

The Role of International Aid: Is it Altruism or Imperialism in Disguise for Weakened Nations?

Outline

1- Introduction

2- Understanding International Aid

3- An Imperialistic role of International aid for Weakened Nations (Thesis)

a) Undermines the sovereignty of the countries

→ Case Study of Maldives

b) Influences the policies of the countries

→ Pakistan Institute of Development

Economics: IMF and World Bank

influences the policies of

Pakistan

c) Influences the foreign policy of nations

American aid restricted Ayub Khan to support Jamal Abdul Nasir

d) Creates a cycle of dependency
→ Case study of Pakistan

e) Tarnishes - the independent image of a state

Ref: Issues in Pakistan's economy
by S Akbar Zaidi

f) Encircles poor states politically and economically

Ref: Globalisation and its Discontents
by Joseph Stiglitz

4- ~~Beneficial~~ ^{Beneficial} role of International aid for weak States (Anti-Thesis)

a) Averts financial crisis

→ Case study of Thailand

b) Mitigates the risk of default
Pakistan's fear of default in
2022 was reduced by aid

c) Fosters friendly relations between
aid-giver ^{country} and aid-receiver nation
→ Example of PAK-China relation

5- In Spite of its ^{beneficial} ~~attractive~~ role,
International aid is still an
imperialism in disguise (Synthesis)

a) provides a short-term relief from
financial crisis
Pakistan is again looking for
aid

b) Remains unable to avert the risk
of default
Example of Sri Lanka

c) Restricts aid-receiver country to
speak against aid giver nation

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Date: _____

Example of Pakistan on the
pleight of Rohingya muslims

6- Conclusion

The Essay

Amatel Lievan, a renowned British journalist and author states an interesting story in his book about Pakistan. He writes that the rich people controls poor people by providing them money, displaying their generosity. After getting compensation from their masters, people refrain from criticising them. Although, they are unaware of the fact that their autonomy has been compromised, they prefer money and obligation. Same is the case with International aid for poor states. The weak nations receive aid by compromising their sovereignty. To put it into simple words, International aid proves blessing and curse for weak nations due to its benefits and repercussions. However, its negative consequences are more in number than its benefits. Hence, it is an imperialism in disguise for poor states. The

grounds that indicate the imperialistic purposes of international aid are many in number. These include undermining the sovereignty of the countries, influencing policies of the countries, and impacting foreign policy of the ~~countries~~ ^{nations}. Moreover, it creates a cycle of dependency, tarnishes the image of a state, and encircles poor states politically. Nevertheless, an imperialistic role of international trade is denied completely. The benefits of it like averting financial crisis and fostering amicable relation among states are presented for this purpose. Despite these benefits, it still remains an imperialistic phenomenon. As far as its advantages are concerned, these are outweighed by its negative and far-reaching implications. Therefore, it brings a curse of imperialism for undeveloped states.

International aid is defined as an aid that is given to a country due to various reasons. These reasons could be cultural and economic links between countries. Apart from this, the international institutions like World Bank and IMF also provides financial aid to undeveloped nations. The thing that makes it even more worse is that it serves imperialistic ambitions.

To begin with, International aid undermines the sovereignty of the countries. It influences the internal policies of the states, forcing them to comply with the conditions of aid giver. Many countries have experienced this practice of undermining internal autonomy by aid-giver countries. A worth-citing example of Maldives. India has been accused of compromising the autonomy of the people of Maldives by providing them aid. Hence, this aid violates the sovereignty of

weak states.

Secondly, it influences the internal policies of the countries. It forces various weak nations to adjust their policies. Many aid-dependent states ~~per~~ accept this demand without any hesitation. According to the report of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, the World Bank and the IMF influences the internal policies of the state. Consequently, International aid impacts ^{the} internal policies of poor nations.

Another imperialistic notion is that it influences the foreign policy of nations. Under the pressure of aid, the countries restrict weaker states to pursue ~~and~~ independent foreign policy. In this regard, an example of Pakistan and America can be taken. For instance, America ~~restated~~ pressurized Ayub Khan, president

of Pakistan, not to support Egyptian president Jamal Abdul Nasir during Suez Canal Crisis. Hence, it restricts the countries to define an independent foreign policy.

Along with this, it creates a cycle of dependency. The poor nations could not get themselves out from this vicious cycle. In fact, they remain dependent on foreign aid all the time. For instance, Pakistan has receiving aid since the decade of 1960. The surprising aspect is that it is still dependent on foreign aid. Gradually, it is eroding the independent nature of the state. Thus, it ~~creates~~ makes a country ~~country dependent~~ on which is dependent on others.

In the same vein, it furnishes an independent image of the country. An aid-dependent country lose foreign investment due to its excessive dependency. Moreover,

bad image of a country makes it more dependent on its patron for managing its affairs. A renowned author Syed Akbar Zaidi has argued that Pakistan is compromising its autonomy due to its adverse economic dependency, and displaying bad economic image. [Issues in Pakistan's Economy]. Therefore, bad image created by aid further enhances the dependency of a country.

Another drawback based on imperialistic purpose of it is that it encircles poor nations politically and economically. The aid gives bind the countries to define monetary policy according to their consent. Moreover, they restrict the countries to pursue relations with certain countries. America has restricted European countries to buy oil from Russia. A renowned economist Joseph Stiglitz has also endorsed that foreign aid impacts

poor nations economically and politically. Hence, International aid is a curse for political and economic matters of poor nations. because it restrict their autonomy.

It is a widely believed fact that international aid undermines sovereignty of poor nations, pursuing imperialistic ambitions. However, many negate this fact and argue that it promotes the welfare of the states.

Firstly, it avert's ^{the} financial crisis of the countries. Whenever a nations finds itself in economic doldrums, it serves like a drop in the ocean. Many countries have successfully mitigated their crisis with its help. In this scenario, example of Thailand seem prominent. She has reduced its crisis with the aid provided by IMF. This indicate that it could assist poor nations in tackling their financial crisis.

In addition to this, it mitigates the risk of default for weak nations. It assist them in ta managing their chaotic economic crisis. For instance, Pakistan has mitigated its risk of default in 2022 with the assistance of aid provided by China and others. Therefore, it is very helpful in saving the countries from default.

Another advantage of International aid for weak nations is that it fosters friendly relations amongs between the aid giver and aid receiver country. It builds a strong linkage between both the countries. The example of PAK-China relationship is a clear indication of this. Both the countries have friendly relations ~~part~~ due to aid. Hence, it promotes good relations between nations instead of serving Capitalist ambitions.

The arguments provided in the favor of International aid are not even convincing. The negative and imperialistic ambitions of this aid are outweigh these arguments.

First of all, it provides a short term relief from financial crisis. When aid flow into a country it gets a sign of relief. As far as long-term stability and independent nature of country is concerned, it fails to provide these things. Although financial crisis of Pakistan was mitigated shortly, it emerged again. Hence, it provides short-term relief and does not end dependency.

In the same vein, it remains unable to avert the risk of default. The risk of default reduces only when the country becomes autonomous in economic matters. However, it does not make a country independent economically. As a result, the country faces bankruptcy.

in reality. A prominent example is of Sri Lanka. Therefore, it does not provide economic autonomy to a country and throws it into a circle of default.

~~More~~ Additionally, it restricts aid-dependent country to ~~criticize~~ speak against aid-giver country. The patron country binds the client country from all aspects. It is visible in PAK-China relationship. China is unleashing brutalities against Rohingya muslims but Pakistan is silent on this matter. Hence, International aid restricts an aid dependent country to criticize against its patron.

In conclusion, it becomes abundantly clear that International aid is an imperialism in disguise for poor countries. It not only undermines their sovereignty but also impact their foreign policy. Nevertheless, many argue that it does not pursue imperialistic

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ambitions rather it promotes welfare of the countries. But their arguments lack substantial evidence. Moreover, the imperialistic grounds of this aid outweigh their opinion completely. By keeping the imperialistic purpose of foreign aid in mind, the countries must achieve their internal economic security instead of relying on foreign aid. The day is not far enough when all poor nations will achieve internal economic security. +
