



Poverty

The world we are living in is the capitalist world. In capitalist world, it would be naive to expect financial equality. In Pakistan is also not an exception to this system. Poverty is also prevalent here. Some people have millions of dollars in their accounts; however, the majority of the populace is bearing the brunt of poverty. There are plethora of causes which contribute to the rise in poverty; for instance, illiteracy among the masses, paucity of employment, and widespread corruption across the country among others. It never ^{means} that there are only three factors, as mentioned before, responsible for augmenting poverty in the country. There could be many others as well. Besides, poverty has a number of effects on the social fabric of the country. For suppose, decline in literacy rate, increase in child labour, and prevalence in criminal activity, just mention a few. Furthermore, it should not be taken for granted; the authorities must work on reducing the poverty. If measures, such as educating the people, expanding the poverty reduction programs, sub BISP and Ehsas, and ensuring the meritocracy, are taken, it is possible that one day we will be the country like China. Consequently, it depends on the government how it helps the country come out of the poverty.

Poverty will be defined as such a condition where people do not have enough money to deal with their daily life requirements. Moreover, when population goes below the poverty line, it even can not have ^{money for} two times meals, much less money for medication. According to the recent report of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, in previous two ^{years} 18pc more Pakistanis have gone below the poverty line. It is about time the government ensured that its ~~own~~ catering to the needs of its citizens properly.

There are multitude of factors which have contributed in enhancing the poverty, but the ~~lack~~ lack of education is ~~one of them~~ the most crucial factor for increasing poverty. Pakistan has one of the lowest literacy rate in the region. Government spends only two percent of its budget on education. As a result, country is going dismally low on its literacy indicator. All in all, low literacy rate has a major role ⁱⁿ augmentation of the poverty in the country.

Apart from low literacy rate, widespread unemployment is also one of the factors responsible for poverty. A major chunk of the population is unemployed in the country. There are two

Reasons for this: one, government does not have that ^{much} resources to employ all and sundry, second, the country is has dearth of industry to increase employment. Recently, owing to record high inflation, around two hundred industries are closed. Consequently, already high inflation unemployment has increased further. To sum up, unemployment has direct impacts on hole in enhancing the poverty.

Along with these, corruption has also played a significant role in increasing the poverty. Pakistan, according to Amnesty International, is one of the most corrupted countries ^{in the world}. Corruption is rampant here from the top to bottom and vice versa. Even institutions, which are responsible for investing the corrupt, are themselves busy in corruption. As a result, developmental funds are not properly used for development works. Moreover, owing to corruption, there is no meritocracy. This means, it is quite difficult for the poor to change his status by hard work. To conclude, corruption has major role in expanding poverty to the every corner of the country.

However, poverty has far-reaching implications on the society, ^{as well as} poverty is one of ^{the} main reasons for increasing illiteracy rate. In fact, people who are unable

to meet ends, cannot pay for educational expenses. According to various reports, literacy rate in the country is dismally low. For abysmal performance of the country on education indices is due to poverty. Poverty-stricken families do not have that much resources to equip their children with quality education. Indeed, while government institutions are very much short on providing quality education that the contemporary market requires. Last but not the least, poverty has a big hand in low education rate in the country.

Similarly poverty is the root cause of child labour. Child labour has direct relation with poverty: the more the poverty, the more the child labour. In order to help their parents to meet ends, many of the children are working in the factories and other institutions of intense labour. According to the report of Pakistan Education institute, there are 26 million out-of-school children in the country. This is a massive number, it stands nearly 40 percent of children in the country. It shows how government's inability to control poverty is playing in hands of child labour. To say the least, poverty is the begetter of child labour.

In addition to this, criminal activities are increasing day by day in the country. One of the

main reason for increasing crime rate is also poverty. Owing to the poverty, people are unable to fulfil their basic needs, such as expenses of household commodities, children education and health, and so forth. Being faced with such challenges, they commit crime. As a result, it has been seen from some previous years that the criminal activities are increasing by leaps and bounds in the every corner of the country. It never means that every criminal activities is being committed by the poor. ~~but~~ There are many other gangsters who have big involvement in it. But poor people are also committing crime for their every day needs' fulfilment. As a whole, there has been witnessed a surge in crime in recent few years due to poverty.

In the above paragraphs, the essay has discussed the causes and implications of poverty. In the following paragraphs, it will discuss how to overcome ^{the} poverty in the country.

There are plethora of measures, if taken, ^{properly} can reduce poverty from the grassroots level. To begin with, educating the youth is one of them. If the government take measures to change its population in human capital, there would be this will bring a sea of transformation.

in the country. After a decade or so there would be almost no poverty, and every citizen would be lifted out of poverty. Unfortunately, the power holders in the country have given less attention to educating everyone. Resultantly, country's literacy rate is one of the lowest in the region which has direct impact on the impoverishment of the masses. Hence, it is pertinent responsibility of the government that if it wants to alleviate the poverty in the country, it must educate its populace.

Alongside this, the government should widen the scope of poverty alleviation programmes such as, Benazir Income Support Program, Ehasas, and so on. Currently, these programmes are benefitting hundreds of thousands of families. But there is still need of expanding these programs further, so that everyone, who is unable to bear the burnt of poverty, can get some succour. In post-covid era, there are multitudes of families who have been descended into the poverty. After covid, heavy rains and record floods have further dented the social fabric of the country. Hence, the government must spread poverty alleviation programs countrywide so that people could take a sigh of relief from the poverty.

In addition to these, the government should ensure meritocracy in every department of the country. If it truly wants to lessen the poverty, it should be ensured that there is no cheating in exams, entrance tests or in tests for jobs. In a recently conducted test for admission in the medical universities, according to various reports, there had been a big mismanagement. The test was reconducted but the test paper was again leaked. It shows there is no merit in any sector of the country. Hence, it is not possible for the poor to change his fate. In short, for poverty reduction, the government should ensure meritocracy in every department of the country.

Conclusively, poverty is one of the big challenges the country is facing nowadays. There are several factors which contribute to the rise of poverty in the country, but lack of education, dearth of jobs and corruption are the most important factors among them. Similarly, poverty has many repercussions which disrupt the social equilibrium. For example, poverty increases illiteracy in the society, it further child labor and enhances the crime rate in the country. To counter these, the government must ensure educating its masses, and it should expand poverty alleviation programs countrywide such as BISP, Ehsaas, and so on. Lastly, it should maintain meritocracy in every field and departments of the country. Hence, if these measures are properly ~~imposed~~

taken into consideration, poverty can be overcome in 9 decade or so.