

Topic: "A fool speaks, and the wise listens."

## OUTLINE

### 1. Introduction

In the dynamic interplay of communication, the wisdom of the wise lies not merely in their vocal expressions, but in their ability to perceive valuable insights from other's opinion. Hence, while the fool speaks without any consideration, the wise empathizes and understands.

### 2. Embracing wisdom through listening

### 3. Crucial impact of listening on individual's lives

- (a) Leads to effective communication which fosters better relationships
- (b) Provides opportunities for self-reflection and learning
- (c) Builds emotional connection and enhances empathy
- (d) Aids in making well-informed decisions.

(e) Contributes to professional success and better collaboration

(f) Better conflict resolution, promoting a harmonious environment

4. How the wise's priority can lead to a well-functioning community

(a) Promotes inclusivity, fostering a more tolerant society

(b) Strengthens social bonds, contributing to a sense of community.

(c) Helps in times of crisis, facilitating coordinated responses

(d) Encourages civic engagement in community initiatives

(e) More effective public policy development

(f) Improved academic performance, creating a more educated society

(g) Adopt <sup>or regional</sup> role of a mediator in global conflicts

5. Instilling good listening skills in people

(a) Adopting an education curriculum which instills critical thinking

(b) Encouraging quiet learners in educational and professional setup

(c) Being more tolerant towards diverse views.

(d) Being less judgmental and critical towards others

## 6. Conclusion

### ESSAY

In the dynamic interplay of communication, the wisdom of the wise lies not merely in their vocal expressions, but in their ability to perceive valuable insights from others' opinion. Hence, while the fool speaks without any consideration, the wise empathizes and understands. "The most dangerous person is the one who listens, thinks and observes." This famous quote by Bruce Lee is an accurate depiction of the power of listening and how it can ~~transform~~ not only transform the communities but also one's individual self. By uncovering the other person's truth, one can better understand, empathize and support them. This is what listening to learn is all about — and it's increasingly important for the communities

and leaders in today's evolving hybrid workplace and world.

The paucity of genuine leadership is the real crisis in <sup>developing countries</sup> Pakistan. It is the origin of all other crises. This is because society and households breed individuals who have no regards or tolerance towards differing views, and only <sup>consider that</sup> believe their thoughts, perceptions and belief system ~~is~~ the rational and correct. It is difficult for the wise and intellectual individuals to travel up the ladder because they know that their ideas won't be valued. In most affairs of life, whether professional or private, loquacious people are preferred. This creates a paradoxical situation as there is a generalization that if more talkative people are more assertive and thus, can ~~be~~ assume better positions in leadership roles. This thinking, however, completely undermines the rationale behind listening, understanding and then reacting. It is important to understand

that the most successful people are the ones who pay attention to what others have to say, and then carefully construct their words to make sure nothing illogical or foolish is being said.

"I like to listen. I have learned a great deal from listening carefully. Most people never listen."

There is alot to learn from Ernest Hemingway's remarkable work; his articulateness is also reflected in this quotation. Hemingway stresses on the importance of ~~learning~~<sup>listening</sup> and how it can help an individual learn.

It gives man an opportunity to reflect on himself; his inner fears, impulsive thoughts and overall behaviour. In this way, man is able to recognize all his strengths and weaknesses, and knows how to shape them to become a better individual—both for his sake and for his loved ones.

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When man knows about his inner self, he is able to act accordingly in his relationships too. He becomes an active listener, always pays attention to the opinions of others around him. Hence, listening is crucial to strengthen relationships as it demonstrates respect, care, and attentiveness. An effective communication leads to healthy relationships. On the other hand, those who never give others the chance to speak, are always surrounded by conflicts in their personal relationships. It brings a communication gap which acts as a barrier among connections. Thus, the most important quality needed in relationships is being a good listener.

Similarly, high-quality listening brings a cornucopia of positive outcomes. Active listening is also considered as being creative, non-judgmental, and empathic. When one understands the situation of the

other, he is able to console and comfort better. It enables a deeper connection by validating the speaker's thoughts and feelings, and encourages open and honest communication.

This can be better understood by assuming the role of a therapist whose main strategy is empathic listening skills. Therapists try to step inside a speaker's story to feel their emotions while helping them feel safe, valued and respected.

Therefore, active listening promotes stronger and more meaningful connections.

Consequently, great leaders know how to listen. They use empathy and mindfulness to be present during every interaction. This keeps them well-informed about their surroundings and aids in making diligent and ~~how~~ thoughtful decisions. Abraham Lincoln, arguably one of the greatest presidents was noted for his listening.

Hence, it can be asserted that ~~one~~<sup>some</sup> of the best leaders are proactive, strategic, and intuitive listeners. They recognize that knowledge and wisdom are not gained by talking, but by listening. Being a leader should not be viewed as a license to increase the volume of rhetoric. Astute leaders know that there is far more to be gained by surrendering the floor than by dominating it. Individuals who recognize the value of listening to others have better chances of <sup>achieving</sup> professional success. This, in turn, leads to more collaborative offers as a great communicator is always a good leader.

Effective communication barely ever leads to misunderstandings. The purpose of communication is not to message, but to engage, and this requires listening. One who knows and understands all different perspectives and their consequences, can come up



with effective solutions and better conflict resolution. The first rule in communication is to seek understanding before seeking to be understood. This prevents many conflicts and misunderstandings, resultantly, promoting a harmonious environment.

Similarly, active listening can also lead to a well-functioning society as it promotes inclusivity by fostering trust, respect, and understanding among diverse members of the society. It creates a safe space for people to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences without fear of being judged. Active listening is all about being attentive to different opinions and points of view, creating a successful workplace around diversity and inclusion.

By fostering a more tolerant society, inclusive listening also strengthens social bonds, contributing to a sense of community. An example of

this can be community policing. which is a strategy of policing that focuses on developing relationships with community members. When the people in a community feel heard and understood, they put in their trust in the law implementation agencies as compared to deviant societies who take the law in their own hands. Similarly, the police knows they can trust the community members, and in some instances, they even leave a <sup>trusted</sup> community member in charge while the police is not available. This interactive partnership is solely based upon effective communication - which can only be achieved by active listening.

Moving on, the wise's priority of inclusive listening and empathizing can be of great help in times of crisis. Individuals who are aware of the situation around them are quick to act in cases of emergency because they better understand the

consequences and effects of any particular event. This facilitates coordinated responses. By utilizing active listening to connect emotion to an event, individuals are able to naturally de-escalate and can facilitate coping adaptively.

Perceiving this topic from a broader perspective brings the image of Pakistan into 'spotlight'. Pakistan is a country where ordinary citizens are ~~treated~~ not as dynamic participants in societal processes, but as <sup>merely</sup> passive spectators. Questioning authority and challenging power structures are all seen with disdain and those who dare engage are ~~seen~~ as considered as anti-state. However, for good governance and an effective system of accountability, it is imperative to allow individuals with inclusive listening and critical thinking skills to engage in civic activities.

These may include activism, advocacy, political involvement, fundraising, philanthropy

and working for civil society organizations. Civic engagement in turn, promotes social justice and strengthens democracy — uplifting the societies and government.

Civic engagement itself has a direct impact on public policy development as influencing public decision-making is a critical and legal means for non-profit and civil society organizations to accomplish their missions. An example of this can be of the ~~the~~ gender activists who, through various campaigns and tactics — both mainstream tactics (~~voting~~ voting, lobbying) and non violent mobilization tactics (protests, boycotts, rallies), try to influence public policy according to their demands i.e. initiating gender friendly policies and granting equal rights to women. Thus, open communication between policy makers and constituents contributes to well-informed policies and their effective implementation.

Furthermore, such individuals or organizations can also be helpful and provide benefit on a global scale. They can do so by acting as a mediator in global or regional conflicts. The instance of World Bank's mediation, to resolve the water conflict between Pakistan and India, directly reflects this strategy.

In today's fast paced world where <sup>effective</sup> communication is disregarded over a bunch of random text messages and where a fool having ~~no~~ inadequate knowledge is considered more assertive, it is imperative for society to train individuals with active listening skills. It will not only be contributive in the personal circle, but also on the global scale.

It is important for developing countries like Pakistan to adopt an education curriculum which encourages critical thinking skills and discourages cramming. Moreover, it is necessary

to teach young individuals to value the opinion of others and be patient to express your opinion. This will result in improved academic performance of students, creating a more educated society of intellectual and brilliant mindsets.

It is also necessary to eliminate the culture of always praising the glitterers. As it is said, "All that glitters is never gold." Not all individuals who have good spoken skills or are talkative can be good leaders or more suitable for assertive roles. Quiet learners should also be encouraged both in private and professional life.

Similarly, to be an active listener, it is vital to be more tolerant towards diverse views. In a multipolar world, inclusivity is the only way forward. Hence, individuals need to be more accepting towards differing views and opinions, even if they

contradict or go against one's own belief system or values.

Lastly, adopting an inclusive approach also means being less judgmental and critical towards others. Most of the times, situation is not exactly the way it seems. One should always be accepting and kind to what others have to say; only then they will be able to confide in and share their inner most fears and views.

In a nutshell, great talkers are a dime of a dozen, but great listeners are a rare commodity. It is important to encourage inclusive listening both for the growth of social bonds and the development of nations.

It was Benjamin Franklin who said,  
"Speak little, do much."