



Improving the Quality of Life for the Deprived Urdu Speaking Populace -- MANUU Gives a Butterfly Effect

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Abstract: *The butterfly effect, a concept signifying that minor changes in complex systems can result in significant outcomes, finds relevance beyond its initial meteorological context. This idea was popularized by Edward Lorenz in 1972, who used the metaphor of a butterfly flapping its wings in Brazil potentially causing a typhoon in Texas. This concept is applicable in various domains, including social, economic, and psychological contexts. In India, the establishment of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) exemplifies the butterfly effect. The university was founded to address the educational and economic challenges faced by the Urdu-speaking community, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. MANUU's mission is to provide access to higher education through Urdu as the medium of instruction, thus integrating marginalized groups into mainstream society. A study conducted on 500 MANUU graduates who completed B.Ed. and M.Ed. programs revealed that the university has significantly improved their quality of life. The survey, based on WHO quality of life indicators, found that many graduates continue to pursue further education, with some completing doctorates. A substantial portion of these graduates has secured stable employment in government and educational institutions, contributing to their social and economic mobility. The university's impact is evident in the improved standard of living and increased respect these graduates receive within their communities. MANUU has successfully provided a platform for madrasa students to integrate into the broader educational and professional landscape, thereby transforming their societal status. In conclusion, MANUU represents a butterfly effect in action, as its establishment has triggered positive, far-reaching changes in the lives of many Urdu-speaking students, illustrating the profound impact of targeted educational initiatives on marginalized communities.*

Butterfly effect is the phenomenon which denotes that a minute change in a complex system can have large scale effects in the same system or elsewhere. The concept of butterfly effect gained popular acceptance in 1972 when Edward Lorenz gave the metaphorical example in his speech that when a butterfly flaps its wings in Brazil, a typhoon could occur in Texas. It says that a very small change can cause drastic effects in the near future, which can be a positive or negative. Although the term was firstly used in the meteorological setting, it is just as much, if not more relevant in social, economic and psychological situation. By noticing the debilitating educational and economic condition of Muslims, the government took a number of steps and the establishment of the Urdu University was amongst them. Incidentally, while Muslims constitute the predominant majority of the Urdu-speaking and Urdu medium learner population whereas the Muslims in India -- the largest religious as well as linguistic minority group, conspicuously lags behind all other religious communities in the country in every walk of life.

The Urdu-speaking population in India has its own special, rather peculiar, even, requirements. The overall milieu of the country does not address their requirements with any degree of automation. The Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia have hardly been able to address their problems. Other Universities and institutions of higher and/or professional learning do not seem to have been having any affirmative concerns. Among the worst sufferers of the neglect, and of the provisions bordering neglect are the Madrasa products. The Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad was established with the express purpose of promoting and developing Urdu



language, imparting vocational and technical education through Urdu medium. In keeping with the mandate, MANUU provides access to quality education with Urdu as a medium of instruction and ensures the assimilation of socially, economically and linguistically disadvantaged sections of society into the mainstream by empowering them through higher education. The mission of the University rests on the hope that its objectives will transform lives of the least advantaged students by reducing the social and economic inequalities and open up avenues for sustainable employment.

Higher education plays a constructive role to improve an individual's quality of life; studies show that compared to high school graduates, college graduates have longer life spans, better access to health care, better dietary and health practices, greater economic stability and security, more stable employment and greater job satisfaction, less dependency on governmental assistance, greater understanding of the government, increased community service and leadership, more self-confidence, and less criminal activity and incarceration. Higher education gives a sense of dignity and confidence and the Urdu speaking and Urdu learning segments of society are in need of opportunities in higher education. (The) products of modernised madrasas are well versed in Urdu and accustomed to learn only with Urdu as medium of instruction and expression. The product may pursue further education only through Urdu medium, or else they will seek employment in madrasas and mosques. In this sense, the purpose of modernisation madrasas may meet inevitable failure particularly if the facilities of learning are not available through the only medium that is the Urdu medium they are well versed in. The very purpose of the MANUU is to reach the unreached, and provide them a respectable job or employment so that they may lead a dignified and quality life. The question however remains whether the University has been able to succeed to realise its mission, (and) if so, then how far. The present write up seeks to answer the question.

In order to find a worth relying answer to the question, a study was conducted on the University product itself. A survey was done on the sample of 500 students of MANUU who completed B.Ed. and M.Ed and providing their services in some educational institutions in different capacities. The main objective of the survey was to ascertain the qualitative improvement in their life. It was done through a self-constructed questionnaire based on the indicators of quality of life given by WHO. As the earlier studies found that the University is catering to the needs of the lowest economic segment of society. The result of the survey shows that 75% of them still studying for enhancement of their qualification and amongst them 15% has been completed their doctorate. Among the subject of the study, 52 percent of the students' working in government establishment either as permanent or contractual basis. A good number of them hailed from Madrasa background. Evidently, MANUU is found to be an appropriate venue for Madrasa students. It is essentially because of Urdu being the medium of instruction and expression (which suits the madrasa product) and the fee structure is almost in tune with their economic levels and is, therefore, within their affordable limits. By providing them the avenue to enter the mainstream, the University has pulled the madrasa product out from remaining in the same world as Muallim in Madrasa and Imam in Masjid on a meagre salary. In MANUU the madrasa product feel considerably at home because they did not confront any identity-based constraints and discrimination here. Rest of the universities in India do cater the all social classes but MANUU is the only university where the students come mostly from lower and lower middle class of society.

Nearly thirty one percent of the respondents are working as a trained graduate teacher and 21 percent amongst them giving their services as elementary school teacher. More than one-fourth of the students (36%) working as an assistant professor in universities, government college, DIETS and also private colleges. Nearly five percent of students are working as Block Transformation Officer and Training Manager. A good number of them were getting a respectable amount for their service except few. More than thirty percent of the respondents were getting up to 50000 and more. Nearly one-fourth of them had reported their earning between 7-8 lakhs per annum. Ten percent of the respondents were getting a meagre amount, less than Rupees 15000. About forty percent of the respondents were satisfied with their job. Little less than two-fifth (38%) felt that they are under employed but it was good to know that they are continuously pursuing upward mobility. Most of them have reported that they were in the process of getting job in government establishment. It was found that a good number of them enhanced, and were trying to enhancing their standard of living by getting four-wheelers (10%) and two-wheelers (56%). There are a number of success stories narrated by successive sets of students. In the twenty years time span of its existence, the University has been able in providing scaffolding to a good number of deserving but deprived seekers of knowledge. It did contribute in their onward movement and upward mobility and therewith initiated a process of change in their class in society.

With reference to happiness index nearly 88 percent of the respondents are happy with their life and had reported that their health is fairly good. After getting higher education and good job their respect in the society get increased. A number of students reported that they are the first graduate either from their village or their family. Now their family's



identity gets attached with their name and people of their village started to give high regard to their parents also by calling '*professor ka abba hain*'. They present a picture marked with hopefulness and positivity.

Almost all the respondents reported that their quality of life has improved after getting higher education and the positive impact of the guidance and mentorship of the University officials.

MANUU is indeed a ray of hope and of course, a new beginning for many of the deprived, Urdu medium learners who aspire to scale social ladder and transform their class character. The establishment of the University has also augmented the standard of living of the poorest of the poor and persons living in remote areas of the country. It is really a butterfly effect in letter and spirit.

REFERENCE:

1. Lorenz, E. N. (1972) Predictability: Does the Flap of a Butterfly's Wings in Brazil Set off a Tornado in Texas? Paper Presented before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, December 29, 1972