

which could otherwise be used for research and education. According to the inventory conducted by SIPRI in 2021, Pakistan possessed 165 nuclear weapons against 156 possessed by India, whereas literacy rate of Pakistan is 58%, which is lesser than that of Bangladesh, 74.68%. In the SIPRI report published during the year 2023, it was found that global military spending continued to rise every year since 2015 and has crossed US \$ 2 trillion. million of people are starving to death and long term effects of climate change have shattered the pillars of the global security but the world leaders are engaged in attaining the nuclear superiority at the cost of their people.

The use of nuclear capability for the mutually assured destruction should be discouraged and the welfare of the people should take precedence. According to food and agricultural organization (FAO), 2.3 billion people in the world face dangerous level of food insecurity which is roughly 29% of the global population. According to UNESCO data 2022, 224 million children aged between 6 and 18 are not going to school, which is

Nuclear challenge to world peace during 21st century stands at the center among the efforts to maintain peace. The current asymmetry in possession of nuclear capability - has divided the world into "nuclear haves and have nots", which thereby promotes the culture of nuclear struggle among the committee of nation, which ultimately leads to the stability-instability paradox.

According to a study, nuclear weapons have the ability to promote the strategic stability by warding off the threat of large scale wars but at the same time low intensity conflicts become inevitable (Journal of conflict resolution, 2009). This is evident from the India-Pakistan relations, as no major war has occurred between the two South Asian heavy weights since 1971, but the relations between the two nuclear neighbours are typified by the border skirmishes. So, in the current century, the nuclear challenge to the world peace cannot be ignored.

The investment of a country from its national exchequer on the attainment of nuclear weapons often trades off the welfare of its masses. Large share of the budget each year in Pakistan is earmarked for the defence,

alarming. President George W. Bush has said in February 2001 "As we transform our military, we can discard cold war ideas and reduce our own nuclear forces to reflect today's needs. Secretary of State Colin Powell in June 2002 has also expressed similar views, ~~he~~ he said, "we have every incentive to reduce the number of nuclear weapons. These are expensive. There is no incentive to keep more than you believe you need for the security of the nation. So, it would be wise to revisit the policy of spending on nuclear developments, rather the nuclear technology should be used for energy production and other productive purposes.