

Real development should transform people's lives, not just economic statistics

1- Introduction

Real development not only lies to improve economic statistics but it should transform people's lives in terms of better living opportunities. However, economic betterment is one of the aspects of it.

2- Context of real development

3- Real development lies in the transformation of people's lives:

3.1 At socio-economic level:

(3.1.1) - Access to quality education.

(3.1.2) - Better healthcare opportunities

(3.1.3) - Sufficient employment opportunities that lead to decent living ^{stand-}ard

(3.1.4) - Prevailing social justice

- (3.1.5) - Gender equality in society:
a necessity to real development
- (3.1.6) - Food security for every-
one as a whole
- (3.1.7) - Protection from climate change-
induced disaster risks
- (3.1.8) - Accessibility of clean
drinking water and sanitation
- (3.1.9) - Access to information

3.2 - At political level:

(3.2.1) - Right to vote

(3.2.2) - Right to freedom of
expression.

3.3 - At religious level:

(3.3.1) - Freedom to profess
any religion

(3.3.2) - Protection of religion
and religious rights

(3.3.3) - Religious education

4 - Challenges to real develop- ment in Pakistan

(4.1) - Unequal access to
resources

(4.2) - Absence of rule of law
(4.3) - Ruling elite are ignorant of the real issues of masses

5- Way forward:

- (5.1) - Rule of law must be prevail
(5.2) - Communication gap must be bridged between the general public and government
(5.3) - Legislation to be enacted for the welfare of citizens along with strong execution of it.

6- Conclusion

As human body is comprised on different organs, when one of them stops working the whole body gets affected. Similarly, the real development is a vast

phenomenon that surrounds the life of humans. It impacts the society holistically, including social, economic, political, cultural and religious aspects. Basic rights are to be given to everyone because of the virtue of being a human. Those fundamental rights truly depicts the real development. A society must be provided with good healthcare, education, life expectancy rate. Not only this, gender inequality, food insecurity and threats of climate change-induced-risks also depicts the under-development of a country. Real development enhances the socio-economic, cultural and political rights of everyone in the society. People's access to information and safety is evident of

development. It is generally perceived that real development is just growth of economy but ~~in~~ that is actually not true, investing in human capital brings the waves of real development in any society.

Hence, real development not only lies to improve economic statistics but it should transform people's lives in terms of better living opportunities. However, economic betterment is one key aspect of it.

Real development is the phenomenon of actual transformation of people's living standard. Development requires to enhance the life of citizens by providing them with opportunities that help to uplift them and attain the basic or minimum standard of living. When a

society neglects their development, poverty, unemployment and illiteracy become their it's fate.

On the other side, by investing in human capital, the society reflects a clear picture of prosperity and development in the world.

Access to quality education is one the significant aspects of real development.

Education exposes the nation to the actual meaning of life. It provides a clear

vision ~~and~~ ^{the} towards purpose of life

by creating awareness about the different aspects of it.

For the real development, education needs to be

accessible for every single member of the society.

In the developed countries, education is a top priority

to ensure development. While in the developing countries like Pakistan, standard of education stands nowhere. Also the primary education is not accessible by everyone. According to the **Pakistan Institute of Education**, 26.2m children are out of school. These statistics describe the current status of availability or access to education. Thus, the illiteracy rate of the country greatly impacts the development.

Better provision of healthcare services is the manifestation of real development. According to the **Sustainable development goals no. 03** which is good health and wellbeing, it is necessary for the countries to take steps in order to improve the condition of healthcare in their respective

Countries. When the people of a society have ~~well~~ access to quality health-care, it automates the development process as it is said that:

**"A sound body
has a sound mind."**

People with better health-care facilities ~~people~~ has greater capacity to perform their due tasks in a well-defined manner.

However, in Pakistan the health-care sector has never made considerable development.

As reported by the **World Health Organization**, the national health infrastructure of Pakistan comprises of **1201 hospitals, 5518**

Basic health units, 638 rural health units and less than 1000 maternity and child health centers are available.

Such a confined health infrastructure is insufficient

to cater the need of **240m** people in the country. Hence, ^{In} order to attain real development healthcare sector need to bring interventions, ~~to~~ ~~to~~

In addition to this, sufficient employment opportunities are also a contributing factor to real development. Having good employment and sufficient income expose family to a decent standard of living. Poverty is an outcome of unemployment that not only effect the family financially but it also becomes a cause of illiteracy, child labour and increased crime rates including juvenile delinquency. Better employment opportunities give rise to mental well-being, which is an indicator of prosperity.

According to the statistics given by **International Labour Organization** in 2023, the employment-to-population ratio is **47.6 per cent**. While in **Bangladesh** it is **54.1 per cent**. Real development is unachievable with the huge unemployment rate in the country. Hence, governance need to be improved to bring fruitful changes in the employment sector, to ensure high employment rate.

Moreover, Provision of social justice is another indicator of real development in a country. Law and order situation deteriorates in a country where there is social injustices. Social injustices give rise to various social problems including robbery, adultery, bribery and other crimes. It is great

opponent to real development.

Whereas, social justice ensures equality, and access to resources for everyone in the society.

It depicts the extent of development in the society.

Denmark observes the highest situation of rule of law and that is the cause to its economic and political stability. In the third world countries, there is an absence of rule of law that hinders their development.

Pakistan ranked at **124** out of **139** jurisdictions, as presented by the **World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index** in 2021.

Thus, social justice needs to be prevail in the country to ensure real development.

~~Further Gender~~ Furthermore, gender equality is a necessity to real development. When a country observes gender equali-

ty, it brings social and economic progress in the country. All the genders must be given equal access to resources like education, employment, and healthcare.

Discrimination, particularly, on the basis of gender brings horrific implications in the society, that directly hinders the development of the country.

Countries that ensure gender equality enjoy great ~~to see~~ status in the world and

Vise versa. According to the,

Global Gender Gap Index 2024, Pakistan ranks

145th out of 146th countries

The gap reflects the importance of gender equality in the sight of government and public. A country with such a low gender equality rate makes difficult for it to develop. However,

the issue can be resolved by making significant changes in the implementation of policies and laws. By doing this, real development can be observed.

Additionally, food security is another factor that highlights the extent of real development in a country. "Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life" as given by the **Food and Agriculture Organization**.

As human beings require safe and nutritious food that meets their demand of being both physically and

mentally healthy, it thus, ensures real development. When the whole society have food security, it enhances their people's way of ~~things~~ looking at things from a broader perspective. Otherwise, food insecurity will never allow them to expand their vision and they only focus on how to get access to the safe and nutritious food.

In Pakistan around **36.9 per-cent** of the population faces **food insecurity**, as given by the survey of **World Food Programme** in 2010. Food security greatly contributes to the development of a country. Hence, productive efforts are required to ensure food security that eventually leads towards development.

In addition to this, protection from climate change-induced risks, depicts the advancement of the country, which is an outcome of real development. Climate change-induced disasters bring great destruction at all levels.

It destroys the social infrastructure, cause loss of human lives and damage their properties. With the passage of time risk of disasters are increase because of the increase anthropogenic activities that are affecting the natural environment.

Effective measures are helpful to mitigate the damage caused by these disasters.

For instance, **emergency announcement system**

is introduced **Japan**, where the automated drones are utilizing to facilitate disaster

evacuation. When a country adopts an effective policy to reduce the loss and damage caused by disasters, it is also a manifestation of real development. However, in Pakistan the **flood of 2022** brought catastrophic impacts that affected **33 m people**, **1,696** deaths and destroyed over **4 m** crops and livestock. Poor management and inability to assess the disaster risk leads to hindered development of the country. Thus, it is true to say that better management and effective response to disaster management is factor that causes real development.

Moreover, ^{the} availability of clean drinking water and sanitation is another criteria to real

developments, as it is given by the **Sustainable Development Goal-6** that says, "**Clean Water and Sanitation**".

Clean drinking water is a necessity for life. Human body is composed of **70%** of water, which denotes the significance of water for human life. Also proper sanitation system is required for development, due to the poor sewerage system humans are more prone to diseases, that is an obstacle towards their economic and social growth. In Pakistan, water availability has reduced annually **from 1500 cubic meters** in 2021, as given by the **IMF**. When people do not have access to clean drinking water, it affects their social, economic, physical and mental well-being. that became a

Causal factor for its under-development. Thus, the availability of clean drinking water and proper sanitation impact real development of the country.

Furthermore, having access to information is also another aspect that manifests real development. Information about the social world remains a necessity for a human society. Exposure to information brings social change in the society, that is an important element to go ~~with~~ in line with ~~time~~ the modern world.

Latest information exposes people about the new trends including technology, e-learning and e-governance that represents the social development. However, its non-availability causes hindered growth and development.

In addition to this, there are certain political factors that determine real development of the country. These factors include right to vote and right to freedom of expression to every single human being in a democratic state. Political participation and freedom of speech are the backbone of democracy. They allow people to choose their representative among themselves, which makes it easier for the representative to understand the problems of general public, as he belongs to them. As this is said by Abraham Lincoln:

"Democracy is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

When people have right to express their opinion, they can easily share their views, this can make government able to understand the flaws in the its policies and so that it can be improved. Better political situation is an evident of real development in the country.

Not only this, religious liberty is another necessity to achieve real development. People must have a freedom to profess any religion ^{which} they want to profess. Their religious rights when protected, they can easily perform their rituals which is another aspect of development. Conservative mind set in the society disallow minorities to perform their religious rituals and to preach.

their religion and teach religious education. In the developed world, minorities have freedom to perform their religious duties, which represents their liberalist mind that ultimately lead them to achieve real development.

However, in the developing countries, like Pakistan, minorities do not have safe place to perform their rituals and expand their teachings. **In Pakistan, in**

2023, religious extremists destroyed many houses and caused harm to human life in **Jaranwala,**

Punjab, to the Christian community. Moreover, in

2024 a young boy of 15 year old killed two people of ahmadi community in the name of religion. Since,

Pakistan is under development

So, it is not all wrong to say that religious factor also determines real development of the country.

By keeping in view the the factors that determine real development of a country, Pakistan faces some real challenges that hinders its development.

In Pakistan, class difference create inequality in terms of access to resources. Unequal access to resources and opportunities cause a sense of deprivation among the different social classes and even in people living in different areas. Such inequality gives rise to the hindered growth and development of the country both nationally and internationally.

Pakistan ~~did~~ ^{could} not make progress due to this very issue. The problem created insurgency in the country such as **Baluch Separatist movement** in Baluchistan that continuously effect the country's social status in the world.

Absence of rule of law is another challenge faces by Pakistan that causes repercussions in the form of poor development of the country. Rule of law ensures equality among the citizens but in Pakistan, there is rule of might is right prevailing. When there is a poor situation of law and order, institutions fail to achieve their due target because of the lack of accountability and transparency. The country

is in a continuous state of economic ~~and~~ instability. That further leads to multiple social issues, which do not let the country to make progress.

In addition to this, the ruling elite is ignorant of the real issues of the masses that becomes another challenge towards the development of Pakistan. They have their own way to govern the country, while the public's concerns do not given much attention by them.

In Pakistan, more than 40 pc of the population is living below the poverty line.

People of rural areas including deserts do not have access to clean drinking water and food security. Quality education remains a dream

in such areas, but the ruling elite never have an eye upon such issues. Their ignorant is another factor contributing to the hindered development of the country.

However, nothing is impossible and unachievable in the world. The challenges in Pakistan that affects the development of the country, can be eradicated by taking effective measures.

First and foremost, rule of law is a necessity to ensure the development of the country as a whole.

Pakistani government need to ensure supremacy of law.

Where every citizen whether the poor or the rich equally answerable to the law. There must be equality on the

basis of social or economic status in front of law. Government workers including the head of the government and all other institutions must be working under the umbrella of law. By ensuring supremacy of law, Pakistan can make progress and can achieve good international status.

Secondly, communication gap between the general public and their representatives must be bridged in order to attain development.

There is need to build such platforms that improves communication. Social media is one of those platforms that can help to fix the issue. However, the hate speeches against the politicians and government, let

the government to ban such platforms, as it is banned twitter in the country. Censorship is required to make the use of social media purposeful to make the government able to know the real concerns of public. When the government has clue about the issues of its public, better interventions can be seen that help the country to develop.

Thirdly, effective execution of the government policies is required. But primarily the need is to enact the laws that are must be in accordance of the public welfare. Vulnerable segments of the society must be protected against the social problems that inhibits their growth.

However, in Pakistan there are number of laws that have been enacted but the problem lies in their implementation. Legislators, executives and judiciary must pay attention to the issues and legislate and execute and assess the policies and laws at every level, collectively.

In a nut shell, real development is not only the result of economic growth but all other holistic aspects are equally significant to ensure real development of the country. It implies with the socio-cultural, political and economic dimensions collectively and simultaneously. Real development exposes the country to observe prosperity and a dominant status in the world.