

"AFRICA'S UNDERDEVELOPMENT WITH THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE & COLONIALISM

Geeta sahare, Polly

Professor, Researcher

Delhi University

Abstract

Social and economic deprivations of citizens led to civil uprisings in Northern Africa in the late 2010-11. Civil uprisings in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya forced their leaders to step down and gave a warning sign to all African leaders who overstayed in governance. Considering the importance of transparency and accountability in government, this study mainly focuses on the social and political upheaval in the North African countries. Instrument of data collection are internet, newspapers, books and journals.

Introduction

Civil uprisings in several Northern African nations like Tunisia, Libya and Egypt spread like a forest fire and it happened because of the socio-economic and political deprivations faced by the citizens due to the leadership at the top of the political helm. Change was demanded because the leaders had overstayed in power. 23 years of rule by Ben Ali of Tunisia, 30 years by Egypt's Hosni Mubarak and 42-year rule of Muammar Gaddafi. These countries faced sharp decline in their GDP which led to huge unemployment and political repressions (**Shah, 2011**).

Human rights were nowhere to be found in these countries during the tenure of corrupted leaders. Tortures of civilians, arbitrary killings of protesters demanding change, incarceration of the citizens were the instruments of oppression. Suicide of the Tunisian man who faced police harassment and socio-economic deprivation clearly highlighted the prevailing socio-economic inequalities and political oppression. The prevailing system encouraged insecurity, poverty and corrupt practices. Islamic practices were blended with the political system and theocratic system of governance was the result of this.

It is to be noted that the immediate cause of social unrest was the economic deprivation which caused poverty, unemployment but the main cause was the socio-cultural practices which led to marginalisation of one another, oppression, self-aggrandisement by the political elites, etc. High cost of living, poor infrastructure, huge unemployment dictatorial tendencies of the government, corruption were the main factors of uprisings (**Dabash, 2012**). Take the example of Tunisia where civilian uprisings spread like wildfire and the reason for this was the youth unemployment created by the disassociated and deprived social practice. Similar was the case with the Egyptian and Libyan youths. On December 17th, 2010, a young Tunisian named Mohammed Bouaziz poured petrol on himself and sets himself ablaze in front of Tunisian regional governor's office. He had an MBA degree and despite that was selling fruits. Police brutality highlighted the sorry state of government functioning. Tunisian people rose against the atrocious nature of the government. Bouaziz died an agonising death after three weeks in hospital, but triggered the protests that led to the downfall of President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali (**BBC News, 2010**).

Social unrest impacted Libya, Egypt and other Arabian countries in the Middle East and it led to the death of scores of people at the hands of police and other government agencies. The Bouaziz's plight echoed the hapless fate of some thousands young Arab citizens – those who were deceived by the promises of higher education, but end-up frustrated by their visionless, un-productive and corrupt power elites of westernallied regimes (**Al Jazeera English, 2011**). The reason was the inefficiency of the corrupt regimes to provide relief to the masses from the impact of high inflation and high youth unemployment. Repression of the thoughts and opinions by the dictatorial regimes echoed in these uprisings.

The accentuated anger of the citizens exploded into massive protest. Protest of partially successful in Tunisia and Egypt. Such protests then crept into other countries which were impacted with the similar historical situations. The increasing gap between the rules and the marginalised members of the citizenries exploded in Bahrain, Djibouti, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Mauritania, Oman, Palestinian, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan,

Syria, Western Sahara, Yemen, etc. Leaders of these nations were defined as illegitimate and corrupt. Monarchies, religious republics and dictatorship ruled the political spectrum in these countries. These regimes also got support from the developed nations because of their selfish interests (**Defend Democracy.org. 2011**).

Protests were peaceful initially but became violent in the face of attack by government machinery. These protests demanded social change. Freedom of speech, political participation, accountable government, etc. were demanded by the protesting citizens. Another factor was the emergence of a new class of businessmen who had connections and links with the leaders. Further, guaranteed loyalties by blood ties and communalism led to despotism. Ruling families and their cronies were amassing wealth and leaving the masses to live in poverty.

According to the World Bank report, 60 % of the people were living under below poverty line. Western support also created immediate problems. Western nations had their eyes on the resources and where there was no resources, neighbouring countries may have to help to secure energy access (**Kaberuka and al Jazeera, 2011**). Investment was very low in these nations but they allowed free trade on an unprecedented level. Every social sector which had direct impact on the living conditions of the masses was drained out of any investment. Foreign pressures were leading to the adoption of neo-liberal policies but the population at home suffered. Sudden rise in food prices led to widespread impoverishment on the citizens in Tunisia (**English.aljazeera.net.2010**).

Similar was the case with the Egyptian economy. IMF and World Bank proposed restructuring of economy of Egypt which led to catastrophic consequences. When Egypt cut-off food subsidies in 1990, it led to riots because Egypt's food dependence on importation from the West. IMF led policies created high food inflation in Egypt because financial markets turned to speculating means of transaction (**English.aljazeera.net, 2011**). Due to the adoption of neo-liberal policies, poverty and unemployment rose. Applaud of Egypt by the international institution clearly indicates us how the international financial institutions control a particular country's economy. International financial institution heaped praise on tight fiscal and monetary response of Egypt imposed aftermath of 2008 global financial crisis with the objective of reducing fiscal deficit following its inflation that arose beyond 13 percent; which created an extreme difficult situation for the millions of Egyptians (**Kaberuka and al Jazeera, 2011**).

Similarly, the Libyan government was praised by IMF when it gave boost to private sector economy. Weeks before the civil uprising against the Gaddafi's regime, IMF praised Egypt for its ambitious programme of bank privatisation and a strong financial sector development. This was done to attract foreign investment. Since 1990s, Tunisia, Egypt and Libya had started following the directions of IMF. Autocratic rules of these nations were praised by the West and the international financial institutions (World Bank, 2000).

Statement of the Problem

The unfolding socio-political and economic events of Northern Africans assumed a much more than just a mere response to the autocratic rule of their countries. Widespread misery, high food inflation and high youth unemployment attracted the reaction of the masses (Dirk, 2011: 4-5). People simply revolted against the bad socio-political practices and neo-liberal policies proposed by the international financial institutions. Similar thing also happened in Venezuelan Caracazo in 1989. IMF led neo-liberal policies were responsible for the revolt. The whole North African region also entered into the same socio-political awakening 20 years after the Latin America's EL Caracazo. The region experienced an Arab version of revolutionary turning point against decades of plunder, exploitation, neo-liberal privatisation and ruthless restructuring of IMF, World Bank, and their despot rulers (**National Post, 2011**).

Conceptual Analysis

Uprisings in Northern African countries were the result of historical socio-cultural traditions that resulted in a defective socio-political structure. This historical socio-cultural tradition produced an environment of social deprivation, human rights violation. Religion also turned the citizens to slaves. Religion was used by the political leaders to promote their interests. Women and youth rights were denied. These regressive practices were further transmitted to the young ones. It can be said that the 2010.11 civil unrests were the result of growing awareness among the citizens that their leaders were misgoverning their regions (Adedoyin, 2011).

It is important to note that every human tradition is forged from ideas, goals and interests. Each tradition has its own unique normative features and practical interests. Every tradition moves through space and time. Tradition can be socially important but it can be modified. People of Arab world had not seen any drastic change similar to the protestant reformation of Europe but today they agitated in order to fight against the challenges of modernity (Voll, 1982: 3-4). Voices from different sections of the society highlights only one thing and that is that the structure of governance in the North African region is not democratic.

Concept of governance has been defined by UPDP (1995: 2-5) in relation to sustainable human development. To put it another way, effective governance entails a framework for public administration based on the rule of law, the impartiality and efficiency of the judicial system, and widespread citizen participation in the process of governing and being governed. It guarantees economical harmony, soundness and advancement. It is a component where the components of social orders use force, authority and impact. It mirrors the job of public experts in making financial structure and settling on choices to help disseminations, just as nature of connections between the legislatures and oversees. It has the accompanying credits: responsibility, productivity and adequacy, free legitimate system, mindful and impartial organization at all degrees of government. It is a more extensive idea that incorporates authoritative designs and exercises of focal, local and neighbourhood governments. Others are parliament, legal, associations and people that contained common social orders and private areas; which are effectively taking an interest and impacting the state of the public strategies. Majority rule administration involves foundations, cycles and customs that decide how force is being worked out, or how choices are taken and residents can express their opinion.

According to the World Bank (2000:48), governance is the ability of an institution to provide services needed by residents or representatives in an effective, transparent, impartial, and accountable manner, notwithstanding resource limits. The clear lack of public participation and official responsibility in governance would result in severe social unfairness and gross mismanagement.

In terms of transparency in government procedures and processes, effective governance entails greater accountability of public authorities (politicians and civil workers) Olukoshi (2001:26-27). It is a purposeful assault on degenerate practices, consistency in government and sick political conduct, unreasonable government choices, lose-lose contests, unseemly examining of government exchanges, regulatory formality, pointless managerial controls to plug roads for lease chasing... establishment for balanced governance inside the public authority structures, decentralization of government, regard for common liberties, legal independence and law and order.

Be that as it may, the most profound main driver of financial disappointment in the Northern African nations or social orders today, isn't about absence of assets or worldwide disconnection, rather, it is the absence of good administration. To be sensible, the Northern African financial framework requires a fitting government strategy cultivating on legitimate use of assets and ventures. It requires administrations and organizations that work on human resources, cultivate social trust, and along these lines, animating creation and trade. Every one of these are results of acceptable administration or appropriate administration.

For instance, the Tunisians and Egyptians live underneath the World Bank's destitution levels because of terrible administration. The wide spread of degenerate practices in administration deteriorates their circumstances. That was the reason Albert (2003:23) states that:

the problems created by the leaders could be direct or indirect. The direct ones are where these leaders do fail to put the necessary infrastructure of peace in place, no jobs for the youths, no electricity light, etc. The absence of these entire infrastructures transforms the society into an assembly of frustrated men and women, who could be easily provoked into violent acts borne out of their frustration.

On sexual orientation uniformity, the Northern African ladies are socio-political impeded in for all intents and purposes every one of the exercises of human existence or social layers; be it, in administration, financial and socio-social undertakings, and so on Their practices consider men to be better being look at than ladies who ought to be controlled and rectified by their male partners. Their practices hold esteemed situations for men to the detriment of ladies. Idumwonyi (2002:92):

the intimidations forced their women to be passive. The Islamic and Christianity injunctions restrict their women to some certain issues on equal rights. Marriage agreement becomes a 'sanction of prostitution' for women. Their new masters require their attentions at any time. They must be 'met at home', as well as dancing to their husband tunes. They have been efficiently exploited to the extents that their immense contributions to the nation's economy are not given much

recognition. They have limited access to positions in the authority, and find it difficult to invest on socio-political activities like their men counterparts.

They endure life-undermining impact/social works on camouflaging under socio-cultural conformity and strict convictions (Adegbelemi, 1997:20). In some African countries ladies in general have lower social and monetary status contrast with men. They endure brunt of social imbalances previously, during and after uprisings. Which means, the strengthening of ladies and youth is a fundamental component of human improvement target like destitution decrease. That was the reason, numerous ladies turned-out in mass dissent against awful administration in Egypt and Tunisia.

Theoretical Analysis

The fundamental human necessities are character, physical, mental, social, profound, and so forth needs, and giving admittance to one and denying or frustrating admittance to another would make individuals resort to savagery. Human requirements for endurance, insurance, love, getting, interest, imagination, character, and so forth are shared by individuals; and are powerful. Individuals have parts like acknowledgment, personality, security and independence, and reinforced with the provisions that can't surrender effectively regardless of how a political or social framework attempts to baffle or smother them. This hypothesis distinguishes needs hardship as a wellspring of contention and frailty. As such, political uniformity is a fundamental standard of vote-based system; and any type of limited establishment encroaches the guideline of correspondence (Adedoyin, 2011).

The Northern African nations need an arrangement of administration that digs in everyone's socio-political and monetary rights. Their arrangement of administration needs to travel from totalitarianism or tyrant practices to genuine popularity-based practices (Adedoyin, 2011:35). The North African nations need people-oriented genuine administration in the 21st century if their point and destinations on financial advancement will be accomplished. The "excellence" of responsive administration obliges oppositional sees, division of forces, general feelings, analysis, opportunity of press, adaptability, unhindered worker's organization and basic liberties' exercises, tranquil difference in political pioneers after races, opportunity of affiliation and get together, and so forth.

The people's uprisings that spread across the Arab world quickly since late 2010 to 2011 were because of poor socio-political and monetary institutional constructions that finished into tyrant systems and initiative's falls in North Africa. The Arab world's socio-political uprisings since late 2010 had called for genuine worldwide socio-political partners' considerations on basic freedoms and security. Political will and socio-economic participation is very essential to remove inequality.

Recommendations:

The accompanying advances are recommended for the practical harmony and improvement in the Northern African locale. The Arab states need to notice the standards of basic liberties and law and order. The support of harmony and security in the locale requires a genuine popularity-based arrangement of administration. These means are wanted to limit unending political unrests and uprisings in the locale. Until now, the accompanying explicit suggestions are proffered:

- law and order and Justice where there is balanced governance, equity under the watchful eye of the law, incomparability of the state's law;
- genuine democratic practices;
- peacebuilding and human security;
- straightforwardness/general responsibility and severe enemy of degenerate practices campaign;
- partition of religion's issues from the state's undertakings;
- business openings; and
- sex affectability where the females will be given appropriate acknowledgment and openings like their male partners.

Conclusion:

From the previous record, it is obvious that the Northern African arrangement of administration needs a change from the tyrant practices to a genuine framework. Inconvenience of political pioneers or gatherings should be relics of past times, on the grounds that, the exercises of the innovators in administration fail to impress anyone. The political initiated viciousness should be finished. There is need for socio-political re-examining and re-direction, since, life isn't about legislative issues of sharpness and narrow-mindedness. It is tied in with making life more significant to the residents. Legislative issues ought to be considered as administration to mankind, and not a road to smother the interests of others. The political partners in administration should utilize the commands of individuals for progress and advancement, and not intended for individual improvement or overconfident. Their states need a genuine popularity-based arrangement of administration that didn't without their way of life, yet against their dictatorship. Administration ought to be an instrument that ensures an amiable climate where the goals and legitimate exercises are completed openly without terrorizing or suppression. The issues of political minimization, lopsided dissemination of assets, helpless administration, degenerate practices, nonattendance of law and order, political and appointive brutality, sex inclination, joblessness, and so forth should be finished. Thus, the 2010-2011 North African's uprisings should fill in as examples for those pioneers who have exceeded in power. The African culture requests rights opportunity, social considerations, political interests and voices, human security, responsibility and straightforwardness, and so forth in the 21st century.

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