

Causes of Brains Escape and its Impact on Higher Education in Afghanistan

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ABSTRACT

Brains escape, especially the flight of scientific staff from universities and its negative and fatal effect on the education system, is one of the debatable issues in war and post-war countries. Afghanistan is one of the countries that has experienced many years of war and has had the largest number of immigrants to foreign countries, which has created a great void in this country for skilled and educated people. Therefore, in the current research, the causes of brains escape and its effect on the country's higher education are discussed. The central question of the current research was: "What were the causes of brains escape and what effect does it have on the country's higher education?" The prevailing hypothesis in relation to the raised question is that the continuous crises in the country and the lack of attention to the elites and neglecting them as a national value have caused brains escape and affected the education system in the country. The findings of the research show that war, unemployment, poverty, lack of meritocracy are the main factors of brains escape and this process creates a big vacuum in the country's higher education system. Fortunately, recently, with the rise of privileges and members of the scientific staff and providing security ground in the country, the return of elites and scientific staff in the process of education has increase.

Keywords- brains escape, higher education, immigration, economic welfare, Afghanistan.

I. INTRODUCTION

Modern and developed higher education - as one of the needs of human society - depends on the presence and existence of elites and knowledgeable and expert brains. This class always produces thought, innovation and enlightenment, which results in the modern higher education system and undeveloped countries move towards development. Therefore, the existing brains should be preserved and added to the number of elites and specialists so that the post-war countries can experience the transition phase soon. Among the underdeveloped countries, Afghanistan is one of the countries that needs modern and developed higher education in order to be able to compete with its neighboring countries in terms of science, economy, politics, culture and technology. Although in the past two decades in Afghanistan, the field of youth growth and the promotion of the scientific capacity of elites was relatively favorable and the level of

literacy and education in scientific and educational institutions was developing; But unfortunately, the thinking and educated minds of this country - who are considered as national wealth - are increasingly leaving the country and immigrating under various pretexts. The statistics of 2020 show that about 2.6 million Afghan citizens have migrated to different countries of the world by the end of this year. However, the process of brains escape and migration of Afghan citizens has also increased in 2021 and only in the first six weeks of the year, about 124,000 people have immigrated from Afghanistan, the absolute majority of whom are specialized and educated people (Hafizullah Marouf, BBC, 13 Bahman 1400) after which tens of others gradually left Afghanistan. Therefore, the issue of brains escape and its impact on the country's higher education has become problematic, as the elites and young people leave their homeland, and the host and immigrant countries strengthen their national wealth from the fruits

of their labor. One of the main challenges of this country is the high level of immigration, especially among educated people, which has damaged this country in every way. Considering this issue, it is necessary to carry out a scientific and impartial research in this regard with the aim of identifying the causes of brains escape and how it affects the country's higher education, and this research is done for this purpose. The main question in this research is: "What were the causes of brains escape and what effect does it have on the country's higher education?" The respondent's hypothesis is that the continuation of war, unemployment, poverty and non-observance of the principle of meritocracy as direct variables of this research are related to brains escape and this process makes people less interested in higher education and the education system of the country is worn out. This research is an analytical and descriptive research and the analyzed information is collected using the field method.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

My preliminary studies in this regard show that an article or a scientific work that has a direct relationship with the title of this article has not been compiled in this regard. But analytical articles and newspapers have been written about brains escape, which cannot answer the main issue raised in this research:

- Leila Abdul has discussed about brains escape in an article entitled ".....". But the mentioned article is not directly related to the present topic. (Lila Abdul, December 10, 2015)

-Mir Hossein Ziyai discussed brains escape from Afghanistan in an article entitled "brainss from Afghanistan"; But it has not evaluated its scientific effects on the higher education system of Afghanistan. (Mir Hossein Rezaei morr.got.af)

Houznet has also discussed in detail in publishing an article about the roots and ways to prevent brains escape; But he has not written anything about its scientific consequences in Afghanistan (Taiba Chiraghi, Bahman and Asfand 2008).

In an article, Hossein Waqofi discussed brains escape and the study of elite migration from different angles; But he did not mention about the topic of this research, which focuses on the causes of brains escape and its effect on Afghanistan's higher education.

Sir Kamil Tayibi and his colleagues discussed the effect of brains escape on the economy of developing countries in an article published in the scientific-research quarterly of economic growth and development surveys; But the effect of this process on the scientific system has not been investigated. (Lila Abdul, December 10, 2015)

Net advisors network also discussed the importance of education on the economy and prosperity of the country; But he did not write anything directly about the title of the research.

The Center for Regional Strategic Studies discussed the brains escape crisis from Afghanistan and

its consequences in the weekly analysis article, number 389 from 8 to 14 Asad 1401; But it is a general discussion and he did not say anything about the effect of brains escape on the education system of the country.

Therefore, the innovative aspect of the current research is that, firstly, it has analyzed the causes of elites and expert brainss fleeing Afghanistan from a sociological point of view, and in the second step, it has analyzed how it affects Afghanistan's higher education.

III. DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

3.1 The Concept of Elite

Elite refers to an outstanding and efficient person whose impact on the production of science, art and technology of the country is noticeable and whose intelligence, creativity and entrepreneurship and intellectual genius in the direction of producing knowledge and innovation accelerate the growth and development of science and be balanced in the country.

The concept of brains escape: the elite word is the Latin term "brains Escape", which terms such as brains migration, meritorious, brains hunting and talent kidnapping are also used for it. (Waqofi, 2001: 162) The term brains escape was used by the British for the first time. This term has its roots in the historical relations between the United States and the United Kingdom and has expressed the motivation of English engineers and doctors to immigrate to the United States, with the aim of earning more money and achieving an efficient and suitable environment. (Homanov 2011: 162) Therefore, brains escape as a social harm - specific to third world countries - has been trapping young people for more than a quarter of a century.

According to pathologists, this complication is considered as a kind of exploitation of third world countries by developed countries, which is known and defined as the most destructive social crisis. (Tabibi et al., 2011: 28)

3.2 The Concept of Education

Many definitions have been proposed for the concept of education.

- Education is the process of acquiring knowledge and awareness, learning the correct ways of doing work and acquiring technical competence in a specific subject.

- Education is a process that expands the horizon of vision and gives people a better understanding of the world and their environment.

Education is the process of raising people who are not only a source; Rather, they are the capital and asset of the society. Institute for Higher Education; Universities and institutes of higher education are engaged in training scientific staff to bachelor's degrees and higher and scientific research. (Paragraph 1 of Article 3, 1394)

3.3 Higher Education and Social Life

The purpose of education is to create the basis for physical, mental, mental and social development of people and it is divided into stages that continue from

elementary education to the highest levels of education. This process defines the personality dimensions of people in society and they influence each other from every experience they have. In fact, higher education provides experts to the society, which results in a society with experts and socio-cultural development.

IV. RESEARCH FINDINGS

Brains escape is a famous Latin term that occurs due to social, occupational and security problems. Of course, this unfavorable process happens mostly in war-torn, unstable and poor countries. Afghanistan is one of the countries that has lost a large number of its elites due to various reasons in four decades of war and bloodshed. While the escape of an educated person causes financial loss and scientific damage to the host country and benefit to the host country. According to the research conducted by the BBC in the field, it shows that in almost two years, 229 professors, mostly masters and doctorates, have fled abroad from only three Afghan universities.

Among them, 112 people from Kabul University, 75 people from Herat University and 42 people from Balkh University have taken leave or left Afghanistan under the pretext of illness or studies. The departure of these professors from universities has had a great impact on the educational system. The following two sections are analyzed:

A: Reasons for Brains Escape

What causes people to leave their homeland and stay in other countries is usually related to two groups of factors (repulsive factors and attractive factors), which attractive factors are related to economic, social, political and specialized dimensions, and the most important things that can be found in the category of factors The repulsions are: increasing class distance, restriction of freedom, inefficient work culture, lack of research facilities and low research standards, imbalance in income and expenses, injustice, lawlessness and partisanship. The rising price of goods in the market and many other cases can be considered as the reason for elites to leave their homeland. (Zhakiri: 1401)

In contrast to the driving causes, there are cases that attract elites in other countries. These pull factors are: the opportunity to continue education, social welfare, cost and income balance, efficient education system, economic welfare, political and social freedom, the existence of job opportunities and job security. (Taiba Chiraghi, Bahman and Esfand 2008) The discussion of brains escape from Afghanistan, like other less developed and developing countries, is not a new issue. This country has been dealing with the phenomenon of brains escape for a long time. Here is what is important to us; The investigation of the factors and motivations of brains escape is discussed as follows. (Mazker of regional strategic studies, analysis of the week: 1401)

1. War: Migration in all countries of the world, especially in Afghanistan, is directly related to the lack of security.

Insecurity and war are considered to be the first factors of migration. Unfortunately, the people of Afghanistan experienced many migrations following the wars of the past four decades in the country, which resulted in unfortunate consequences such as the loss of lives of neutral people and back-breaking financial losses, which severely damaged the citizens of this country. Unfortunately, the continuation of this insecurity and destruction has caused a large number of Afghan people, especially the elite and educated, to flee the country in recent years in order to experience relative security in foreign countries, or at least the lives of their families and children are safe.

2. Economic problems: The low income of specialists and elites and the disproportion between their expertise and their income is one of the most important reasons for the escape of elites. In Afghanistan, the income of educated people and elites is very low and it cannot solve their economic problems. Therefore, the educated and expert generation of the country inevitably leave the country.

3. Lack of field for scientific growth: Strengthening the process of scientific research and knowledge production is one of the fields of growth and strengthening of the scientific staff of universities and educated people, especially those educated in foreign countries. Therefore, with the arrival of the educated generation from abroad to the country due to the lack of scientific competition and sufficient resources to carry out scientific activities, they prefer to return to the environment where they studied and the academic staff of the universities do not see this field as favorable in the country. They prefer to immigrate to countries where such conditions are favorable.

4. Fewer educational facilities: Another reason for elites fleeing from Afghanistan is the lack of educational facilities. The elites of a society usually go to a place that provides them with all the necessary facilities to do research.

5. Poverty and unemployment: Afghanistan has more than 60% of the best human capital, i.e. young workforce; But unfortunately, due to the lack of development national programs, the level of poverty and unemployment is high, which has been on the rise lately.

6. Low per capita income: For specialized, elite and highly educated people, in addition to serving the country, the issue of income and well-being is also important. For this reason, low-income countries face the problem of human capital and brains escape.

7. Low human development index: The main parameters of the human development index include education period, infant mortality rate, female mortality rate during childbirth, people below the poverty line and per capita income. Afghanistan ranks 169th among 187 countries in the Human Development Index in 2020.

8. Worry about children's education: When the elites realize that there are no necessary facilities and favorable conditions for their children's education in the country, they take another option. Therefore, the existence of better

education opportunities for their children in advanced countries is one of the reasons for brains escape from Afghanistan. Because the people of Afghanistan, with bitter experiences from the past, do not want their children to be illiterate. Hoping to create better opportunities for education and development of talents for their children, they take the long and risky path of migration. (8 am: 30 November 1401)

B: The impact of brains escapes on higher education

Progress, competition, prosperity, sustainable development, etc. in a country depends on the development of the educational system, education and the level of knowledge production of that country. Going to the bottom of the sea and horizons and going around the complex layers of the earth, space, galaxy and universe also requires knowledge-based ability. So, the flight of academic staff of universities, scientists, technical and professional people from the country; For many years, this country has been left behind from the path of progress. Naturally, this situation has harmed universities and scientific environments and takes away the capacity of science production and healthy scientific competition. (Sajid: 1401)

When the manpower flees from the universities, there is a big vacuum in the country's higher education system, which slows down the progress of the universities, and soon this created vacuum cannot be filled by hiring young people who have no experience in teaching. Therefore, this is an obvious fact that causes the decline of higher education in the country. The continuation of this problem and complication will push the society towards the national problem and illiteracy (Raiq: 1401), which will have the following negative effects on higher education:

1. With the brains escape, the educational, economic, cultural, social and scientific and expert society in Afghanistan has been damaged and the continuation of this process affects various aspects of social life and the educational system.
2. The escape of any elite from the country is equivalent to the escape of 500,000 dollars of national capital. Elitism causes the level of scientific competition between scholars and the academic community in Afghanistan to decrease and the process of implementing the scientific programs of the country's higher education system is damaged.
3. Sustainable development, balanced development and progress of the country in political, economic, social, scientific and cultural dimensions depends on the quantity and quality of the educational system of each country in order to save the society from being contaminated by the triangle of "ignorance, poverty and disease".
4. Elitism causes elitism to arise. If this happens, the neglect of higher education will increase, the interest of young people and families will decrease regarding the education of their children, subsequently the graph of illiteracy will rise and ignorance will prevail in the society and the Shiraz of the society will be disturbed.

5. According to the preliminary figures published by BBC radio in 2001, 229 elite professors left their jobs and emigrated from only three Afghan universities. Therefore, if the increase of this (elitist) process is not prevented, it will inflict heavy blows on the bankrupt economy and scientific programs of the country in the not too distant future. (BBC 11/13/1400)

6. Man's journey into space, the depth of seas and reaching other discoveries are directly related to education and advancement of scientific degrees. So, if the educated generation flees the country, it will have a negative impact on the educational system and society of Afghanistan.

7. Growth and development in every country is based on human capital and expert forces of that country. As an underdeveloped country, Afghanistan needs modern higher education to produce skilled workforce. Unfortunately, on the contrary, the escape of specialized forces from this country bankrupts the educational system and other institutions.

V. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Continuous wars and political and economic instability in Afghanistan have caused many problems for the suffering people of this country. According to official statistics of UNHCR, Afghanistan is the third country with the largest migrant population in the world. In 2021 and 2022, a huge number of registered Afghan immigrants were in Pakistan and Iran, and this process is still growing exponentially. The escape of elites and the process of migration of Afghan citizens through the borders of Iran and Turkey to European countries are increasing and every day many young people take the risky path of illegal immigration through neighboring countries in order to seek opportunities. While expert and elite manpower is considered to be responsible for proper planning and policies.

The findings of the research in this article show that war, insecurity, economic weakness, poverty and unemployment, lack of scientific development, less educational facilities, lack of incentive and persuasion mechanism, anti-elitism process, lack of meritocracy in the administrative structure and creation of job opportunities all play a role in elitism. and this process of developing the education system has slowed down and has dangerous consequences.

Afghanistan's elites and educated people are the most important and effective human resources, whose progress and development are directly related to this power. On the other hand, the unfortunate conditions of Afghanistan in all sectors show that to heal the long-standing wounds of this country, more than ever, it needs expert personnel. The reasons for brains escape, as mentioned in detail in the discussion above, are war and insecurity, poverty and unemployment, unfavorable economic situation, prejudice and dozens of other direct and indirect factors that cause elites to flee the country. But its bad and influential consequences on the education

system, national economy and the poor people of Afghanistan remained and its consequences are felt for many years.

On the other hand, with the increasing flight of elites, the door of hope for progress and development in various fields of life is closed to the people, and the country becomes empty of educated, specialized and technical people. So, if the increase of this process is not reduced based on effective repulsions, the country may lag behind in development for many years. The brains escape from Afghanistan has caused a decrease in human capital and the economic growth, political and social development of the country faces obstacles, there is an urgent need to create a government strategy to return and re-absorb skilled, educated and experienced people rather than people who They return to the country again so they don't have to worry about the uncertain future in the post-return stage.

VI. PREVENTION MECHANISM

Due to the importance of elites and experts in the development and progress of the country, developing countries are trying to take measures to prevent or at least reduce the escape of elites. The phenomenon of brains escape is directly related to the bad conditions and political, economic, social and cultural crisis of countries. To prevent elites from escaping, the following mechanisms should be considered. (Taiba Cheragi, 11/20/1400)

1. Planning and implementing effective plans and programs in order to prevent the escape of criminals.
2. Creating job opportunities for graduates in the country.
3. Creating stability, security and necessary facilities in scientific and research environments and developing these centers in universities.
4. Applying the expertise of elites in management affairs to implement projects and scientific and administrative affairs.
5. Providing physical, mental and psychological security of citizens.
6. Formulating and approving stimulating laws and policies to encourage specialists and technologists.
7. Respect for individual freedom and citizens' rights within the framework of Islamic law and moderate laws.
8. Encouraging and creating the environment for domestic and foreign investment and creating suitable work opportunities.
9. Collecting statistical collections from researchers and experts abroad and investigating their causes and classification.
10. Introducing elites living abroad to scientific and research centers inside the country to develop communication.

11. Formation of scientific-specialist associations inside the country and the membership of elites living abroad in them and inviting them to give speeches.

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