

# Pakistan's Economic future : Can Country achieve sustainable growth?

## Outline

### 1. Introduction

Thesis Statement : With the prospects of modernization in agriculture, adoption of renewable energy resources, and gender equality and inclusivity in every economic sector, the economic future of Pakistan looks very promising. Therefore, the country can, indeed, achieve sustainable...

### 2. An Overview of Pakistan's Economic Future

#### A. Modernization in Agriculture

(Example : Integration of technologies like RemoteWell and Hello Tractor)

#### B. Gender Equality and

Inclusivity in every Economic Sector

(Example : Equal Pay for equal amount of work for everyone)

#### C. Adoption of renewable energy

sources : for power generation.

(Example : Adoption of technologies like Photovoltaic Motorway roofing)

### 3. Facts highlighting that Pakistan can achieve sustainable Growth

#### A. Demography of Pakistan

(Example : According to UNDP, 64% of Pakistan's population is below 30)

#### B. Large Reservoirs of Natural Resources

(Example : Huge reservoirs of Copper in Balochistan)

#### C. Potential of Agricultural Growth

(Example : According to WB, Pakistan can increase 50% by 2025)

### 4. Barriers to Sustainable Growth

#### A. Political Instability

(Example : Powerful people here and there try to seek .... ; Why Nation Fail)

#### B. High Energy Prices

(Example : According to PM of Pakistan, Pakistan makes most expensive electricity in south Asia)

## 5. Recommendations for the Sustainable Economic Future of Pakistan

A. Fostering Entrepreneurship

Environment

(Example: Easy Access to Credit)

B. Equitable Distribution of Resources.

## 6. Conclusion

Pakistan, a country in South Asia, has all the necessary ingredients to become a key player in the geo-political arena. Despite this, the country is always in quagmire, battling with some sort of challenges. Whereas, its immediate neighbour has become the fastest growing economy of the world, posing a threat to the economic future of Pakistan. Achieving sustainable growth does not mean pumping macro-economic indicators rather it means overall human development which comes from alleviating poverty, achieving gender equality and inclusivity, and ensuring freedom of human beings, because poverty means nothing but unfreedom. To embark, truly, on the journey to sustainable growth, states around the world, including Pakistan, also need to integrate science and technology in all economic sectors. With the prospects of modernization in agriculture, adoption of renewable energy resources, and gender equality and inclusivity in every economic sector, the

economic future of Pakistan looks very promising. Therefore, the country can, indeed, achieve sustainable growth as it has an ideal demography, large reservoirs of natural resources and huge potential of Agricultural Growth.

Pakistan's economic future looks very promising as it can achieve modernization in agriculture sector by integrating science and technology especially in irrigation system. Similarly, Pakistan also faces a problem of post-harvest handling which increases food insecurity, to solve these problem, Pakistan, in future, will revamp its agriculture sector. Moreover, Gender inequality and lack of inclusivity can hamper the economic growth of any Nation of the world, therefore, to have a good economic future, Pakistan surely will make efforts to achieve gender equality and inclusivity by providing equal education and business opportunities to everyone in every economic sector of the country. In addition to that, Pakistan's economic

future cannot be imagined without adoption of renewable energy resources to decouple country's dependence on expensive hydrocarbons for power generation. These manifestations paint a very beautiful tapestry of Pakistan's economic future.

Agriculture

sector is the backbone of every economy of the world and its importance for Pakistan cannot be understated as it is responsible for employing half of the employable labour and contributes 24% to the GDP of Pakistan. In future, agriculture sector is likely to grow even more and bolster Pakistan's economy. Adoption of technology like 'Hello Tractor' - an agriculture start-up in Africa - is more likely in the future. For instance, Hello-Tractor was purposefully created to ameliorate the pain of small scale farmers, who cannot afford the heavy machinery and thus remain uncompetitive. The 'Hello-Tractor' provides them with all the tools and machineries to make their farming efficient. Similarly, integration

of software applications like 'Big-Basket' into agriculture sector of Pakistan also looks possible. The Big-Basket's purpose is to link consumer directly to the farmers to avoid Business-To-Business and Business-to-customer hassle. Similarly, the winner start-up 'Remote Well' in ZarZarat Competition is likely to reach every village of Pakistan to improve irrigation system as according to World Bank, Pakistan can save upto 12.5 m hectre ton of water by employing modern irrigation techniques. Overall, Pakistan's economic future is incomplete without modernization in Agriculture.

It cannot be denied that behind every successful nation or a state there is contribution of women, and if a nation does not adequately appreciate contributions of women then it is doomed to fail. For example, according to Global Gender Report, a woman earns 52 cents against every dollar earned by a man, which shows that there is huge room for improvement. Therefore, it is highly possible

that in economic future of Pakistan, each women from all segments of society such as rich, middle or poor and from all parts of Pakistan such as rural or urban, will get access to equal opportunities of education and business. Women play huge role in economic development of a country, for example, 90% of rice crop in South Asia is cultivated by women. Moreover, women are also responsible for giving birth to youngsters, which later become the part of economic workforce of any nation of the world. Therefore, there are high prospects of achieving Gender equality and inclusivity in Pakistan's economy.

Similarly, Pakistan will eventually shift to renewable energy resources such as solar energy, wind energy and hydroenergy, and it will gradually decouple its dependence from expensive and imported hydrocarbons. For example, in 2023, Pakistan consumed 588000 Barrels of oil each day and only 36000-38000 were locally produced. The future of



Pakistan's economy is likely to be very promising, as authorities in Islamabad will try to adopt disruptive technologies to ensure Pakistan is not left behind.

Pakistan will surely learn from its surrounding and adopt innovative energy alternatives. For instance, Austria - a country in Europe - has built a photovoltaic roofing on its motorway, which not only produces electricity but also solves the space problem associated with renewable energy resources. Moreover, Pakistan is also likely to learn from its immediate neighbour - India, which has introduced solar panel roofing over canals, which also serves dual purposes, for instance, solar panels over canals can prevent evaporation as well as generate electricity. Therefore, shifting to renewable energy resources can make the country's future very promising.

These aforementioned manifestations can be realized as the country possesses all the necessary elements to embark itself on the journey to sustainable growth. For a country

to achieve sustainable growth, the importance of its demography cannot be understated. In simple terms, demography means the pattern of population growth and the average of numbers of people in each age bracket. Pakistan is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest country of the world in terms of population and it has a population of 241.5 million. Moreover, according to United Nations Development Programme, 64% of Pakistan's population is below 30, which is a very welcoming news for Pakistan's economic future. Youth is the most important strategic asset a country can possess. Countries like China, Japan and even Russia are feeling the brunt of demographic crises as their population is aging constantly. With such demographic advantage over other nations of the world, Pakistan can surely embark itself on the journey to sustainable growth.

Similarly, Pakistan also possesses large reservoirs of natural resources in various parts of the country.

For example, in Balochistan there are huge reservoirs of Copper, and according to the experts, copper is usually accompanied by Gold and silver. Pakistan, having such natural wealth, can provide great opportunities of investments for China, UAE, Canada and Saudi Arabia, because countries like UAE, China and Saudi Arabia are always occupied in erecting tall infrastructures. Take for example Copper, Copper is one of the most critical component of electronic devices which are largely manufactured in China. To be precise, Electric Motors in EVs cannot be imagined without the use of copper. Therefore, Pakistan can become a spot of attraction for foreign investors around the globe. By strategically projecting and promoting natural resources of Pakistan, the country has all the possibility to embash itself on the journey to sustainable growth in the future.

In addition to that, Pakistan is a country which huge potential for

Agricultural Growth, which means that country's agriculture having the largest share in GDP can indeed contribute in the overall growth of economy. For instance, According to World Bank, Pakistan has the potential to increase its agricultural productivity by 50%, if it is able to modernize its agricultural method. While there are many facts which highlights that country can indeed embark itself on journey to sustainable, there are also some barriers which demands immediate attention from the authorities such as never ending cycle of political instability - which impedes prospects of economic growth and high energy prices - which makes our manufacturing sector less efficient and incompetent. For example, according to Economic Survey of Pakistan, automobile, beverages, steel and iron has experience negative growth in 2023-24. Therefore, political instability and soaring energy prices poses severe risk to the economic future of the country.

Pakistan's political landscape can be characterized by confrontation, rigidity and revenge which shows that the country is in constant state of political turmoil. People with vested interest and external elements who do not want to see the economy of the country flourishing put road-blocks on the way to sustainable growth. James A has pointed at these people in his famous book: Why Nations fail? He said, "Powerful people here and there try to seek complete grab over the institutions, thus undermining any prospects of sustainable development for their own greed." Moreover, high energy prices are indirectly the manifestation of poor energy policies and reliance on imported hydrocarbons. For instance, oil prices are frequently affected by the geo-political events, which increases the production cost making the exports highly uncompetitive. These fluctuations in energy prices are not a good omen for sustainable economic future for Pakistan. Therefore, political instability and high energy prices

present big barriers on the way to sustainable growth in future.

To ensure that Pakistan's economic future is sustainable, government can play its part by providing easy access to credit which will foster entrepreneurship environment in the country. The government initiative to strengthen business in Punjab under the Assam Karobar scheme should not be confined to one province, rather it should be extended to all provinces to achieve sustainable growth in true sense. Moreover, according to Amartya Sen, sustainable development means freedom from fear of poverty, therefore authorities in Islamabad needs to work towards overall development of human living inside Pakistan's territory as 40% of population lives below the poverty line. In addition to that, government under Assam Karobar needs to ensure transparency and monitor that funds provided to young entrepreneurs

are spent on business related purposes only. To add more, government of Pakistan introduce a state-led Ghosh Tank kind of project which will encourage youth to do more. This is how, Pakistan economic future can post sustainable growth for the coming generations.

To conclude, Pakistan posses all the characteristics of a progressing nation, such as young demography, potential for agricultural growth and huge natural wealth in the form of natural resources, which are necessary for a country to achieve sustainable economic growth in future. Pakistan can indeed have very promising future as it is likely to adopt renewable energy resources and decouple its dependence on imported hydrocarbons, modernize its agriculture sector by integrating science and technology in almost all sub-sectors of agriculture and finally, Pakistan will fully integrate women into every sector of economy, achieving gender equality and inclusivity by providing

equal opportunities without discrimination of gender, race, age or geographical location. While, the economic future of Pakistan is likely to be sustainable, the journey itself is not that easy as many internal or external put roadblocks on the way for their own greed. These roadblocks can easily become stepping stones, if the authorities in Islamabad ensure; easy access to credit for young entrepreneurs and distribution of resources on equitable basis. Pakistan, therefore, has huge potential to achieve sustainable growth if it is able to overcome the obstacles on the way, as it is famously said, "The journey to thousand miles, always start with a step."