Project Phase II: Critique Writing

SS-1004 English Composition and Comprehension

Name: Hammad Javaid Roll number: i21-1661

This article titled “ **Afghanistan: Humanitarian crisis** ” authored by Dr. Syed Akhtar Ali Shah discusses the Taliban government's characteristics, the current state of human security in Afghanistan. This article was published by The Express Tribune on October 29 2021. The author has a PHD in Political Sciences and is a practising lawyer. The writer starts the article with statistical information referring to the state of insecurity faced by Afghan inhabitants. The entire account revolves around issues faced by people in Afghanistan and the current situation of Afghanistan under the Taliban rule. The writer explains the humanitarian issues in Afghanistan and also describes in detail the impact it has on the locals and provides facts about the country which gives solid evidence on how the country’s ongoing state is a disaster. It also grabs the reader's attention as the topic starts with quite a problematic view on the situation. In view of the current humanitarian crisis, the writer advises that the international community should turn towards a united front to help the people of Afghanistan.

Human security refers to people-centric policies designed to safeguard them against insecurity that could jeopardise their lives and safety. Traditional security measures provide such protection, while government institutions are in charge of creating the environment for a society's growth and development. These qualities are not only ideas; they are what motivate people to contribute to building socioeconomic conditions that protect human security. The nature of human insecurities in Afghanistan requires this contextual definition of human security to be clearly articulated. Following the 2001 Bonn Agreement, Afghanistan's republic system collapsed and since the Taliban took over in this past August, the humanitarian emergency there has now become even more dire. This article outlines the most pressing issues because of which the country now faces a humanitarian and identity crisis. Long-term conflict and the never-ending instability, combined with the recent political upheaval and humanitarian and economic crisis, have caused fear among a major portion of the Afghan population. The government's restrictions have already produced fear and a loss of motivation among the educated class, young, and women since the Talibans assumed control of Kabul. In addition to this, a perceived - or in this case real - loss of power and freedom impedes people from utilizing humanitarian and development projects to effectively build their human capital and agency, leading to a loss of security.

The writer follows this up with an interview statement from a young school going girl about how the contemporaneous has affected her life and taken away many opportunities as the basic right of education has also been taken away from her helps to engage the reader emotionally. In the beginning of the paragraph the writer has described her feelings before her statement to help the reader understand her words better. The current Taliban caretaker government includes their old guard [filling up the](https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/07/asia/taliban-government-announcement-intl/index.html) high ranks, the vast majority of them Pashtun, there are no available positions for other ethnic groups, women, and minorities. This has highlighted the Taliban’s neglect of the civil and political rights of the population and demonstrates their refusal to compromise. In addition, Taliban restrictions on women — which include political restrictions regarding women in [government](https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/19/asia/afghanistan-women-government-jobs-intl-hnk/index.html), NGOs and the education sector — will severely impact citizens’ motivation to work and contribute effectively to country-building. Furthermore, the author includes statistics and references of numerous authentic organisations’ reports which tells us how extremely unfortunate the Afghan locals are. In short, apart from one-third of the population facing food insecurity, more than half a million people have been internally displaced as a result of the current state of affairs. Food insecurity is a result of frequent droughts over the last three years, and the recent disorder is expected to exacerbate the situation. In addition to this, the writer adds that as a consequence of COVID-19, 72% of the country’s population is below the poverty line and 90% of the total is living on less than $2 a day.

This author is biased in this article as he only mentions the present catastrophic events of Afghanistan but fails to add that since the US army left Afghan soil after nearly two decades, there is to some extent a creation of a sense of security finally. Although the ongoing situation in Afghanistan couldn't get worse, there can be restoration of peace in the once war-torn Afghanistan and the writer clearly fails to raise this point. Anyways, this article is well researched and informative because it includes studies from globally known organisations. The intended audience of this article is the general public and includes almost every human being because the general purpose of this article is to raise voice against the deteriorating condition of the newly freed country. On the other hand, it is inappropriate for an author to offer his rhetoric on such a matter of global importance. However, the author concludes by referring to John Donne who says “ No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent. ” This means that in this globalised world, a crisis in one part of the world takes little time in making its impact felt in distant regions all over the globe to which I totally agree with the author on all fronts. Although the writer was very informative but failed to mention even a single solution to the ongoing dilemma or if even the current government is accomplished enough to solve the problems they are faced with.

The USA during and after its 20 year stay has affected the country in such a negative manner that the ruin will surely be felt for decades and the writer states this in crystal clear words. Moreover, Afghanistan can only take steps towards its betterment if its regime takes steps to provide basic human rights to the general public. I completely agree with the author on the perspective that the situation in Afghanistan is undoubtedly extremely bleak and that is what one understands after reading this intermediate vocabulary level article. The article based on the humanitarian crisis of Afghanistan is a mix of critique and review of the current situation. The author outlines some but not all of the major problems Afghanistan is currently facing, for example; the financial crisis as assets approximately close to $10 billion have been frozen. In addition to this, the writer gives the entire blame to the current regime instead of pointing out to the past administrations and fails to praise the honesty of the current dominion. The burden should not only be shared by the former corrupt leaders but the foreign invaders as well who initially led to the instability of a country holding 39 million people.

Although the article was very coherent, well-researched and had a clear conclusion with even a clearer audience, it failed to mention the solutions to the problems it called out. In general, both the Taliban and outside powers need to act quickly to ameliorate the humanitarian emergency in Afghanistan, lest it become much worse than it is already. All in all,this briefing article outlines the most pressing issues but mentions no solutions and is biased against the current regime and also does not help in relieving the pressure upon the government of Afghanistan.