

Impediments to National Progress of Pakistan

Outlines

I. Introduction

Thesis statement.

Pakistan is bestowed with abundance of natural resources. It has geostrategic significance in the world. Most importantly the country has one of the world's manpower. But due to some exists, policy, economic, political and legal, social and security, the country could not make progress.

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e Inflation

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Pakistan is blessed with natural resources. It has a geo strategic significance in the world. More importantly, the country has one of the largest manpou in the world. Currently, the country is 5th populated country in the world. Despite the abundance of natural resources the country

could not make progress due to some challenges and crisis faced the country. The country has been facing social, political and economic challenges. In addition, policy, legal and security challenges also entail to arrest the progress of the country. Policy crisis includes lack of integrated development, wrong priorities, neglected of education and health sectors and lack of implementation policies. Economic impediments include inconsistency of policies, imbalance of trade, budget deficit, energy crisis, industrial and agriculture crisis and poor tax structure. Social impediments includes culture of consumption, overpopulation, inflation, corruption and nepotism and poor education and health sectors. Poverty and unemployment and high crime rate also social impediments to the progress. Political and legal impediments including absence of rule of law, political instability and weak accountability system.

Leadership crisis also the political impediments to the progress. Security impediments also involve in hurdles of the development. Religious entoe misim and extremism also the barriers to the national progress.

Pakistan has been facing challenges since its inception in 1947. Initially, the country was deprived of its due share at the time of partition of sub-continent. That's why the country could not make progress. The country has been facing policy crisis like capitalism, nationalization and privatisation. The economy of the country has been floating. In the Ayub era the GDP growth had touched 6.8 points. But due to nationalization the economy of the country plunged into the dark. Since 1979, when the General Zia stepped to the Soviet Afghan war the country faced many challenges. The country also suffered a lot economically and

socially war on terror badly hit the country. According to reports and estimations the country suffered a worth of 126 billion dollar in war on terror. In addition, 25 thousand people lost their lives. The country faced worst economic, political and social challenges during the war on terror period. Following the withdrawal of the US from Afghanistan, terrorism surged in Afghanistan. All these factors involved in the impediments to the national progress. Therefore, the country, despite the abundance of ~~res~~ natural resources and geographical location, could not make progress. Further, the was unable to utilized the manpower which led to social problems like terrorism, extremism and sectarianism. Further, poverty, unemployment and crime rate increased manifold. So, these factors involved in the impediments of the national progress.

Economic development is one of the major contributor to the national progress of the country.

There are many factors involved in economic development like consistent at policies, heavy export, surplus energy, industrial production and robust tax structure. Agriculture growth also contributes to the national progress. Heavy export has a role to play in the progress of the country. It increases the foreign exchange reserve of the country. It also appreciates the currency. Surplus energy also plays role in the national progress. Because all the industrial sector depends upon the energy. Industrial production and agriculture production also contribute to the nation. Investment in these two sectors can increase the export of the country. Robust tax structure also plays role to the national development.

Similarly, social development can bring the nation progress. Social development depends on various sectors, like education, quality and technical, quality health facilities, clean drinking water, infrastructure development, gas, electricity, food

and clothes. These fundamental ~~devents~~ facilities can bring social progress and development in the society.

Educated, healthy and skilled masses are key to social development. Social development contribute to the national progress.

Likewise, social justice is another factor contributing to the national progress. Equality between men and women is key to the national progress. Bridging the gap between rich and poor can play role to the national progress. In developed countries all the people have equal rights. That's why they have ~~more~~ achieved nation progress. So, social justice is a key to national progress.

Furthermore, political and legal development contribute to the ~~correct~~ national progress. Political parties can play role in the national progress by ensuring all the basic facilities in the best interest of the people and country. Strong judicial system is key to the

national development. Robust accountability system can bring prosperity in the society. On the other hand, weak judicial system can deteriorate the national development. Developed countries have a robust accountability system that is the key to national development.

There are multiple impediments to the national progress of ~~the~~ a country. These include policy crisis, economic crisis, social challenges, political and legal challenges, and security challenges. These factors hinder in the way of national progress.

Policy crisis is one of the impediments to the national progress. Policy crisis has been the main issue of Pakistan. Successive governments have not introduced an integrated national development plan. All the political parties devise new plans but an integrated plan has not been devised. The main reason of policy impediments is the lack of integration between

center and provinces. The condition is one of the barriers in the way. power sector, to take one example, has suffered a lot from this absence of a plan.

The primary aim of the politicians is to enrich themselves. Such projects are initiated that yield benefit in the short run. Instead of improving education sector, political gimmicks are used to attract voters. The establishment of few parish schools and the distribution of laptops are some such examples of misplaced priorities. Similarly, instead of focusing on hydro power plants that could solve energy crisis one for all the previous governments tried to solve the crisis by using rent-a-power plants.

The relation between national progress and human resource development is well established. Dr. Plehbock of HCU, economist, developed the thesis that countries who wish to achieve rapid economic development should invest in their human capital. According,

to him by investing in education, health, clean drinking water and food and shelter of its citizens a state can transform its raw human resource into human capital. This human capital is the backbone of the economy. Higher education contributes to the research and development. Skilled labour force can transform the economy of the country. But these sectors have been neglected due to feudalism. No plan made to develop health and education sector. This led the country to the deterioration of the nation.

Moreover, national progress is hampered by unequal development among the provinces and regions within the provinces. Despite the calls for new provinces to empower the people, successive governments have failed to meet this demand. The process started with the 18th amendment has been largely a sham because power has not been devolved to local governments. Provincial governments are spending lion's share of their

budgets on capital cities and few other favourite cities. This not only leaves other areas backward but also gives rise to centrifugal forces and breeds resentment. This bids ill for national integration and falls short of the aim of achieving national progress.

To begin with, Pakistan has been facing economic crisis since its inception. The country was deprived of ~~the~~ its due share at the time of partition.

There are multiple other reasons of economic crisis in the country. These include inconsistent economic policies, imbalance of trade, energy, industrial crisis and agriculture crisis, informal economy, debt and poor tax structure. In addition, loss of state owned enterprises.

Inconsistent economic policies contribute to the economic deterioration. Pakistan has been facing policy crisis for the last couple of decades. Robust and integrated economic plan has not been devised.

Short term economic policies were devised for the vested interest of the political parties. For example Ayub Khan introduced ~~the~~ capital economic policy and Bhutto adopted ~~privatization~~ nationalization and in 1990s privatization policy was adopted. This shows that Pakistan has been a victim of inconsistent economic policies. This led the country to negative national progress.

Similarly, imbalance of trade is another factor contributing to the economic impediments to the national progress. According to Pakistan Economic Survey report 2023, the total export of the country was 83 billion dollar on the one hand. Pakistan imported items the worth of 46 billion dollar in the same period. This is a stark example of imbalance of trade which led the country to the economic deterioration. This hampers the national progress.

Likewise, energy crisis is a global phenomenon. Third world countries energy shortage. Pakistan has been

facing energy shortage from the last couple of decades. Worst energy crisis hit the country since 2002 when oil prices peaked. Currently, the country is facing 6000 MW of shortfall. Corruption is a common concern in the country. Energy sector is facing ~~more~~ a loss of more than 400 billion of rupees annually. Most of the energy is produced from imported fossil fuels, which is the main reason of energy shortage.

Because energy now and then the prices of oil and natural gas gone rise. This leads to high energy cost production. It leads to depletion of foreign exchange reserves. In this way energy crisis has arrested the nation progress.

Furthermore, all the industries and agriculture sectors depend upon the energy. Energy is the backbone of the economy for a country. Economic engine and all the wheels of the industry, agriculture and household run by energy. Energy is a lifeline for a country. Due to energy shortage, inflation and high cost production, 100 percent of the industrial sector

mode has been closed down. Other factors also involved currency devaluation and high interest rate. Rest of the industry has contracted production due to low demand of the market. The demand is decreased due to poor purchasing power of the people. In addition, the agriculture production also decreased due to energy short. Agriculture sector meet the need of food of the people. It also meet the need of the industry like cotton. The productivity of agriculture sector has decreased due to energy crisis. Agriculture sector contribute 23 percent of the GDP to the national economy and industry sector contribute 10 percent to the national economy. Due to energy short both the sectors have been facing challenges. This halted the national progress.

Moreover, informal economy is another challenge to the economy of the country. According to World Bank report, informal economy was at about 457 billion dollar in 2018. According to Economic

Survey report 2020-21, nearly 75 percent of the total labour force engaged in informal economic employment sector. This affects the economy of the country. It also creates hurdles in the way tax collection.

As more than half of the economy of Pakistan is informal and in cash. This hampers the plan of 15 percent of tax to GDP ratio. So, informal economy is a major challenge to the national progress.

In addition to that, accumulation of debt is another challenge to the national progress. As most of the money is gone to payment of loan. Loss of state owned enterprises is another challenge to the economy of the country. The country is suffered 500 to 700 billion loss of state owned enterprises annually.

This is a major threat to the national progress of the country.

The main reason of the state owned enterprises loss is ~~etc~~ corruption and maladministration.

creates

~~Social~~ Social Impediments have a major threat to national growth and development. Many reasons lead to social degradation. Uneducated, poor health and poor economic conditions led to the social crisis. Society as a whole is consumption centric. Savings in an economy are the source of capital needed for private and public investment. This culture of consumption prevents the economy from expanding. Also, it accelerates the growth in consumer goods at the expense of capital goods that are required for national progress. Similarly, increase in population gives birth to many problems. It creates administrative issues, it requires more food, energy and employment. It leads to the shortage of resources. Currently, 21 million people are living in the country. Corruption and nepotism also entail social impediments to the national progress. Corruption undermines the progress of the country. According to Corruption Perception Index, Pakistan ranked at 140 out of 180 countries. Nepotism destroys the merit policy of the country. It creates anger among the people.

Nepotism and corruption also block the national progress. Low literacy rate also create hurdles in the national progress. As per Economic Survey report 2003, 69.1 percent literacy rate is in Pakistan. As per Pakistan Education institutes 56 million children are out of school among them 49 percent are female. This accounts for 39 percent of the total population. The country has not paid the attention towards education sector. Health condition is also poor in the country. As 40 percent of the population stunted growth rate due to malnutrition. 7 percent of child do not reach their 5th birthday due to poor medical condition. Infant and maternal mortality rate is so high in the region. More than half of the population lack of access to clean drinking water. Due to these issues human resource does not develop and results in slow down national progress. Inflation, poverty, unemployment also obstacle in the way of national progress. They give birth to criminals that fetter the national growth. So, social issues affect the national progress.

Moreover, intact political and legal system is key to national progress. Political stability and rule of law are two ~~two~~ sides single coin. On the other hand political instability leads to economic deterioration. It creates hurdles in the way of governance. It leads to corruption and uncertainty situation in the country. It creates barriers in the way of good governance and national progress.

Robust accountability system is a key to development for any country. Weak judicial system and weak accountability cannot play its role in the national development. Lack of accountability paves the way for corruption. Developed countries like USA, UK and France have robust accountability system that is responsible for national progress. While third world countries like Pakistan have weak accountability. That is why they could not make progress. Robust judicial system is responsible for strong accountability system. The judicial system of Pakistan

Politicised

Political parties keep first their vested interest and the national interest is second. They work for their vested interest. They make laws and policies for the best interest of the political parties, not in the best interest of the public. Feudalism is another big challenge to the national progress. They are against the awareness and education among the masses. Because awareness among the masses will destroy their dominance. Absence of democratic norms in the political parties and lack of quality leadership also big barriers to the national progress.

First world countries like USA, UK and France adopt the democratic norms. That's why they made great progress and developed countries also have quality leadership. Because they have hundred percent literacy rate. They invest in human resource. But Pakistan invests only less than two percent of the GDP. That is why Pakistan not experienced a quality leadership. They create hurdles in the way of national progress.

A ~~robust~~ robust security system is a key to development for a country. Peaceful country can make progress than that of war ridden countries. Pakistan has been facing terrorism, extremism and sectarianism for the last couple of decades. In 1979, when Soviet Union attacked Afghanistan being a neighbouring country Pakistan had had to ~~take~~ part in anti-socialist move with USA, KSA and Iran. It ~~gives~~ gave birth to terrorism in Pakistan. Following the 9/11 incident, USA declared global war on terrorism in Afghanistan. Pakistan joined this move to avoid international isolation. This proves fatal for Pakistan. As per reports Pakistan suffered a loss of 156 billion dollar and 85000 people lost their lives. For the last couple of decades the country has been witnessing terrorism and extremism. Religious sectarianism also surged in the country following the Iranian revolution in 1979. Shia-Sunni fight created storm in Pakistan that took the lives of thousands of people. Terrorism

is resurging in Pakistan. 2023 recorded highest number of attacks since 2014.

Terrorism has badly affected the country.

Foreign investors packed the ~~investor~~ business to other countries. Now foreign investors

are reluctant to invest in Pakistan

even local invest do not want to

invest due to terrorism. So, terrorism

is a major threat to national progress.

Religious extremism is a big barrier

in the way of national progress.

TLP is a new extremist group in the country ~~of came~~ after the execution

of Muntaz Qadir, the killer of former

governor Salman Taseer. Lynching and

is another big challenge to national

progress. As in 2011, Sri Lankan national

was tortured to death by a violent

mob. This portrayed insecure image of

the country. So, Religious extremism

is another challenge to national progress.

~~Conclusion~~ Pakistan has potential to overcome the challenges.

The country will have to take collective steps to overcome these challenges.

An integrated national development

Plan is required to deal with the challenges. It ~~will~~ will take years if not decades. The country is stood at a critical juncture. Without collective national development plan, The cannot overcome these challenges.

Addressing energy crisis should be the top priority as it is responsible to revival of the industrial. To remove energy crisis the country must adopt the renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydro and nuclear. The country has potential to produce 100000 MW of solar, 40000 to 50000^{mw} hydro and 50000 MW of wind energy. This method of producing energy is cheap and environmentally friendly. Energy projects under CPTI should be completed as early as possible to ensure affordable energy to the masses.

Surplus of energy is responsible to revival the industrial sector. It is the back bone of the economy of the ~~the~~ country. It contributes more 60 percent to the GDP. Revival of energy will improve the industrial

sector. Then industrial sector will improve the national progress. It will create jobs and employment.

The largest export sectors of the country including industrial, services, agriculture and IT sector. All the sectors are dependant on the energy sector. Surplus energy will increase the export of the country. Industrial sector contributes 60 percent to the GDP, agriculture sector 23 percent and services sector and ~~over~~ IT are emerging sectors. They will increase the export of the country. That will increase foreign exchange reserve and appreciate the value of rupee. So export can improve the national progress of the country.

A robust tax structure will all improve the national economy of the country. The country has poor tax structure as tax to GDP ratio is 9 percent against target 15 percent. Reforms should be made in tax structure. Corruption and information economy are major hurdles in the way of tax collection, undocumented economy

(25)

should made documented. This will improve the tax collection. Then national progress will improve.

Pakistan is a fifth populace of the world. It is also called young country. As 64 percent of the population is under 30. Investment in human resource will improve the human resource capital. Developed countries invested in human resource. As 100 percent literacy rate in developed countries while 63 literacy rate in Pakistan 40 percent of population is illiterate in the country. 96 million children are out of school in the country. 49 percent of which are females. No attention paid to the girls literacy rate. Developed allocates 6 to 7 percent of GDP while Pakistan allocates less than 2 percent. So the country should pay special attention to human resource capital. It is the key to national progress.

Political stability is very important to the national development. Conducive environment will attract the foreign direct investment in the country. Foreign direct investment can upgrade

the economy of the country. FDI is better to foreign loans as foreign loans degrade the economy and deteriorate the national progress. So the country should foreign direct investment instead of loans. Foreign direct investment will create job opportunities and improve infrastructure development. It is a key to development of a country. Political stability and peace should be ensured for foreign direct investment.

Accountability and transparency will improve the social development. It will create trust in people about the state institution. All the masses should be treated equally.

A comprehensive judicial system is required for accountability and transparency. Accountability will remove corruption from the country and ensure merit. So accountability improve the national progress. The country should adopt robust accountability to get rid of corruption.

Tourism is another major handle in the way of nation progress. Following the withdrawal

of the USA from Afghanistan militancy has increased at the western border of the country. A number of attacks made by the TTP. The most lethal attack at 2008 was Peshawar police lines mosque claimed more than 100 lives. This has created an insecure feeling among the people. So the country should remove militancy. In this regard the country should revise NACTA Act and Nation Action Plan. The NSP 2007-09 will help in this regard. Intelligence based operations should be made. Personnel training should be ensured. It will contribute to the national progress.

In ~~conclusion~~ conclusion, the country is abundance with natural resources like coal, gas, and petroleum. In addition, abundance of copper and gold resource in Balochistan's Rileo Dike area. Further, geostrategic significance of the country has much importance in the world. That's why world powers have interest in Pakistan. USA interest in Pakistan is to remove

favorism and Chinese interest, in Pakistan to access Middle East energy rich countries. more importantly Pakistan has a manpower as 64 percent of the population ~~is~~ is under the age of 30 according to United Nations Development Program. The country is also considered young country. The country has a fertile land and glaciers, the main source of water.

But due to policy crisis and economic, social, political and security crisis, The country is failed to utilized the resources in best possible way. Due to non utilization of manpower in best way it creates hurdles to the national progress. However, the country has potential to overcome the challenges faced by the country.

The writer of "Pakistan a Hard country" writes, "Pakistan has potential of resilient and it is not a failed state." A collective approach requires in this regard. Address energy crisis, revival of industry, enhance export, tax reforms, investment in health and education sector, political stability and robust accountability and security improve will ensure the national progress.