Socio-Psychological Impact of the Darfur War on Women and Children

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Abstract: The main objective of this paper is to review the outcomes of Darfur crisis, from social and psychological point of view, and its impact on the people, including the disruption of the social fabric, the destruction of the individual's personality, also the collective mind sabotage, mental cases and neurological prevalence. The paper also reviews the escalation of violence against women, family disintegration and displacement and use of children as economic value and soldiers. This paper also describes the behavioral deviations and the drug trade.

Key words: Social impact • Psychological impact • Darfur crisis • Women and children

INTRODUCTION

This will not repeat the conversation about the causes of the Darfur crisis, so, that researchers had ingested intensively and became known to all, But, I think that the reference to the simple pattern of the subsistence economy, which is historically prevailing in most parts of Darfur is very important to clarify the level of the life in the region, as one of the most backward areas socially, economically and politically. Prevailing social order in the region has its specificity, regarding bilateral relations and values and social fabric, where tribal institutions control all the merits of the customs, traditions and traditional systems of governance. Livelihoods vary between agricultural stable tribes and pastoral tribes that live in a mobile primitive life. Sometimes lacking health services and education and in most cases, the minimum level of these services is not available, especially in rural areas.

In the area of basic education virtual absorption rate in the last statistics before the outbreak of the crisis did not exceed 35% of the eligible children access to schools. While the virtual absorption rate in secondary education did not exceed 12% [1], this means educational losses, certainly leaves a negative impact on the social and economic environment and we all know the risk of illiteracy on society and its role in increasing societal backwardness and danger to security and integrity.

As we know the role of the mother and father of illiterates in the reproduction of social backwardness. If we look at the health services before the crisis, 2002, the situation is very bad, add to that the lack of infrastructures such as roads, transport, continued deterioration in the natural environment, decreasing arable land and pasture increasing desertification and poor water services and environmental health.

Our intention is to clarify the gloomy picture and the bad situation in the region in normal circumstances and the daily life conditions of women and children, because they are the direct beneficiary of lasting stability in their region. The statement of this fact explains a lot. Despite the impact of the crisis on the sector of men and young people, we assume that this sector is capable of traveling to other States to earn a living in better conditions, or even out of Sudan and the women and children who will remain with no other alternatives rather than to stay, are the most affected. Add to this harmful customs and traditions that govern the region, which is influenced by women and children directly, such as early marriage, female genital mutilation, violence in all its forms, verbal and practical, illiteracy and the use of children as economic value.

Indeed, the women in Darfur continued to form the backbone of the family economically, they are cultivated and harvested and exerting a lot of business such as trade
and other heavy work, such as buildings laborers, loading and unloading in addition to child labor, in order to generate income for the family. This is the reality of women and children in Darfur before the crisis in 2002.

Discourse about Darfur crisis in the period from 2003 till now, is talk about the tragedy, require sincere and strict interface to the real causes of the crisis in order to create real solutions.

The case that we see in Darfur not bears to wait. in fact The crisis of Darfur is imposed by institutions of superstructure of the society and we mean all parties contribute to the crisis government, armed movements, regional and international organizations, the sterile in the political debate, lack of clear visions and programs, conflicting and overlapping of the international and regional agenda, local and even tribal. It all work far away from the real ambitions of the simple human being who had been stripped of his back by sleeping on the ground without any protection from the rain, heat and cold for ten consecutive years he spent in displacement camps. Lose family and wealth and shade as well as confidence in the future, so it became possible to call the crisis: the crisis of the conflicting agenda.

The paper will focus on the impact on women and children into a descriptive report on the overall presentation of the paper, which can be summed up in three axes as follows:

- The first axis reviewing the psychological and social impact of the war in Darfur on women and children and the family.
- The second axis review of the heavy foreign presence and secretions.
- Finally, the paper suggests a set of processors open for discussion for the purpose of access to advanced visions.

Methodology and Study Site: Direct observation of the day-to-day cohabitation during the crisis in Darfur was one of the methodological tools for this research paper, as well as the day-to-day experience of the crisis, including field visits to some of the camps (Kalma, Otash, Alsiraef) in 2007 as well as periodic reports bulletins from the International Red Cross and UNICEF. In addition to the tools mentioned, the paper established an academic position supporting with analysis of ideas and logical consequences.

Geographical area of this paper had been the IDP camps around the city of Nyala, the capital of South Darfur state in western Sudan.

Social Impact: Means in this paper the destruction of the social structure and the tearing of the social fabric, including the loss of home and family and clan and the separation of families and homeless children, as well as violence against women, rape, moral deviations and the drug trade.... etc.

Psychological Impact: Means in this paper stress and nervousness of the war and the resulting psychological and mental illnesses such as madness and schizophrenia, hallucinations and bitter memories and personal revenge at the level of individual and collective mind.

Psychological and social impact of the war in Darfur.

Rural Darfur was almost completely destroyed, with its wealth, buildings, means of production and services and water sources. More than two million people shifted into refugees and displaced. This is resulted in stopping the production process and the sources of personal income dried. The region's economy turned to be aid economy. People turned to miserable life of displaced camps, including humiliation and wretchedness and risks, diseases and begging foreign organizations and a lack of vision. the effects of the war formed great pressure on the emotional stability of the Darfurian people such as loss of parents, child death, separation, the lives of homelessness, oppression, fear, lack of trust and security and fear of the unknown. The effects of the war is very clear in the camps which is manifested in the prevalence psychological traumatizations such as depression, mental cases, bitter memories and revenge characters in addition to a lack of confidence in everything, even self-confidence. In the camps when the mother lit the fire for cooking, children screaming and crying and trying to escape because the fire was associated in their minds with death and destruction and escape. Many children become afraid of the horse despite the fact that children love the horse. A lot of children's behavior associated with the war events, so that, in their games they take sticks such as guns and take a military situation to represent battles. there is much it have learned from this damned war [2-3].

- The unrestricted availability of small arms and easy get it in low price is the worst effects of this war, seriousness of that, when these weapons get into the hands of militias, bandits and criminals and criminal organizations, these weapons are not complex and easy to operate, children can run as it's easy to carry and use does not require a lot of training or professionalism. Consequently, the victims of the
deaths and injuries caused by conventional weapons, large tanks, aircraft and warships were less than those caused by light weapons and here comes the fear of the spread of these weapons in the region, because of their threat to the stability of peace and security and its impact on preventing the flow of humanitarian aid to victims of war [4-5].

- The effects were more disastrous on women and children and the elderly. Women lost a father and husband and child. Orphaned children, the homeless and deprived of education, health and future and many children died burned and killed and punished. The women were killed and arson, rape and abuse. And women are often the target of revenge by mutual warriors indulging in humiliation and revenge. And families dispersed as never in the history of the region, especially Saudi Arabia, also, Darfur has become a big market for illicit arms trade, add vices other war such as theft and moral deviations, etc.

- skyrocketing prices of rentals and even children's milk, from a milk vendor or from breast, diseases spread, malnutrition, homelessness and many others. Now we can say that the Trinity obnoxious: poverty, ignorance and disease has become endemic and have total control over the region with no exception, became aroused and clear even in big cities.

- Extensive destruction of the natural environment and the deterioration of the environment health and water pollution, it all thrown its effects on weak flank in the demographics and by this, we mean women and children.

The impact of heavy foreign presence.

The impact of the conflict in Darfur and its aftermath exceeded whatever we said, it brought other outcomes were not in the minds of anyone. This huge number of foreign organizations such as international, regional organizations, the UN and other all its available tools, possibilities and funds and sources of support and, most importantly, the agenda, directions, conflicting ambitions and interests.

It is true that these organizations have made a lot of humanitarian aid including food and drink, clothing and shade and some help in the negotiations in order to reach solutions to the crisis. But also carries with it disastrous agenda, suspicious targets and sources of funding and conditional agenda. Using all available tools in terms of direct contact with the displaced in the camps or through capacity-building courses for displaced people to manage their lives or through collective watch television clubs, girls clubs, football teams, volleyball and kindergartens. Used it all in an attempt to recast the character of the Darfuri people through well thought out plan which is introducing concepts and new cultures to cope with Western standards [7]. This collide with the local component, which include heritage, customs, traditions and religion. The prelude to cultural alienation especially among the new generations may lead to schizophrenia. Adopt Western concepts taken from different environment and different historical development as prelude to establish a long-term agenda. I remember that one of the older women were interviews one of the members of the committees of voluntary return in Kalma camp, they required to return to their village, the presence of international forces to protect them and, when he asked them about what they know about the international forces? Answered... They told us to say that!!!! Also, the children in the camps put their trust in foreigners more of their own Sudanese people (SudaneseNO:Foreigners: Yes) that children and adults in the camps have become more closely related to foreigners and trust them more than their confidence in the Sudanese. This explains the large mistrust surrounding everything in Darfur crisis. Many have welcomed the international forces to protect them from the government and their compatriots who are leading the militias and gangs. International forces is not a lifeline, it is a serious psychological indicator shows the state of despair and frustration experienced by people in Darfur!!!! This is the tip of the iceberg. The crisis of confidence has emerged clearly in all stages of the negotiations and therefore, all agreements failed from Abuja up to Doha.

All the conflicting parties, everyone, is a loser in this moment in the history of Darfur., but the biggest loser is the ordinary people of Darfur who do not know why this conflict going on and the sole earner is arms dealer and drug dealers and those who deal with the crisis according to an agenda unrelated to the people of Darfur.

- Another important issue regarding the level of bilateral relations between the people and we mean the sharp ethnic and tribal sorting which is
significantly declined to the lowest levels, a level of tribalism to provide personal security and the achievement of aspirations and confidence in the future, this prompted the tribes to seek to possess arms and form militias.

- We believe that what happened in Darfur situation aroused deep on women and children and went beyond the square that everyone fully agreed in the past that it was square of development, but as I said now Darfur lies in the square of crisis rife at all levels psychological, social and economic, which is getting deeper and complex every day as if the parties of the crisis hurt the situation of march during sleep and they, have a deep hole do not know when they will wake up to avoid fall in it. There is no doubt that the reconstruction of the war-ravaged completely different situation, which in the case of Darfur means starting from scratch, and here remains the social fabric as the cornerstone in the process of reconstruction and includes social, legal and psychological, at the individual and the family levels and society in general.

To review that will shed light on the general features of the Sudanese political movement and civil society organizations according to the way they deal with the crisis in the higher stages of its manifestations.

- We are not devote myself to the official since independence and until this moment, not pay attention (just like every third world and underdeveloped countries) to the opinion of academics and their research and contributions, although many academics hold posts in the state. University libraries are filled with research and scientific papers that can solve the problems of the whole world, but no one paying any attention to. I focus my words on the Sudanese political movement in general, there is no difference between Ahmed and Haj Ahmed all of them were involved in the case, especially in Darfur. All Sudanese political events go unnoticed on the depth of the crisis of women and children, there is no strategically sustainable thinking in the areas of political and socially, economically and environmentally and working to manage it by day to day system, it's difficult to obtain their programs, in fact, many of them really do not have programs. Sudanese political movement characterized by fragile, whether the government or the opposition. This fragility is leading to uphold the values of maliciousness and repulsion and narrow-minded in the daily political behavior and make goals and aspirations away from the national and patriotic concern, and far from the ultimate goal of the development of a human value. As a result, women continued since independence and even today half paralyzed in the community not only in Darfur but also in all parts of Sudan. The women at the political movement is only voting bloc. There are political parties do not recognize the right of women mainly in public participation.

I think that women in Darfur if its conditions improved and raised their literacy, which is the head of the spear in the social and political backwardness and environmental, if this is done, the process of social change in Sudan will start from Darfur, because of the ability of women in Darfur on active work, creativity and durability. Regarding children's issues not only in Darfur alone, but also, in the whole of Sudan, issues of homelessness, illiteracy, poverty, disease, deprivation needs to be focused. Foreign organizations from the West are active and working to deport the children to be adopted by families in Europe and elsewhere. That shows the depth of the crisis in Sudan's child.

So the paper believes that a glimmer of hope lies in the efforts of national civil society organizations, despite, soreness absence for Darfurian arena (you will not find something itchy skin better than your fingernail).

These Efforts Through:

**Vision of Processors Required:** Following are the main points to be mentioned to overcome the problems faced the people in Darfur during the civil war.

- Stop the war as a prerequisite to contemplate any processors.
- Comprehensive national program for literacy of women and children in Darfur as a necessary first step.
- Encourage the objects and women's organizations and the provision of government support and appeal to attract support from local and international organizations for these programs.
- Targeting women in Darfur capacity building programs and training and the fight against harmful habits.
- Integration of women in the development process through a strategy to fight poverty by providing the means of production and productive family projects and the establishment of cooperative societies.
Establishment of a women's bank and be dedicated to support women's development projects and raise their capabilities, training and support of reproductive health services.

In the merits of this paper Psychological and social impact of the war in Darfur on women and children, I think that the removal of these effects is the cornerstone of repairing the social fabric in preparation for the reconstruction of war damage and, that could be processed through the establishment of workshops and intensive research to won a processor through specialists in sociology, psychology and Social psychologists, this recital is important, neglected and did not receive attention.

Moreover, regarding the issue of Darfurian child, the processors required many, but the most important immediate processors in the following:

- Reunite displaced children who have been separated from their families and sent back to their families as a first step.
- Rehabilitation of homeless children and educational losses and child soldiers and implementation of programs for their reintegration into society.
- Emphasis on the prohibition of child labor and exploitation and that they are not recruited and make basic education compulsory and impose tougher punishment on the contrary.
- Stress free education for every child.
- Urged the Sudanese political forces and appeal to pay attention to children's issues.
- Establishment of a nursing home, social care for war victims and the disabled and the elderly who have lost their families during the war.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion to this paper, the issues cannot be addressed in a partial manner, especially in such as the Darfur crisis which is classified by the United Nations as the worst humanitarian crisis in modern history. Comprehensive efforts must have to be inserted to stop the war through dialogue and after that: openness, frankness, reconciliation and forgiveness when competence. Thereare peoples prior to that in Africa, such as South Africa, Algeria, Morocco; they began repairing their social fabric as well. It will be a project of national compromise and then special program to combat illiteracy, poverty, ignorance and corruption and then addressing all the issues that make the state so ready to accept religious pluralism, ethnic, political, linguistic and culturaldiversification, through the practices of democracy, good governance and state institutions.

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