



Dr. Naeem Toor

COVID 19, Civic Education and Pakistan.

China is lucky to have a strict early lockdown. China categorically implemented social distancing to get rid of COVID 19. South Korea's mass testing tracing has been a remarkable success in slowing down the spread of coronavirus. China's ban on eating and trading wildlife due to coronavirus became law for the next three months according to news scientists. On Feb 11th, 2020 World Health Organization announced the official name would be COVID 19 a shortened version of coronavirus disease 2019.



Moeed Yusuf, PM special representative on strategic planning and National Security



Dr. Asif Ali Vice Chancellor MNSUAM



Dr. Murad Rass, Education minister Punjab

Since the outbreak of the novel virus the COVID 19 the entire globe is fighting. It looks like a battle between media and medicine. It has been a geopolitical battle over narrative and now the time is very short to decide out three giants namely China, U.S., and Russia which superpower will lead after COVID 19. The U.S. claims that it is a Chinese virus, Beijing claims that Americans have planted the virus in Wuhan and Russia have an entirely different stance. Meanwhile, Russia deploying Coronavirus disinformation show panic in West, EU documents say.

The New York Times claims as the virus spreads, China and Russia see openings for disinformation, the two powers amplify discredited conspiracy theories and show a division as they look to undermine the United States. Misinformation is a common issue regarding COVID 19 virus. As a social responsibility people must avoid sharing misinformation within the public. Russia said anybody found false information regarding COVID 19 would be in jail for up to five years and in Uzbekistan, it is ten thousand dollars fine over misinformation, in Zimbabwe it is up to twenty years in jail for any fake news about the pandemic.

Still, all the sovereign states of the world need to decide what news would be fake and false. Around one million people are facing COVID 19 worldwide although the true number of cases would be higher. More than 55,000 people have died from COVID 19. According to Johns Hopkins University, more people died in the UK with coronavirus than in China.

The majority of developed and underdeveloped countries are under lockdown worldwide. India through a special directive said that all information regarding COVID 19 must be gone through by government officials before publishing. Hungary is in a state of emergency. Pakistan will surely use the President's initiative on Artificial Intelligence and Computing to beat COVID 19. Today's situation of COVID 19 is having close resemblance with 1918 Spanish flu according to John Barry who is an American historian and author of the New York Times bestseller, *The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History*. He tells us a different story as during Spanish flu media played a controversial role to proliferate Spanish flu worldwide created panic with sheer exaggeration the same is the case after 100 years in 2020.

According to Aljazeera, he believes how should authorities respond to COVID-19, and what role should the media play? From the beginning of the outbreak, historians have looked to the past for valuable lessons learned - most notably, to the so-called Spanish flu pandemic of 1918. According to the center for disease control and prevention CDC in the United States, it was first identified in military personnel in spring 1918. It is estimated that due to Spanish flu 1918 about 500 million people or one-third of the world's population became infected with this virus. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide with about 675,000 occurring in the United States.

MNS University of Agriculture is educating youth to prevent COVID 19 through online classes under the auspicious leadership of Prof. Dr. Asif Ali. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali is a social activist and propagandist of civic education. Two days back during

all Vice-Chancellors conferences under Higher Education Commission regarding COVID 19, he said we are trying our best to educate our students by improving connectivity and access. Under the leadership of Dr. Asif Ali Director Quality Enhancement Cell of Prof.Dr. Hammad Nadeem Tahir is leaving no stone unturned to watch online classes and measures of social distancing within students of MNS University of Agriculture.

Civic education is the study of citizenship in which we cogitate rights and duties of commoners if we talk in detail about credentials of civic education it deals with formal and informal training given to citizens to develop in the knowledge, values, and skills needed for effective representation in the social and business entrepreneurship. The University of Agriculture Multan is lucky enough to have regular classes on Active Citizenship and Community Engagement UAM 302 since 2017.

University under the devout leadership of Prof. Dr. Asif Ali is working as an incubator to produce future leaders of the world family. As an eminent Scientist, Dr. Asif has Vision 2030. He is persistently focused to achieve his goal. He strongly believes in this that without the active participation of youth vision 2030 of MNS University of Agriculture would be a dream. He remains focused on social and business entrepreneurship by cohesively involving Youth as a positive catalyst for change. I am blessed to be part of his team. Under his dynamic leadership students from MNS University of Agriculture have so far represented Pakistan as a social activist in the UK, United States, and China. Dr. Asif welcome gimmicky ideas with novel solutions. His administration is an example of emerging intuitions as a role model.

Primary education play a pivotal role in society building our kids are future leaders as the future belongs to them. COVID 19 left many lessons we need to train our kids for any kind of catastrophic situation like COVID 19. Punjab is lucky to have Dr. Murad Rass a graduate in finance BBA from USA and possessor of a Ph.D. degree in business administration by the American Heritage University of Southern California, USA in 2010. He is serving as Minister for School Education. As a nation, the need of the hour is to provide very basic training of Citizenship Education right from primary school. We may nurture our kids to be responsible as far as civic education is concerned. I am sure that if we will provide the citizenship education training at a very grassroots level it will have long term and sustainable effects. We need not train our adult youth if the chance is given at an early stage to deal and heal any unpredictable situation.

We are in a country where youth is more than 65 percent but we do not want to involve them in any kind of process rather it is a truth too that we avoid their new strategies and let the things going on as per previous modus Operandi. What is wrong with the things which should happen are not happening and the things which should not happen are surprisingly happening without any hesitation in this Country of yours and mine since we got freedom.

Honestly speaking we have not yet achieved basic education for all irrespective of civic education. Let's talk about Education first our collective one little attention may bring fruitful results for the commoners and laborers of Pakistan. In Pakistan, we are facing multiple problems which are interlinked with one and other. I have mentioned the same in my previous article and now I would like to mention in a more delineate way that there are five very basic needs firstly Education, secondly Transportation, thirdly Nutrition, fourthly Health and fifthly Human Rights (ETNH). As the whole Nation is facing lockdown we may involve Youth to fight against COVID 19. It will certainly boost National integration and values of philanthropy. If we involve Youth as an advocate of ETNH we may bring charismatic results but we need to decrease the trust deficit between youth and policymakers.

Firstly let's talk about the education situation in Pakistan. As per the Constitution of Pakistan, it has been mandated to provide free and compulsory education to all children between the ages of 5-16 years and enhance adult literacy. In Pakistan we have five different kinds of education systems running simultaneously. All these systems are producing a differently different standard of products. We are having Army public schools, private schools, government high school, Punjab education foundation's PEF based schools, and religious seminaries' Madrassa' education system. We are having a gimmicky mixture of education one needs to introduce an equal system of education so that we may bring fruitful results.

Out of these five religious seminaries 'Madrassa' education system needs special attention. These religious seminaries' Madrassa' education system must not be ignored they must be in the custody of government and should provide all international education including religious education. It will surely pave the way to bring peace, patience, and pluralism among youth. It is still astonishing that some of the religious institutions reportedly condemn to shutdown their institutions during COVID 19 countrywide lockdown. We must examine those religious institutions in Pakistan that provide food, shelter, and clothing but in return fix a specific staunch and stalwart mentality that further paves the way to nurture a hatchery of extremists in our society.

According to Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Strategic Planning since 24th December 2019 on National Security Division, Moeed Yusuf repeatedly mentioned in his articles that Pakistan-based Islamist group/ 'Madrassa' Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Tabia are Pakistan based terrorist organizations. These two Organizations reportedly involved in international terrorist activities. We must view and review the above-mentioned terrorist mindset under the name and umbrella of religion.

The movers and shakers of State must watch their humanitarian work if any during the time of crisis. To investigate please do visit Moeed Yusuf's stance over these two banned religious Organizations covertly working still in Pakistan. How is it possible that these Organizations are still alive and cogitating their chaotic and conspiratorial assignments.

We must accept the reality that such kind of religious institutions as terrorist organizations are not only the problem of Pakistan but heinously working in entire Globe as per Anadolu Agency AA News Turkey dated 04-04-2020 that "Its more than 30-year terror campaign against Turkey, the PKK (a terrorist organization based in Syria) listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the U.S. and EU has been responsible for the deaths of 40,000 people, including women, children, and infants. The YPG is the PKK's Syrian offshoots".

Secondly, we must observe the behavior of youth particularly with elders and special persons while traveling. It is an open secret that comfortable transportation is as necessary as anything could be. The State must focus on those who are disabled and old age while providing transportation services. The State must provide sufficient training of ethics and manners to those who are working in this sector. We may learn to improve the condition of the Pakistan railway and the condition of transportation on GT roads by our Chinese friends.

Thirdly pure nutrition is the basic right of all citizens of Pakistan. One must be aware of having pure food and must protest in a decent way against adulteration. The state must supply the same quality of food, milk, fruits, and vegetables to all citizens under the control of a specific department. Punjab Food Authority is trying her best to overcome but still, there is a lot to do. We need a gigantic operation to curb adulteration from investors to distributors.

Fourthly health is one of the key sectors if we talk about the rights of citizens our commoners must get basic health facilities at a grassroots level in Pakistan. What though we have limited facilities of health in Pakistan in comparison with East and

West. One must appreciate our Doctors who burnet the midnight candle to fight against COVID 19 a novel epidemic in Pakistan. Nevertheless, we need a revolution not only in the shape of health facilities but even into the attitudes of Doctors and particularly the young Doctors. They must render their services by practicing measures of philanthropy, care and support, respect and human dignity irrespective of caste, community, and color.

I see the corduroy old faces of man, woman, and kids sitting in civil hospitals of Pakistan they have many questions and queries. The health department may take examples of Lee of Singapore. We may be one among thousands in health facilities if we just stop private clinics and by paying high salaries we may bring positives changes into the present system of health. The senior-most Doctors including the youth must stop private clinics/hospitals if they are working in the government's district headquarter hospitals as State's employees with sheer practicability.

Fifthly as per Article 199, A of the constitution human rights are as indispensable as breathing for as of us. Civic Education mainly emphasizes on the practical achievements of Human Rights. Nature is candidly providing an all-natural blessing to all human beings without any discrimination. It is the responsibility of the State/ Civil Society to render basic rights irrespective of sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. Interestingly as per constitution we all are equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. There is an urgent need to address all kinds of social evils including social media crime under COVID 19.

The incumbent government has started marvelous initiatives to address unpredictable challenges since the novel COVID 19 outbreak. The State is doing her best to assist the have nots of society. It is the best time for the community to showcase a bountiful attitude for proletarians. The Youth of Pakistan may take it as a challenge and work with the State as a volunteer to fight against COVID 19 by understanding the State's stance as a responsibility of active citizenship and community engagement. Where there is a will there is away. Last but not least hats off to Pakistan Army, our Police and our distinguished Doctors who are striving hard to save lives of infected once.

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