

Brain Drain: in Pakistan: a temporary advantage of limitless loss

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The exodus of Muslims of the sub-continent to the newly established Pakistan was tragic in the history of Pakistan. That exodus was for the well-being of oppressed and downtrodden Muslims in the subcontinent and today's brain-drain is also similar in its nature to the seventy-six years ago exodus. Pakistan is facing

many economical, political, social, cultural and external and internal challenges from its birth. All these problems generally but political and economical instability particularly are posing a threat to the masses of Pakistan. Due to such reason; Pakistanis are giving preference to go abroad for better living and employment opportunities. Pakistan is appreciating this brain drain for the accrual of remittances which will ensure economic stability and attract more Foreign Direct Investment. No doubt, this will enhance the living standard of people. It also lessens the burden on natural resources. But this short-lived advantage will be disastrous in its long run. Pakistan will lose its skillful and proficient masses which will not be able to contribute in the progress of country. This will deteriorate the country and also encourages brain drain in Pakistan due to lack of

opportunities for unskilled person. Pakistan is facing the danger of brain drain due to its bad economic and political conditions. This brain drain is beneficial in short-term and causes a massive loss for country in the long-run. Pakistan has to overcome this brain drain for its survival in near future.

Brain drain is the process of leaving one's country due to lack of opportunities, jobs, health and education facilities, and settle in a foreign country. It mostly involves the migration of skillful people of a country. Pakistan is confronting this brain drain for many decades but in last few years it has been escalated. Every year many proficient and adept people leave the country in search of better lifestyle and

satisfaction. They avail themselves with many opportunities in enormous fields of life. So, they get engaged in the process of going abroad and settle in foreign countries.

There are many causes of brain drain in Pakistan. But the vital causes for brain drain are political and economic instability. After the toppling of PTI government, there is a political turmoil in the country. This political instability is hindering the way of economic growth. Pakistan has plunged into the debt trap due to futile policies of successive government. This economic and political turmoil agitate the skilful people to leave the country for their well-being and prosperity. They prefer the Western and Scandinavian countries for their betterment. So, they leave

the country due to these anxious conditions of the country.

Another causes of brain drain is social injustice and inequalities. It is just written in the constitution and said by word of mouth that everyone is equal before law. In actual practices, there is no equality before law. Poor and rich are not treated equally. Rizwana, 13 years old girl, a maid in house of civil judge of Islamabad was treated brutally by judge's wife. She has not get any punishment in child abuse case. These social inequalities and social injustice thwart the role of government in the country and people will likely leave the country

Along these causes, there is another cause of brain drain

is poor living standard of people not only in rural areas but also in urban areas. The wages of people are low in accordance with the inflation rate. The poor are compelled to live from hand to mouth. They not get basic facilities of life. It is estimated that 40 percent of Pakistanis live in poverty, with some 24 percent below the poverty line. It can be better understood by the statistics of Global Hunger Index where Pakistan ranked 99th out of 121 countries on the 2022 Global Hunger Index. All these pecuniary situations downgrade the living standard and people are forced to leave the country for better living standard and lifestyle.

Pakistan is encouraging the brain drain due to its economic conditions and debt crisis. The

diaspora has always been a huge source of remittances for the country. For example, over the last three years, Pakistan's exports earning and remittances were a total of \$164 billion (IMF report). These remittances are linked with diaspora which can only be received through the phenomenon of brain drain. Such a huge amount of remittance can brought out Pakistan from its debt crisis.

The economic stability of country is now linked with the remittances. Pakistan's foreign reserves are depleting vigorously. The influx of dollars can be insured through remittances. Such a large amount of diaspora's income is beneficial for the survival of country. The more the remittances, the more the economic stability in Pakistan.

Pakistan's major source of income along with exports - has remained remittances. In order to repay its debt and avoid a sovereign default, Pakistan's earning from exports and remittances inflow are vital.

The better economic conditions are necessary for political stability and overcome the political turmoil. Where there is political stability, law and order will be established in the country. Then foreign investors will feel safe and confident to invest in the country. Pakistan received FDI inflow of only about \$1.3 billion in 11 month period from July 2022 to May 2023. These figures show that FDI is also essential for the growth and progress of country. And the foreign direct investment is linked with stability in the country that comes from the remittances of diaspora.

The diaspora earn a handsome amount of money in foreign countries. They send a lot of money to their families in the Pakistan. In this way, the living standard of diaspora's family has also increased in the country.

Ultimately, the poverty is eradicating in the country as less people will live below poverty line. The earning of diaspora shows the well-being of not only their family but also the progress of country. This will positively impact the country and its inhabitants.

Whereas, brain drain brings about enormous short-term advantages to the country. It also causes a massive loss to the country in the long term. In the process of brain drain country will lose many

skillful technicians and laborers.

In 2022, 800,000 left Pakistan for employment overseas (Bureau of Overseas Employment and Emigration)

Such a huge number of skilled people are leaving Pakistan. It is a set-back to the Pakistan.

In the absence of these technicians Pakistan will not be able to make progress on regular basis.

As the country lacks the skillful and proficient worker it cannot make development. It cannot compete the other countries in the fields of science, technology, cyber security, information technology and artificial intelligence. Pakistan lags behind the other countries in the race of progress. Our neighbour country India has successfully land

on moon through its mission

Chandrayan-III. Pakistan lacks such intelligent and skillful people who will can contribute to the progress of country.

The phenomenon of brain drain will also encourage the process of brown drain. The unskilled people are also leaving the country due to lack of job opportunities, low wages and other issues that prevail in the society. They are gaining inspiration from brain drain and implementing on the same process for their well-being and good standing in the society. They are also trying to maintain their status in the society as lower middle class and upper middle class in foreign countries. This will also be

a set-back to the Pakistan.

Pakistan will lose its proficient and adept people due to phenomenon of brain drain. There will be massive shortage of doctors, engineers, technicians, bureaucrats and skilled labourers in the country. There will be no opportunity of sustainable progress for the country. Pakistan will not be able to compete its rivals and enemies. The survival of Pakistan can become under danger. A lot of problems and issues will be present in front of Pakistan. This will be detrimental for Pakistan.

It is necessary for Pakistan to overcome this

evil of brain drain which is now presenting itself as a beautiful dream towards prosperity. Pakistan should ensure political and economic stability through sustainable approaches and policies. Without any stability in the country, the masses of the Pakistan will be anxious related to their future. They will feel afraid in the clouds of inflation. Pakistan has to bring stability at any rate.

Pakistan lacks better job opportunities for the educated youth. As there are not enough chances for the adept and proficient people, they feel low confidence in the country. The government should have to

take serious actions in generating job opportunities to the masses and skillful youth. They should provide better facilities for life including health, education and sanitation. The resources of the country should be used according to the need of people. A lot of effort is necessary from the side of government.

Pakistan is a developing country whose population is growing at a rate of 2.5% (Census 2023). The social problems such as social injustice, unemployment and poverty prevails in the society. About 24 percent of people live under the poverty line. The government should have to take important steps to alleviate

poverty and increasing the living standard of people in Pakistan.

The total GDP per capita income is \$1594 in 2023 (World Bank Report)

The government of Pakistan has to increase this per capita income to enhance the living standard of people.

In a nutshell, the phenomenon of brain drain is not advantageous in its long run. Though it is providing with some short-term benefits, yet it will prove massive loss in the coming future. Pakistan will lack skillfull technicians, doctors, engineers, lawyers, experts and businessmen who are vital for the growth and prosperity of country. Pakistan's bad economic and political conditions are major contributors to this phenomenon of brain drain.