Identity crisis   (Fuad Ahmed)

"Identity crisis", every one may get a little surprise what's the meaning of such an odd term. Well, this sort vague term has become so obvious in our life, especially in our own community, it cannot be ignored anymore. First of all I must admit this column is purely design to explore some of the complexity with some small groups of people in different dimension which usually taken place at our gossip, or friendly gathering. It is not my intention to hurt anyone by any form of criticism at any means.

 Sometimes may be in a family or friendly gathering, one of the awkward question come in discussion is, "what you do for living?" Somebody says, doctor, engineer, bank officer, taxi driver etc or somebody says, "Do Nothing." After a while it's come to the point of equating assets or other social status factors. These all factors arise because of some weird complexity of behaviours where we measures our social position in those perspective or status gauge.

"Identity crisis" term come through that very core problem of our mental complexity and it's come to the point where we compare each other through the social and professional status. It is very unfortunate to observe that our "identity" gauge sometimes measure by our social status, not relate with our normal characteristics like simplicity, generosity or modesty. A simple example could illustrate more about the ferocity of this complex in our "professionally sound group" in some cases. During my visit in Canberra nearly one year ago, my friend took me to different places and also some of their associate's home as friendly visit. I had been introduced and some while after, discussion started to kick towards job, salary, professional level or property etc. Unfortunately I was not able to join with pep talk because I am self employed (managing own business). It surprised me because there thousands of topics to choose but 75% of discussion were solely on individuals job, salary blah, blah ...blah...On the other hand, a group of people who do some other odd jobs (not related with individuals academic background), there are some similar sort of complexity arise when discussion take place in different angle which also reflect on the "Identity crisis". There are a lot of examples out there but at the end of the day, this complexity is getting severe when it's come to the point of identity crisis. In western culture, nobody cares "who is who?" An electrician or plumber can talk with their Prime minister by simply say "Mate". Nobody here ashamed to tell their profession because they know every profession have their own dignity. Of course there would be some basic difference towards our mentality and western mentality. But when it's come to the point of social status, everybody should respect their own profession without any complexity or confusion. We shouldn't be ashamed if we do any job which does not relate our academic qualification.

 It is my very personal understanding that lot of political groups (sometimes several groups under the same political banner) which operate in foreign soil without any proper foundations is also an example of very core problem of this "identity crisis". Everyone wants to be a leader or social fixers which reflect as Bangladeshi style

political portfolio. I know some few people who are holding their vague political position (although live far away from original group) eager to identify themselves as a community leader. Well I this sort of mentality or complexity should change in the course of time. Our real identity should be simple and clear, we are human being, we care for each other, we love our mother land and we value our culture regardless of our colour, gender, rich or poor and respect individual professions to upbringing our next generation as milestone.