

Moral Decadence of Youths and Its Impacts

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Around 30 per cent of the total population of Bangladesh is youth. It is a big challenge to maintain and bolster this large number of people properly.

Unfortunately, a significant percentage of the youth is being affected by moral decadence. It causes many social problems and sadly, the scenario is worsening day by day. So, as a part of the society, everyone should concentrate on the moral decadence among the youths and find the solution to reduce it.

Nowadays, everyone is facing various problems in Bangladesh mostly because of the moral decadence among the youths. Moral decadence, as a process, starts within the family and ends, for the worst cases, in the international arena beyond the country. Akayed Ullah can be a good example who has been accused of the bomb attack in the New York subway. Now it's not uncommon in Bangladesh that parents regret failing to control their children, teachers regret failing to control their students and leaders regret failing to control their own political followers. As a result, we see chaos everywhere starting from family and eventually to larger occurrences happening within the country.

So the question is why everyone is experiencing the same problem? The answer is moral decadence among the youth which is creating problems in every step of our lives. There are many causes behind the rise of moral decadence such as breaking promises, less practice of values, changes in people's behaviour and needs, decreased practice of ethical instructions, breaking the kinships, politicisation and changes in political norms, corruption, unemployment, drug addiction and cultural assault and dominance by foreign culture and so on. If we expect to bring back happiness and peace in our society as well as in our country, it is high time we controlled these activities which are causing moral decadence among the youth.

The impact of the moral decadence is indescribable. If we compare the social trends of the early 1990s with that of late 2010s, we can see the drastic change. It is easily identifiable by the criminal activities and records filed in different police stations around the country. As an example; in the 1990s, the crime of rape was very limited in number and even in a month, there was no news of any rape incident. But now, it is very common in the daily newspapers and the possibility of getting news on rape is more than once per day. Thus, the increase in criminal activities indicates that moral decadence has been developing fiercely in Bangladesh.

The family is one of the most important part of our lives as we are closely involved in it from our birth till death. So, in case of any decadence, the family gets affected first and the most. If anyone does anything wrong which is related to moral decadence, people usually start gossiping about the whole family and they consider that the family was not good enough at providing

proper guidance and values to the accused. Under this circumstance, the accused also start creating a gap with the other family members. Thus, the conflict between the family members starts.

Naturally, anyone does not like chaos. Everybody wants to ensure success and happiness which may get hampered because of the chaos. So, the independent and progressive members of the family, especially the married ones, start thinking about getting separated so that they can live happily in any other place. At one stage, the parents lose the control and the young adults take their decisions by their own. Eventually, the families get broken into small parts and in some worst cases, there remains none who can take care of the aged, elderly persons. Moreover, the families whose one member gets involved in any evil act, they go through a tougher time span as they are to face criticism, endure disrespect, lose kinships, confront legal issues and tolerate community-based judgments. To be honest, these cannot be thought of by anyone, not even in their darkest nightmares.

Everyone lives in a society and has to follow the rules and regulations of the respective society. Society teaches people etiquette and manners and also the limits in terms of attitude, interaction, behaviour and relationships. As a part of the society, anyone cannot and should not cross the limits. Whenever anyone crosses those limits, people consider it evil arising from decadence.

Unfortunately, this is very harsh time for the society as the members of the society are basically in a competition in crossing the limits. Currently, it is a common phenomenon that many people are getting involved in chaos in the name of freedom, values, religion, politics etc. For example: recently there were some news about the gang war among teenage boys in Uttara, Dhaka which happened in the name of leadership and domination. In the earlier stage, nobody was bothered enough about these reckless activities of the teenagers. But no sooner had the boys killed one of their opponents than the law enforcement agencies as well as their parents and teachers became shocked and tried altogether to control the gang war of the boys at Uttara.

Definitely, this example is one of the most shocking results of moral decadence among the youth. The decadent youths forget to practice values rather they give utmost priority to their enjoyment and dominating attitude. They do not listen to their parents, teachers, and the elders. They consider them as the kings of their own lives and continue doing mistakes.

This is not the scenario of Uttara only; this is how the youths are involving themselves in criminal activities throughout the country. It also causes social chaos and inspires criminal activities. The youths who are involved in these kinds of activities do not continue their study in many cases; rather they often get involved in evil activities like eve-teasing, taking and trafficking drugs under political identity, political fights, kidnapping, blackmailing, question leaking of different board examinations and recruitment tests etc. All these happen because of the moral decadence of the youths and unfortunately, the occurrences are increasing rapidly. This is making the society insecure and uncomfortable for the living.

It is usual that whatever change, either positive or negative, happens in the society always has significant impacts on the country. The people who were born before the 1990s can realise the extent of social changes and its impacts. There was a time when political leaders used to feel proud in serving the country as well as the people. But now we witness so many complaints and scandals against the political leaders and activists. It is only happening as a result of social decadence.

Now, it is too easy to be involved in criminal activities. Bribery and corruption are very common phenomena now in Bangladesh. In the worst cases, people believe that without the bribe, no particular task can be done. At present, professional killers kill someone even for few thousands of money. Militant's activities are a big warning for the safety of the people and the biggest challenge for the law enforcement agencies to control it. Unfortunately, the youths are getting enormously involved in these activities and the same youths who could become the blessings for the country, are creating many barriers to the country just because of moral decadence. Moral decadence amongst the youth is a dreadful disease for any country. It causes many criminal activities as well as barriers to the development of the country. It is high time everyone took necessary initiatives to stop spreading this alarming disease. Families can strengthen ties among the family members and practise good manners and values that can be exemplary. Teachers and elders can discuss the ethical, religious and patriotic issues with the youths so that they can properly justify their activities and can dream of a better future. Society can create awareness programme against the illegal and harmful activities. The society also can create such an environment where the youths can share their issues through interactions with their dearest and close ones. The government should come forward to help the youths so that they can protect themselves from moral decadence. The government can ensure education, employment and secure lives and dreams of the youths which can encourage them to think positively. Besides this, the government should work on engaging the youths in traditional Bengali cultural activities, ensuring safety in using the internet, practicing ethics and morality among the youths and political activists, raising awareness to monitor the activities of the youths and to create an active and interactive pedagogy. The most important initiative is that the government should ensure controlling decadence among the youths by engaging the law enforcement agencies to monitor and help the youths who have the previous record of delinquency or illegal works. In addition, the law enforcement agencies can create such an environment where the youths will consider them safe enough and trustworthy to interact. The youths are the assets of any country but they easily become a burden if they are affected by the decadence. One should not forget that today's youths are the future leaders and the artisans to build the nation tomorrow. If everyone can ensure a peaceful and progressive life for the youths which is free from moral decadence, they will bring pride to the nation in the international arena and will ensure the social and economic development of the country.

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