

Q. While wicked and uneasy problems like social inequalities in health and education create an urgent need for policy innovation, policy makers in Pakistan are badly positioned to initiate, drive and lead this innovation. Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take.

Ans:

Introduction

The social inequalities in health and education in different regions of Pakistan are evident from a report by Planning Commission on District performance index with Sindh and Balochistan with worst reports results. This report highlighted the disparities between developed parts of country and backward areas. This system of social disparity has deeply rooted in whole system of governance, creating an urgent need for policy innovation and reform to address

Restructure
your intro
It doesn't
require any
report

the challenge. While the policy-makers face significant hindrances in bringing new ideas, solutions, or initiate innovative solutions due to many reasons. From institutional weakness, resource constraints, red tapism and top-down bureaucratic approach to centralized decision-making and policy implementation, several challenges are faced by policy-makers. However, some optimistic approaches have been ~~taken~~ taken in Pakistan to address social inequalities, such as collaboration with international organization in eradicating polio and decentralization of health and education sectors from federal to provincial government with 18th amendments. Still, there is need for encouragement of policy-makers to bring innovative initiative to address the menace of social inequalities. Here are discussed some factors that badly position policy-makers in Pakistan to initiate, drive and lead the innovation.

Concise your intro

Here you could add

①

Centralized decision-making

Policy formulation and decision-making in Pakistan is centralized with little or minimal public participation. This leads to ignorance of actual challenges and problems that need to be addressed while focus remains on less significant issues. Despite constitutional legitimacy, local governments are unable to design and implement innovative policies to address social inequalities in health and education sector.

②

Institutional weakness

Corruption, lack of accountability and transparency and inefficiency of the institutions have brought automatic failures in policies. Policy-makers, if formulate, fail to implement innovative policies due to lack of coordination between federal and provincial government.

③

Resource Constraints

Pakistan is already struggling with

dwindling economy and turbulent political system. This brings hindrance to the policy makers to initiate effective policies due to lack of finances, which further increase the social inequalities of health and education. According to economic survey of Pakistan, Pakistan spends 1% of its GDP on health and 1.5% of its GDP on education. This spending is the best minimal level that any country spends on basic sectors of health and education. Therefore, lack of resources is a significant barrier for innovative solutions.

④ Bureaucratic resistance to introduce new policies

The bureaucracy in Pakistan prioritizes maintaining status quo, following rules and regulation while stifling innovative policies. ~~and~~ Hierarchical decision-making discourage policy-makers to initiate and drive innovative solutions to address social inequalities.

⑤ Lack of data and research

Effective policy innovation requires robust data and extensive research to identify problems and bring pragmatic solution. Due to lack of adequate information regarding significant causes of inequalities, policy-makers ~~fail~~ to face hindrances in bringing initiatives to address social inequalities of health and education.

⑥ Frequent changes of policies

Pakistan has faced frequent transitions in government with civil-military imbalance and political instability. With advent of new government, previous policies are either abandoned or replaced before they achieve meaningful results. This results in disruption of continuity of policies and innovative policies, if initiated, are left without accomplishment of results.

7

Over emphasis on short-term policies

The populist leaders and interest driven politicians introduce short-term policies to gain political mileage and popularity. Due to quick fixes rather than implementing long-term policies by the policy-makers, the wicked problems of social inequalities of health and education are prevailed in Pakistan. For example one-time relief programs like Benazir Income support Program (BISP), Employees old-age Benefit Institution (EOBI) often take priority over ~~long-term~~ bold solutions.

8

Political instability

Rise of widening inequality gap in health and education and other social problems on one hand, while, political chaos and continued arguments between government and opposition on issue-less ~~po~~ topics. Pakistan has faced consistent political instability ~~that~~ has

badly positioned policymakers to initiate, drive and lead this innovation.

⑨

Cultural and Social Barriers

Deep-seated social norms such as gender discrimination produce hindrances for policy-makers in bringing innovative initiatives to address social inequalities of health and education. It becomes difficult for policy-makers to disrupt entrenched practices and beliefs to address the inequalities.

⑩

Limited stakeholder engagement

Effective policy formulation and implementation require an inclusive approach. Participation of diverse stakeholders like civil society, private sector and academia brings innovation. Pakistan's administrative system lacks an inclusive approach and encourages top-down policies that fail to address ground realities effectively.

⑪

Lack of public awareness and demand for innovation

A lack of public awareness regarding importance of equity of health and education poses little pressure over policy-makers to make innovations. Hence, policy-makers are unable to prioritize this issue.

⑫

Lack of capacity for policy implementation experimentation

Policy-making requires room for trial and ~~error~~ error, which is often absent in Pakistan. Hence, policy-makers are hesitant in initiating innovative policies due to fear of failure, public criticism and limited resources for experimentation and implementation of new tackles to bring equity in health and education sector.

⑬

Gender inequality in decision-making

In Pakistan, women's participation in decision-making remains low. It results in absence of gender-inclusive policy-making despite inequalities in health and education disproportionately affect women and girls. The absence of gender-inclusive policy making hinders the development of comprehensive, pragmatic and long-term solution to these problems.

Conclusion

While, Pakistan's policy-makers face multifaceted challenges to initiate, drive and lead policy innovations to address social inequalities of health and education. There are some opportunities and avenues to address these challenges. The government is already brought some innovative changes such as decentralization of governance through 18th Amendment, international

Concise your conclusion

collaboration to tackle health and education concerns such as polio eradication campaigns and use of technology such as e-learning programs to shrink the health and education inequalities. But these initiatives are not enough. There is still need of administrative reforms to encourage creative ideas, enhance devolution of powers to the local government, reduce bureaucratic red tapism and encourage policy-makers to overcome the barriers and innovate effectively.

Good analysis

Add reports and flowcharts and apt references from books as well

Good luck!

Add one question at a time

Reupload the second question separately

Q: In the realm of public management and governance, a notable trend involves growing collaboration b/w the public and private sectors. Evaluate the necessity of such collaborations within the context of Pakistan, while also exploring the potential advantages and hurdles associated with these partnerships.

Introduction

The economic systems of the world have transitioned toward complex system of management to enhance diversification in market and encourage participation. The public-private collaboration in Pakistan was also adopted to improve public management and ensure good governance. The necessity of such collaboration appeared to improve Pakistan's economy, build large infrastructure projects effectively and operate large public sector enterprises (PSEs) with efficiency.

Public-private partnership (PPP) is a system in which public sector enterprises (PSEs) are transferred to private firms where the

latter finance, build, operate and manage the projects for concessional period of time. The benefits of such partnership include effective public service delivery, better governance, and improved living standards of public. With transfer of innovation, technology and skills from private to public projects, this collaboration proves ~~benefit~~ beneficial for both public and private sector.

However, hurdles associated with such collaboration challenges ^{the} government. The lack of transparency, accountability, difficulties in ~~allocat~~ risk management between private and public sector involved in the project to ensure its success and sustainability. Private sector is concerned with profit-based results which may compromise quality standards of the project.

Necessity Of Public Private

Partnership in the context of Pakistan

The government projects in Pakistan such as infrastructure development, roads, highways, hospitals, motorways, railway stations are large and complex. These projects require innovation, technology, expertise to accomplish them effectively. To ensure better governance and public service delivery, Pakistan involved in public-private partnership. This collaboration can help accomplish major projects on time and within budgets.

① Access to resources

Public-private collaboration allows public sector access to private resources, their technology, innovation and expertise which significantly lack in public departments. The skillful professionals of private sector can help address infrastructure deficits and

better public service delivery.

② Better Living standards

Public-private partnership contribute to build, finance and operate projects effectively. It promotes better healthcare facilities, high standards of education such as **Indus hospital Karachi**, provide better healthcare support to underprivileged communities.

③ Economic benefits

The partnership attract foreign investors to invest in large public projects which improve country's domestic capital. Along with foreign direct investment, it increase opportunities for diverse participation, opens economy to the market for competition and remove barriers to private investment.

④ Achievement of sustainable goals

This partnership was necessary in Pakistan to achieve the United Nations sustainable ^{development (SDGs)} goals regarding poverty, health, education.

⑤ Ease fiscal pressure

Widened fiscal deficit and dwindling exports necessitated Pakistan to integrate in private partnership. It allows medium and long-term opportunities for private investors. The investment ease fiscal pressure on the government.

⑥ Private sector led growth

Public private collaboration promote private sector led growth, which is one of the pillars of "Vision-2025" development strategy.

Advantages associated with public Private Partnership

- ① Economic diversification and growth
- ② Improved socio-economic status
- ③ Accomplishment of major projects
- ④ Ensuring sustainability
- ⑤ Infrastructure development
- ⑥ Efficient service delivery
- ⑦ Job creation
- ⑧ Innovation and technology transfer

① Economic diversification and growth

Public-private partnership attract foreign investors, they finance, build and operate major projects. The partnership encourage participation and financial investment in public sector to ensure prosperous economy.

② Improved socio-economic status

The projects such as China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC), Indus, hospital Karachi, Punjab education Funding (PEF) highlight the significance and advantages of the partnership. It helps improve healthcare and education standards with overall better socio-economic status of the public.

③ Accomplishment of major projects

The public private collaboration allows completion of major projects on time and within budget. Examples include Lahore ring road, Karachi-Lahore motorway, Flyover over railway station at defence road Lahore, Public vehicle inspection certification system (VISS) and Gujranwala road etc.

④ Infrastructure development

The partnership has financed and operated major infrastructure projects such as highways, motorways, hospitals, airports and roads.

⑤ Efficient service delivery

With innovative expertise of private sector and better incentives of public sector, it ensures better governance and efficient service delivery. The government ensures compliance of private sector with the objectives and private firms construct and operate efficiently.

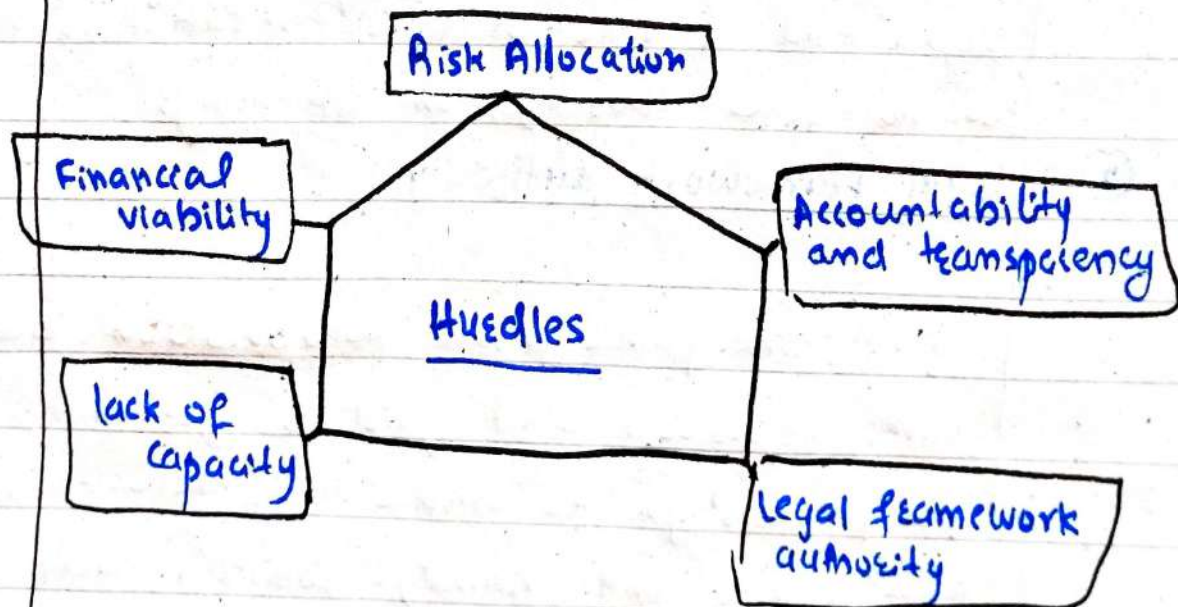
⑥ Job creation

The major projects creates opportunities and avenues for youth to engage in large or medium private firms. Hence, the public-private partnership create job opportunities as well.

⑦ Innovation and technology transfer

The government has the authority over land and private sector transfers. The technology, innovation, technical and expertise skills for efficient management of public projects. Therefore, it improves public management and skillful development.

Hurdles associated with public private partnership



① Accountability and Transparency

The partnership poses difficulty in ensuring open and honest operation and

holding accountable the parties involved and responsible for their actions.

② Risk allocation

There is a challenge to distribute and manage financial risks between public and private sector to ensure its success and sustainability.

③ Financial viability

There remains doubts regarding profitability and sustainability of the projects for public and private stakeholders. Pakistan, already a poor state faces challenges in financing.

④ Legal framework authority

The public private collaboration outlines rules, regulation and guidelines governing the partnerships to ensure the accountability, transparency and viability. Pakistan lacks robust legal framework that poses challenge in the public-private collaboration.

⑤ Lack of capacity

It refers to the lack of skilful professional and efficient resource either in one or both parties. Pakistan's administrative system lacks system of capacity building. It presents as a hindrance in the effective, public private partnership.

Conclusion

For the public management and governance, Pakistan started collaboration of public and private sector to improve economy, bridge infrastructure gaps and enhance inclusivity. It proved advantageous such as improved public service delivery, quick accomplishment of projects with transparency and efficiency. However, the partnership has faced major hindrances such as lack of legal framework authority, doubts in risk allocation, and financial viability and sustainability of projects. But pragmatic reforms, capacity development and more integrated collaboration can help achieve robust economic growth for both public and private sector.