

NATION BUILDING IS ALSO BASED ON EFFECTIVENESS OF MORALITY AND PURITY OF ITS FAMILIIES AS ITS FOUNDATION AS GUIDED IN THE HOLY QUR'AN

- 1) Some countries pride on their nation building, based on very strong economy together with most modern technology, large cities and blessed with highly educated population.
- 2) Notwithstanding, the morality and purity of family life administration, should become the focal point of commencement of this drive in nation building. Families make up any country's entire population base, whether or not the country's economy is strong, practising high technology, large cities and with highly educated population.
- 3) Inasmuch as the foundation base of a very large building has to be deep and very strong, the same may be said that the foundation base of humanity is the stability of family life, from which children transform from birth to adulthood. Later these transformed young adults will become parents to their own families. Of course that cycle continues into future, indefinitely.
- 4) There is a Biblical proverb¹ "*you reap what you sow.*" If the elders and leaders of society of any country, do not correct and realign their children from wrong practices, then the children will over a period of time become adults, and reach assumptions that whatever they are doing, is socially correct and acceptable. That cycle will continue with many other people for decades into the next generations of people. Thereafter, the elders and leaders of society would no longer have the capability and the opportunities to return their children's new societal behaviours, back to what they should have been, several decades previously.

¹ Bible: Galatians VI (King James Version), which states "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

- 5) Accordingly, in short, whilst time progresses forward, changing societal behaviours will become worse and weaken the foundation base of humanity. This foundation base cannot be so easily corrected at the flick of a switch, but will take several decades to change both the younger people and the older people and those lingering in between.
- 6) Unless and until the stability of family life remains firm and beneficially stable, uncontrolled external distortions are those very likely elements, which will impact and further transform their family life for the worse. These uncontrolled external distortions are the core feature of this discussion.
- 7) There are also subtopics of Teenage Pregnancy and Single Mothers, which are interrelated, whereas subtopics of Drugs and Alcohol Abuse are also interrelated. Then there are interrelated subtopics of Pornography, Prostitution, and Abortion as some of the most common consequences of family life running out of control. These happen largely through uncontrolled exposures of people into matters of sexual involvements. Examples of these are explicit adult movies, readily and widely available almost anywhere in the world. This aspect of viewing adult movies can be done anywhere and in full privacy, using modern technology.
- 8) The current situation under discussion is not limited to your country only, dear reader: There are also similarities in many other countries. Greed for spontaneous growth in wealth in many walks of life has been the principal driver for some people to get so craftily unscrupulous in business, as not to be concerned about the direct and indirect impacts on the wider populations of families. The common issue remains unchanged that those who yield power in the mainstream sectors, such as manufacturing and retailing sectors, will strive to continue extremely hard with their societal

pollutions for spontaneous financial gain, and regardless of consequences to their own communities.

- 9) In order to have a firm understanding of when and where the family life administration failed and went very much out of control, it is prudent not to just view the present situation, but to roll back several decades and then gradually roll forward to the present situation. This facilitates identification of administrative changes within the country, which gave rise to changes from the accepted norms of the past decades.
- 10) The whole process of corrupting the countries' population base was gradual and took several decades. In many studies, significant changes which manifested, took several decades and associated with sudden changes to countries' regimes. For example, many small countries were colonies, which were later bestowed with political independence or dominion status. Their population bases, composed of peoples of mixed ethnicities, were given to believe and practise that they were now released from colonial bondage. Many people, especially community leaders and influential people, reached assumptions that they were at liberty to do whatsoever they desired, especially the relationships between peoples in families and relatives. Some societal leaders considered that past was past and those who did not change to assumed modernisation, were considered as remnants of old fashioned communities of past eras.
- 11) The basic fact remains that whatever were considered as past practises of past eras, were in fact widely tested and accepted systems by most communities over several decades. A common example is peoples' dressings. Taking a peep into 1930s and through to 1950s, evidenced from personal experiences and also as seen in historical family photographs, people dressed formally whenever they left

their homes to attend to external functions, or even going to church. That was the accepted norm in almost all communities.

- 12) By current experiences, there are no accepted standards at all, unless the invitation card stated the dress code. Even going to church in past decades, people dressed formally according to their ethnicity. Again, by current experiences, people are now seen to be going to church in T-shirts, shorts and flip-flops. These examples become conclusive that people not only do not have respect for others, but have also lost their personal self-respect.
- 13) Respecting others and self-respect are clear instructions found in scriptures, under various descriptions. Majority of people do have definite belongingness to certain Faiths and their scriptures.
- 14) Having any particular Faith runs in most peoples' life systems, whereas few people may not have any Faith whatsoever. For those who practise some Faith, are inseparably linked to the scriptures of their Faith as guidelines. Some people read their scriptures and some others do not do so. To some extent, scriptures rule peoples' personal behaviours and shape their future into adulthood.
- 15) Part of the process of rolling back includes matters of regular involvement in reading and understanding of scriptures. This discussion is not preaching any Faith, but because Faith has been inherent part of most peoples' lives, it is prudent to make a few quotes from scriptures, which have become part of daily life since childhood. Only a few verses will be quoted.
- 16) Since the author is a Muslim, quotations will be only from the Holy Qur'an, for which the author holds mandate. The author does not hold mandate to quote from other Faiths' scriptures.

- 17) Some people may assess the present situation as modern living, whereas some other people may assess the same situation, as societies badly corrupted by constant exposures to unethical behaviours by external influential elements.
- 18) It is again necessary to roll back history, as far back as possible and supportively witnessed by family records and family photographs. There was always closely knit family units and children generally remained with their parents until the children became adults, got married and then they moved out.
- 19) Family ties and family values were highly respected. Muslims are reminded about Prophet Shuaib², who was very much of an exemplary family man. This is quoted in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ11:91-95** *"They said: Shuaib, we do not understand much of what you say and surely we see you to be weak among us. And if it were not for your family, we would surely stone you, and you are not strong against us. He said: My people, is my family more esteemed by you than Allah? And you neglect Him as a thing cast behind your backs! Surely my Lord encompasses what you do. And, my people, act according to your ability, I too am acting. You will soon know upon whom will come the punishment, that will disgrace him, and who is a liar. And watch, surely I too am watching with you. And when Our decree came to pass, We delivered Shuaib and those who believed with him by mercy from Us. And the cry overtook those who did wrong, so they were motionless bodies in their abodes, as though they had never dwelt in them. So away with Midian, just as Thamūd perished!"*

² Prophet Shuaib, as the 5th descendant of Prophet Abraham, was a prophet among the Midianites stated in the Holy Qur'an. He is referred to in the Bible as Jethro, father of Zipporah the first wife of Prophet Moses. Prophet Shuaib was an exemplary person among the Midianites; and he was always correcting his people on honest trade practices, morality, and purity and in leadership towards nation building. After the Midianites rejected Prophet Shuaib, a massive earthquake destroyed all the Midianites but saved Prophet Shuaib.

- 20) With close knit families several decades ago, parents knew exactly where their children were; and the children knew exactly where their parents were. For example, most common entertainments were formal parties and going to the cinemas and all people came home by 10pm.
- 21) The past paradigms were much different from the current situation. Our youths (both boys and girls) were not given to wander the streets of their towns and cities, after sunset and after darkness had set in. In the past paradigms, if there was really need for the youths to leave home after sunset, appropriate measures were taken with reporting back mechanism to parents, guardians or hostel wardens.
- 22) In the past decades, the whole family sat for dinner together and the head of family conducted informal family council, which discussed various issues, for the betterment of that family, including being friendly to and respecting neighbours. The head of the family was always conscious of shouldering that responsibility, if the family members did something wrong. Nowadays, there is hardly any family council and all members of the family are not coordinated with, and they all move independently.
- 23) Democracy, and the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, are wilfully and conveniently misinterpreted only by those persons, who want to move away from cultural and community norms, preventing in building better nations.
- 24) All people, regardless of their ethnicity, went to their religious centres, such as church or mosque, and there they were generally guided through religious instructions from scriptures. The religious instructions have not changed; but the peoples' mind-sets have greatly changed within a decade.
- 25) Rapid changes to life styles, lowering of drinking age, ease of availability of alcoholic beverages, bootlegging and mind-altering drugs, advancement of technology such as

televisions, computers, computer enhanced games and mobile phones, have all contributed to younger people getting out of control; and their parents having almost no idea on the whereabouts and activities of their children, whether by day or by night.

26) Teenage pregnancies and consequently becoming single mothers was almost unheard of several decades back. By current generation standards, teenage pregnancies and consequently single mothers are fast becoming common events, as expressed by the Ministry of Health.

27) As Muslims, there are so many quotations in the Holy Qur'an, however a fitting quotation on drugs and alcohol intoxicants is at: **HQ2:219** *"They ask you about intoxicants and games of chance. Say: In both of them is a great sin and (some) advantage for people, and their sin is greater than their advantage."* The Ordinance in the Holy Qur'an is very clear, that all forms of intoxicants, which alter peoples' minds and lead people to sin are forbidden. Gambling also leads people to sin and also forbidden. On the contrary, certain medicines contain small proportions of alcohol as essential agents in the ingredients. Such medications are permitted.

28) Loss of respect for women and girls within communities have given rise to teenage pregnancies and consequently single mothers. All women should be respected and not allowed to practise loose relationship. Only married women are permitted to be with men as their husbands. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ4:24** *"And all married women except those whom your right hands possess (are forbidden); (this is) Allah's ordinance to you. And lawful for you are (all women) besides those, provided that you seek (them) with your property, taking (them) in marriage, not committing fornication."*

- 29) Prostitution is strictly forbidden in Islam and stated in the Holy Qur'an at: **HQ2:90** *“Evil is what they sell their souls for — that they should deny what Allah has revealed, out of envy that Allah should send down of His grace on whomsoever of His servants He pleases; so they incur wrath upon wrath. And there is a humiliating punishment for the disbelievers.”*
- 30) Once people in society stoop so low as to have loose relationship between unmarried persons, then those activities give rise to peer involvement in pornography, prostitution, unintended pregnancy and then leading to abortion. All of these indulgences are forbidden by law in most countries' national legislations. These activities are few of several that slides a nation into social decay and prevents good nation building.
- 31) A common news item of recent times has become rapes of young girls by their own close relatives and their community elders. The very people who were supposed to be protectors of the victims from other fiends, decided to become the devil themselves and commit those crimes. In a nutshell, these lowly behaviours by designated responsible people reflect that the foundation base of humanity has stooped very low towards decay, and accordingly nation building will become very difficult.
- 32) Many nations can be built. However, good nation building requires morality and purity as that deep and stable foundation base, which should drive towards excellent and exemplary parenting to all peoples of all ethnicities.
- 33) Children both in primary schools and high schools should be taught on this topic and correctly groomed to prevent worsening of their communities.
- 34) The Holy Qur'an reminds people in improving communities towards good nation building, with the

following quotes at **HQ49:11-13** *“O you who believe, do not let a people laugh at (another) people, perhaps they may be better than they; nor let women (laugh) at women, perhaps they may be better than they. Neither find fault with one another, nor call one another by (offensive) nick-names. Evil is a bad name after faith; and whoever does not repent, these it is that are the wrongdoers. O you who believe, avoid most of suspicion, for surely suspicion in some cases is sin; and do not spy nor let some of you backbite others. Does one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? You abhor it! And keep your duty to Allah, surely Allah is returning (to mercy) again and again, Merciful. O mankind, surely We have created you from a male and a female, and made you tribes and families that you may know each other. Surely the noblest of you with Allah is the most dutiful of you. Surely Allah is Knowing, Aware.”*

35) It is recommended however, that Government Ministries in any country in the world, and responsible for mainstream activities, such as education, health, commerce, trade, rural developments, and social services, should have certain commonalties in their developmental agenda items. These commonalties in their developmental agenda items, would in the main, improve the foundation base of humanity, into much better humanity, and which in turn would greatly assist in higher class of nation building.

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