Is Modern Civilization a failure?

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    "Modern Civilization has taught us to neglect our real selves. We are lost in the glitter of superficial Pleasures"

    - Mahatma Gandhi

Is Modern civilization a failure?

   A single beep of a coded message recieved on a walkie-talkie can not be less dangerous than an Improvised Explosive Device. On September 18th and 19th, 2024 – around Three Thousand pagers exploded which resulted in more than fifty deaths and several injured in Lebanon. The alleged pagar attack was propagated by Israel against Hezobullah to increase its dominance in war over palestinians. The emergence of modern technology has fabricated the lens to view the world. The world has mastered the art of innovation, but has it neglected the essential foundation of human life?. The world is encircled around the sphere of modern civilization which depicts the way of life in modern era. It can be traced back in 1500s and extends till present times. Inspite of the technological advancement and targeted economic progress in modern civilization, the it is heading towards failure. Cities are turned smarter, but minds are stressed; networks are faster, but civilization is a collapse.

Is Modern civilization truly building a better world, or is it a path towards destruction? The challenges faced by people in mayhem of modern era of civilization are growing unprecedently. Keeping all considerations in view, it is evident that modern civilization is a failure because it fosters hybrid warfare, exacerbate social inequality, perpetuate environmental degration, and erosion of traditional cultures.

Modern civilization is the current well-developed stage of human society. It is driven by significant advancement in technology, economy, cultures, politics, and social organizations. Modern civilization represents transfer of human societies from acient civilization till present time. It is characterized by rise in industrilization, urbanization, and globalization. It moves the world towards interconnectivity and interdependency, thereby, fostering diverse and multiculture world. It moves the world towards democratic system of governance which focuses on individual rights, freedom and representative governance. Yuval Harari his in his book, Sapiens : A Brief History of Humankind, describes modern civilization as a product of humans.

He argues that modern civilization is a result of Homospiens' ability to create shared myths, build complex social structures, harness scientific advancement, shaping interconnected world. Modernists belief that modern civilization is a success. They support ideas and policies that drive the world towards modernizations. Modern civilization has transformed the availability of health facilities. It has brought major advancements in medical knowledge, thereby, encouraging new treatment techniques to treat patients. The digitalization of health facilities in modern world such as **Telehealth services** has reduced barriers for those in rural areas to reach health consultants. Presently Agha Khan Hospital is practicing Telehealth services and digital lab reports. Furthermore, **Advanced Diagnosis Tools**, such as MRI, PET scan or CTscan has made diagnosis easy by providing precise images of tumors or any abnormality in the body. Similarly, **wearable health technologies**, such as heart rate monitors, glucometer or fitness tracker provide real time health updates to an individual. Modern civilization aims to improve accessibilities and

outcomes of patients. It leads to greater life expectancy, quality of three life and health care across Pakistan.

Furthermore, Innovation and technological advancement are pivotal to modern civilizations by transfering every aspect of daily life, work and society. It has increased convinence and efficiency in daily life, such as, Alexa, Google Home or Siri, to remotely control basic home necessities through voice commands. Moreover, modern civilization has increased global access to information and knowledge. Many online learning platforms like, Khan academy, provides free access to educational resources world wide. Websites like, Google Scholar or Wikipedia make vast amounts of information accessible to anyone with internet access. Modern civilization helps to increase economic productivity through Automation of Industries, by replacing manual workforce with machineries which increases efficiency and effectiveness of any industry. Innovation and technological advancement are main drivers of modern civilization; and according to proponents of modernization modern civilization is a success.

Considering the modernist view, it cannot be ignored that modern civilization is "moving towards destruction. Anti-modernist belief that modern civilization is a failure. **Samuel Huntington**, highlights the phenomenon of modern civilization by emphasizing on notion that modern world will result in clash of civilization. He argued that "The fault line between civilizations will be battle lines in future", this is evident through conflict in Gaza which prevails to be a clash between muslims and Zionist in present modern world. Moreover, the nature of warfare has evolved alongside advancement in technology. It has provided space for war of information or propagation, commonly known as hybrid warfare. Modern societies are most suspectible to direct and indirect attacks. Recently, in september, 2024, alleged Israel's **Pager attack** on lebanon took over social media. A code was simultaneously sent to around Three Thousand pagers which exploded injuring and killing large sum of people. There are many more such events which justifies the point that modern civilization is a way to hybrid warfare and clash of civilizations.

Secondly, modern civilization has very exacerbated social inequality, as it is mainly controlled by rich or dominating class. They formulate laws and orders in a sense to satisfy their personal self-interest. **Marxist school of thought** - highlighted that as the world is moving towards modernization. It is increasing vulnerabilities for lower or dominated class. In modern civilization there is unequal distribution of opportunities, and power which suppresses the lower class and make them deprived of basic necessities. This leads to disparities in well-being and life outcomes with limited access to essential services. Despite economic progress, racial pay gap still persists in the U.S. **Black Americans** earn fourty five percent less than white American as per report of World Bank. Similarly, racial profiling, unbaised sentencing and socio-economic disparities have increased the population of Black prisoner to fourty percent, despite the fact they makes up thirteen percent of US population. This is how modern civilization has provided leverage to white Americans **biasly.**

Thirdly, due to massive industrialization and urbanization modern civilization has provided

a way to excessive environmental degradation, such as, deforestation, habitat destruction and uncontrolled pollution. Imprudent plastic waste disposal in the oceans has resulted in "The Greater Pacific Garbage Patch", it has covered a large area of pacific ocean where marine debris accu has acculated, thereby, causing severe water pollution. The expansion of agriculture and infrastructure development in modern times has ultimated resulted in increased deforestation rate in **Amazon Rainforest in Brazil**. Brazilian government continues to grow agribusiness by harming environment. The immoderate use of fossil fuels for energy and transportation has resulted in extreme greenhouse effects. As per report in **Express Tribune**, Lahore and Dehli remain to have worse air conditions for people to breath in modern times.

Fourthly, rapid rise of modern civilization and increased connectedness among nations have emerged in homogenity of diverse cultures by adopting new norms and values. The modern world has integrated major cultures together into unique practices which has inturn marginalized the traditional cultures, norms and values. The world has

inclined towards **westernization** which has replaced traditional cultures of non-western countries. It is mainly noted in replaced of traditional dresses like shalwar kameez or sari into pant shirt and frocks. Similarly, non-western countries prefer westernized food options like KFC or McDonald's instead of traditional cuisines. Moreover, Asian and African countries incline towards pursuing western education particularly in the US or European countries. Modern civilization has led people to move towards individualism and adopting western cultures consequently, resulting in erosion of traditional cultures, norms and values.

Fifthly, modern civilization has caused significant changes in societal structures, lifestyle or values which has weakened family bonds and distorted emotional connectedness among family members. Many families migrated from rural to urban areas has resulted in disintegration of family systems from extended to nuclear families. The communication through text or video calls are often less emotionally connected than face-to-face interactions. The pursuit of material wealth has led individuals to work longer hours that keeps

them isolated from family affairs. According to world Health Organization report on occupational phenomenon in 2019, highlights that most number of burn out of workers is reported in the US and South Korea due to high occupational demands. This has resulted in emotional exhaustion and hindered individual's capacity to engage with family.

Sixthly, modern civilization promotes unnatural and excessive consumerism and materalism. It has created range of problems that undermines both individuals' well-being and societal Sustainability. High demand of trendy cosmetics and other products have long-term consequences. It encourages overexploitation of natural resources, such as, in Southeast Asia for excess production of Palm oil for food demands and cosmetics has resulted in extensive habitat loss. Heavy emphasises on wealth and possession as indicator of success and happiness has fostered anxiety, dissatisfaction, and pursuit of more material wealth to find sense of fulfillment. Social media platforms like Instagram or TikTok amplifies luxurious lifestyles. As per report of American Psychological Association, the idealized

sense of luxurious and fancy lifestyle has lead to thirty percent increase in feeling of inadequancy and lower self esteem. This implies that consumerism and materialism in modern times has lead to severe psychological problems.

Seventhly, modern civilization fosters economic inequality and unequal distribution of resources. World's economy is controlled by western imperial financial institutions which has severely targeted the economy of developing countries through differently policies, such as, standard Adjustment Programmes of IMF on Pakistan. The rapid industrialization in core countries like, Russia, China or US, results in extensive imports of cheap raw materials from peripheries like, Nepal, myanmar or Pakistan has resulted in continual economic dependency on core countries. Moreover, biased policies within a region results in unequal distribution of wealth. According to American Economic Survey, 2023, in the US the wealthiest class covers around one percent of population, but owns forty percent of country's wealth, while below fifty percent owns less than two percent of country's wealth. This division of wealth is due to

biased tax policies favouring elites.

Eighthly, modern civilization has tilted the world towards increased radicalization and extremism. Modernization of values and social structure leads to greater social inequality, cultural alienation or political instability which contributes to rise of radical ideologies. Radical groups lean towards frustration and grievances empowered by modern society. For example rise of **Hindutava** has rejected liberal and democractic aspect of modern civilization in India. Moreover, rapid rise of digital technologies and internet play a crucial role in spread of radical ideologies. For example **ISIS** used social media to recruit young people to exploit them against the modern shift of world. Similarly, a recent event of invoked mob was witnessed in market of lahore. It was an usual visit to a market which turned out to be a night mare for the couple. A lady, who was wearing a white silk dress with Arabic calligraphy, shockingly, ~~the~~ **invoked a mob.** They grabbed the couple and started raising slogans that the dress comprised of Islamic Quran verses on it. Their gesture marked the fury which they had once they saw

the lady wearing that dress. However, timely response of police evacuated the couple from site and dispersed the mob. This incident clearly defines the mindset of people who are alienated in modern civilization.

Last but not the least, modern civilization has turned the world into global village through globalization. Every aspect of life is interlinked with another, thereby, leading vulnerabilities to flow from one corner of world to next. A great example of ~~porpless~~ porous world borders can be depicted through **Global Financial Crisis In 2008**. The collapse of house market in US and economic downfall led to worldwide recession, affecting major countries of world like Ukraine, Poland or Argentina. Globally, all major countries ~~expresse~~ experienced collapse of currency. Moreover, due to increased interdependency many health compromising diseases flow into many countries. Spread of **Covid-19 pandemic** amplifies the spread of diseases through interconnected borders in modern world. A virus that originates in one country quickly spreads world wide due to modern trade and travel facilities in modern times.

Keeping all the drawbacks in view, a few steps can be incorporated to reduce growing harmful impacts of modern civilization on the world. A state should consider few suggestions to turn modern civilization as a blessing for its people. Peace and security are foundational to sustainable development and human flourishing. Any state should prioritize these through comprehensive strategies that focus on preventing conflict, ensuring safety and fostering international cooperation. The United Nations should inculcate more peace making missions, like, The UN Peacekeeping mission in South Sudan which works to prevent violence and protect civilians. Interpol should be strengthened to facilitate global law enforced cooperation, helping to combat transnational organized crimes, human trafficking and terrorism in modern civilizations.

Moreover, states should incline towards human development to increase social equality by ensuring equal opportunities which helps to bridge social divides by promoting inclusivity. Programs like, Sweden extensive social welfare program, should be included to increase housing support, child allowance, unemployment facilities

to reduce poverty and improve well-being of people. There should be universal access to quality education, like, **Finland's education System**, which emphasizes on free, high-quality public education access to all. It fosters scientific growth of humanity, thereby, positively growing with modern civilization.

Lastly, the world should move towards global collaboration on universal challenges. Modern civilization should promote global research and development partnership to address : universal issues like addressing poverty, climate change or inequality. Strengthening of international organizations like the UN, WHO or WTO facilities global cooperation and ensures coordination in solving universal challenges. Furthermore, international treaties and agreements should be encouraged that bind countries to common goals, and violation of those results in serious repercuassions, such as, reducing carbon emissions, combating poverty, and enduring peace. The United Nations should call on more universal targets, such as, **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to ensure global collaboration in this modern era of civilization to fight back universal challenges.

To conclude the discussion, it is vital

to understand that modern civilization is more a failure than a success. It fosters new conventional warfares, exacerbates inequalities in domain of socio-economics, perpetuates environmental degradation, and erosion of traditional cultures. Modern civilization has been a root to many Psychological and social problems, which undermines peace and security of a nation, and limitizes human development. One of the famous narrations of Mahatma Gandhi highlights that, "modern civilization has taught us to neglect our real selves. We are lost in the glitter of superficial pleasures." In this quotation Mahatma Gandhi argues that the changes fostered by modern civilization in modern era of world has doubtlessly provided many benefits, but he highlights that changes brought by modern civilization are temperory. People have lost their real selves in race of modern civilization which has deviated them from their true aims and objectives in this life. By carrying an ideal path between pragmatism and paxion, modern civilization can be made beneficial for the mankind in a way that states should consider peace and security or move towards

global collaboration on universal challenges. Nevertheless, modern civilization has proven to be a failure in ways that the world today has mastered the art of innovations and leaving behind essentials of human life.