

## **The Other Side of the COIN – Background Info**

The bits below are the things I found on a number of web pages that I thought worth making notes of, so not everything I looked at. Also much of the research was built into the spreadsheet that I used to model the economics and agriculture.

### **Crops**

Raw opium is bulky and jelly like, a basic lab (which could be in a field) can convert it into morphine base which can be dried and converted into bricks for easy transport and storage.

### **Money/Economics**

Millennium Development Goals for Afghanistan report in 2005 has estimated, average income per capita is less than \$US 200 in Afghanistan. (source:

[http://www.aihrc.org.af/rep\\_eng\\_wom\\_situation\\_8\\_march.htm](http://www.aihrc.org.af/rep_eng_wom_situation_8_march.htm) )

### **Health**

Availability of only one doctor and five nurses for every 100,000 persons, and one bed for 300 persons is a critical issue. As a result of this limitation, poverty, and low income of the families, we see that child and mother mortality is on the highest level. It is reported that in every 30 minutes a women dies during pregnancy or child birth and this figure indicates 60 deaths in each 1000 women which is 60 % higher in comparison to the industrial world, while 80 % of these deaths are preventable

### **Women & Marriage**

Forced marriages constitute the other serious problems of women in Afghanistan which is exercised in different ways and forms as to settle feuds (badal), Bad, threatening to payment of huge dowry, underage marriage, engaging in the very early days when a child is born. Widows are still considered as a heritage and are not allowed to marry another man willingly.

A Commission research shows that more than 38 % of women have been wedded off against their will and consent, and more than 50% of women have mentioned that they are not happy with their family life.

Forced marriage is considered to be one of the main cases of women rights violation in all over the county. For instance only in Helmand Province 144 cases of forced marriage is registered by the Commission during this year mostly exercised as badal and huge payment of dowry. In many parts of Afghanistan marriages have taken place with intimidation by the powerful people, gunmen or in repayment for debts.

The studies made about forced marriage shows that the most important reason can be the society improper tradition and beliefs and lack of awareness in the families, poverty, and illiteracy. Impunity is the other reason of forced marriages contributing to the problems.

Rape is another issue that has been studied in this research. As other problems of Afghan women this problem also exists in most parts of Afghanistan. This kind of assault mostly has taken place in the country during the last years by armed men.

The common practice is to give the bride's family a substantial gift of money (or other valuable resources) to make the marriage happen. Often this is paid in instalments, and engagements will be lengthy until the amount is paid. In practice some of the sum agreed is paid to the woman herself (to

cover her being widowed or divorced where she is not at fault), some covers personal effects for the bride and some the household necessities. The last category may well also be contributed by her own family. When the marriage takes place it is customary for the guests to be well fed and entertained by the groom's family. The bride will then move to live with her husband's family. NB there is some level of polygamy in practice and already being married is no bar to a second marriage, the only real constraint is money.

## **Tribal attitude**

Much of this is based on an article I read in New Scientist about what made former Yugoslavs participate in their civil war and commit atrocities. Basically people won't get involved unless they perceive some unredressed injustice has been done to them or they have been coerced. Coercion will be more successful if people believe that there will be worse negative consequences of not doing it than doing it.

## ***Interesting Perspectives***

[http://www.themonkeycage.org/2010/06/becoming\\_an\\_insurgent.html](http://www.themonkeycage.org/2010/06/becoming_an_insurgent.html)

[Kalyvas](#) argues that civilian collaboration with counterinsurgents is driven more by territorial control than by political sympathy or government services. Counterinsurgency is still fundamentally war, and coercion, extraction, and ethnic dominance are often integral to the exercise. It's possible, and indeed very common, for counterinsurgents to be both "population-centric" and ruthlessly coercive (population displacement and control, torture, abductions, blackmail, assassinations, etc). This unpleasant truth should seriously temper enthusiasm for COIN: the game is frequently not worth the candle.

[http://www.themonkeycage.org/2010/07/counterinsurgency\\_finale.html](http://www.themonkeycage.org/2010/07/counterinsurgency_finale.html)

<http://countrystudies.us/afghanistan/index.htm>

## **Afghan Names**

### **From BBC news reports**

Hamid Karzai; Hakimullah Mehsud (from Pakistan); Mullah Mohammad Omar (Taliban Leader); Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar; Mullah Obaidullah Akhund; Gulbuddin Hekmatyar; Jalaluddin Haqqani

### **Other sources**

Daoud Khan; Ahmad Khan Abdali

### **Other snippets from news features**

But both the police and the army have problems with desertion, illiteracy, drug abuse, a lack of representation from the majority Pashtun ethnic group, as well as poor supply and logistics

In 2007 Afghanistan's lorry drivers' union estimated that each vehicle pays more than \$6,500 (£4,216) annually in taxes and bribes extorted on Afghanistan's roads.