The importance of India Assistance to Afghanistan: A critical analysis

D. Sendhilkumar
Research Scholar, Centre for South Asian Studies, Pondicherry University, India

Received 13 August, 2013; Accepted 6 August, 2015

As there is relation between human to human for understanding each other feelings and difficulties in civics life everywhere, there is a relation between state to state for strengthening weak state as well as maintaining friendly relations without bitterness for the society development (Morgenthau, 1973). Since Osama Bin laden terrorist groups attacked WTO organization in US (Rondeaux, 2008), the relationship between India and Afghanistan has on the success of the regional harmony. This unfortunate attack has been fortifying Indo Afghanistan relations strongly as other neighboring countries are getting zealous on two partner progress in South Asia integrity (Press Trust of India, 2006a). So in this pattern, circumstances have made the two countries to get together in contemporary world progress toward assimilating their self to establish a strong relation toward South Asia Integrity. The anti-terrorist war of US has created fortunate and unique opportunities to India for repairing and reconstructing the war-torn Afghanistan. Very notably, the WTO incident has been one of the turning points in India’s foreign policy in protecting its country through renovating India and Afghanistan relations (Rohde, 2006).

Key word: India’s policy, Afghanistan reconstruction, WTO attacks, and India’s security.

INTRODUCTION

Than any other relations, the economic relations have been as nucleus in all aspects of countries’ relations. This begins from individual needs to world needs to fulfill people’s ambition as well as foster mutual relations among the world countries (MacDonald 2003).By this relation, countries are able to carry out their political agenda, give livelihood to people and create a good atmosphere for people to survive with active participation in government decision making. To accomplish this goal as the biggest democratic neighbor to South Asia (Mohan 2003). India has been projecting its pro-people approach and pro neighbor feelings by preaching its historical democracy goodwill in South Asia region. After Russia invasion India is one of the countries in South Asia as well as in the world with interest to reconstruct Afghanistan infrastructure (Mohan, 2004). Its hidden and external interest will be discovered through its helps and economic assistances in Afghanistan since 2001-2010. Legible policy of the India’s external relations especially in Afghanistan could be pro-humanitarian thoughts and love than any other expectations. There were so many political level and religious level bitterness between the two countries. Often terrorist attacks on India’s important places based on the issues of Pakistan claims over on Kashmir the relations between Afghanistan and India have gone futile (Press Trust of India, 2006b).

E-mail: senthilkumarpu@gmail.com

Authors agree that this article remain permanently open access under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 International License.
Agreements

The aim to reconstruct collapsed Afghanistan India and Afghanistan has been laid down so many essential agreements on 4 October 2011 in four major areas: politics, security, trade, and human resource developments (Namiar, 2004). This agreement has given plenty of opportunities to India to become permanent member in UNO security council with the support of world major donors as well as Afghanistan support. Regarding this, United States of America has regularly arranged high level meetings to coordinates various countries leaders for fighting against international terrorism, narcotics and money laundering (Negrophonte, 2007). Moreover it called world leaders to promote women protections, develop Afghan economy and strengthen security sector in which India has played a significant role in extending political support, economic assistance and security support to Afghanistan (Pant 2009). India’s trust worthy contribution in Afghanistan as per world community anticipation as well as Afghanistan people expectations have been secured as an anthropological service name in the world people sights. Its external appearance, and internal appearances toward reconstruct disarray economic structure of Afghanistan has been fantastic in the world politics scenario since 2001-2010.

Financial assistance after 2001

Remarkably, India has been soul partner of Afghanistan developments forum the South Asia region since 2001, and two countries are preserving their historical civilization (Rahul, 2012), cultural and societal ties. The 9/11, incident let to disappear Taliban power and offered full-fledged political and finance support to new Afghans government (Raman, 2004). After Talibin government has fallen down, India strategy was changed with aim to support and maintain friendship with it (Rashid, 2001). For carry out India’s planed project in Afghanistan president harzai has visited nine time to India which was highly motivate to India for implement its policies there without hurdles and threat (Rais, 1993). India promised to give additional $500 million as a development assistance to Afghanistan; the recent Afghan president visit to New Delhi (October -2011) resulted in discussing signing of extended diplomatic partnership (Times of India, 2010). Even after 2001, India has been offering number of US dollar worth financial assistance for the sack of Afghanistan people peaceful life such as:

1. India declared US$ 100 million to afghan, in this grand US$31.5 million were utilized during 2002-2003; remaining US$ 53.5 million have been operated and committed to particular project which started during the 2003-04.
2. To reconstruct road from zaranj to delaram India has given Rs.377.47 corers
3. Understanding war oriented famine in Afghanistan, India has given 1 tons of wheat ($100 million) to Afghan, portion of this grand (85517 tons of wheat) was converted into high protein biscuits. From November 2002 to June 2003 (9526 tons of wheat) was send to afghan school meals programme. By this programme 972,000 children’s are getting 100 gram biscuits pocket every day (The Hindu Business Line, 2007)
4. For facilitate and motivate Afghan army, India have given300vehicles as gift.
5. Additionally, to impart good education to them India provided scholarship for afghan higher education student and under various plane and scheme it gives training to afghan nationals (The Indian Express, 2010).
6. As cash subsidy, India government has transferred $10 million in July 2002.
7. For Afghan reconstruction programme, India has given trust donation during 2002-2003.

Humanitarian assistance

1. India gave much more economic assistances to reconstruct Afghanistan, as second phase it has given humanitarian assistance in 2003 and very immediately India dispatched 34 tons winter cloth (The Indian Express, 2007)
2. As part of humanitarian concern, India has provided 20, 000 blankets to heart province in February 2002.

Showing concern on health

1. During Taliban period there were much more civilian casualties, to give treatments them no hospital was having modern equipment. Due to this problem, India has constructed a hospital with name of Indira Gandhi child hospital in Kabul, it started to function in 2003 September (The New York Times, 2010).
2. India has send a team of 14 doctors to Afghanistan and they are working in Kabul since November 2001. Daily this team has been attending and disbursing medicines at polyclinic of Indira Gandhi Institute of child Health. Further, this Indian medical team is also running an open theater at the koh-e-markaz Hospital in Kabul.
3. Since April 2002 A6- member Indian doctors and paramedics is running an operation theater at the civil Hospital in Maze-esharif.
4. Team wise India has send doctors and paramedics to work in different province of Afghan and A4-team working in shebargan since may 2003.
5. A4-groups of doctors and paramedics have been commenced its work in province of Kandahar in September 2003.
6. Afghan people have had hospital without essential medicines and instruments; to repair these shortages again India has offered equipment and instrument.

7. In war of terrorism much more army person have lost their leg and hands, to give treatment and fix artificial leg with latest technology, India established Jaipur foot fitment camp at Kabul military hospital in January 2002. Roughly 1000 appendage were fixed. To help patient and avoid camp scarcity, India established one more camp in mazar-e-sharif and meymaneh there nearly 600 artificial member were fixed (Sharma, 2009). India felt that medicine and equipment not only would be enough it wanted additionally to train up the artisan who are specialized on fixing appendage. At the end of camp all those materials and equipments were used was hands over to the authority of mazar-e-sharif and the training camp was named jointly by two country as Indo-Afghan Rehabilitation centre. Various medical instruments given to authority with chair, crutches, hearing aids and audiometers.

1. Because of India medical assistance and doctor’s service in Afghanistan, annually 10,000 patients are getting treatments.

2. Not only has ended its help and assistance there, and also has sent its engineers to plaster damaged place and renovate the Indira Gandhi institute of child health. This represents ever remarkable growing relations and friendship between two countries. All other old hospitals were damaged during the period of prolonged war except Indira Gandhi child hospital.

3. Repairing work on new surgical block of IGICH was abdicated in 1992 due to uneasy again it was completed and handed over to Afghanistan public Health ministry by Indian external affairs ministry Mr. K. Natwarsingh.

Precise stories about IGICH

1. The Indira Gandhi hospital for child health is only hospital in Afghanistan.

2. With interest to promote child health in war-torn Afghanistan its foundation stone was laid down by both country political heads King Zahir shah ministry of Afghanistan and vice president of India Dr. Zahir Husain in 1966.

3. The Hospital formally was inaugurated in 1976 by King Zahir.

4. It was visited by India Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi in 1976. Very soon the hospital was renamed as Indira Gandhi Institute of Child health in 1985.

5. Building surgical Block and polyclinic commenced to function in 1989 but functions stopped because of war.

6. India came to know that portion of hospital was damaged due to war, soon it accelerated its renovation work in 2003. Unaffected surgical Block was already functioning.

7. India has spend $2.7 million to renovate Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health hospital.

8. Worth of US $ 0.5 million medical equipments supplied to IGICH.

9. Given books to library and equipments for the Diagnostic Centre.

10. In order to dispose hospital wastage, it has supplied incinerator facilities.

11. India gave training to 23 Doctors of four batches and paramedics of IGICH at the institute of all India institute of medical science.

12. During post Taliban period 12 paramedics’ doctors were trained in 2003-04.

13. Blatantly Afghanistan has received more than 400 tons of medical equipments and instruments since 2001.

Education

India launched “Back to school” campaign along with facilities of school feeding programme. It is to make confident the school drop-outs children’s for make them attend school regularly without absents (South Asian Monitor Society for Policy Studies, 2010). It will increase school performance and keep up attendance performance as good. While Afghanistan people were facing severe food shortfall with the anticipation of funds from the foreign donors for school feeding programme, for this India very soon declared officially one million metric tons of wheat worth of $100 million. Due to India – Pakistan transit problem (Srinivasan, 2007), India was not able to send wheat quickly thereby wheat was converted in high protein biscuits with cooperation of World Food Programme authority for the sack of Afghan school going girls and boys. As the massive result of students’ biscuit acceptance, India’s donation has empowered UNO to distribute food to school on lunch times and this was helpful to expand programme up to rural and remote areas (Subramanian, 2009).

Habia School in Afghanistan is oldest school which is located in front of the Babar mausoleum. This is the first education institution was provide modern education it was founded in 1903 (The Hindustan Times, 2010). The school lost its structure, shape and it’s faced severe damages during the decade of war. Its walls and windows were punctured by gun, to reconstruct it was questionable among the Muslim leaders due to financial problem. To encourage and boost Afghanistan education facilities, India took a marvelous reconstruction challenges in September 2003. Very less than two years with so much hurry up this school was reconstructed at the cost of $5 million. After works were over school was looking as elegant as beautiful.

As to foster educational atmospheres in Afghanistan, India gave 8,600 educational kits to students in august
2002.

1. 1500 kits stationary were given to students in paktika province in February 2003
2. to make interest students either on reading or writing, 20,000 desks were provided in three provinces (Kabul, jalabad and mazar-e-sharif)
3. With aim to create and shape skill full teachers in Afghanistan educational institutions , India selected 47 teachers from there and given training in India famous schools (Delhi public school and Sanskrit school in new Delhi)
4. To fulfill educational expenditure of students and degree holders , India has been given scholarship to 44 students in commerce, political science, economics, engineering and computers science in India institutes.
5. Afghanistan people had been facing serious English language problems; to avoid this problems India has sent English teachers to Afghanistan
6. For letting the students to search books and discover something, India has provided books and laboratory equipment to Kandahar University in April 2004.
7. In same year again it gave lab equipment and sports materials to other schools in Nimroz in February 2004.

Democracy

The thirst of India is to install democracy form of government in Afghanistan; it has provided multi assistance and training. It could not say directly that Afghanistan should come for new democracy constitution. But providing all necessary helps for their peaceful life as well as let them understand what types of government would be better than at present existing government there. Based on this ambition,

1. It has constructed new parliament at the cost of $ 25 million.
2. Indian engineers with so many building designs have consulted and planned along with afghan engineers.
3. For conduct Afghan loya jirga election in 2003 , India with the cooperation of United Nation Assistance mission have been given 65 electronic voting machine and has send two experts to operate and for technical support .
4. To prevent bogus voters, India gave 50,000 indelible inks markers during presidential election in October 2005.
5. To impart and train up about election procedure and method, India invited 30 staffs’ members from National secretariat of Afghanistan for 3-week training in India in august 2005 at the Bureau of parliamentary study.

Urban development

Afghanistan has been at long day’s war and insurgents due to its domestic ethnic problems, this has led the Kabul and other interior places to the status of severe water shortage, unclean cities and power shortage. So Afghanistan municipality authority was not able to maintain all cities with power supply, water facilities and hygienic condition because of sporadic unrest and commotion. The capital city has around 3 million inhabitants, its population has increased so much in the last two years, regards to this problems, the municipality authorities were on sadness about how to give transport facilities and satisfy people daily needs. Pertaining to keep city clean, provide water facilities and power supply, India was approached by the Kabul municipality officers asking assistances. To which India gave garbage collecting vehicle as per the needs of Afghanistan municipal authority for establish a healthy and clean atmosphere.

India Assistance to the urban sector

With the interest to keep clean Kabul cities and for other so many purposes of municipality, India has given 105 vehicles for Afghanistan municipality which included dump trucks, bulldozers, motor graders and garbage tippers.

Engineering Laboratory Equipment

In order to develop engineering facilities in Afghanistan, India has offered lab equipment, yardstick instruments to the Ministry of Urban Development and housing board modernization of Afghanistan in May 2003.

Construction of toilets

Government of India assured Afghan municipal authority at the time of their request to construct public toilets. It rapidly constructed 8 public toilets (sulabh) in Kabul at:

1. Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (2)
2. Park-e-Zarnigar
3. Pul-e-Bagh-e-Omomee Area
4. Tahia-e-Msakan Area
5. Deh-kepak Area
6. Charahi kote sangi
7. Debori Park

Telecommunication

After Taliban has fallen down, its telecom sector was damaged so badly by terrorism and people were facing communication problems over the phone with other
neighbors without reciprocal happiness with their relatives. Regarding this India has not let anyone its neighbor countries alone since before independence and after Independence also. It has been establishing close relationship with countries from south Asia to central Asia. India is committed to deliver assistance to Afghanistan soon it has sought the help of India to boost its telecommunication facilities. For which India has been provided 35,000 digital telephones in 11 provincial capitals. After implementation of this telecom network facilities in 11 provincial, Afghanistan have been benefited with STD and ISD facilities through media satellite /microwave connected to central Hub and International gate way at kabul.

Along with these facilities the subscriber would have internet facilities and wireless telephone instrument will be able use up to 20 kilometers radius. India has provided 35,000 CDMA-WLL Lines, 11 provinces will have protected telecom links with Kabul and with rest of the world and subscribers will have internet and fax facilities.

**Transport**

On the basis of population increases, the bus facilities in Afghanistan were needed. Actually there were bus facilities which were destroyed in war and terrorism. After the fall of Taliban regime there were only 50 buses. Many provinces have no public transport facilities. India offered 400 TATA and Ashoke Leyland buses. Daily, the buses carry around 2000 passengers to work, market and were providing cheap and comfortable transport facilities. Three air buses and aircrafts were given as gifts to Afghanistan after proper test for three years in Ariana air lines. India focused at improving and giving training to officers of Afghanistan civil aviation officers. The following buses were given to Afghanistan Government by Indian government.

1. 205 buses operating in Kabul
2. 35 in Kandahar
3. 30 in Heart
4. 20 in Balkh
5. 17 in Nangarhar
6. 8 in Baghlan
7. 7 in Paktiya
8. 6 each in Takhar, kunduz and Bamiyan
9. 5 each in Parwan, wardak, kapisa, Logar, Badakhshan, Ghazni, Saripul, Samangan, Jawzjan Hilmandand Farah
10. 3 each in Daikondi, Ghowr, Khost and Panjsher
11. 2 in Nirmroz

**Civil aviation**

Afghanistan is a small Islamic country, being in the middle of attractive place of south Asia as well as central Asia. Due to its geography location and mineral deposition, it is so vulnerable to alien countries. To prevent this panic, India has given three airbus aircraft, with all necessary equipment and spares in September and December 2002.

To drive best and manage airlines, India called 51 Ariana Afghan airline officers for give training.

India has trained 6 officers of Ariana Afghan Airlines at the Indian Airlines Training center, Hyderabad for a period of six weeks in September –October 2003.

For training up Afghan Air force officers and give Indian Airlines to Afghanistan India has signed with Afghanistan in memorandum of understanding in the area of civil aviation on 25 February, 2005.

**Important provisions of the MOU on Civil Aviation**

India shall be extending its assistance and training to Afghanistan whenever it needs, regarding air traffic, management, air navigational helps, pilot, communication, airline protection and preservation of aircraft.

India shall supply man power and give training to Afghanistan Airport developments.

India shall offer all possible helps to instruct as to CNS-ATM facilities and other time found needs to the Civil Aviation School in Kabul.

Based on the cordial relations between two countries, India shall render continual support for maintenance of Afghanistan aircraft.

**Water and energy**

Energy is a chief driver of economic growth and it will propel a country economic growth ahead. As serene returns and economic growth become so speed in Afghanistan, water and energy also so an important, which need to be strengthened and protected by military or department of geology. To generate economic activities and boost agricultural sector, needs electricity in each cities and village of Afghanistan. Out of its received $ 500 million assistance from the various countries, additionally, India has involved to generate 40% power, which will be transmitted to various cities of Afghanistan.

**Salma Dam**

1. For increase in water storage in Afghanistan, India had committed at the Berlin Conference to give $ 800 million for constructing and executing Salma Dam Project in Heart province; its construction works have been done by the Indian engineers.
2. A 107.5 meter high earth and rock fill dam on the Hari
Rud River through water conductor system located on the right bank of the river for power generation.
3. A surface power house with three units of 14 MW each—total 42 MW—at the toe of the dam on the right bank
4. Power transmissions at the distance of 143 kilometers from Chiste-sharif to Heart province.
5. Lasting 5,000 square meters building have constructed at Chiste-sharif.
Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul Transmission Line
6. To abate power shortage in Afghanistan India committed $111 million in 2005 for construction of the 220KV D/C Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul transmission line and Kabul substation.
7. The power transmission line is passing overt the Salang Range Mountains crossing heights of 400 Mts. Further it involves constructing 600 transmission towers; this project is one of the important projects of power link which carries power to Kabul. Its whole works were commenced and completed by Indian engineers by 2008
8. records of India assistance
9. Building of the power transmission line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul and establishment of Kabul power substation.
10. Salma hydro power project with caliber of 42 MW and power transmission line to Heart province was constructed by India.
11. India offered equipment and other materials for power transmission purpose from Andkhoi to Maimana at the distance of 125 KM, from there power is transmitted to 3 substation and 4 pole mounted station in farah province.
12. To give water supply, India has constructed 24 deep tube wells in Herat Province, and has conducted field survey at 100 places with water quality annalist. After proper survey, this project was completed
13. Broad project estimation was done for rehabilitation of six mini / micro hydro projects, Khanabad irrigation project as well as for Amir Ghzi and Quargha reservoir.
14. For the rehabilitation work of Amir Ghazi and Quargha, India has committed an amount of US $4.1 million.

India assistance to the security sector

India is having too much interest on modernization of Afghan security forces, but its interest is not allowed thoroughly by some of its apposite countries due to power motivation as well as geography interest. In spite of facing so many hurdles it have been offering security needs as part of humanitarian assistance.

1. India has given 300 vehicles to Afghan Nation Army (ANA). These facilities include troop carriers, Tran's port vehicles, field ambulance and jeeps.
2. To protect soldier form the winter times, India has provided 25 tons winter clothing to the Army in 2001 and in 2003
3. Provided musical instruments to the Afghan Army Band on June 2003
4. Offered 277 packages of medicines in October 2003
5. Comfortable 5000 meters of summer battle cloth provided to ANA.

Justice

India gave training to Afghan judges and lawyers at the Indian Institute of Law in New Delhi from February to May 2003.

Conclusion

India assistance to Afghanistan has gained unforgettable and ever commemorate reputations from the world developed and developing countries. Its assistance definitely will yield good pace and economic development in India vanishing terrorism. The assistance which makes and force the Afghan people to realize about India grand’s and humanitarian approach to establish cordial relationship with India instead of using terrorism and it will not support and send its youths to Pakistan to train them for conduct terrorism activities against India in south Asia continent. Actually India would be unaffected hereafter from the terrorism and insurgency if it is having ever continuous relations with Afghanistan than any other country. India has been showing pertinent interest in reconstruction of war-torn Afghanistan since 2001. Very affirmatively in future, India shall accommodate Afghanistan interest with its national agenda for do all possible helps and assistance to it. After this goal, no more place and chances would be to Pakistan for use terrorism with help of Afghanistan. India has got good respect in terms of rendering humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan for accomplishing the damages of US initiated war and damages in Afghanistan on the pattern of world solidarity and solicitous. Its welfare will be taken care by other countries when it wants to take care upon other countries developments. This is known as exchanging of feelings, expectation and assistance when any one country is unable to fulfill its needs and necessities.
Conflict of Interests

The author has not declared any conflict of interests.

REFERENCES


Citations


When completed, the 1,222-kilometre long Central Asia South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000) transmission project will supply electricity from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan.


When completed, the 1,222-kilometre long Central Asia South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000) transmission project will supply electricity from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan.