

Pathways to Pakistan's Prosperity

1. Introduction

2. Pathways to Pakistan's Prosperity

- a) Education is the foremost way towards nation's prosperity
- b) Pakistan have to utilize its human resource to achieve greatness
- c) Social inclusivity is needed to ensure the collective goal of prosperity
- d) ↑ Prosperity of Pakistan, ^{it} is required to create the opportunities for SMEs
- e) Large scale manufacturing companies ^{could} be the proven contributor in Pakistan's prosperity
- f) Infrastructure development is the cornerstone for the development of Pakistan
- g) Developmental projects should not be politicised

- n) Government need to ~~politicise~~ minimize security threats by active governance
- o) Political stability is the base ^{element} for economic and political prosperity in Pakistan
- j) Government needs ~~to~~ ensure evidence-based policy making
- k) Advance ~~technology~~ is required to be adapted to prosper in this ~~digital~~ age
- l) Healthy ~~diplomatic~~ relations and trade deals with other countries will be helpful for Pakistan's prosperity
- m) Create the ~~soft~~ image of Pakistan in the world

3. Conclusion

Pakistan is one of the countries which are rich in resources. The country has the strategic location, natural reserves, plains and mountains, rivers and sea, and four seasons in the year. Despite all these resources Pakistan is still struggling to achieve prosperity. The prosperity of Pakistan cannot be achieved in the blink of an eye, rather it can be possible with comprehensive reforms. Education is the first and foremost pathway towards nation's prosperity. Pakistan have to utilize its human resource at maximum. Social inclusivity, government's support for Small and Medium Enterprises, and large scale manufacturing companies would be the proven contributor in Pakistan's prosperity. Also, the people and the government need to understand the loss of polarization — of development projects. The security threats should be minimize by active governance. Political stability, evidence-

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based policy making, technological advancement, healthy diplomatic relations with other countries, and the soft image of Pakistan in the world, are some of the leading factors towards the prosperity in Pakistan. This is the fact that Pakistan have to bring-out itself from the chaos and gear up for the greatness. There are number of ways that can bring prosperity in Pakistan.

To begin with, education is the first and foremost way forward towards nation's prosperity. Literacy and civic sense should be inculcate in the masses to make them civilized. Without education, a country or a nation cannot be prosper. History is witnessed that all the great nations and civilisations had the people with great civic sense. Pakistan with having only 62% literacy rate (as per

the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics), cannot be prosper without massive increase in that of. There is an need for education emergency in Pakistan because its rate is too low. With the help of Public-Private partnership, the awareness for education can be spread. The facilities in the public schools should be provided to attract more children. Also, the stipend should be allocated to the parents of labour child to decrease their concern. Hence, to achieve the prosperity in Pakistan education should be the topmost priority.

In the similar manner, Pakistan have to utilize its human resource to achieve greatness. Instead of burdenizing the growing population, the government should utilize them in efficient manner. Nations that are growing continuously are good at utilizing their population

in an effective and efficient manner. For example, China with the highest population in the world (according to UN) is become the leading country of 21st century. Because, China ~~was~~ engaged its population in the productive work. Thus, Pakistan should take the lesson from China to use its human resource in the correct way.

Furthermore, social inclusivity is needed to ensure the collective goal of prosperity. Especially in the workplace. The gender barrier in Pakistan hinders the substantial potential in economic growth. As studies continuously showed that gender equity drives economic growth. Furthermore, when marginalized people are empowered - the democracy will thrive. For example, the surge in insurgencies in Pakistan are the effect of social exclusivity and marginalization.

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If there would be equal representation of the communities, ethnicities, and genders, the social unrest will erode from Pakistan. The Baloch insurgency, Sindhi-Muhajir conflict, Sindh's demand for separate province, are the results of unequal representation. On the other hand, the women of Pakistan are still struggling for their rights. At the foundation of social exclusivity, the building of prosperity cannot be constructed. Thus, there is an immense need for social inclusivity to achieve the collective goal of Pakistan's prosperity.

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In addition to that, to achieve prosperity of Pakistan, it is required to create the opportunities for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). SMEs play a crucial role in GDP growth in a country. The vacuum should be created to increase the number of

SMEs. According to the Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) approximately 40% of total GDP is contributed by SMEs. This prominent percentage shows the importance of SMEs in Pakistan. In a nutshell, the opportunities for SMEs should be created on a broader level. In terms of schemes for entrepreneurs, flexible policy rate for new startups, or grants for small business, the authorities like SMEEDA can play a key role to enhance business sector in Pakistan to achieve Pakistan's prosperity.

Likewise, the large scale manufacturing companies cannot be ignored when it comes to Pakistan's prosperity. These companies could be the proven contributor in prosperity of Pakistan. These companies can help to reduce the unemployment rate in Pakistan. The unemployment rate is 6.3% (as per the economic survey of Pakistan 2023-24). Also, Higher Education Commission (HEC) introduce

the 400,000 seats for graduates every year. However, there are not enough jobs to compensate the gap between graduate and employment. The implementation on the plan of special economic zones (SEZs) need to faster. In order to ~~increase GDP growth rate and employment rate~~ ^{undoubtedly,} in Pakistan. The lack of large scale manufacturing companies are the ~~cause~~ for Pakistan's prosperity.

Also, infrastructure development is the cornerstone for the development of Pakistan. The core of every nation's development is its infrastructure. The roads, railways, ports, and airbases are the essentials for any country in this world. Pakistan has the potential to construct railways, and ports unlike landlock countries. However, Pakistan is not utilizing the blessings of its land to prosper. Pakistan should take

The lesson from China that how China ruled the trade routes of the world through Silk road and how it will rule trade routes through Belt and Road Initiative. There is no doubt that Pakistan is collaborating with China to develop the infrastructure of Pakistan but it is bare minimum. The infrastructure of Pakistan is one of the prominent pathways to ensure Pakistan's prosperity.

Moreover, with a view to attain prosperity in Pakistan. The developmental projects should not be politicised. There should be a line to separate politics from development. The political leaders should contribute in positive development in the country. The blame game on one another and seeking personal interests instead of country's interest thwart the growth in Pakistan. For example, the

politics on dams, especially 'Kalabagh dams' are one of the main reasons for the floods of year 2020. Also, if these dam projects would not be politicised then Pakistan could ^{not increase} ~~start~~ the specific percentage of energy generation of hydel from thermal. The leaders need to understand the importance of developmental projects for the country instead of politicised them.

Additionally, for the sake of Pakistan's prosperity, the government need to minimize security threats by active governance. From snatching to suicide bombing, the negative image ^{of Pakistan} in terms of security ~~has~~ built. The hearts of local and international people tremble while swimming in Pakistan due to security threats. Also, these crime attacks affected the projects like CPEC.

For instance, the attacks on Chinese in Dasu, Besham, and Karachi port has affected the CPEC negatively. The phase II of CPEC becomes slow down only because of the security threats. The active governance is needed to eradicate the security threats from the country. Without this, the way towards the Pakistan's prosperity would be difficult.

Besides this, Political stability is the base element for economic and political prosperity in Pakistan. No nation in the world attained prosperity without political stability. The foreign entities lost their trusts on the state to invest in long term projects due to political instability. The rapid changes in policies make the macro economic environment complex. The frequent changes in government have leads to policy

inconsistency and lack of long-term planning. For instance, the country's GDP growth rate dropped to 0.29% in 2023 due to political unrest. Also, according to UNCTAD's world investment report 2023, FDI inflows to Pakistan down by 37.6% year-on-year. The political reforms are needed to stabilize the political unrest in the country. As well as, to build the trust of foreign investor on the country. Thus, political stability is the road towards political and economic prosperity in Pakistan.

Together with, government needs to ensure evidence-based policy making. Most of the policies are failed in Pakistan because there is lack in documentation. Government used to allocate funds to the departments, departments receive, but

projects ^{have} did not complete, even after the deadlines. The paradox of policies and their implementation is too difficult to understand. According to the ~~Research~~ ^{Budget} Survey of Pakistan 2024-25, the 40% is allocated to PSDP (that is the huge amount of money) but the public sector is still lag behind. Also, there is a lack of documentation in one's assets and revenues which help them to keep the taxes. This the huge hurdle for FBR to collect taxes from the masses. So, the proper documentation and evidence-based policy making is required to accomplish the goals of Pakistan's prosperity.

Apart from this, advance technology is required to adapt to prosper in this digital age. The developed nations shift their focus from politics and economy to artificial intelligence.

While Pakistan is still lag behind. If Pakistan does not gear-up itself to invest in artificial intelligence and hard core science then no power can help Pakistan to being controlled. In Pakistan, there are limited number of institutions which maintain an updated and internally consistent database, hindering the country's ability to adopt digital solutions. The state of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Report ranked Pakistan 117 out of 172 countries in terms of AI readiness at a global scale. What an irony that Pakistan always ranked lower in the global indicators' indexes. To enhance the competitiveness Pakistan need to invest massively in IT sector and artificial intelligence.

On the contrary, healthy diplomatic relations and trade deals with other countries will be helpful

Pakistan's prosperity. No nation can
 prosper in excellence in isolation. Instead
 of being sanctioned from superpowers
 Pakistan should maintain vigorous
 relations with them. As Pakistan is
 already located between two isolated
 countries and at eastern side the traditional
 enemy is located as neighbour of
 Pakistan. In this scenario, Pakistan
 need to take measures like India
 that how India made alliance like,
 I₂U₂, BRIC (for diplomacy with middle-east,
 BRICS (for good relations with global
 south), QUAD (for strategic support). India
 is making relations with both Eastern
 and Western bloc. On the other hand,
 Pakistan is grappled to boost its
 diplomatic relations due to global
 power politics. Also, Pakistan need
 to ensure exploit its resources to be upheld
 its exports through bi-lateral trade with
 other countries. These diplomatic

measures are required for Pakistan to ~~best~~ attain prosperity.

Similarly, creating a soft image of Pakistan in the world is necessary to ~~erase~~ the label of extremism ~~from~~ Pakistan's head.

The people of Pakistan should promote the traditional culture of Pakistan. Be it cuisines, be it social gatherings, be it festivals, and the hospitality of Pakistan. It can be promoted ^{through} social media, media industry, or in-person meetings.

It is assumed that all the persons resides or visit outside the country are the ambassadors of the country.

The people will contribute in creating the soft image of the country when they have the pride on the nationality. Otherwise, it cannot be expected from them, especially in the condition

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when they are not provided by the basic rights. All the regional and global powers stands on top in Global soft Power Index - 2024. where, U.S stands on top followed by U.K on second and china on 3rd. These countries created their brand positioning in the minds of masses. So, Pakistan can also attain prosperity by polishing its brand positioning. The enhancement in soft power will benefit Pakistan socially, politically and in economics.

In conclusion, the pathways to Pakistan's prosperity are too many. It includes economic, social, political ways to attain prosperity in Pakistan.

Comprehensive reforms are needed to cope with internal and external threats to Pakistan's prosperity. Education should be the first and foremost

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priority follows with digitalization and enhancement in technological areas. Harnessing the natural resources to boost trade and generate wealth is key to success for Pakistan. Active role of government to make the nation safe and secure shall be in account to achieve prosperity. Also, empowerment of marginalized communities would be a leading factor to gain prosperity in Pakistan. Lastly, healthy diplomatic relations with countries and enhancement in bilateral and multilateral trade can help Pakistan to grasp prosperity. Pakistan is a developing nation and struggle to obtain prosperity but soon it will succeed and prosper by taking positive steps towards stability. Fingers crossed!
