scientific fields. Arrest of Muslim brain migration to the West and the utilization of Muslim manpower in the western countries are matters of vital importance.

Elimination of the technological and scientific gap between the West and the Muslim world is an urgent and serious problem facing the Muslim world. The Muslim countries must unite their efforts and establish their own common organizations to achieve their economical and technological development.

Islamic Conference Organization has the potential of playing a significant role in the overall development of the Muslim world by establishing close cooperation amongst its member Muslim countries.

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