

POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN PAKISTAN.

OUTLINE

1) Introduction.

2) Political developments to alleviate poverty.

2.1) Political developments are prerequisite for achieving sustainable economic growth.

2.2) In case of Pakistan, political instability and democratic recession made the country to pursue short term goals.

2.3) Dynastic politics has undermined local representation.

2.4) Political stability and inclusivity leads to sustainable growth.

3) Economic developments for poverty alleviation.

3.1) Economic development requires self-sufficiency. Self-sufficiency is pivotal.

3.2) In case of Pakistan, the country remained dependent on foreign aids and loans to fulfil needs.

3.3) Shift towards increasing exports and widening tax nets.

4) Social developments to alleviate poverty.

4.1) Social developments banks in prolific political and economic decision-making.

4.2) Pakistan is performing poor in investing in human development resource.

4.3) Focus towards promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to bridge loopholes.

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5. Conclusion.

"Poor countries are poor because those who have power make choices that create poverty."

— Daron Acemoglu

Poverty is a multi-faceted phenomenon encompassing political insufficiency and lack of political, economic and social entitlements. It remains a major issue for a developing country like Pakistan owing to the preponderance of extractive political and economic institutions, which continue to wreak havoc on social development in the country. Despite signing the Millennium Development Goals coupled with Sustainable Development Goals to commit to eradicate poverty and hunger, the country fell short of addressing structural issues that hamstring the hope of achieving sustainable development. As reported by World Bank, 45% of Pakistanis live below the poverty line. Hence, eradicating poverty necessitates marking a shift towards accomplishing political, economic and social developments in the country.

Political developments are pre-requisite for achieving sustainable economic growth. It mainly comprises inclusivity and political stability that bring pluralism. However, in Pakistan, political instability and democratic regression remain hallmarks of country's political landscape. Consequently, the country has not been able to implement economic model. The policies pursued by various governments unleashed unequal distribution of resources. Ergo, the two major provinces of the country — KPK and Balochistan — have been mired in insurgencies and militarism. This has further amplified poverty.

by deterring investment while creating perception of conflict-ridden regions, which has undermined the resource potential of these areas. Furthermore, dynastic politics in Pakistan has undermined representation from grassroot level. Hence, the economic policies pursued don't take into account the problems of local people. Ergo, the country should shift towards bringing inclusivity in its decision making by assigning representation to new talent. Secondly, the political system should also be consolidated to generate pluralism. Hence, political stability and inclusivity are requisites for sustainable growth.

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Economic development requires self-sufficiency rather than relying on external help. This must be coupled with ensuring an equitable distribution of resources and income. With regard to PK also, owing to the adoption of a sustainable economic model, the country embarked upon pursuing foreign aids and loans to address its fiscal deficit. Consequently, the conditional loans from lenders like IMF don't take into account the woes of common people. For instance, it keeps stipulating from the government to increase prices of goods and taxes, which squeeze common people who are struggling to meet their ends. Hence, the government should strive to accomplish self-sufficiency by relying on exports and widening tax-nets to uplift burden from salaried class. Additionally, this will help to invest more in public sector development, which will ameliorate the conditions of common people.

lastly, Social development banks on prolific political and economic decision-making, it necessitates investing more

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in human resource development. However, in case of Pakistan, the country falls in low-ranking in Human Resource Development (HDI) index with 26 million children are out of school and young population - constituting a greater chunk of population in the country - is unemployed. Additionally, half of the population is grappling with food insecurity and health issues with women remain more vulnerable than men. To cope with these prevalent issues, there is a need to promote Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to boost public-service delivery. Previously, Akhuwat - the well-reputed micro-financed organization - worked with central and provincial governments to disperse loans to deprived citizens and upgraded schools to impart education to poor citizens. To address vocational training issues, it should also be setup at school level to upgrade skills of youth that are compatible with international standards. The female schools and universities should also be setup in rural and conservative regions to enhance female enrollment. With regard to health issues, the primary health care centres should be established in regions struggling with non-availability of health care services. Hence, human resource development constitutes a linchpin of social development.

In inference, political and economic developments pave the way for social development. Political, inclusivity and stability are necessary to ensure sustainable growth. Economically, self-sufficiency coupled with equitable distribution of resources can bring growth and boost living standards of the people. Social development, dependent on political and economic development, requires to focus on human resource development to address the woes of common people. This integrated approach can break the cycle of poverty and bring lasting development.