

Diffusion and Trapping of the Peacebuilding Concept: Conflict between Integration and Human Rights Caused by Terrorism

YAMADA Mitsuru*

In Afghanistan, February 15, 2022 marks exactly six months since the Islamist Taliban brought down the Afghan regime. The international community's sanctions against the Taliban regime have prompted the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to report that about 24 million people are in a state of severe hunger, of which 8.7 million people fall under the category of emergency hunger (WFP news release of Nov. 8, 2021).

The Taliban has been designated as an international terrorist organization subject to sanctions as a threat to international peace and security in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1267. Given the fact that the Taliban has seized power, it cannot be recognized as a legitimate government by the international community, and it is only natural to impose various sanctions, including economic sanctions, on the Taliban.

On the other hand, the international community is truly concerned, and we must separate humanitarian needs from political debate. The lives of Afghans, innocent Afghans and children have been completely changed through no fault of their own. Peacebuilding is initiated by the United Nations to prevent the recurrence of conflicts in post-conflict states in light of the many international and regional conflicts that occurred after the Cold War.

The role of the international community is not to be a free rider in realizing the global public good of "peace," but to support each other as its own problem. In this paper, I would like to consider how terrorism, which threatens "peace" as a new threat to the current international community, can be viewed within the framework of peacebuilding. In other words, the author may be ignoring the reality that the formation of peace through the approach among sovereign states actually deprives innocent people of their daily lives. This means that we should rethink what international peace is.

*AAIJ member

Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, Waseda University

What Grameen Bank have Brought into Poor People: Dividing the Poor into Few Successful Persons and Many Multiple Debtors

WANIBE Yukitaka *

This study aims to clarify Grameen Bank have actually caused serious disparity and alienation among its members ,where some members are reaching the small rich class, others going into multiple debts while the founder, Muhammad Yunus emphasized its social policy of eradicating poverty by using microfinance.

The analysis begins by surveying some ethnographic studies conducted by critical researchers of microfinance such as Aminur Rahman, Lamia Karim etc. They revealed its members suffered from severe tasks of paying back while reducing the expense of their meals and selling their small assets.

As the next step, the author analyzed the bank's financial reports from 1983 to 2019 and found out the bank have devoted itself on capitalistic activities to win hard competitions among microfinance institutions. The Bank contributed to the development of capitalism in Bangladesh as one of the effective financial tools, preferring economic success to its social target.

On the basis of the results, it is certain that Grameen Bank plays an important role for the development of the informal economy in Bangladesh and microfinance is useful for some powerful women who have business resources and ability to handle it. But many of members are caught in a debt trap, becoming multiple debtors because they are locked in the microfinance system where they have to make every effort to pay principals and interests on due dates, sacrificing their daily life and important assets, or increasing another loans. It can be said this condition is reflected by the spread of the social disparity and from the view point of Karl Marx's idea, members seem to be in reification where they can't control their own life.

Therefore, microfinance has not only positive effects of promoting capitalism but also negative effects, such as making the poor multiple debtor. We should be aware the impact of microfinance has such two different aspects and it is high time to reconsider the role and the effect of microfinance.

* AAIJ member

Doctoral Program, Graduate School of Sociology, Hosei University