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Non-Profit Higher Education—II

Dr. Philip Heckman

service and pleasure than I could never imagine. Multiply my story by 15 million returning soldiers and sailors. The GI Bill was never intended as an investment in human capital, it was merely an expression of thanks. Congress never saw the miracle that was occurring until about 20 years later when they had to analyze why government tax receipts had gone up ten fold in one generation. They discovered us, the Americans of modest families, who educated themselves better, got better jobs, paid more taxes, gave more money away, and most importantly set a higher path for their sons and daughters.

All the men in my father's family left school after 8 years and at about 15 to 16 years of age entered the factories. My father was never unemployed in his lifetime. In my last year of full employment, 1994, I paid the government more taxes than my father paid in his entire life. The US Treasury has already received back over a dollar for every penny they put into the GI Bill. My children are as well educated or better educated than I was. That investment in me will echo in the treasuries of the United States government forever.

The official rate of population

There is a rule of societal behaviour called the law of unintended consequences. It is used to explain how good efforts have bad outcomes. We put fertilizer on our crops—the drinking water is poisoned. We get automobiles so we don't have to walk and the air gets poisonous.

Here is an example of a good outcome from a questionable act. My first trip across the Pacific Ocean was in 1942. I was 17 and I either came over to save American from the Japanese or shoot at people I did not know. I was a boy. Three years later, still a boy, I went home, as did about 15 million of us. That year Congress passed a bill to finance college education for our glorious veterans who fought in WW II. It was a simple bill, for every month you served your country you could get one month of education paid by the government at any university to which would have you. Millions who went to war never thinking about their education changed their minds and used the bill, called the GI Bill, to get more education.

I received 36 months of free education, a reward for 36 months of duty in the jungles of New Guinea and the Philippines. With that momentum I continued to receive three degrees and a career of 50 years of more

growth in Bangladesh is 2.2%. Almost everyone considers that optimistically low can expect it to be higher. The government and the country cannot now meet the demands, educationally or economically, of the people. The great majority of young people willing and ready to receive a university education are now denied access. How long will it be before the government can finance its present education requirements, much less the children of growth. I believe the answer is never and the load must be shared by an intelligent arrangement of non-profit, non-government universities.

U than, during his services as Secretary-General of the United Nations once said something so radical that hardly anyone believed it. He said, "It's not our resources that limit our decisions, it's our decisions that limit our resources." All my life people have said to me, "We can't pursue this new idea until we have the money." Yet every person in the room now works, in organizations that once did not exist, the were ideas first.

Actually Carnegie was wrong, in a sense, when he said, "It is a sin for a man to die rich". Andrew Carnegie eventually put all his money in the Carnegie Corporation and although

he died without a penny, he was rich in life and now occupies whatever Scottish Presbyterian heaven his faith promised for saintly men.

The promise of a rich life and a rich eternity is made to every one of us, particularly those of us who have common roots of faith from the tribes of Abraham and Moses: we Muslims, Hebrews and Christians, the believers of Gardens of Eternity for the righteous. There are today,

and I hope will always be, men and women in your society and mine, who can see a better world ahead. To take us and our children there, these visionaries need a little luck, a little praise, and a lot of generous support. Like the G.I Bill of 50 years ago, the right acts of Bangladeshi citizens and their government can open a future for our young people and through them the destiny of the nation. After all, like it or not, in a very short time in the scheme of things, those young people will be running the whole show.

Dr Philip Heckman served as president of Doane College and as president of Lincoln Foundation between 1967 and 1994. He is currently with the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)