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AN INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE PAYS THE BEST INTERESTS

Outline

A. Introduction

Thesis statement: Knowledge is synonymous to 'enlightenment' as it broadens man's horizon and pays in his best interests. Sheer 'knowledge' always supersedes ignorance as it is an empirical inquiry of world and its affairs.

B. DECODING KNOWLEDGE AND ITS

SIGNIFICANCE (Plato's allegory of the cave)

- ① Knowledge is synonymous to enlightenment.
- ② Sheer knowledge over ignorance always supersedes (Alexander's 'Gordian Knot' as embodiment of it)
- ③ Knowledge an empirical inquiry of the world (Martin Luther's refusal to surrender against the Catholics)

C- Past devoid of knowledge, a history of Dark ages (Fight or flight, natural response)

- ① Hunterers and gatherers were on a constant plight of 'man versus man'
- ② The great wars, a deadly lesson
- ③ The famous tussle 'feminism versus the world'

D- WORLD AN ANTAGONIST OF THE INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE (socrates was offered hemlock, a price of his knowledge)

- ① World of large translates knowledge as 'rebellion' (South Asian notion of 'Beti parhao, beti bachao')

E- HOW THE INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE IS THE BEST AMONG ALL.

(Churchill's emphasis on knowledge in light of Hitler's authoritarianism)

- ① It averts the affect of other counterparts
- ② ('TATA' company is bigger than Pakistan)
It dominates the whole society
- ③ It challenges the notions prevailing.
- ④ It proves "Empty vessels make the loudest noises."

D It gives birth to the non conformists

(Camus's existentialism ; become so absolutely free that your existence becomes an act of rebellion)

(Emerson's essay on 'self-Reliance) - an aftermath of investment in knowledge

F - INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE AN ANSWER TO THE DYING NATION'S 'WHY'

('KNOWLEDGE' and the interconnectedness of the world) - Sun Tzu's "Art of power"

G - CONCLUSION

Where Dreams Come True

Essay

In the orchestra of life knowledge often plays the softest note, drowned by the beats of ignorance which overshadows it. In the world like today's, where every motive is driven by the interests and whatever captivates the audience makes a bigger room in the market. An investment in knowledge however always prevails because of the best interests which it brings to the table.

A man is always disillusioned by the shadows of his perceptions, which blurs his rationale. But the investment in knowledge helps him see beyond his limited imagination, as happened with Plato's prisoners in his allegory of the cave. Knowledge is hence synonymous to 'enlightenment', as it broadens the man's horizon and pays in his best interests. Sheer knowledge over blinded ignorance always supersedes as it is an empirical inquiry of the world which can not be fooled by the shallow paradigms of ignorance. As happened with Alexander the great, on being asked to solve the complex 'gordian knot'. Using his sheer

Knowledge he took his sword and sliced it into pieces, saying 'Solution is mine to create.'

The past devoid of the knowledge speaks in volumes in the favor of investment in knowledge. Those days of antiquity saw the days, also referred as 'The dark ages'.

They were the dark ages because man was chained to the blinded stereotypes and rituals. In order to keep them high in esteem, he never pondered over the 'why' and never felt perplexed on his ignorance of the knowledge. Hunters and gatherers were on a constant quest of 'fight or flight'. Darwin's theory of evolution, emphasizing the 'survival of the fittest' merely added to the divide among humanity. Hobbes's encapsulates this essence of ignorant minds saying 'man's nature' in its very nature is 'nasty, wild and brutish'. The 'great wars' which are often portrayed as an act of heroism, only speak in the advocacy of 'investment in knowledge'. Because they are ^{an} epitome of bloodiness and economic devastation like nothing else.

With the age of enlightenment, knowledge took over and its wonders began to reinvigorate the mankind by making them 'humane' in true essence. The investment in knowledge mounted on the road, about which Robert Frost recapitulates in his poem 'Road not Taken', "Two roads diverged in the woods and I - I took the one less traveled by and that has made all the difference."

World has however always been an antipode of the investment in knowledge, because like other investments it does not bring instant gratification to the mankind. And man in the contemporary world is more inclined to the pleasures even if they come at the cost of their "best interests". The entire education system of Pakistan runs on donations because the budget allocated to this sector is not more than the 2% of the whole Gross Domestic product. It serves as a testimony for the plethora of problems, which the country has been winning over since its inception.

This behavior towards knowledge is not new in nature, As Socrates, also regarded as the father of political philosophy was offered hemlock and called out 'impiety' - because he invested in knowledge, by educating the youth. Friedrich Nietzsche's recapitulates this spirit of investing in knowledge in the following words: "I burnt my own ashes, carried it to the mountains and invented a brighten flame for myself."

World sees this investment as an antagonist also because it translates it to 'rebellion'. Knowledge gives birth to the minds who do not surrender merely because they have to, they subdue the enemy without weapons and refuse to conform to the generational notions. Such people as Emerson calls them 'nonconformists', are those who are not daunted by the fear of being crushed by the crowd. Søren Kierkegaard conforms to this power of knowledge, as he said; "I wish my grave to have the word 'The individual' on it, for that is the biggest victory among victories"

The investment on knowledge is the best among all. History has proved the best interests which it brings forth, time and again. The whole world witnessed the dynamic approach of Churchill during WW2, as he made sure to keep the libraries running amidst those times of doom while Hitler was bombing us again and again. It is imperative to acknowledge that while Churchill was concerned of investing in knowledge, Hitler was turning the books into ashes. It was his authoritarian approach to censor all kinds of knowledge. The ultimate conquest however remained of knowledge.

Another facet of investing in knowledge is the aversal of its other counterparts. Knowledge is so dynamic in nature that it curbs the enemy regardless of its magnitude. Pakistan and India, for instance started their quest of life together, while Pakistan is still trying to equip its plethora of problems, India is flourishing in its each and every sector. The entire 'TATA Company' is bigger than the GDP of Pakistan, with its \$390 billion annual net

worthwhile India even in the annals of time when Britishers had not yet left the subcontinent, began to adopt 'English' as their mother language, while Muslims were resistant to keep clutching to Urdu. It set a dynamic example of how education and knowledge is potent to change the whole course of a nation. It marvelously challenges the prevailing notions because knowledge relishes change with open arms. Nelson Mandela the apartheid leader serves as the heartbeat of this essence, while he challenged the whole African society, he also embraced reconciliation over vengeance. As he said; when I walked out of the door towards the gate. I knew if I had not left the hatred and anger behind, I would still be a prisoner."

Knowledge hence opens the ventures of the best interests like no other investment. It frees the chained man from the shackles of ignorance and teaches him to soar high. With all the unraveling of human

potential it also exposes the sham of 'empty vessels who make the loudest noises.' As knowledge bestows with the ability to judge, it then demarcates between those are merely loud and have no worth in reality. Such people are the ones, which society is most overflowing with. While handful are those knowledgeable minds who are the real asset of the society. Camus's existential thoughts regards to such minds as he opined: "The only way to deal with this unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence becomes an act of rebellion." The investment in knowledge raises such free souls, who completely and absolutely rely on themselves. To such individuals Emerson suggests: "Do not conform?"

The investment in knowledge is therefore the answer to all those dying nations, who ponder 'why is it happening to ~~the~~ them? It is mostly the ignorance of knowledge and the lack of investment in the sector, which resultantly closes

the doors of prosperity on them. All those who are stuck in this vicious loop of constant tug and pull over the minds who understand the power that knowledge holds. In the contemporary age, the potential of knowledge has unraveled in the domain of warfare too. As the contemporary age has opened its doors on the age of 'Hybrid warfare'. A Chinese military strategist - Sun Tzu recapitulates the essence of knowledge in warfare, as he says, "The ultimate power is to subdue the enemy without weapons".

Such a warfare can only be fought among knowledgeable minds, rest would be mere 'puppets' or 'allies' in the battlefield.

In summation, an investment in knowledge is the answer to all the prevailing ills of the society. On one hand while it redeems the corrupted souls it also has the potential to unravel the best interests in the fate of man, while mostly undermines the power of investing in knowledge, smart are those who give

It - the regard which it deserves. The history
cleared of this investment stands tall, as a
lesson for humanity ^{echoing} to invest with all the
potential capacities in the sector of
knowledge. As Khalid Gibran puts it like:

“Do not love half lovers

Do not entertain half friends

Do not live half a life

You are here to live a life

not half a life.”



Make Dreams Come True