

Introduction

We are living in a world of abundance. God has given us natural resources to enjoy every day of life in this world. Though the whole world has its own kind of dynamic structures the ingredients of people and nature are the same and the cooperation and interdependence between these two maintains the cycle of life. However, the dominant ideology of human which presupposes that humans are superior has led to the consequence that human beings believe that all things in this world are subject to human consumption, thus favoring the idea of consumerism into human minds. This manner of greedy consumption leads to crisis, hunger and poverty. In this essay I make an attempt to explore how society can recover its wellbeing amidst contemporary consumption based food and energy crisis.

Consumption with compassion

1.6 billion people – a quarter of humanity, live without electricity and approximately 790 million people in the developing world are still chronically undernourished¹. However, the basic truth lies that every human in this world has the right to live with sufficient food. In reality, the majority of the world population is seen to have been always living in poverty and hunger, and ironically, this majority does not have any right to alter their destiny amidst the suppressing global economic orders. On the other hand, the remaining minority of the world are living in abundance, enjoying everyday life amidst unimaginable luxury. If one tries to decode this mystery of imbalance and inequality, one would eventually be thrown out the dominant system of global politics. Everyone knows the reason of this inequality and nobody really seems to be wanting to change the existing system. None of us dare to think beyond money.

In this context, it is our duty to ensure good life to our neighbors and the remaining creation. Compassion for neighbors and the remaining creation can be viewed as one of the solutions to resolve this crisis. We have realized that compassion is one of the powerful forces driving human beings to experience one another's pain. When one feels the pain of one's neighbor, what automatically follows, is an action to resolve the crisis. A compassionate heart is the source of goodwill and the cradle of positive change. Contemporary world has lost the value of compassion and is thriving in selfishness. Here we are discussing about the need for an attitudinal change in each and every person of the world to help one another and to share what we have with others in need. Compassion initiates transformation in a person, and continuous transformation results in the embellishment of the quality of life in society. Compassion is the prerequisite for being called human. Any human without compassion is not a human and whatever political, economical or social order without space for compassion is like vacuum. Be compassionate, consume with compassion, consider everyone in the world while laying development agendas, and lead the change.

Policy making with commitment

Policy makers are more responsible for global policies. Commitment of policy makers is the backbone of the world since we live in a political world. They should be committed to the welfare of people. They should be away from vested interests, political agendas and power clashes. The main cause of the current crisis is selfish policies of policy makers. Because uncommitted policy makers come to power for name and fame with great scholarship, family background and political influence, many of them never have experienced, or are ready to understand the real pain of any issue they are dealing with.

¹ <http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats>

Therefore, it is quite clear that the education, experience and achievements are an additional qualification where commitment is the prerequisite of policy making. When they commit themselves to the ideals of a just world in which all are living with peace, justice and equality, the world will live in peace and prosperity.

I have a fine illustration to quote. The Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh wanted to sign a nuclear deal with the US to meet the energy needs of India. However, majority of the political parties opposed the deal as part of their trivial politics in the name of "saving fraternity of India". At the end of the high drama, Dr. Singh's coalition government was ready to face the challenge and he even took up the risk of losing power to sign this agreement. In the Parliament, before the vote of confidence he submitted his response to the house (since the members did not allow him to read it), in which he stated, "Every day that I have been Prime Minister of India I have tried to remember the first ten years of my life which were spent in a village with no drinking water supply, no electricity, no hospitals, no roads, and nothing that we today associate with modern living. I had to study in the dim light of a kerosene oil lamp. This nation gave me the opportunity to ensure that such would not be the life of our children in the foreseeable future." His personal commitment for the welfare of people single handedly made the agreement. And the not-so-good example from the US is the unwillingness to implement Kyoto protocol clearly depicting the selfish mentality of US policy makers. What a terrible example of their being uncommitted to humanity!

Conclusion

Compassion and commitment is the need of the day. Whether an ordinary man or a powerful policymaker, all are required to touch their heart and check whether they have compassion for the starving child in Africa and the dying people in Asia? These two binding qualities are the basics in order to contribute to the well being of life in the society. We have adequate money, multitude of resources and millions of people, yet no heart to help one another. If people and policy makers work together with commitment and compassion, then the crisis-free, human-centered development is possible with equal sharing and joy for all amidst this entire crisis because ALWAYS WE CAN