

REAL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD TRANSFORM PEOPLE'S LIVES, NOT JUST ECONOMIC STATISTICS

Outline

A. Introduction

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

- i. Real development ensures the provision of free and quality education to all the citizens of a state.

(Case study of New Zealand)

- ii. Real development transforms the healthcare system to facilitate every strata of society.

(Report of WHO)

iii. True development encompasses the delivery of basic amenities of life to all the state's subjects.

(Poverty Curtains by Mahbub-ul-Haq)

iv. Effective development entails the ^{distribution of} fair and equitable opportunities of employment to reduce joblessness.

(UNDP Report)

v. Real development bridges urban-rural gap and connects the rural and remote areas to urban centres through robust infrastructure.

(Connectivity through CPEC)

vi. Meaningful development equips the population with affordable housing and healthy living conditions.

(Japan's Housing Policy)

vii. Significant development

guarantees the uninterrupted
^{people} access to digital technology
to modernise their lives.

(Case study of Estonia)

viii. True development safeguards
the livelihood of people
from climate-change catastrophes
and yields a healthy and
sustainable environment.

(The Climate Book)

ix. Efficacious development provides
avenues of sports, fun and
leisure to citizens to maintain
their physical, mental and emotional
health.

(Ski Resorts in Scandinavia)

x. Effective development aims
at reducing discrimination by
ensuring equal political, economic
and social service delivery to
all people.

(Rwanda's Gender Quotas)

xi. Real development inculcates awareness in people on how to upgrade their lives and become their best versions.

(Development as Freedom by Amartya Sen)

xii. True development is a gateway to political liberties, freedom of assembly and democratic participation.

(EIU Report)

xiii. Real development is a vehicle of ensuring human dignity by protecting the fundamental rights of all people.

(Quote of Kofi Annan)

C. How can real development be materialised to transform people's lives:

- a. Political Reforms
- b. Robust Economic Reforms
- c. Social Reforms (SDGs)

D. Conclusion

The evolution of the concept of state from a 'police-state' to a 'welfare-state' took centuries to develop. For millenniums, empires clashed with one another for hegemonic designs. At the end of each war, only humanity failed in gory and blood. The two world wars in ^{the} 20th C.E. were the turning points in history when powerful entities of the time were compelled to change their optics of development, power and might. Thus, the formalisation of the concept of human welfare and public good began. The dismantling of Germany's military supremacy ^{and} UK's economic dominion proved that development is more than just economic statistics. Rather, real development is about provision of free and quality education, transformation of healthcare

system and seamless distribution of basic needs of life. Moreover, true development is a tool to provide the opportunities of employment on equal footing. The standard of real development is to bridge the urban-rural disparity by enhanced connectivity. Similarly, significant development is a way to facilitate people with affordable and quality living conditions. Another important yardstick of real development is a comprehensive strategy against climate change. Furthermore, meaningful development encompasses the opening of centres of sports and fun for recreation. Last but not the least, real development entails the maintenance of human dignity and human liberty. In brief, real development should transform people's lives by bringing meaningful personal and social growth in

their lives, not just upticking economic statistics.

Real development ensures that all the people in a country have access to free education with quality-enhancement goals. Education is the most important tool to transform the lives of people.

Real development is a reflection of high literacy rate in a state with scientific and digital upskilling of people. It not only yields economic progress but also results in rationalisation and enlightenment in society.

New Zealand's education system is ascribed as one of the best systems because education induces transformative changes in the lives of people. It instills a solution-oriented approach towards the

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

problems of life. Therefore, real development is a manifestation of educational advancement.

Similarly, real development is parallel to a progressive healthcare governance. It capacitates people with free basic healthcare facilities. Alongside, the availability of medicines, paramedical tools and first aid is ensured to every citizen, dwelling in rural or urban areas. Moreover, government keeps a close check on sanitation, ^{pandemic preparedness,} vaccination and spread of viral infections by establishing distinctive healthcare units. In this regard, the report of WHO depicts that robust healthcare reforms are the true reflection of development in a country. Therefore, real development embodies an

ATE:
effective healthcare system.

Moreover, meaningful development has a prime goal of providing fundamental amenities of life to all the subjects of state. True manifestation of welfare is ensuring the access of people to food, clean water, shelter and other basics. Similarly, poverty eradication is central agenda of government executed by social securities schemes, orphan care and oldage facilitation programmes.

These policies impact the lives of people at grassroot level and cultivate a sense of being protected and cared by government. To support this, a remarkable book "Poverty Curtains" by Mahbub-ul-Haq highlights the value of Human Development Index

as a yardstick of real development in contrary to Gross Domestic Product. HDI encompasses ^{all} those the factors which improve the living standards of population by the efficient delivery of basic necessities of life. Hence, true development is signified by providing them.

Furthermore, efficacious development encapsulates the distribution of fair and equitable opportunities of employment to all the sections of society. It involves the creation of jobs by resource management, digital development and sectorial reforms. Moreover, policy changes to employ the jobless faction of society in relevant fields is also part of ^{true} economic reforms. As a result, trust and satisfaction of

people tangibly grow on the ^{developmental} trajectory of their country. The report of United Nations Development Program illustrates that development and employment are correlated as unemployment is a major obstacle to development and vice versa. Hence, equitable and considerable opportunities of employment are ample proofs of true development.

Likewise, real development aims at bridging urban-rural disparities by broad connectivity networks. Urban-rural developmental gap is a significant impediment to true development. To overcome this gap, government builds ^{railways,} roads, high-ways and motor-ways to enhance the accessibility of people to cities and large metropolitan ^{along with their facilities.} centres. Moreover, transportation system is well-equipped with

modern technology to save time, shrink distance and conserve energy.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor

presents a best example of vast connectivity across Pakistan joining people through roads, bridges and railways. It improved the lives of people especially residing in remote rural areas to a great extent. Therefore, true development is affected by urban-rural networking.

Similarly, real development entails the reach of people to affordable housing and standard living conditions. The problem of exorbitant housing is prevalent even in the ^{most} powerful countries of world. However, real development offers quality housing by means of housing policy reforms which

include checks on real estate sector, public-private partnership for constructing sustainable colonies and introduction of green building projects. For instance, Japan's housing policy is known for striking down on costly housing schemes and facilitating poor section with governmental grants. Hence, real development equips the population with affordable housing and living conditions.

Furthermore, true development guarantees the availability of digital technology to common people. Digital infrastructure is paramount for progress in a rapidly digitalising world. For this, the ultimate goal of development is to install internet infrastructure in country. It also

encompasses the inclusion of digital education, free courses and programmes on the best use of internet to modernise life. Moreover, digital democracy, digital healthcare and digital governance are other important aspects of meaningful developmental strategies. For example, Estonia which is also called e-Estonia holds world best digital system owing to its positive incorporation in the lives of people. Therefore, true development is a reflection of digital development.

Additionally, significant development ^x provides multifarious avenues of sports, ^f ^x protects the life and belongings of citizens from the menacing implications of climate change. For this, government

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

takes necessary steps for disaster management, early-warning systems and climate-^{change}-resilient infrastructure.

Moreover, energy efficiency is materialised by energy conservation mechanism at societal, national and individual level by means of renewable energy mechanisms.

Sustainable agriculture, farming and fishing is also an important aspect of real development. "The Climate Book" by Greta Thunberg comprehensively outlines the value of sustainable development as promoting real development. Hence, true development is an epitome of sustainable and climate-change mitigating infrastructure.

Furthermore, true development provides many avenues of fun, sports and leisure to all

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

citizens. They are integral to mental, physical and emotional development of people. Therefore, government pays special attention to build resorts, sports clubs and art academies to ensure recreation and grooming of individuals. In this way, people not only engage in healthy pastime activities but also unwind themselves. Ski resorts in Scandinavian countries offer best case study to reinforce the meaning of real development. People attribute their happiness to these ski spots. Hence, efficacious development is extended to the availability of fun, games and sports to people.

Similarly, effective

development considers the reduction of discrimination based on sex, gender, religion, caste or ethnicity. It is materialised by providing equal social, economic and political opportunities to all distinctive groups. Moreover, it also includes taking solid measures to cripple the dominion of elite, powerful, and repressive societal norms by maintaining law and order. Alongside, ^{significant} legal remedies extended to vulnerable and affected people are the fundamental pillars of equality and non-discrimination. For example, gender quotas provided by Rwanda resulted in women empowerment in political, legal and social domains. This makes Rwanda one of the best ^{developed} countries for women. Hence, real development is distinguished by equality among multiple factions.

Alongside, real development inculcates awareness in people on how to work upon their lives and upgrade their living standards. Awareness in common public on ^{global} economic and societal trends is key to trickle down the effects of development to common people. It cultivates sense of hard-work, purposefulness and creativity. To ensure this, government instills practical knowledge in educational and training centres. Students are enlightened on the importance of living a rich and solution-oriented life to benefit and serve society at large. Case in point is "Development as Freedom" by Amartya Sen, in which he stressed on the parameters of true development as shaping people's lives and minds. Hence, real develop-

ment carries with it the responsibility of disseminating awareness on life improvement and quality assurance in public.

likewise, true development is a roadmap to political and civil liberties. No country can claim to be developed without granting people their fundamental rights and freedom. Efficacious development demands the awareness of population on their rights and duties. Moreover, it entails the presence of discipline, courage and resilience in people against repressive system and leaders. In times of crisis, people become a deterrent wall against dictatorship and absolutism by exercising their right to assembly

and demonstrations. Economist International Unit in its report illustrates that true development is an embodiment of freedom and rights of people. Hence, true development is a gateway to them.

Last but not the least, real development is a vehicle of ensuring human dignity of all people. It can be achieved by means of participatory government, provision of fundamental rights and developmental opportunities to all people. Government takes remarkable steps to add the universal rights in the constitution and devise proper means ^{to} provide them ^{to} people. Moreover, it respects the inherent dignity of people by empowering them.

As Kofi Annan says, "we will not enjoy security without development, we will not enjoy development without security, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights". Therefore, true development is marked by maintaining human dignity.

In order to fulfill the aforementioned criteria of true development, robust reforms at social, political and economic levels are required. Socially, people should be empowered to enhance the quality of their lives. Moreover, welfare programmes should be introduced by governments to facilitate the overlooked and aggrieved groups. Economically,

government should focus on resource management and investment in advanced sectors to overcome unemployment and economic uncertainty. Politically, inclusive government and administration with efficacious service delivery amount to real development. Working on ^{the} accomplishment Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by governments bring countries closer to achieve real development.

It demands will, planning and sincerity on part of government for welfare.

In a nutshell, real development is about transformation of the lives of people in ^{personal,} social, economic and political areas, not just improving economic

figures. It also comprises quality education, healthcare system and provision of basic necessities of life. In the similar way, real development embodies the equitable employment opportunities.

Next to it, bridging urban-rural gaps, affordable housing, digital progress and connectivity represent true development. Furthermore, sustainable progress and climate-change resilience are significant elements of true development.

Additionally, equality, non-discrimination, ^{and} respect of fundamental rights and freedom promote meaningful development. Therefore, governments should aim at materialising the contents of real development rather than chasing hollow and insignificant goals of increasing economic statistics.