



Impacts of Poverty on Good Governance in Pakistan

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Abstract: Poverty is a multi-dimensional concept, not just lack of food consumption but also of crucial capability of life including education, healthy life and living social life. Poverty and inequality in Pakistan create many obstacles that hamper the way of good governance. If the economic policies and growth are not pro-poor then poverty would rise in any society including Pakistan, even in the presence of good governance. The rising poverty rates in Pakistan badly affect and decline the value system in society very rapidly that ultimately paved way for manipulation and exploitation more easily. Poverty and hunger lead to crimes, social disorder and intoxication in Pakistan, while economic development protects human being from such evils. In Pakistan, education is the primary source of human capital earning and accumulation that plays very important role, but unfortunately literacy rate is also very low. Education increases the production and proficiency of human resources and thus produces skilled and capable manpower, talented enough of leading the economy in the direction of sustainable development and creates competence which is just like a magnetic field contributing to the good governance. Likewise, economic development leads to mental satisfaction which strengthens good governance. This paper is an attempt to explore relationship between poverty and good governance and explore the impacts of poverty on good governance in Pakistan.

Keywords: Pakistan, Poverty, Good Governance, Development

1. Introduction

Good governance or its absence is one of the main problems in Pakistan. For a country to perform its duties efficiently, good governance is required at all levels. Etoungue Manguella defines good governance as, “Good governance indicates existence of rule of law, protection of basic human rights, presence of truthful and effective administration, transparency, accountability, reliability and sincerity”. Likewise, Michael Johnston says that “Good governance is a capable administration of a state’s reserves and activities in a way that is transparent, visible to everyone, accountable, impartial and responsive to needs of the citizens” Massive corruption, institutional disputes, constitutional instability, lack of accountability, and bad law and order circumstances are all signs of the country's weak governance. Pakistan has been plagued by political instability and conflict since independence, creating a black hole in the state’s overall development especially economic progress. From the very beginning Pakistan is facing governance issue due to lack of political stability, lack of proper utilization of resources, corruption, dictatorships, law and order problems, lack of accountability, economic crisis, and so on. Still Pakistan's governance situation is similar. Pakistan's sole means of resolving its massive challenges are possible through good governance. Good governance is negatively affecting by poverty because poverty is giving birth to different kinds of crimes, socioeconomic and political evils in the society.

1.1 Interrelationship between Poverty and Governance

Poverty is a main barrier to achieve good governance. Over the last two decades, the topic of governance has grown in prominence and has become a critical component of economic growth programs. Good governance influences economic growth in a beneficial way. It helps a country achieve high and sustained economic growth by fostering a climate that encourages saving and investment, risk-taking, offering incentives to producers, generating market certainty, expanding market size by reducing trade barriers, and improving competitiveness. When economic development disproportionately benefits the poor, this is known as pro-poor growth. Measuring whether the poor's per capita income and spending growth rate exceeds the average income and expenditure growth rate is one way to capture pro-poor growth. A country's good institutions are guaranteed by solid governance indices. They emphasize the need of excellent governance in ensuring high-quality economic conditions and long-term growth. This contributes to a robust economy's legitimacy, which attracts more private and foreign investment

Effective governance guarantees that all sectors participate equally. It also ensures social fairness and a civilised community Torres and Anderson (2004) stated that a fragile state is one with inadequate governance. They provide a comprehensive analysis of the fragile nations. Poverty, human rights violations, conflict difficulties, insecure state policies, and regional security risks are all associated with fragile nations. The social milieu of the country may also be used to observe fragile situations. If growth do not favor the poor, it is poverty can rise even with good governance. On the other hand, the value is countries with a poor record of governance have been able to achieve high growth. Poverty causes the prices increase and allows the elite to exploit and control easily. The link between Governance and Poverty can be summarized as otherwise high levels of poverty growth will not be eradicated but good governance will ensure that growth benefits are shared equally.

1.2 Impacts of Poverty on Good Governance in Pakistan

Pakistan's overall administration has deteriorated during the last decade. Pakistan's governance performance has remained consistent over the previous three decades, although it has been in the range of 40 to 50 points, which is not particularly impressive. Many things are effacing governance in Pakistan including poverty. According to statistics 21.9% people in Pakistan are living below the poverty line at present. The increasing inflation which was recorded 8.9% in 2021 is also pushing more people below the poverty line. The severely poor are unable to access services and take advantage of opportunities to elevate themselves out of poverty due to widespread economic and gender inequities. Pakistan also suffers a slew of natural and man-made calamities, exacerbating the country's vulnerability. Now a question may also arise that why there is widespread poverty in Pakistan. There are many reason including bad governance and income variation across the country.

Poverty is a negative externality as well as a sign of ineffective governance, which is a primary source of poverty growth as well as poverty of growth. Poverty is a multi-dimensional concept and is not just a lack of food but also a vital life force that includes low life expectancy, lack of education, and participation in the lives of the community. Both, social indicators and dietary indications show extreme poverty in Pakistan. Without effective governance, Pakistan would be unable to integrate into the world economy and lift its impoverished people out of poverty. Even so, these circumstances will lead to anarchy and instability.

The fear of personal safety and oppression created by poverty lead to vested interest creates lawlessness and many other evils in the society of Pakistan. It is also creating many type of crimes and bad practices in the society which all lead to bad governance and are the main hurdles in the way to establishing good governance. As a result of increased poverty, the value system is rapidly deteriorating, making it easier for the elite to exploit and manipulate. In other words, growth has the potential to lessen or perhaps abolish poverty. Only by eliminating the negative effects of social structure and value system can governance improve. High development rates and the elimination of poverty may also make it necessary for people to demand involvement, responsibility, transparency, and equality throughout time. However, as long as poverty exists, improvements in governance are unlikely. The deteriorating poverty position has also led to an attitude of disaffection, cynicism, rejection, and boredom and apathy in the country. This attitude has had a significant influence on state institution governance and performance. All these things are negatively affecting governance in Pakistan.

Poverty in the country is also triggering child-labor, increase rate of illiteracy, extremism, radicalism, fundamentalism, terrorism, frustration, social degradation and never-ending conflicts which are critical hurdles in way of good governance. There is deep-rooted connection between poverty and street crimes. Poor people account for the bulk of our street crime including homicide, robbery, burglary, etc. It has also negative impacts on nation building process. Poverty is also fueling terrorism and militancy by creating a state of misery and frustration that pushes people to join terrorist and other militant organizations. It is vital to emphasise that most terrorists originate from lower socioeconomic groups with significant unemployment rates. Terrorist groups frequently pay far more

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than any other profession, if any other job exists at all.

Women and children are more vulnerable due to Poverty in the society. Females are obliged to perpetuate the cycle of poverty by living in poverty with their children. The education and many other basic rights of children and women are violating due to poverty. Home provides a firm basis for children's future success by providing a secure environment in which they can study and perform as well as they can in school. But in Pakistan a large number of families are unable to send their children to school due to financial problems. Poverty in Pakistan puts the impoverished at a higher likelihood of having family difficulties, such as divorce and domestic violence. As a result, impoverished families are more likely to experience various types of family issues than affluent families. To make matters worse, when these issues arise, impoverished families have fewer means to cope with them than affluent ones. Poor people are also more prone to suffer from a variety of health issues, such as newborn mortality, early adult mortality, and mental illness. Inadequate medical treatment is also more common among the poor. Children from low-income families are more likely to be malnourished. They suffer from physiological, behavioural, and cognitive issues as a result of this reason. As a result of these issues, they are less likely to do well in school and find steady jobs as adults. The illiteracy caused by poverty will persist across generations.

Bad governance is also one of the main cause of poverty. On the other hand, good governance cannot be established in the presence of poverty also. They are interlinked with each other. Socio-economic of a country is development is too much necessary for the good governance which is not possible in the presence of poverty. Public support and cooperation possess great importance in good governance, and it is possible when people are satisfied about their basic needs. Stable economic and prosperous people provide a strong foundation to good governance. When people are satisfied about their basic needs, the country experience development and a better quality of life

The rise in poverty in Pakistan is due to a variety of issues, including slow growth rates, low human resource development, and a lack of law and order. This has resulted in a rejection and division mentality. As poverty increases depression and illness increase. This has enabled those who wanted to exploit the system to take over and take control and strike down the benefits of low economic growth. This has also led to the collapse of institutions of misrule and social segregation. There is often a belief that the institutional collapse has led to bad governance characterized by corruption, unemployment, inaccessibility, failure, and a lack of motivation and motivation.

Corruption and bad governance practices are inextricably linked. The more loopholes in government policies exist, the more flexible and adaptable it becomes for people to use their power and money in an unauthorised and illegal manner, resulting in the destruction of society's core ethics through the encouragement of various malpractices such as bribery, nepotism, fraud, and favouritism. Finally, this condition undermines the rights of worthy individuals while also affecting the country's society and economy. As a result, there is a pressing need to impose good governance standards that will help to reduce corruption

Good governance is vital for the development and prosperity of a country but no country can do development and integration in the existence of bad governance. Keeping in view the diverse impacts of poverty on good governance in Pakistan, it is imperative to eradicate poverty from the country. The policy makers are required to do planning in this regard and adopt such policies which are helpful in eradication poverty form the society. In Pakistan, a lack of precise and consistent poverty estimates has hampered the formulation of effective pro-poor policies. Despite Pakistan's lengthy history of anti-poverty measures and actions, but mostly failed due to many underlying reasons. Most of the programs of poverty eradications were failed because of less funds allocation of funds as it accounts for just 2% of Gross Domestic Production, absence of coordination, ineffective execution of the programs, and lack of assessment and monitoring. Another important cause of poverty in the country is corruption. Corruption diverts resources from the poor to the wealthy, encourages bribery, and distorts government spending, discouraging foreign investment and stifling economic progress

The current government in Pakistan has taken a multi-faceted approach to poverty alleviation and implemented various initiatives. Pakistan has achieved tremendous success in the battle against poverty during the last two decades, decreasing poverty by more than half since 2000. As one of the first countries in the world to declare Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of its national development agenda. According to the most recent official statistics, the poverty headcount ratio has decreased from 29.5 percent in 2013-2014 to 21.9 per cent in 2018-19 in the pre-COVID-19 period but according to the World Bank report it was risen 5% in 2020 again as over two million people have fallen below the poverty line due to COVID-19. Poverty has a long history in Pakistan. This issue has been examined by the authority only in recent times. The main causes cited include a lack of economic possibilities, a lack of accountability, societal divisiveness, and governmental elitism.

2. Conclusion

Good governance is very necessary for the smooth running and development of any country, but it can't be created in the existence of poverty. On the other hand, bad governance is also one of the main cause of poverty. They are interlinked with each other. Poverty is one of the main causes of the bad governance in Pakistan. It has created a lot of problems in the way of establishment of good governance in the country. Therefore, the policymakers in Pakistan should focus on addressing the poverty and its fundamental causes. The widespread poverty in country is the result of the lack economic opportunities. It is a multi-dimensional issue in the country required multi-dimensional approaches to solve, predominantly creation of economic opportunities and equal access to them without any discrimination.

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