



Serrana

Academic Journal of Kabul University



First Year, Volume I

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University

Serrana

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Contribution to Serrana: Serrana is an academic journal published quarterly at Kabul University. All writers, researchers and other interested contributors from national and international universities can submit their articles in one of the following languages: Dari, Pashto, or English. The articles must have an academic base in the field of social and natural sciences. . The author can submit his/her article(s) either by email info.cphd@undp.org or, through the post to: Kabul University Research Center, Kabul University, Kabul, Afghanistan (Phone: + 93(0)202500239).

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Message from the Chancellor

Serrana

Kabul University has witnessed joyous occasions and testing times during the last 76 years since its establishment. Our university has been a renowned academic institution within the region. The legacy of the Russian invasion and the chronic wars that have followed over the past two decades took a serious toll on our standing: both in terms of function and facilities. Resources found within the on-campus technical laboratories and departmental libraries severely depleted over the past two decades of civil strife. Furthermore, years of academic work that preceded the war years in the research centers was either lost or simply faded away as the University struggled for basic amenities. However, as we recover from the legacy of the past and head towards the promise of the future for our young, brave and enthusiastic student body, we have a lot to celebrate over the past few years. The Scientific Research Center starts work again.

In 2007, with the efforts of Kabul University, the United Nations-supported Center for Policy and Human Development (CPHD), and United State's Institute for Peace and other institutions, Kabul University's Scientific Research Center started working on reviving the Serrana journal, the first academic research journal in Kabul University. This journal is particularly symbolic in that it revives a culture of research that we had lost during the past two decades. It was first published as a monthly journal in 1333 (Islamic Calendar (1954) by the then newly-established Scientific Research Center. University faculty, then as in now, contributed to this publication and made way for sharing their ideas in their respective subjects with the academic community. A few copies from those years can still be found within our library.

By publishing informative research-based articles, suggestions and academic theories, Serrana helps in redeveloping our academic community, and contributing to our knowledge development. Furthermore, we will also share our work through this journal with the international development community in Afghanistan and abroad and establish a forum for dialogue between Kabul

University and the aid and government agencies and hence contribute to the development of our country.

I look forward to the Scientific Research Center, and the University, to regain its prominence at the national, regional, and international level once again. I thank the university lecturers for their contributions to Serena. Furthermore, I am thankful to Kabul University's Center for Policy and Human Development and hope that this Center provides continued assistance in order for this publication of Serrana to develop and provide insights and education to our people.

Last but not least, I am deeply grateful to the United Nations Development Program and the United States Institute for Peace for their financial support.

Wishing you all a very happy reading!

Prof. Hamidulla Amin

Chancellor, Kabul University

Message from the Editorial

Serrana

In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate

Formal education in Afghanistan is over a century old. As the first Higher Education center however, the service to education in the country by Kabul University has been exceptional. The University has over time gained prestige in the country and in the wider region as a reputable academic institution promoting intellectual growth and scholarship.

The institute faced a lot of disrepair and devastation during the Russian invasion, and the period following that witness even more chaos and civil strife. Laboratories, library, classrooms, and entire departments were destroyed during three decades of the war. Many faculty members were also lost to the violence. It was a dismal picture in 2001.

The Bonn agreement in 2001 made way for the international community and the Afghan interim government to commit to a new partnership towards the nation's reconstruction. The once-reputed university once again attracted scholars and students to its doors. Besides putting focus on university administration and the faculties, the government and other agencies assisting the university have also concentrated on the academic centers that were active for decades before the conflict set in. The Scientific Research Center of the university had stopped functioning because of the lack of funds and facilities before 2001 and is still confronted with financial problems. However, owing to the efforts of the director of the center, the staff members and the administration of Kabul University, noticeable progress has been witnessed in re-establishing its capacity. A Board of Directors has been established, the guidelines have been reformed, and an editorial committee has been set up. An academic journal, *Serrana*, has been revived after many decades. Kabul University's Center for Policy and Human Development and United State's Institute for Peace (USAIP) have made significant efforts towards publishing *Serrana*.

The Scientific Research Center aims to publish Serrana on a quarterly basis with 1000 copies per quarter. The journal is published in three languages- Pashto, Dari and English. It will publish academic research work from national and international experts on Afghanistan. It is hoped that the journal will support a culture of research by enhancing collaboration between Kabul University's research and national and international research centers. This is an academic journal published according to Afghanistan media law. It is committed to national and Islamic values. The journal will not publish those articles that go against national interests or sentiments.

The Scientific Research Center would like to thank the University administration for supporting the revitalization of the journal and additionally would like to thank all those who have contributed to the first volume of this journal. We look forward to your further engagement as we work towards the goal of enhancing the culture of research in Kabul University.

Serrana Journal Editorial

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The following articles provide a brief overview to the reader on the subject and issues the authors cover. These short articles are summary of some of the Dari and Pashto articles that have published in this edition of the ejournal. We hope to have full English articles in their original text from the academic community.

Ghazna, Its Splendor During the Ghaznawi Rulers

Serrana

Associate Professor 'Abd al-Baqi Hissaryan, Ph.D
Kabul University

Ghazni is a major province of our ancient country. In ancient times it was a dependency of Zabulistan, the land of the famous hero, Rustam and his predecessor, Gharshasp. Ghazni had a significant place during all the ancient kingdoms, especially the Kushanid period. It assumed an unprecedented splendor during the Ghaznawi kingdom the foundation of which had been laid down by Aliptegin, as a rival semi- independent kingdom to the Samanid dynasty beyond the Oxus in the tenth century. At the hands of Emperor Sultan Mahmud and his son and sucessor Sultan Mas'ud it reached its widest extent that stretched from Iraq and the Caspian Sea to Ganges river and the Aral Sea to the indian Ocean. The Ghznawi empire lasted for over a century until it was toppled by Sultan 'Alaw al-Din Ghorī in the 12th century.

According to the Shahnama of Abul Qasim Ferdousi the founder of the Peshdadyan kingdom of ancient Balkh (Bactra of the Greek geographers), King Jamshed after being defeated in a war settles in Zabulistan, where he marries the daughter of the local Kushanid king, Korang. Subsequently, one of his many sons, Gharshasp becomes the ancesstor of the future Rustam, whose descendants ruled over Seistan and Zabulistan for centuries. On the eve of the Muslim conquest, Seistan was ruled by kings called Zanbils who proclaimed their allegiance to the god Zun, and they moved between their winter palaces in the Helmand and summer palaces in Zabulistan. During the tenth century Ghazni became a dependency of the Samanid kings while its local rulers, Lawaik, still ruled over it as far as Zamindawer and Bust until Aliptegin made it an independent principality in AD 976. It was this principality which subsequently Sultan Mahmud and his son and successor Sultan Mas'ud made it the widest empire in extent.

During this period Ghazni flourished to an unprcedented degree. In the background was its location suitable for the transit caravan route, the silk route between India, China and the Medeteranean world. Emperor Mahmud enriched Ghazni enormously from the riches of India which he took possession of as spoils of war after he made many successful expeditions there. Palaces and numerous buildings were erected in Ghazni. Ghazni also became the

center of culture and knowledge; numerous madrassas and libraries were set up there. Ghazni also became the center where hundreds of poets, historians and scholars were invited and awarded handsomely for their intellectual and literary achievements. For the first time the position of poet laureate was established and poetry and literature flourished very much indeed. This royal patronage of poets, scholars and historians led to the development of the Dari language to an unprecedented degree. The shahnama of Ferdousi with of over 60,000 couplets with only a few words in Arabic is a fine example of this trend. But the Ghaznawi empire like all other empires finally came to an end when Sultan 'Alaw al-Din Ghorī (1149-1161) burned Ghazni, the Pride of Cities, in revenge for the killing of his brother, Qub al-Din Muhammad, by the ruler of Ghazni.

Afghanistan's Banking System

Serrana

Professor Dr. Abdul Qayoum Arif,
Economics Teacher, Kabul University

This introductory dissertation examines the history of the banking system in Afghanistan.

The study covers the entire span of our banking era, started in 1312 (Islamic Solar) with the establishment of the first-ever bank in the country, Bank-e-Mili Afghan, and through to the new banking laws of 2002.

Bank-e-Mili Afghan, as the first Afghan venture in the banking world, start its operations with a total capital of 9.6 Million Afghanis; 72% was private share and the rest state-invested.

Within twenty years, started from 1312 until 1333, seven national banks were established with some even providing loans for specific developmental activities within fields such as agriculture, construction, and export-promotion.

Prior to the enforcement of new banking laws in the country in 2002, eight banks were authorized by the state for carrying out banking services in the country. In 2003, with the issuing of new currency notes, new monetary reforms and with the endorsement and enforcement of new Da Afghanistan Bank laws, the efforts to reshape the banking system started.

The new banking law of the country open doors of opportunities for private investment, and as a result the number of private banks, either owned by Afghans or by foreign investors, is in rapid increase.

Despite the booming opportunities in banking in the country, there are some challenges and problems in the banking system that needs to be tackled. This study briefly describes the problems and challenges that the banking system of Afghanistan is facing and finally some recommendations for the banking industry.

Improving the quality and quantity of banking services, improving the management systems of the banks, enhancing technical and professional capacities of the employees, reshuffling the organizational structure of the banks, improving IT services, introducing money exchange services within the banks, and, improving the privacy of the clients accounts are the key recommendations of this study.

Shortage of Teachers in Afghanistan: Challenges and Solutions

Serrana

Professor Lutfullah Safi & Associate Professor Abdul Ghayas Safi
Geo Science Department,

This article describes the importance of education, the reasons for the shortage in the numbers of school teachers, and ways to tackle the challenges schoolteachers face in war-torn Afghanistan.

The number of teachers at primary and secondary levels is 67983 and 54927 respectively, while the number of instructors at vocational or technical institutions and at religious schools is 615 and 1913 correspondingly.

At the national level, the number of class hours for high school students are 36-hours per week, while at average a high school teacher at the same level (high school) teaches 26 hours per week.

The number of schoolteachers holding Masters degree, Bachelors degree, 14th Grade graduate and baccaulaureate are 281, 5946, 17197, and 63087, in that order.

For a war-torn country such as Afghanistan, with limited resources at hand, the main challenge regarding creating a well-functioning and effective educational system is to synchronize all the core components of an educational system. These components include creating a learning environment at school; well-established curriculum, and textbooks; learning by activities; and, providing experienced schoolteachers that are crucial and key for a productive and effective educational system.

The following approaches can potentially tackle the schoolteacher shortage over the short-term and long-term basis: increase the number of students at Pedagogy teaching institutes. , enhance teaching hours, teach in two shifts and arrange multi-grade teaching at school level.

Currently the main sources of additional or alternative schoolteachers can be found within the supervisors of schools, retired civil servants, higher education students and school administrators and headmasters. Nevertheless, these alternatives mentioned require intensive training and close monitoring for their teaching activities.

In Afghanistan, according to the author of the article, the main reasons behind the shortage of schoolteachers are:

retirement of schoolteachers, lack of adequate financial resources for teachers, teachers leaving their profession for better opportunities, a long period of war which caused internal displacement and/or migration, lack of an effective promotional system for schoolteachers, inaccessibility to schools, and finally, the lack of supportive facilities such as housing schemes, and transportation means for schoolteachers especially in rural areas.

Improving the quality of higher education, creating a much-needed balance between urban and rural areas, between males and females, primary-secondary-higher educational systems, paying more attention to vocational skills' development, and, promoting a strong research culture in learning institutions are the main recommendations of this article.

A Study of Economic Infrastructure of Agriculture in Afghanistan

Serrana

Professor Dr. Shohur Gul Faqiri,
Veterinary Teacher, Kabul University

In this study, the socio-economic situation of the country from the agriculture and animal husbandry points of view is discussed. Besides, agriculture and animal husbandry which form nearly 30% of export income of the country are the main focuses of the study. Animal husbandry is the most important source of income for nomads as well as small and medium-scale farmers. Main outcomes of the study are summarized as below:

1. Agriculture and animal husbandry form a major part of the economy for the people of Afghanistan, especially for the nomads that contribute approx. 30% in export earnings of Afghanistan.
2. From the viewpoint of access to pastures, Afghanistan is in a very good situation but due to the low level of efficiency, there is limited utilization.
3. The main reason for the decrease in animal population and their functions between 1987-2000 can be summarized as below:
 - Civil conflicts – drought and limited access to grass – limited number of healthy born animals
 - Outbreak of animal and plants diseases
4. Dominance of traditional methods in agriculture and animal husbandry, especially in small farms. This is another factor for the decrease in the number of animals. Raising sheep and goats of which 80% are raised by nomads also creates deprivation in terms of improved fodder. 3/4th of the total meat production in the country is through rearing by nomads.
5. Inactive veterinary in the country.