

The Utility Value of Psychological Science in Women and Children Development to Rebuild Global Civilization

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Abstract

In early civilizations, approximately 6000 to 8000 years ago, agriculture was well established in several regions, including ancient Egypt, around the Nile River; Indus Valley civilization; Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers; and ancient China along the Yellow and Yangtze rivers. These civilizations rose; populations increased and cities emerged. Through agriculture and trade, their languages and cultures stimulated a lasting impact on writing, technology, language, trade, religion, and law. Uncontrollable population movements, climate change, epidemic diseases; corruption, injustice and failing states, violent conflicts and wars caused these civilizations to collapse. Current world events show increasingly troubling emergence of these factors threatening the sustainability of our global civilization. With all of its intellectual and technological brilliance, mankind missed a huge gap in development as it did not recognize nor fully utilize the formidable, sacred powers that lie in woman, just as it did not recognize nor fully utilize the immense, sacred powers that lie in the environment as it built society and global civilization. This special paper draws insights from highlighted civilizations that collapsed, and using a Three-Dimensional Psychological Intervention Strategy Model, shows the utility value of psychological science in the transformation and empowerment of communities and institutions, women and children development to rebuild global civilization.

Key words: *Psychology, women, children, development, civilization*

Introduction

In early civilizations, approximately 6000 to 8000 years ago, agriculture was well established in several regions, including ancient Egypt, around the River Nile; Indus Valley civilization; Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers; and ancient China

along the Yellow and Yangtze rivers. These civilizations rose, populations increased and cities emerged. Through agriculture and trade, their languages and cultures stimulated a lasting impact on writing, technology, language, trade, religion, and law. Uncontrollable population movements, climate change,

epidemic diseases, corruption, injustice and failing states, violent conflicts and wars caused these civilizations to collapse.

The first Persian Empire, founded by Cyrus the Great around 550 B.C. in present day Iran, was one of the largest empires in history. Rising from its great heights, it covered from Europe's Balkan Peninsula—in parts of what is present day Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine—to the Indus River Valley in northwest India and south to Egypt. The Empire was shaped by Zoroastrianism, one of the world's oldest monotheistic religions, named after the Persian prophet, Zoroaster, who lived between 1500 and 500 B.C. Zoroaster taught his followers to worship one god rather than the various deities worshipped by earlier Indo-Iranian groups. The reign of Cyrus the Great, a devout Zoroastrian, was guided by the Zoroastrian law (truth and righteousness). Hebrew scriptures pay tribute to Cyrus the Great for freeing the Jewish people of Babylon from captivity and allowing them to return to Jerusalem (King, 2003; Kemp, 2019). This Iron Age dynasty, sometimes known as the Achaemenid Empire, was a global hub of culture, religion, science, art and technology for more than 200 years before it was conquered by the invading armies of Alexander the Great (King, 2003).

During the Neolithic Age (6000-2900 B.C.) in Greece, there were also permanent settlements (mainly in the north of Greece), domestication of animals and advancement of agriculture. From 800 B.C. to 30 B.C., ancient

Greece remained a powerful entity, playing a significant role in shaping the world we live in today. This period enriched with a wealth of fascinating events spanning for more than seven centuries and ruling over large territories stretching as far as Southwest Asia and the entire Mediterranean, the kingdoms of Greece were able to instill half the world with their beautiful culture, art, literature and innovative thinking. Greece is home to humanities greatest philosophers. The genesis of Olympics, the concept of democracy and the Senate were invented by Greeks. They laid the foundations for modern geometry, biology, and physics. History books are filled with great names, such as Pythagoras, Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, Archimedes, Euclid, and Alexander the Great whose inventions, theories, beliefs, and heroism significantly influenced subsequent civilizations. The rise of Greece was due to political breakthroughs and economic development. The extraordinary emergence of citizen-centered city-states transformed Greece into a society that defeated the mighty Persian Empire. But Greece collapsed. While their cities remained populous and wealthy, their economy and culture survived and were passed on to the Romans.

Ancient Carthaginian civilization was also a great civilization in Africa on the eastern side of the Lake of Tunis, Tunisia. It was comprised of Phoenician settlements in northwest Africa and was one of the most affluent cities of the classical world and the most important trading centres of the Ancient

Mediterranean (Goldsworthy, 2012). It was the centre of a major commercial and maritime empire that dominated the western Mediterranean until the mid - third century BC. In the spring of 146 BC Roman military forces also launched an attack on Carthage and for seven days they systematically wrecked the city and killed its inhabitants. Carthage was destroyed as though it had never existed. Nothing was left of Carthage but for 50,000 men and women, accompanied by their children and elderly parents who were taken by the Romans and sold into slavery. Carthaginian territories became the Roman province of Africa with Utica as its capital. It was rebuilt after a century as a Roman city.

The Roman Empire, one of the most important empires in world history, covered vast territories at its height, reaching from today's English/Scottish border in the north to the Egyptian/Sudanese border in the South, and from the Atlantic coast of Portugal in the west to the Syrian/Iraqi border in the east (King, 2003; Kemp, 2019). The huge state lasted for more than four hundred years, declined and collapsed. Problems in the Roman society and its Army caused the eventual collapse of the Empire. Civil wars and a decrease in the quality and quantity of soldiers protecting the Empire weakened the Roman Army. Racial and religious tensions, general social unrest created vulnerabilities that led to barbarian invasions and eventual collapse of Roman Empire.

The history of Western civilization is traced back to Europe and the

Mediterranean. It is connected to ancient Greece, the Roman Empire and with Medieval Western Christendom that rose from the Middle Ages to experience such periods of transformation as the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, scientific revolution, and the development of liberal democracy (King, 2003).

Explanations for the Collapse of Civilization:

The study of the collapse of historic civilizations can reveal how much risk humanity's global civilization confronts, today. Kemp (2019) in a British Broadcasting Corporation presentation, explained various reasons why ancient civilizations may have collapsed. These include:

- i. Environmental degradation due to excessive deforestation, water pollution, soil degradation and the loss of biodiversity as precipitating causes:
- ii. Abrupt climatic change, usually drought, resulting in crop failure, starvation and desertification
- iii. Inequality and Oligarchy: Wealth and political inequality are key drivers of social disintegration, as can oligarchy and centralization of power among leaders. This not only triggers social distress, but hinders a society's ability to respond to ecological, social and economic problems. Statistical analysis of previous societies indicates that as population increases, the supply of labour

- outstrips demand, workers become cheap and society becomes top-heavy. This inequality weakens collective solidarity and political turbulence ensues
- iv. Accumulated complexity and bureaucracy.
- v. External shocks, also referred to as the “four horsemen”: war, natural disasters, famine and plagues.

vi. The Red Queen Effect:

The Red Queen hypothesis explains the evolutionary arms race among two species in which a predator and prey evolve side by side in response to each other, both struggling for survival by adjusting to compelling forces of coexistence. Leigh (1973) proposed the Red Queen hypothesis to explain the "law of extinction", which states that the possibility of extinction does not depend on the lifespan of the species (or higher-rank taxon). Rather, it is strongly linked to adaptation of species to their environment. If species are always fighting for survival in a changing environment with many competitors, extinction is a consistent possibility. They must constantly adapt, evolve, and proliferate to survive while pitted against ever-evolving opposing species. The Red Queen Effect has been used by scientists as a metaphor to explain why species or systems become extinct, and how they can survive. The dynamic

environment reflecting itself in biology, business, economics etc. is part of nature and life. According to the Red Queen Effect, species need to "run" or evolve for them to be able to stay in the same place, or else go extinct.

Current world events show increasingly troubling emergence of the factors that led to the collapse of ancient civilizations, again, threatening the sustainability of our global civilization. With all of its intellectual and technological brilliance, mankind missed a huge gap in global civilization. Gaps in knowledge, policies and institutional capacities, due to neglect of the psychological dimension as a priority in the agenda for women, children and youth development, education and health, social and criminal justice produce deficiencies in the security and development architecture at community, national, regional and international levels. These gaps produce diverse categories of psychologically disoriented, destabilized and disillusioned populations and weak institutions within which violence and human rights violations thrive. The sacred, immense powers that lie in woman, in nature and in the environment have also, not been fully recognized and utilized in building society and global civilization.

Capitalism, whose primary driver is profit, with its unsustainable pursuit of its course in one sided striving for material gains and goals, also, hinders

sustainability of global civilization. No wonder then that, when capitalism, having nowhere to turn to when the assets it created without sustainable power vanishes, turns to catabolic capitalism and devours itself. Warfare, resource hoarding, and pandemic diseases profit the big profit makers of catabolic capitalism. Capital flow towards lucrative ventures. When cybercrime, predatory lending, financial fraud; bribery, corruption, weapons, drugs, and human trafficking become the primary source of profit for capitalism, catabolic capitalism runs out of control and hurtles down the road to its ruin, consuming itself from one self-inflicted tragedy after another. This truth reverberates across the globe.

Humanity therefore stands at the point of urgent stock taking and decision time to avert a monumental, global disaster. Exploitative, one-sided, capitalist, profit-orientated, corrupt, fractious and fractured political systems have not the ability to organize and launch a cooperative response that can avert the monumental disaster of humanity's global civilization's collapse.

Today, global civilization is mostly propelled by capitalism and a wrong, distorted development principle of one-sided striving for materials gains and goals, earthly power and earthly domination. The uplifting principle of supporting, helping love, which honours the values that serve as building blocks of peace, nation building and sustainable civilization is the right development principle upon which a sustainable

civilization can be built. To ensure survival of the planet and mankind, social change, reconciliation, a new way of thinking and living have become an urgent need for the restoration of peace and order to our planet that has been so desecrated by mankind.

Man's greatest resource does not lie in diamond nor gold, invasion of other lands, killing their people, exploiting them, dispossessing them of their resources, oppression and conquests. Rather, the key to man's greatest resource lies in the power of the human mind and human spirit. This power is infinite, divine, omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent. It is a power that creates worlds and sustains it. It is pure, all-embracing love and severe justice, eternally working together as one. This power is the energy that forms and sustains the atom. It is the driving pure energy that enables every human being to exercise his or her will in thought, word and actions. And as it is observed in nature, consequences return in multiples to the originator in absolute certainty. The Will of this compelling, severe power of the universe that is operating in every aspect of nature around us is to guide mankind to unfold and blossom through the right application or cultivation of its abilities. It is a power that gives back to the originator the harvest of his or her works in multiples. The origin of the scientific method is the observation of natural phenomenon.

The Creator of the worlds, Almighty GOD's logic is built into the universe, and therefore the universe is

not haphazard or arbitrary. There are irresistible, fundamental, divine, natural laws, which were recognized during the advent of modern scientific method as laws that describe the way ALMIGHTY GOD unswervingly accomplishes His Will in the universe, HIS creation. Greek-speaking ancient philosophers engaged in rational theoretical science with their effort to gain a logical understanding of nature, which started, at least, since the Archaic Period (650 – 480 BCE) with the Presocratic school (David, 1992). While the Babylonians in particular had engaged earliest forms of an empirical mathematical science, with their early efforts to mathematically describe natural phenomena, although they generally lacked underlying rational theories of nature. Without the knowledge and respect for the guiding principles of life and laws of nature creation, civilization cannot be sustained but rather will collapse when its period of blossoming is over. Only that which is in harmony with these natural laws, which are the right development principle, bears the seed of sustainability. Alas, mankind operating the scientific method, ignored the driving force (spirit) and sustaining power of technological innovation, brilliance and global civilization.

Civilizations, Queens and Kings, Empires and Kingdoms all pass away and only that which is rooted upon the principle of truth and righteousness holds the seed germ of life that can survive the test of time. Only the Creator, ALMIGHTY GOD, is the source of POWER. HE is the only Life,

Light and Power whose LIGHT radiates into HIS Creation, animating, supporting, empowering, sustaining HIS creatures to accomplish the mission for which they are created. Human beings are like magnetic lenses. They receive this immense, creative power of the universe and use it in their thinking, speaking and actions to, metaphorically, express their commitment to what they want, according to the law. Consequences of their thoughts, words and actions show to mankind what works and what does not work; and what serves and what does not serve him. Does “Man know Thyself”, as said by Socrates, the great Greek philosopher, not make sense? And do we start with that in the way we train our children? Is it not time for the restoration of the dignity of the human race? Is it not time, yet, for mankind to evolve to recognize itself and realize that it is connected to nature, to the environment, and to one another by a sacred bond, the Power of the LIGHT of the Creator? How much do we know about the fundamental role of womanhood, of their immense powers and the connection between man, nature and the environment?

Only a civilization built on truth and righteousness, one that honors the sublime, enduring values that serve as building blocks of peace holds the seed/germ of life and sustainability. A civilization in which the dignity of womanhood and of the human race has not been allowed to blossom forth, and one in which insatiable striving for material gains and goals, oppression and injustice, wanton desecration of the

environment and disobedience to the laws of nature persist is bound to collapse. Today there is an insidious mental health crisis and unrelenting violence, exacerbated by the corona virus global pandemic.

The only hope for the protection of women and children, present day and collective future of the people in various communities, worldwide, is to rebuild global civilization as a new era. To fulfil this task requires the transformation and empowerment of communities and institutions to mainstream the psychological dimension as a priority in the agenda for women, children and youth development, education, health, social and criminal justice to break the cycle of violence and accelerate public safety, security and development, integrating cutting edge issues of diversity and inclusion.

In a workshop presentation during the Annual Conference of Texas Psychological Association, a Three-Dimensional Psychological Intervention Strategy (3-DPIS) Model was presented as the key to restore the dignity of the human race and the dignity of womanhood, in order to lay a foundation for a sustainable civilization that can stand the test of time (Igboegwu, 2020).

Three-Dimensional Psychological Intervention Strategy (3-DPIS) Model:

The 3-DPIS theory states that in any community, nation or region of the world, where there is distorted, perverse value orientation (PVO), and leadership deficits (LD), there will, certainly, be

socio-economic distress (SED), psychological trauma of the people, and a wide range of psychological disorders (PD), including emotional and personality disorders, as well as behavior deficits, anti-social, anti-security, anti-development behavior patterns, addictions, as well as adverse socio-cultural environment (ASE). While diligence and having the right attitude to life, paying attention to what is important to development, empower a people to create peaceful, harmonious environmental conditions that promote sustainable development. Among such a people, visionary, people-oriented leaders will emerge. Such a people and land will blossom and flourish to actualize their potential. The 3-DPIS Model provides an equation that describes how a civilization can destroy itself and how a civilization can be built and sustained.

This is represented in an equation as follows:

Perverse value orientation (PVO) + Leadership Deficits (LD) = Socio-economic Distress (SED) + Psychological Trauma (PT) + Adverse socio-cultural environment (ASE) = Psychological Disorder + Violence

$PVO + LD = SED + PT + ASE$
= Violence and its aftershocks.

LD: Leadership deficits, self-oriented, tribal-oriented, limited view of leadership and one-sided striving for material gains and goals, earthly power and domination, which is driven by the principle of manipulation and

exploitation of the weak by the strong; marginalization, oppression of the weak by the strong in society triggers social and economic distress, psychological trauma, adverse socio-cultural environment, psychological disorder, conflicts, wars, militancy and terrorism leading to adverse socio-cultural environment and global security and development crises.

PVO: Perverse, distorted, corrupted value orientation, poor judgment, ignoring the things that matter, the values that promote the development of the potentials of the people, the family, communities and nations.

Neglect of the psychological dimension as a priority in the agenda for women, children and youth development, education, health, social and criminal justice system produces gaps in knowledge, policies and institutional capacities, violent crimes and conflicts, militancy, terrorism and wars, diverse categories of psychologically disoriented, destabilized, disillusioned civilian, police and military populations, arms, drugs, human and terrorist networks. The weak institutions and diverse populations produced by the crisis perpetuate the vicious circle. Who then will build the city if the people are not, first, built? The builders of the city build in vain if the people are not first built!

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Various nations are faced with the B=backlash effect of this crisis, which includes:

Socio-economic and political conflicts; persistent, hazardous migration of people from their homeland; Infiltration of terrorist/arms/human/drug trafficking criminal groups across national and regional borders.

Governments at all levels, are relentlessly making the efforts to reinforce security, peace, and development through the enactment and enforcement of laws, as well as the establishment of structures. However, mainstreaming of the psychological dimension as a priority agenda in public policy is neglected. Weak institutions and diverse categories of psychologically disoriented, destabilized and disillusioned population produced by this highlighted neglect perpetuate violence.

Military and police personnel who are deployed to combat assignment duties to counter the seemingly endless violence being unleashed by criminal, militant, terrorist networks in various communities and nations across the globe, confront traumatic incidents stressors, such as ambush, various

forms of unexpected armed attacks and life-threatening critical incident exposure associated with the risk of sustaining serious wounds or the loss of lives. These critical incidents inflict psychological injuries (trauma), leading to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and comorbidities, such as depression, on military and police personnel, which are predictive of violence, including gender-based and domestic violence; suicides, police brutality; gross human rights abuses and breeches of International Humanitarian Laws (IHL) by security and intervention forces, including violation of national and local laws and norms that regulate what is acceptable use of force, are being recorded by national and international human rights monitoring groups.

Who bears the brunt of Violence, Fractured Society and Civilization in Distress?

Violent conflicts and wars not only adversely affect military and police personnel, but hold adverse implications for the psychological development of children. Women's safety, emotions, bodily health and bodily integrity are threatened and jeopardized by the violent treatment they receive across the globe during conflicts and humanitarian crises. The adverse mental health impact of armed conflict on civilian, police and military trauma survivors exposes women and children to violence in their

homes, school, church, shopping malls and other communities and institutions (Igboegwu, 2020). Women and girls are also being used as instruments of war, such as suicide bombers and forced marriages, which make them vulnerable to stigmatization and rejection by their families and communities. COVID-19 lock down has also exacerbated the crisis of violence against women and children.

These crises threaten global civilization, women and children protection, present day and collective future survival of the people in various communities and nations across the globe. In order to save society from further catastrophic damage, pro-social engagement with all categories of the people through the 3-DPIS Initiative will transform and empower communities and institutions to break the vicious cycle. In this action, women should be empowered to take the lead in facilitating the 3-DPIS Initiative to break the vicious cycle.

Rebuilding Global Civilization

The solution to crisis confronting humanity and global civilization, today, lies in social change for, alas, the old way has passed away. The new dawn era starts with human development and such development starts with the bridging of gaps in knowledge, policies and institutional capacities to transform and empower communities and institutions to mainstream the psychological dimension as a priority in the agenda for women, children and youth development, education, health,

social and criminal justice systems, integrating cutting edge issues of diversity and inclusion, COVID-19 prevention and recovery.

In this action women and girls should take the lead in facilitating social change through the 3-DPIS. The justification for this lies in the fact that women and children are most vulnerable when their families, communities and nations are torn apart by violence.

The 3-DPIS Solution:

The 3-DPIS is comprised of following three Pillars of Intervention:

1. Advocacy, including legislative advocacy; public awareness, women/children/youth/public re-education, reorientation, sensitization and mobilization to bridge the gaps in knowledge, policies and institutional capacities for sensitization and mobilization of women and girls as instruments of social change through the “Women Go On! Global campaign to facilitate the 3-DPIS.
2. Pre and post-deployment psychological evaluation for security operatives, including military, police populations, immigrations, civil security and defence corps, etc; psychological intervention services for trauma survivors, including military, police personnel and veterans and their families, civilian trauma survivors, including health/rescue

workers; psychological assessment, correctional diagnoses, promotive, preventive, curative, reformatory and rehabilitative psychological services for offender reformation, rehabilitation and mental health of prisoners, including their economic empowerment and successful reintegration process; post amnesty psychological rehabilitation for ex-militants; preventive, promotive, curative, reformatory and rehabilitative psychological intervention services for human trafficking survivors.

3. Psychological research and partnerships

Rebuilding the Destroyed Bridge, Rebuilding Global Civilization

The womanhood of every nation constitutes its most delicate and sensitive part that serves as antennae for the socio-economic and political development fabric of that nation. In order to fulfil this role, the nature of woman inclines her to be passive, being more refined and quiet than man, whose strength and potential are better expressed/inclined towards outward show of force and strength, while the woman's strength and potential are better expressed/inclined towards the quiet, priming, leading effect just like the environment and the Power of GOD quietly and powerfully leads all mankind-compelling and irresistibly leading the way, so the passive, inspiring

guidance of the truly genuine woman ought to guide everyone around her-her children, family, community and her land with the cooperation of truly genuine manhood. It is this nature of woman that connects her to finer substantiality i.e. those streams of God's Light from where every illumination, understanding, nourishment and sustainability is drawn to become manifest on earth. While the cultivation, propagation and reinforcement of the debilitating principle of exploitation and manipulation destroy the bridge that connects most of mankind to their source of power, God. This disconnection occurs, only, when women wilfully or inadvertently fail in their duty as the guardian of the flame of longing for uplifting, sublime, lofty and enduring values in the hearts of their people.

Empowering women with knowledge and skills for strategic engagement and deeper involvement in decision-making processes concerning peace and security will help to re-orient and refocus the emphasis of the developmental process towards those hitherto neglected psychological issues that affect the human aspect of society. This is why women are being called upon to awake, lead humanity towards rebuilding the destroyed bridge in order to lay a firm foundation to restore the dignity of womanhood, dignity of the human race and the rebuilding of global civilization.

Implications for Psychotherapy

Our global civilization, today, stands in the midst of uncertainties of pervasive, unrelenting violence, marginalization, and the devastating COVID-19 global pandemic. The urgent need to break the cycle of violence, accelerate public safety and inclusion, improve COVID-19 treatment, prevention and recovery cannot be overemphasized. Young people across the globe are distressed by a sense that they are losing precious time in their prime years, due to the corona virus global pandemic. Across the world, they have lost educational and economic opportunities, missed traditional milestones, and lost relationships at a critical time of their development. There is an increasingly alarming deterioration of mental state of people, who have been severely impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. This mental health crisis and its adverse consequences on public safety, security and development will increase, exponentially, even post COVID-19, if not treated as seriously as containing the corona virus pandemic. There is therefore a compelling need for the field of psychotherapy and all relevant sectors to adopt an integrative approach that pays attention to the various issues highlighted in this paper as well as integrate the 3-DPIS Model for a more holistic, efficient service delivery in the society.

Conclusion

Learning is a change in behaviour as a result of past experience. How much have we human beings learnt from

history? For the history of conflicts and wars, oppression and injustice, which dominated past civilizations and still conspicuously dominates today's global civilization to cease, mankind has to humbly and consciously learn from history to know what works and what does not work, what serves society and what is of no benefit. Deficits in the security and development architecture are the missing link to sustainable civilization which should be recognized. These are gaps in knowledge and institutional capacities, due to neglect of the psychological dimension in the agenda for women, children, youth development, education, health, social and criminal justice. It is within these gaps that psychologically disoriented, destabilized and disillusioned populations have been produced, while violence and human right violations thrive. The 3-DPIS has therefore been developed to bridge the highlighted gaps.

The 3-DPIS demonstrates the utility value of psychological science in women, children, youth development, education, health, social and criminal justice, integrating cutting edge issues of diversity and inclusion. The 3-DPIS serves as a key to unlock the greatest resource which lies in the human mind and human spirit. It is also a guiding light to empower psychotherapists, researchers, teachers and clinicians in the field of traumatic stress as well as other stakeholders to ensure a more holistic, effective service delivery to the society, in pursuit of the agenda for positive social change and rebuilding of

global civilization through women and children development.

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