

Essay :: Abstract

"wrong is wrong even everyone is doing it, right is right even no one is doing it."

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1. Introduction

Thesis statement

One effort of Ababel to save prophet Ibrahim from Nimrod's fire is a great example of doing the right thing despite opposition of majority.

The essence of this incident is "wrong is wrong even everyone is doing it and right is right even no one is doing it".

The same lesson is needed to be revised on personal, social and global scale due to the consequences of "Crowd following" and "Herd mentality".

The importance of doing the right thing in personal life is significant. It helps to live a content and happy life. On community level it can prevent us from following social norms at the cost of life. On global scale it is much needed to achieve peace and sustainability.

3 Importance of self consciousness in individual's life.

Self consciousness and accountability are the distinct traits of human beings that make them answerable for their words and actions. Human beings are intelligent creatures and are morally, religiously and socially bound to take responsibility of their actions. Everyday we make a lot of choices in our personal and professional life. These choices reflect our school of thought and have power to influence others. Thus our decision and behavior have great impact on community.

a) Self consciousness and Accountability.

Self consciousness and accountability help us to focus on the origin and impact of our actions, thoughts and emotions. This process yields course of action based on our value and beliefs rather than societal pressure. The opposite of self awareness is 'herd mentality' which refers to decision making under influence of powerful majority.

b) Herd Mentality.

Herd mentality is decision making based on the actions of others.

The scientists at university of Leeds define it as "it takes a minority of just five percent, followed without realising it's consequences, by the 95%." (PsychCentral, 2023)

There is a saying "when in Rome do as the Romans do". But the real question is how far one can go in following others, and what is the threshold. In life, everything could not be labelled as black or white. There are a lot of grey areas where we are legally free to make choices but moral obligations are there. So the response of a person should be based on both social acceptance and morals.

c) Impacts of social norms on personal life.

Social norms reflect the taste and tendency of majority of population in a society.

"You are the average of five people you spend the most time with" (Marken Van Doorn, 2018)

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Here average refers to the average of the intellectual ability, taste, manners, language, conscious and maturity. This phenomena reflects that the people around us shape our personality, school of thought and course of action.

This influence is quite evident in personal life.

Impact of community on individuals.

The community not only influence the personality of individuals but also affects the decisions in personal life.

For example, students chose subjects for higher studies considered as high scoring and in demand in job market despite based on aptitude and taste.

Similarly, people tends to chose life partners from their own community and follow social standards for match making.

Not listening to the inner voice in personal life can make or break your future.

Q) Religion and self consciousness

Our religion Islam also advice us to follow the right path.

As narrated in Quran-e-Pak.

"And there should be a group amongst you who will invite toward good, order for acknowledged virtues, forbid from sins and 'these are the successful ones' (Al-Imran, 104)

It is also narrated in "Hadith"

that discriminating between good and evil is a moral and religious obligation.

"whoever among you sees an evil and changes it with his hands,

then he has done his duty. who-

ever is unable to do that but

change it with his tongue, then he

has done his duty. whoever is

unable to do that but change

it with his heart then he has done his duty and this is the weakest of Faith.

(Sunan Nisai, Book 47, # 5012, sahih).

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3 Impact of Herd Mentality on Society.

a) Energy Crisis and Timing of Commercial Markets.

In Pakistan, commercial markets are opened near mid noon and closed near mid night. This pattern results in high power consumption and electricity shortfall in peak hours.

'The government has ordered to close all markets by 8:30pm and restaurants by 10pm. These measures will help the country to save 62 billion Pakistani rupees.' (CNN BUSINESS, Jan 2023).

b) Traffic rules + road accidents rate.

In Pakistan, people show irresponsible behavior on roads. They do not follow traffic rules and are reluctant to follow safety measures. Driving according to traffic signals, wearing helmet and seatbelts seems awkward due to non-compliance of these measures from majority of the population.

Reckless driving is one of the leading cause of road accidents.

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in Pakistan. Many drivers in the country are often seen driving at high speeds, dangerously overtaking other vehicles and driving under the influence of drugs. The lack of awareness about traffic rules and regulations is also a significant contributing factor contributing to more accidents.

(Bilal Srafi, Road accidents and traffic issues in Pakistan, June 2023)

c) Recognition of Self Employment

The trend of self employment has emerged as a solution to the down sizing and lack of job opportunities post COVID 19 around the world.

Yet freelancers are not recognized as important and financially sound as compared to employees of well structured organizations. In reluctance toward freelancing is also observed in Pakistan despite significance of IT freelancers in exports.

The self employed person attracted export remittances of nearly \$400 million in financial year 2021-2022 by providing various services online

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to foreign client in different countries.
(Usman Hanj, Freelancers, August 2022).

d) Overspending despite inflation:
Overspending is one of the major problem in Pakistan at macro and micro level.

As a nation, we tend to overspend on each event and opportunity. Functions, Jumerals, gatherings and religious rallies, there is no limit of overspending and showing off - the false state of being well off. Same pattern is evident on national level. Each financial year ends on deficit and loans from IMF.

"To reduce fiscal deficit, Pakistan also needs to improve its government spending efficiency and reduce wasteful expenditures.

(Rabia Khan, Taking Pakistan out of economic crisis, Jan 2023)

§ Global Impact of Intentional Negligence.

a) Global warming and CO₂ Emissions.

The CO₂ emission is a constant threat to the ozone layer. Depletion of ozone layer result in global

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warming and climate changes. But China and US being the largest biggest contributors in CO₂ production are not concerned to take serious action, the rest of the world follows the super powers.

Since 1990, global CO₂ emissions have increased by ^{more than} 60%. The two biggest contributors to global emissions are China and US, who produce 11.47 and 5.01 Gt CO₂ in 2021 respectively.

(Energy and Environment, Statista, 2023)

b) Nuclear technology and its role in WMD.

Although nuclear technology is proven to help in energy production and medical sciences there is a constant threat to world's peace.

As nuclear technology is used for producing weapons of mass destruction (WMD). As a result "world's developing and under developed countries are investing in production of ~~WMD~~ WMD despite economic costs."

c) Political Polarization on war
 the world and international
 organizations ~~are~~ have failed to
 stop Russia-Ukraine war due
 to political polarization.

According to "statista" 954 civilian
 are killed in this war till
 august 2023. The GDP of Ukraine
 is decreased by 35% and 521
 companies have closed their
 operations in Russia.

Still war is going on due to
 lack of global collaboration on
 peace making.

d) water pollution and chemical waste

water is one of the most abundant
 natural resource that is integral
 for existence of life on earth.

The problem of water pollution
 is caused by disposal of chemical
 and industrial waste. that make
 it dangerous for personal and
 agriculture

"two billion people world wide
 don't have access to safe drinking
 water". only 0.5% of water on
 earth is useable and available
 fresh water.

(UN, water crisis, 2023)

3. Conclusion

Conclusively the non-compliance to doing the right thing due to external pressure leads to diff. problems at personal, social and global scale.

The discontentment in personal life, alarming behavioral pattern in society and global threat to the peace and sustainable life, all are caused by "Crowd following" and "Herd mentality".

We need self awareness and accountability at personal, social and global scale to live a Prosperious life.