

The Impact of Taliban Rule on Youth Rights in Afghanistan: An Analysis of Repression

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Abstract: *This research is going to investigate the negative impact of Taliban rule on youth's right in Afghanistan. This research is so important because the young generation are considered as the backbone of a society and has played an effective role in the progress and development of all society, But unfortunately, in Afghanistan under the Taliban rule, young people have been deprived and restricted from accessing all their human rights in the political, economic and culture. this is a clear violation of human rights which is leaves negative effects on society. therefore, carrying out such research will determine what challenges the youth are facing under the Taliban rule and what negative effects will have in the national and international society until the international community and human rights organization support from youth's right in Afghanistan. For doing this research the researcher has tried to collect data from Books, national and international online journal and websites.*

Keywords: Negative effect, Taliban rule, youth rights, Afghanistan

1. Introduction

After collapse of the Afghanistan to the Taliban in August 2021, the people of Afghanistan especially the youth are going through difficult times. Despite the effectiveness of the Taliban, Afghanistan is witnessing gross violations of human rights in all human dimensions. There is not a morning that the citizens of this country do not start their day with shocking news of torture, murder and killing of youth. Afghanistan is considered one of the countries that has the largest population of young people. According to the statistics of the National Bureau of Statistics and Information in 1401, approximately 63% of Afghanistan's population is young people; But a number of young Afghans consider their situation unfavorable compared to the other countries' youth and call themselves a forgotten generation (afqghan youth forgotten generation (*Afghan Youth, Forgotten Generation The Killid Group*, n. d.)

With the rule of the Taliban over Afghanistan, all the achievements of democracy were lost, and the young people were trapped in a geography where none of the standards of human rights are respected. For now, with the re - appearance of the Taliban in Afghanistan, most of the international human rights conventions, including the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Prohibition of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child are not observed. Failure to comply with international norms and standards and the imposition of many restrictions on the people has caused the rights of young people to be violated in Afghanistan, which has had a negative impact on the social life of young people and caused the spread of poverty, unemployment and economic problems, Literacy, drug addiction and young people turning to extremist groups.

Therefore, doing such research to clarify the violation of youth's right in Afghanistan and the negative effectives of Taliban rule on youth in Afghanistan. In this way; The rights of Afghan youth should be taken into consideration in

international forums and institutions supporting the rights of youth. In this research, the researcher has tried to collect the data by referring to different sources of books, articles, online journals and national and international websites.

a) Security Threats

In Afghanistan, for many years, youths and teenagers faced various security threats, which increased significantly when the Taliban group came to power. Addiction, kidnapping, war and natural disasters threaten the youth. The presence of young people in the ranks of warring parties in the last twenty years, their use for war purposes and even the sexual use of children and young people are other concerns of the lives of teenagers in Afghanistan. Because the youth of Afghanistan had significant activities in the field of defending democracy and protecting the rights of citizens in the last decade, they had a significant contribution in all political, social and economic affairs. For this reason, with the rule of the Taliban, the greatest threat has been directed at them and they are victims of systematic violence every day. More women and children were killed and wounded in Afghanistan in the first half of 2021 than in the first six months of any year.

The U. N. mission in Afghanistan reported in its Afghanistan Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict midyear update 2021 that there were 1, 659 civilians killed and 3, 254 wounded. It said that's a 47% increase compared with the same period last year. Women and children made up close to half of all civilian casualties in the first half of 2021 at 46%, according to the report. Thirty - two percent were children, with 468 killed and 1, 214 wounded. Fourteen percent of civilian casualties were women, with 219 killed and 508 wounded. (*Civilian Casualties In Afghanistan Reach A Record High : NPR*, n. d.)

Since January 2019 and December 2020, 5, 770 Afghan youngsters were killed or maimed between the reporting period. Meanwhile, child casualties hit their highest levels ever during the first half of this year, with hundreds killed in recent weeks amid the deteriorating political and security situation.

The Taliban have intensified their search for those who worked for NATO forces or the previous Afghan government,

a UN document says. The Taliban fighters go door - to - door to find their "targets" and threaten their family members. Taliban forces unlawfully killed 13 ethnics Hazaras, including a 17 - year - old girl, in Afghanistan's Daykundi province. (*Afghanistan: 13 Hazara Killed by Taliban Fighters in Daykundi Province – New Investigation - Amnesty International*, n. d.)

Explosions targeting educational institutions killed at least six people, including students, and injured 17 Tuesday in a mostly Shiite neighborhood of Afghanistan's capital city (*At Least 6 Killed, Including Students, in Kabul Explosion | PBS News*, n. d.)

Therefore, considering the above reports and explanations that were presented; after the fall of Afghanistan by the Taliban; Afghanistan's youth and teenagers have been exposed to serious danger and threats to their lives; And they are always subjected to irresponsible arrests and life threats by the Taliban group.

b) Lack of access to education

The right to access to education is recognized as a basic and fundamental right that the government and parents are required to support this right without any discrimination. Therefore, the legal responsibility of the government is to provide the necessary facilities and infrastructure for education. to provide access to education for all, especially for children (under 18 years) and secondly, the right of individuals to access this right. Right in front of society and defend the family. For example, a society or a family may hinder their girls' education in various ways or create restrictions for their education, the government, including the legislature, judges and the executive branch, is obliged to fight against these obstacles and restrictions. and support girls' right to education. This article is referred to as protection of the right to education or implementation of the right to education. The legal duty of the government and society as "respecting and exercising the right to education" refers to the negative right and implementation refers to its positive and positive aspect.

The reason why the right to access to education and training is mentioned as a positive right is that the right to education is only a kind of respect for the basic will and need of the individual. Without the right to education in its positive sense, we cannot practically provide access and realization of this right for a large part of the people. Therefore, access to this right requires the positive action of the government and parents, which means that the government and parents are responsible for this right. The right to access to education, with almost all its details mentioned here, is established and recorded in articles 13 and 14 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights approved by the United Nations General Assembly, and the contracting governments are obliged to protect this right. has been Everyone has the right to education. (*International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights | Refworld*, n. d.)

Unfortunately, with the rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2021, the right to access to education young girls have been prohibited, and young girls who were absolutely deprived of this right do not have the right to go to school and university to acquire knowledge. And the number of young people who

were studying left school because of disappointment, or the quality of the education system in Afghanistan became very negative, for this reason, a number of young people left school, which in itself is a negative setback and unfortunate effects on young people in Afghanistan.

By adopting this illogical and destructive decision by the Taliban group, they destroyed all the great achievements of the past in the field of education and made Afghanistan the only country in the world that suspended the access of girls and women to education. Afghanistan - or any other country - cannot progress if half of its population is not allowed to study and participate in public life.

Since September 2021, the return to School for all Afghan girls over the age of 12 have been indefinitely postponed leaving 1.1 million girls and young women without access to formal education. Currently, 80% of school - aged Afghan girls and young women – 2.5 million people are out of school. Nearly 30% of girls in Afghanistan have never entered primary education.

In December 2022, University Education for Women was suspended until further notice, affecting over 100, 000 female students attending government and private higher education institutions.

The number of women in higher education had increased almost 20 times during 2001 and 2018 and before the recent suspension one out of three young women were enrolled in universities

On International Day of Education (24 January), UNESCO is calling for an immediate and non - negotiable access to education and return to school for all girls and young women in Afghanistan.

Two years after the Taliban banned girls from school beyond sixth grade, Afghanistan is the only country in the world with restrictions on female education. Now, the rights of Afghan women and children are on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly Monday in New York.

The U. N. children's agency says more than 1 million girls are affected by the ban, although it estimates 5 million were out of school before the Taliban takeover due to a lack of facilities and other reasons.

The ban triggered global condemnation and remains the Taliban's biggest obstacle to gaining recognition as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan. But the Taliban defied the backlash and went further, excluding women and girls from higher education public spaces like parks, and most jobs. (*2 Years Ago, the Taliban Banned Girls from School. It's a Worsening Crisis for All Afghans | AP News*, n. d.)

Studying means becoming an expert in a favorite field, the problem of young people in this field is complicated and full of controversy. Many young people have grown up in war conditions and have not been able to study, and most of them are not even literate. Young people who have been able to at least go to school and complete the twelfth grade well. Now, it is not possible for them to continue their studies because of

the lack of universities, institutes and technical schools in the country, even though the universities are in a bad situation in terms of the quality of the courses and they only teach up to the bachelor's degree without a few specific faculties for the master's level. Kabul Polytechnic University, Kabul University and Shahid Sallelh University, this opportunity is also very small. A number of young people complain about foreign scholarships not being distributed in the ministries of Higher Education, Ministry of Information, Culture, "Deputy of Youth", Ministry of Education, Defense, Interior, etc. If they are candidates for the scholarship, their chances of success are less because the scholarships are already promised to the children of high - ranking government officials. Now, over two decades later, girls in Afghanistan have been banned from secondary school and women from tertiary education. Women and girls have been banned from entering amusement parks, public baths, gyms and sports clubs for four months. Women have been banned from working in NGO offices. Since the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban in August 2021, women have been wholly excluded from public office and the judiciary. Today, Afghanistan's women and girls are required to adhere to a strict dress code and are not permitted to travel more than 75 km without a mahram. They are compelled to stay at home (*Afghanistan: UN Experts Say 20 Years of Progress for Women and Girls' Rights Erased since Taliban Takeover* | OHCHR, n. d.)

e) Mental and psychological injuries

For many years, war and violence have had an adverse effect on the health and mental health of the society in Afghanistan, and the youth are most victims of violence and insecurity in Afghanistan. who have suffered a lot of mental and emotional damage. Part of the insecurity, which includes explosions and armed conflicts, has killed a large number of young people and made many disabled and injured, who are struggling with mental and psychological challenges. Even now, a large number of young people do not have mental and psychological security at home and outside. These insecurities, which include family violence, threats, insults and humiliation, can destroy the mental and psychological security of young people.

After the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in 2021, the mental condition of young girls and young boys became worse, because young women and girls are currently not allowed to work or study due to cultural restrictions and norms that lead to suffering and increasing depression among Afghan women lead. Even though the Taliban have promised to allow women to study and work freely, attacks have been reported against those who do. In Afghanistan, getting help for mental health is prevented, which only destroys the chance of help and thus leads to an increase in the suicide rate of women. For these reasons, many families do not report any suicide or attempted suicide in their family, either by men or women, meaning that not only cases are underreported, but gender is also underreported. (Tharwani et al., 2023)

The Taliban has said that 360 people committed suicide in the country last year, without offering any details. Unofficial figures that the number of female suicides has surged since 2021, when the Western - backed Afghan government collapsed. The World Health Organization revealed in 2018 that around 2 million Afghans - - out of a population of around

40 million - - suffered from mental distress. (*"Their Freedoms Have Been Taken Away": Afghanistan Sees Surge In Female Suicides Under Taliban Rule*, n. d.)

However, some citizens of the Afghanistan say that in the current situation of Afghanistan, many factors have caused mental disorders. According to them, the increase in poverty and unemployment, the lack of suitable facilities for living, the continuation of family violence and the exclusion of girls and women from education and work, have created a favorable environment for the spread of drug addiction and illegal immigration, and many families due to being away from their loved ones They have suffered from mental problems.

In addition to these factors, millions of girls and women who are deprived of education, and work have faced increasing violence in their families, and some girls have been forced to give in to forced and early marriages. These factors have also added to the mental health crisis in Afghanistan.

The lack of health treatment centers for mental health patients is considered one of the other factors of the increase of this disease in the country. At present, there is only one government mental health hospital in Kabul, and the patients of the provinces are also transferred to this hospital.

Expressing concern about the current situation, a health source told 8sobh newspaper that there are no facilities for the mentally ill and that even the Taliban want to treat drug addicts by force and torture, which is against the values of human rights and ethics. It is medicine. This source is due to the lack of health. (زندگی در سایه حاکمیت طالبان؛ بحران / روانی نیم جمعیت کشور نگران کننده است | روزنامه اصبح n. d.)

Girls and young women in Afghanistan are committing or attempting suicide in significantly higher numbers since the Taliban took control of the country and started restricting their movement and ratcheting back their right, according to doctors and international Organization.

The Taliban, despite promising to afford females more rights than under their previous hardline reign, quickly closed schools for girls and barred women from universities, most workplaces, national parks, and other public places. Women must be accompanied by a male chaperone when they go out in public. Girls are now educated only through sixth grade.

Dr. Shakib Ahmadi, a pseudonymous doctor at a mental health clinic in Afghanistan's western Herat province, told CNN in a report published Sunday that the number of female patients has surged 40% to 50% since the Taliban took over in 2021, and about 10% of them take their own lives. (*Afghanistan's Growing Female Suicide Problem* | *The Week*, n. d.)

d) Lack of freedom

Freedom is one of the basic and fundamental concepts in all societies, which is the cornerstone for access to all human rights. If a person does not have freedom, it means that he or she does not have rights; because through freedom, he or she can defend his lost rights. And that is why today the question

of freedom is the most important demand of the new era. Freedom is a very laudable concept and achieving freedom from restrictions and limitations is one of the most passionate. It is the ideals and ideals of human society. The discussion of freedom and its discussion is one of the current and needed issues of society. As in several decades of democracy in Afghanistan, young people lived freely, there were no serious restrictions on their behavior and actions. Young people could participate in important assemblies and meetings and had the right to express their opinion. But after the rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan; The youth suffered the most damage, they were suddenly deprived of the blessing of freedom, the most important freedoms such as: freedom of speech; Freedom of opinion; freedom in choosing clothes; Freedom in appearance; freedom to participate in demonstrations and other civil and political rights; were deprived

In April, the Taliban extended the ban on women working outside the home to include jobs with the UN, creating additional challenges in delivering humanitarian assistance. Bans remained on women working in the public sector, except in areas such as healthcare, primary education, or specific security institutions such as airports or women's prisons. Women were banned from appearing in public alone or travelling for more than 72km without a male chaperone. Beauty salons were forcibly closed, impacting some 60, 000 women - owned businesses, according to UN reports. The ban on women participating in sports activities, or visiting public parks, continued. In some provinces, the Taliban authorities reported introducing additional localized restrictions such as banning lone women from going to restaurants. Restrictions on girls' education expanded. In addition to the ban on girls' enrolment in education beyond primary school, international NGOs, including programs led by UNICEF, were banned from providing community - based education and were requested to transfer programs to local organizations. Nearly 4, 500 women were reportedly dismissed from jobs in education in June and July 2022.

e) Poverty and unemployment

Poverty means a situation where a person lacks a certain amount of material assets or money. Absolute poverty refers to a person not having access to the necessities of life, such as clean water, food, health services, education, clothing, and shelter. Today, it is estimated that about 1.7 billion people in the world live in absolute poverty.

Since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, ILO said that there have been huge losses in jobs and working hours. Women have been hit especially hard. By the middle of this year, it's expected that job losses will increase to nearly 700, 000 - with direct predictions topping 900, 000 - because of the crisis in Afghanistan and "restrictions on women's participation in the workplace".

Women's employment levels are already extremely low by global standards, but ILO said that they are estimated to have decreased by 16 per cent in the third quarter of 2021, and they could fall by between 21 per cent and 28 per cent by mid - 2022. The situation in Afghanistan is critical and immediate support for stabilization and recovery is required. Ramin Behzad, Senior Coordinator of the International Labor Organization (ILO) for Afghanistan said, "While the priority

is to meet immediate humanitarian needs, lasting and inclusive recovery will depend on people and communities having access to decent employment, livelihoods and basic services."

The ILO said after Taliban took over Afghanistan hundreds of thousands of job losses have been seen in several key sectors which have been "devastated". These include agriculture and the civil service, where workers have, either been let go or left unpaid. In construction, the sector's 538, 000 workers - of which 99 per cent are men - have suffered too, as major infrastructure projects have stalled. that teachers and health workers have been deeply impacted by the lack of cash in the economy, amid falling international donor support. As the crisis continues to unfold, ILO explained that the Taliban capture of Kabul on 15 August, threatened hard - fought development gains achieved over the past two decades. Domestic markets have been "widely disrupted", the UN agency said, while productive economic activity has dropped, which has in turn driven up production costs. (*Afghanistan - Youth Unemployment Rate 2013 - 2023 | Statista*, n. d.)

Young people in Afghanistan are facing severe unemployment and poverty after 2021. As most of the labor force in Afghanistan is made up of young people. All families in Afghanistan are consumers and the basic needs of the families are provided by the youth, so the youth are forced to provide the livelihood needs of their families. There are a significant number of young people who are forced to do hard work for low wages in order to earn monthly income for the survival of themselves and their families due to the lack of suitable places to work. There have been and are young people who travel illegally to foreign countries, especially neighboring countries, to work and risk their lives, which is worrying for the future of the country.

With the rule of the Taliban, not only that job opportunities for young people were not favorable, but a significant number of young people also lost their jobs, instead of them, non - professional people who are related to the Taliban were appointed. The lack of jobs and work for the youth of Afghanistan is known as a challenging issue, which causes many young people to be attracted to terrorist and extremist groups, which will be a great danger for the future peace and security of Afghanistan and the world.

f) - Forced Marriage

The issue of forced marriage means that the person does not consent to the marriage contract and has no intention of concluding it. From the customary point of view, when relatives - including parents - force people to marry despite the opposition or lack of consent of the parties or one of the parties, Victims of forced marriage are mostly girls, although boys in the family may also be victims of this type of coercion. Marriage is a natural event that has become a culture after the formation of the structure of human society. Today, marriage has become one of the most challenging issues facing young people, which are faced with problems due to poverty, scarcity and baseless ruling traditions. Marriage depends on various factors, which include the right to choose, lack of excessive expenses, lack of housing, unemployment, not being ready mentally and physically, and dozens of other things that play an essential role in forming a proper family.

The other is the lack of understanding between the boy and the girl, which is controversial for the future of both of them and even for their families, and this issue should be seriously considered before marriage. It has been said: "First fill the hive with precious stones, then lust after the woman", but according to the youth, filling the hive in the current conditions of Afghanistan is a very difficult task and at the same time very time-consuming.

Youths and adolescents in Afghanistan are one of the main victims of this illegal practice, every day many young girls and boys are forced to marry without their consent and desire. Despite the introduction of laws and regulations over the past century aimed at limiting or eradicating this practice, they have not achieved the desired level of success. The Taliban's widespread violation of the human rights of girls and women has exacerbated this issue, leading to an increase in early and forced marriages, especially after they took power in 2021. This alarming trend raises questions about violations of human rights. The persistence of forced marriage can be attributed to its acceptance within the cultural customs of Afghan society, rendering legislative measures ineffective in reducing its prevalence. The issue is particularly prominent in rural and illiterate communities, where cultural and religious factors contribute to the acceptance and normalization of forced marriage as a long-standing tradition.

After the Taliban came back to power in Afghanistan the scope of poverty and hunger, unemployment and migration has expanded unprecedentedly. The revenge of the Taliban against the soldiers and employees of the previous government, civil activists, journalists and political activists against this group has taken away the proper living space and mental health from the people. Prohibiting women from working and applying increasing restrictions against them are among other things that have added to the deterioration of the human condition and psychological problems of citizens. In the latest case, the World Health Organization said that half of the population of Afghanistan suffers from mental anxieties. An official of this organization emphasized in a meeting in Vienna that mental anxieties among 50% of the Afghan population are worrying. The World Health Organization said that eight million people in Afghanistan are struggling with mental health problems. Meanwhile, Afghanistan has recently been recognized as the saddest country in the world. In the 15 months after the Taliban came to power, there has been a significant increase in early marriages of Afghan girls; The reason why families and parents force their daughters to marry early is to prevent them from marrying members of the Taliban group. And on the other hand, due to the bad economic situation that prevailed in the families, they cannot provide food for the young girls, so it forces them to get married. (*Afghans Increasingly Marrying Off Young Daughters To Avoid Forced Unions With Taliban*, n. d.)

In my opinion, if serious attention is not paid to the problems that prevent young people from marrying, moral corruption will increase in society and cause social order to break down, and it will also cause an increase in AIDS and sexual assaults. Because a young man is bound to commit any indecent acts to complete the marriage fee and satisfy his lust.

2. Conclusion

After the Taliban came back to power in Afghanistan in August 2021, the situation suddenly changed and all the achievements of several decades of democracy in the field of women's rights, human rights and youth rights were destroyed, which caused serious damage to the Afghan society. Since the majority of Afghanistan's population is the young generation, in several decades of democracy, they played fundamental and fundamental roles in protecting human rights and individual freedoms, and unfortunately, when the Taliban government came to power, these young people suffered the most damage. In irrational actions and orders, the Taliban prohibited young girls from going to school and universities, contrary to all national and international laws. Also, the negative consequences of the rule of the Taliban group over the youth in Afghanistan can be seen from cases such as youth dropping out of school; tendency of youth and teenagers to extreme groups; escape of young people; unemployment; Removal of youth from politics; Significant increase in poverty and unemployment among Afghan youth; forcing young girls into forced marriage without their consent or their parents' consent; In summary, we can say that with the rule of the Taliban group in Afghanistan, a large number of young people have been affected by mental and psychological diseases, even a number of young people have committed suicide.

3. Recommendations

- 1) Youth are the backbone of a society; the youth have a fundamental role to ensure peace and tranquility in a country. They should be in the political arena. culture; have an essential economic role
- 2) young men and women to access their basic human rights, from the right to access to education; the right to freedom; The right to work should make serious efforts to fight through national and regional gatherings and meetings until the Taliban gives in to their legitimate will.
- 3) International organizations and institutions that support human rights and support democracy should take a practical and valuable step to restore the rights of the youth of Afghanistan and put pressure on the Taliban and extremist groups so that more young people do not become victims.
- 4) Young writers and scholars should reflect the problems and sufferings of Afghan youth to the world through national and international conferences in order to access their rights.

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