

Essay : " Almost always, the creative
dedicated minority has made
the world better "

1) Introduction

2) Deconstructing the statement:

Since the dawn of human history, change has always begun at a smaller level by dedicated, hardworking and persevere individuals, who uplifted the humanity in various domains — political, social, technological, ecological and gender, enabling a better world.

3) Why the creative dedicated minority has always made the world better — philosophical and logical perspectives:

3a) They are firm and patient in the face of adversaries and turn obstacles into catalyst for growth
i- philosophy of stoicism → self-control

3b) They do not believe in pre-determined fate instead they take control of their fate by owning responsibilities

ii- Nietzsche and Iqbal's idea of a perfect man → self-realization

3c) These people demonstrate ideal personality traits with moderate virtues — intellectual prowess
i- Aristotle's doctrine of and emotional quietude
golden mean → a moderate and middle path

4) How creative dedicated minority has always made the world better — Manifestations in history:

4a) Intellectual greek philosophers have laid the groundwork for critical thinking and philosophy
i- Socrates dialogues → ideas and their rebuttals

4b) Bold and courageous scientific discoveries that countered the rigid religious dogmas and led to revolutions
i- Nicolaus Copernicus → challenged Catholic church geocentric model by proposing heliocentric model in astronomy

4c) Sane voices for freedom of speech against despotic monarchs and resultant revolutions
i- Voltaire → "I disagree with you but I defend till death your right to say it"
ii- It inspired French revolution and glorious revolution in Europe

4d) Independence movement against oppressive colonial masters and making of Pakistan
i- Aligarh students under the leadership of David e Azam

⇒ Contemporary illustrations of creative dedicated minority (making the world better):

5a) Transformation in technology and innovations through the efforts of dedicated people

i- Steve Jobs efforts for Apple and Bill Gates contribution in Microsoft

5b) Rise of feminism movements in response to the advocacy by small group of females

i- Voting rights success

5c) Grassroot movement for ecological restoration and its spill over effect

i- The Chipko movement in India (1970's) to protest deforestation by hugging trees

5d) Efforts of social activists to deliver social justice through citizen empowerment

i- Bangladesh → M. Yunus → Grameen bank initiative to provide micro finance loans.

6) How creative dedicated minority in Pakistan has made the world better:

6a) Young educational activists enabling and uplifting the lives of millions of children globally

i- Malala Yousafzai Fund's program → education

6b) Leaders, who have foresightedness and visionary element in leadership, lead Pakistan on trajectory of progress

i- Bhutto's nuclear bomb acquisition program

6c) Through social mobilization, people at grassroot level stood for themselves to alter their fate

i- Orgi Pilot Project case study → 1 million people lifted out of poverty

Conclusion

The moments of great change have mostly emerged not from consensus but from disagreements. This is the bitter sweet reality behind the instrumental movements, revolutions and scientific discoveries. Surprisingly, these innovations and developments have led by the creative dedicated minority. Almost always, change has initiated at a smaller grass root level, expanding into a larger even a global one. There are some philosophical and logical perspectives or reasons behind the success of these dedicated smaller groups. They all have some virtues in common like being firm, patient and persevere in the face of adversities, turning challenges into a catalyst for growth, do not believing in pre-determined fate, instead carving their own way to happiness and development, and having the balanced moderate personality traits. Similarly, the historical manifestations also prove the ability of dedicated minority in making the world better — intellectual greek philosophers and their contribution to philosophy; bold and courageous discoveries that led the scientific revolution; sane voices for freedom of speech and the revolutions; independence movement and making of Pakistan. By the same token, contemporary illustrations also prove that the small group of people have contributed to various technological, ecological, social and gender developments all over the world. Lastly, in case of Pakistan, there are ^{also} reasonable grounds that depicts how a persistent and determined

small group have led to making a progressive and competitive country. From young educational activists to political leaders and community engagement, Pakistan has witnessed progress owing to their contributions.

The dawn of the 21st century has witnessed rapid progress and development. These novel contributions are rooted in dedication of a few group, which has led the prosperity. These groups demonstrated their mettle globally and have become the hallmark of innovation. It has been proven from the history and the present times that positive change has always brought by a smaller dedicated and resilient individuals. It also establishes a fact that efficient people are always smaller in number. Moreover, there are some qualities that are seen prevalent in the dedicated minorities. The core qualities are determination, discipline and hard-work. These qualities make them an epitome of greatness. Thus, it establishes another fact that price of greatness is responsibility, which these dedicated individuals exhibit through their actions, uplifting humanity in various domains — political, social, technological, environmental and gender.

There are many philosophical and logical perspectives on the question — why the creative dedicated minority has always made the world better. The first philosophical perspective is philosophy of stoicism. It entails that self-control is the key to manuevering the challenges of life and the most valuable asset one can own is the quality of being resilient and patient in the face of crisis. Similarly, the creative dedicated minority has this essence of being firm and patient in the face of adversities. They turn every obstacles into catalyst for growth. They do not focus on impediments, instead they control and channelize their emotions ^{away from the} ~~towards~~ problem towards solution. Moreover, these people have a firm belief that there are some things under the control of a man, and there are some things beyond the control of a man. Taking opportunity of the things under control and carving the way towards success determines the fate of individuals in the pyramid of progress and development. Therefore, philosophy of stoicism strongly explains the foundation of creative dedicated minority — resilient and patient.

Similarly, another philosophical perspective that explores the essence of successful individuals is the philosophy of existentialism. It suggests that a fulfilling life is the one which is determined by the person itself and not by any cultural or religious norms. Similarly, the small group of resilient individuals

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also manifest this philosophy because they do not believe in pre-determined fate, instead they take control of their future by owning responsibility of their lives. They do not blame their failures on the whims of fortune, rather strive for carving their path towards success with the will-power. Nietzsche's and Iqbal's concept of self-realization is important to understand this philosophy. Both motivate young individuals to realize their potential and build the empire of success by the power of will. Thus, it proves that small, dedicated group of individuals are always responsible for their actions.

Moving forward, it is important to discuss the historical manifestations of how the creative dedicated minority has always made the world better. In history, it has been observed that intellectual greek philosophers have laid the groundwork for critical thinking. Through dialogue and argumentation, they have passed down the culture of reasoning with convincing facts and figures. The world of today owes all its innovation and development to the critical thinking models of this small, dedicated group of philosophers. Socrates through his dialogue with Euthyphro, which is famously known as 'Euthyphro Dilemma', explores the underlying meaning of piety — 'It is pious because gods love it or gods love it that's why it is pious?'. Such dialogues of Socrates have opened the door to thesis, antithesis and synthesis formation to resolve the conflict between opposing ideas.

This suggests that intellectual small group of philosophers have made the world more rational.

Similarly, the bold and courageous scientific discoveries by brilliant minds also prove that there were always a small group of people who truly made a difference. In history, these individuals were not fearful of holding power groups accountable. Instead, they were relentless in their pursuit of truth to counter the rigid dogmatic beliefs. The example of Roman Catholic church and its hypocrisy was evident in their efforts to resist independent interpretations of Bible as it will make them irrelevant among local masses. Nicolas Copernicus, an individual who did a bold attempt of proposing heliocentric model of solar system, which states that instead of sun, earth revolves around the sun. It challenged the Roman Catholic church teachings of geocentric model of earth - sun revolves around the earth. This brave attempt was met by severe resistance and harassment of Copernicus, proving that it is always a few people or individuals who challenge a ruling elite.

By the same token, there were a few sane voices for the freedom of speech in history. They were the spirited souls who stood against the despotic monarchs and advocated for the freedom of speech through their fiery writings. Voltaire - a well-known French philosopher famously said - "I disagree with you but I defend till death

your right to say it. It implies that, nevertheless, if one disagrees with ^{another} you, one has the complete right to speak and voice their opinion. This statement has become a ground reality and foundation of modern democracies, where the will of people is the will of state and citizens have the fundamental right the freedom of speech. Thus, it establishes a fact that behind the privilege of freedom of speech, there is a courageous attempt of these same philosophers.

Another novel trend in history that has bewildered the world is the efforts of ^{few} resilient ~~few~~ individuals against the oppression of ruling elite. These individuals have set the stage for independence movements and have set the direction of struggles for the masses. Making of Pakistan suggests that independence movement was inspired by the dedicated efforts of Aligarh students under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam. They remain determined for their pursuit of objectives and despite all the odds, they turned the tables on independence of Pakistan. Similarly, in contemporary times, the revolution led by Bangladeshi students against Sheikh Hasina regime also signifies the importance of dedicated minority in bringing a positive change. Therefore, it would not be wrong to claim that change has always brought by small group of people at grass root level, leading to better world.

Moving forward to contemporary illustrations of how the small dedicated minority has made the world better, one can witness the transformation in means of communication and technology. It has paved a way for unprecedented connectivity and innovation, leading towards standard way of living. Moreover, the advent of technology has saved time, energy and efforts of people. All this has been made possible by the energies, hardwork and determination of a small group of people, which has led to such enormous transformations in the way of living. The notable Apple brand has been the outcome of tireless efforts of Steve Jobs, who uplifted the world in domains of technology - that is both user-friendly and innovative. Moreover, the contribution of Bill Gates to the world of Microsoft and the efforts of Elon Musk in exploring space technologies have truly made the world more innovative and technological. Thus, it can be concluded that the skills of a few people ~~the~~ has truly made a world better in the field of technology and innovation.

Another recent trend manifesting the role of creative individuals in making the world better is the rise of feminism movements. It has been the result of persistent struggles of few women both globally and in case of Pakistan too. In west, the waves of feminism propelled by the writings of Elizabeth Cady Stanton - 'Declaration of sentiments' at Seneca Falls convention opened a door to rapid awareness and global discourse on women's issues. Similarly, in case of Pakistan, the efforts of Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan - her foundation - "All Pakistan Women Association" has advocated for gender

equality and the writings of contemporary writers - Fehmida Riaz, Rujia Zalkatia and Rubina Saigol are the significant contributors to enhance the women empowerment and development. These established a fact that even in the case of gender equality, a few dedicated women activists have made a remarkable progress, paving the way for more awareness and gender sensitivity.

Similarly, the movements started at grass root levels and then spilled over the world also prove that ^{the} efforts of a few people are instrumental in driving a big change. The ecological movements against deforestation and global warming have always led by a dedicated and hardworking individuals. Chipko movement in India, in which women hugged ~~a~~ trees, showing resistance to the deforestation, indicates efforts of a small group of rural women, driving a big change. Similarly, most contemporary activism by Greta Thunberg, who has become a symbol of climate change resistance, also reflects the exertions at individual level, spreading over the entire world. To reiterate, the advocacy for ecological restoration, reforestation and sustainable development has always led by a small group of perseverant individuals, culminating into mass global movements for climate activism.

Furthermore, the pursuits of bridging inequality and citizen empowerment has prompted social scientists to focus on improving public service delivery, which, in turn, leads to efficiency and

effectiveness in governance at grassroot levels. Like always, these developments have been done by handful amount of individuals. Muhammad Yunus, a Bangladeshi caretaker PM, has initiated a remarkable Grameen bank to provide micro finance loans to young people for the entrepreneurship purposes. It has made a pivotal upsurge in employment and revenue generation, evident from the GDP growth of Bangladesh - more than 5%. Such types of initiatives are instrumental to uplift the status of socio-economic conditions of a society. This proves that individual efforts are always the reason behind the improvement of socio-economic indicators of a society.

Having explored the illustrations of how the small dedicated minority has set the stage for progress and development at individual^{level}, it is time to explore its manifestation in Pakistan. The first and foremost manifestation is at education level, where young inspirational activists have stood for girls education against all the odds and succeeded in turning obstacles into catalyst for progress and development. One of the notable examples is of Malala Yousafzai, who regardless of Taliban rule in Swat, remained vocal in defending girls right to education. It indicates that how the perseverance of a young girl expanded into global advocacy for girls right to education. It would be suffice to say that without the strivings of these small group of inspiring leaders, world will not be a much better place to live.