

Poverty Alleviation in Pakistan.

OUTLINE

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"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. The 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 hamstrung the hope of achieving sustainable development. As reported by World Bank, 45% of Pakistanis live below the poverty line. Hence, eradicating poverty necessitates making 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 about development. However, in Pakistan, political instability and democratic recession remain hallmarks of country's political landscape. Consequently, the country has adopted an economic model, which has been marred by various government's 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 region, which has undermined the resource potential of 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 building inclusivity in its decision-making by assigning representation to new talent. Secondly, the government system should also be re-organized to generate pluralism. Hence, political stability and inclusivity are prerequisites 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 the introduction of a self-sufficient and sustainable economic model, the country embarked upon pursuing foreign aids and loans to address its fiscal deficit. Consequently, the condition loans from renders like IMF don't take into account the woes of common people. For instance, it keep stipulating from the government to increase prices of goods and taxes, which squeeze common people who are struggling to have their ends meet. Hence, the government should strive to accomplish self-sufficiency by relying on exports and widening tax-nets to shift burden from salaried class. Additionally,

This will keep the rural sector

developed, which will undermine the conditions of

poor people

Lastly, Social development banks on prolific political and economic decision-making. It necessitates investing more

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 and out of school and young population - constituting a greater chunk of population in the country - is unemployed.

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 Additionally, half of the population is grappling with food insecurity and health issues with women remain more vulnerable than men. To cope with these deprived citizens, 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.

Also, there should be setup at school level to upgrade skills of children 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 socio-economic 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 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.