

## Imbalance of energy mix in Pakistan and its consequences

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Pakistan's energy sector is at a crossroads. It finds itself navigating through a treacherous terrain fraught with plethora of obstacles that are derailing its growth and ultimately the entire development of the country. The problem of its Imbalancing is no stranger to them. This means Pakistan's energy sector is beset with the non-renewable energy resources and there is limited amount of space is available for non-renewable energy resources. Numerous factors are militating against the balance of energy sector. Lack of potential resources for unlocking the untapped potential of renewable resources, absence of renewable industrial base, economic nervousness are a few to mention in the exhaustive lists of factors that have resulted in the imbalance of energy mix. The gravity of this matter is so serious and widespread; it has resulted caused various repercussions on both individual and State's life. These may be seen in the form of stagnated industrialization, electricity shortages, inflation and many others. However, the situation is not that much helpless to be redeemed but does require some robust and efficacious steps in the right direction. The need is to do more of the walk and less of the talk. For ensuring the balance of energy mix, the government, in this regard, must strive hard to unlock the untapped potential of renewable energy resource, ensure political stability and bring technology to this sector. By doing so, the energy sector will grow and the entire country will progress by leaps and bounds.



Before starting with proper discourse, it is apposite here to shed light on the energy mix of the country. Part II is there is a growing recognition of the fact that Pakistan's energy sector is overburdened with non-renewable sources. The contributions of oil, petroleum, coal and other fossil fuels are so high. These fossil fuels are majorly imported from the world. On the other hand, there is lots amount of contributions of renewable energy resource. Likewise, the solar energy, wind, tidal, hydropower, nuclear energy and many others sources are not contributing as per their potential. The country has immense potential but unfortunately it is still untapped. This phenomenon has created the imbalance of energy mix in the country.

Energy mix of the country can be manifested in many ways.

In this regard, energy mix of the country is highly dependent on non-renewable energy resources. It is an irrefutable claim that the gas sector, oil and coal contribute immense amount of share to the energy mix of the country. Likewise, numerous researches and reports have unearthed that approximately



Seventy percent of energy comes from the non-renewable resources.

Similarly, under utilization of renewable energy resources is another explicit manifestation of the energy mix of the country. It is a matter of fact that Pakistan's renewable energy sector is still not properly utilized; its potential is yet to be explored. Fortunately, this country has abundant natural resources of renewable energy mainly in the form of wind, tidal, solar, and many others. The irony of the matter is that ~~its~~ <sup>their</sup> potential as well as importance is highlighted by numerous think tanks, reports and researchers, but the country has been unable to explore it to its fullest extent. This government failure in this regard has resulted the imbalance of energy mix.

There are various factors that hinder the balance of energy mix of the country.

In this regard, limited space for renewable energy base is one of the main factors responsible for the imbalance. It is a well-established fact that there is no sufficient amount of industries based on renewable resources. Even though the country has been trying to strengthen their basis and striving hard to establish more and more <sup>renewable</sup> industries, yet their fullest advantage is not yet achieved. Their contribution is still at ebb. The lower the renewable



Industrial base; the lesser their contribution will be in the energy mix of the country.

Moreover, imbalance of energy mix is also due to the lack resources for unlocking the potential of renewable resources. This means that Pakistan has failed miserably to equip its labor force with skills and to further harness the untapped potential of renewable energy resources. These resources are not limited to human factors only, but equally importance is lack of various governments to utilize the natural resources of the country. The government mismanagement of issues plus its failure to equip its youth with modern skills has eventually led to this imbalance.

Furthermore, paralyzed technological capacity of the country is also contributing to the imbalance of energy mix. It is an undeniable truth that technology carries immense importance for utilizing and managing the energy resources of the country. Unfortunately, in case of Pakistan, there is a huge shortage of technologies that are mandatory for the utilization of its energy resources. For the sake of argumentations, take the example of renewable sector of the country. The country has numerous resources but still not exploited properly due to unavailability of technology. This phenomenon has created



## the menace of Imbalance of energy sector.

Even more important is the chronic political instability that hinders the proper balance of energy mix in the country. The ineluctable reality is that Pakistan is facing chronic political crisis. This crisis directly impacts the energy sector. Likewise changing governments do not only disrupt the legislation process pertaining to this sector, but also create law and order situation which, in turn, act as bulwark against the proper implementation of those policies. Similar not limited to this, in Pakistan, every government repn presents his own policies and does not follow the previous government policies. No matter how well they have been framed and articulated. This does not only create delay in harnessing the resource but also causes under utilization of resource which in turn, results in the imbalance of energy mix.

Similarly, economic nervousness of the country is equally contributing to this. The sad reality is that Pakistan's paralyzed economic situation has equally some serious impacts on the energy mix. Likewise, due to economic constraints, the country does not only initiate new project pertaining to energy but also unable to allocate proper and sustainable amount of packages to on-going projects. For example, there are various projects particularly related to renewable energy sources are incompletted due to



lack of money. Imagine, if a country is unable to feed their its people, how will it start new projects or complete the remaining ones.

In addition to this, imbalance of energy mix is also due to the widespread menace of corruption in the energy sector. It is pity to say that but it is a sad reality of Pakistan's society that corruption is everywhere. It has not hampered the growth of this sector, but equally diverted its resources for other sectors. Likewise, the WAPDA in Pakistan is a responsible organization for generating energy but unfortunately it is not immune to the menace of corruption. Various reports highlight its involvement in the process of corruption.

Going beyond this, elite-led model of growth institutions also contributing to the imbalance of energy mix in the country. What they do is that they impede the opportunities for others to compete with them. They stop and suppress the alternatives. This creates results in not only underutilization of energy resources but also mismanagement of the limited resources. Similarly these institutions don't provide any incentive to public and gather



all their resources under their shades.

This imbalance of energy mix has resulted in so many negative consequences.

The first and foremost in this regard is that it hampers the production level of industries. This is an irrefutable claim that energy carries as much importance for industries as oxygen for human life. In another words, if energy is gone, the pre-industrial production is gone, simple is that. The low performance of all industries whether it is sport based, textile or sugar based, is attributed to the low amount of supply of energy to their basis.

Secondly, and even more importantly, is the fact that this imbalance of energy has created the chronic crisis of balance of payment. Pakistan is dependent on the imports of oil, coal, gas and many other non-renewable resources. And, at the same time, it has failed to explore the untapped potential of renewable resources. What has happened is that this phenomenon has stagnated exports and exacerbated imports. This, in turn, created the vicious cycle of balance of payment crisis in the country, which is



harnessing the entire upward trajectory of the country.

Thirdly, the imbalance of energy mix also discourages Foreign direct Investments in the country. This means that the renewable energy sector in Pakistan is still underdeveloped and not properly utilized. This discourages multinational corporations to invest their assets in harnessing the potential of this sector. In this way foreigners show reluctance to come to this country and invest their money in such a projects that in return do not pay off.

Fourthly, Inflation in Pakistani society has got momentum mainly due to the imbalance of energy mix. Pakistan's, as said earlier energy sector, as mentioned above, is highly dependent on the non-renewable resources which are imported from the world. When the prices of imported oil get high in international markets, it automatically creates ripple effects on Pakistan. Then what happens is that the cost of product get high, which in turn, hike the prices of daily commodities in Pakistan. Had there been balanced of the energy mix of Pakistan, it would not have been dependent on the imports of oil. If it were not dependent on oil, then there would not be price hike.



Fifthly, the imbalance of energy mix has resulted in the electricity shortages in Pakistani society. This shortfalls in electricity have not only retarded the growth of industrial sector of the country, but equally impacted disrupted the family lives. The situation is even more worsening worsen in the rural areas of the country. In rural areas people face more than Eighteen hours of loadshedding which eventually exasperate them.

Sixthly, energy mix imbalance also creates political instability in the country. It is an undeniable fact that energy is highly politicized issues. It is the concerns of all people and politicians get advantage of it. What politicians do in Pakistan is that they do not involve frame energy in their election manifestoes, but also gather and compel public to create Law and order situation against the government of the day. 'Dharna politics' is a new normal in Political culture of Pakistan and it has been reinforced by the issues pertaining to energy.

Lastly, the imbalance of energy mix increases the cost of living standard of life. In



every case of Pakistan, every thing is either directly or indirectly linked to crisis of energy. If its prices become high, almost everything gets high. Had there been no such imbalance, there would not have been such a funeral scenario that most of the people face today.

The various governments realized the sensitivity and gravity of the matter and has taken so many steps in order to balance the energy mix of the country.

In this connection, the successive governments have shifted their policies from non-renewable energy resources to renewable energy resources. Likewise the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) strived hard to build hydro power projects in all provinces of the country. Similarly every government is keen to materialize the energy dividends of CPEC in both letters and spirit. Under the umbrella of CPEC, the government has initiated wind, solar, hydro projects in many parts of the country.

Numerous steps are needed to be taken to ensure the balance of energy mix in Pakistan.



In this regard, Unlocking the untapped potential of renewable resources carries importance for ensuring the balance of energy mix. Pakistan is a country that is blessed with abundant natural resources. Resources like hydropower plants, wind potential and solar capacity are upto the mark. The need of the hour is to explore these resources and utilize them properly in order to ensure a balanced energy mix of the country. The public-private partnership, in this regard, will be a viable option.

Even more important is to bring technology and innovations to the energy sectors. Energy sector in Pakistan is, unfortunately, devoid of technology due to various reasons. Technology will not accelerate the development and growth of this sector but will also harness the renewable resources of the country. Technology in the field of solar, hydropower plant, wind ought to be inculcated and prioritized. The government in this regard ought to build strong linkages with China as the latter has immense amount of potential in technology.

Similarly, the need is to materialize the dream of CPEC as soon as possible. This is because of the fact that the tree of CPEC offers immense amount of fruits when it comes to energy sector.



Under EPEC, there are arrays of projects related to renewable energy resources. These projects must be completed within their time framework. Their completion will not only ensure the balancing energy mix but also alleviate public suffering mainly due to energy.

In addition to this, putting lid on the menace of corruption is mandatory for ensuring the balance of energy mix in the country. Corruption is unfortunately prevailing and is widespread in the energy sector. It has stunted the overall growth of this sector. This menace can be curtailed through proper checks and balances, transparency and accountability mechanism and promoting civic and moral education.

In a nutshell, it goes without saying that Pakistan's energy crisis sector is in crisis. It is faced up with so many problems particularly the imbalance of energy sector which is wrecking havoc on the every sector of the country. It is highly what Pakistan has done in the energy sector is that it has prioritized the non-renewable energy resource and neglected the potential of the renewable energy resources. This has disrupted the entire balance of the energy mix of the country. The government's needs to realize



the sensitivity of matter as soon as possible because it is impacting every work of state life. In this way, the government must unlock the untapped potential of renewable resources and ensure technological culture in order to maintain the balance of energy mix. Materializing and implementing these steps the government will not only reinvigorate the fragile sector of energy but, at the same time, it will also ~~put~~ <sup>steer</sup> Pakistan ~~steer~~ out of all crisis and will put it on the path of progress and prosperity.