

Development Sine Qua Non For India and Pakistan: An Analysis with Development Indicators

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Abstract

India and Pakistan have been suffering from many economic issues as both are in the blight of poverty, unemployment, under-employment, illiteracy/low literacy etc., but in spite of these, the focus is on different issues as sequel development parameters for both the countries are not laudable rather in many respects, the same are bad for Pakistan. In Pakistan, maternal mortality rate is high, female literacy rate is low, homeless households are more than India. So, addressing issues pertain to development are sine qua non. This article, based on secondary sources, has explained in detail in this regard.

Key words: Socio-economic development, India and Pakistan

Introduction:

India and Pakistan have been suffering from many socio-economic issues as both are in the blight of poverty, unemployment, under-employment, illiteracy/low literacy etc., but in spite of these, the focus is on different issues as sequel development parameters for both the countries are not praiseworthy rather in many respects things are bad for Pakistan. It is pertinent to mention that based on the latest United Nations estimates the current

population of Pakistan was 193,781,465 as of Sunday, October 2, 2016, against the population of India 1,330,740,293 (www.worldometers.info/world-population). For such huge populations both countries priorities *inter alia*, should be on food, shelter cloth, more expenditure on education, health, and on other amenities so that quality of life of common people scales up. India and Pakistan are endowed with nuclear power which can be used either for electricity generation for progressing of civilisation or destroying of

civilisation. The glaring examples are Nagasaki and Hiroshima where innocents were killed, civilisation was destroyed in a fraction of second for which ‘credit’ goes to USA. For the interest of common people of India and Pakistan, who wish to see peace and development, I am highlighting few points collected from secondary sources. With my experience after meeting many Pakistanis in abroad, I had observed all want good relation with Indians so that economic prosperity enhances as culturally we are close to each other.

Issues Related to Development:

As per Human Development Report 2015, UNDP, Pakistan is in the category of Low Human Development and stands at 147 whereas India stands at 130 with Medium Human Development category. Pakistan with less population than India is certainly lowly placed. According to the World Bank, India’s GDP’s growth is faster than Pakistan as sequel per capita income is also more than Pakistan, *e.g.* in the year 2011 per capita income of India was about \$3203 and in Pakistan’s GDP per capita was approximately \$2424.

Another important point focussing on education may be cited here. As per the 13th edition of World University Rankings out of 980 Universities, Pakistan has only

seven Universities in the list that too from the bottom, against the backdrop altogether 31 Universities from India are in the list that too from 200 onwards, indicating India is much better placed than Pakistan in this regard. I suggest more money should be spent on education by both the countries - presently India spends around 4 percent of her GDP in education while Pakistan spends only 2 percent.

The UNICEF Report, titled ‘The State of the World’s Children 2016’, makes shocking disclosures on prevalence of inequity in child health, education and poverty. The UNICEF report has mentioned that the Governments across the world need to set targets to make sure that all children have equal opportunity. It has also requested Governments to closely monitor disparities in school participation and respond with adequate policy. It is observed from the Report that in Pakistan, women from the richest households are four and six times more likely to receive antenatal care (at least four visits) than those from the poorest. Further as per the Report in 2015, child deaths were highly concentrated in few regions. About 80 per cent of these deaths occurred in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, and almost half occurred in just five countries: India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Ethiopia and the

Democratic Republic of the Congo. Further, by referring Dawn newspaper of Pakistan it may be mentioned that ‘there were close to 300,000 refugees originating from Pakistan last year. And children accounted for 58 percent of them’. In other words, “Children make up 58 per cent of all refugees from Pakistan, the highest proportion in the South Asian region”. Of course Dawn has referred UNICEF’s report.

Another issue with Pakistan is that the country has been ranked with "serious" hunger level as 22 per cent of its population undernourished on the 2016 Global Hunger Index. Placed 107 in a ranking of 118 developing countries, Pakistan performed worse than most of its South Asian neighbours in eliminating hunger. It is pertinent to mention about the Global Hunger Index, “The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger globally, regionally, and by country. Each year, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) calculates GHI scores in order to assess progress, or the lack thereof, in decreasing hunger. The GHI is designed to raise awareness and understanding of regional and country differences in the struggle

against hunger. By calling attention to the issue, we hope that this report will help to increase the commitment and resources dedicated to ending hunger worldwide. An increase in a country's GHI score indicates that the hunger situation is worsening, while a decrease in the score indicates an improvement in the hunger situation. The scores are based on source data for the four component indicators. The data for these indicators are continually revised by the international organizations that compile them, and each year's GHI report reflects these revisions. The 2016 GHI reflects country-level data and projections are spread over from 2011 to 2016. Altogether four components are used in the GHI. These are:

- Undernourishment: the proportion of undernourished people as a percentage of the population (reflecting the share of the population with insufficient caloric intake);
- Child wasting: the proportion of children under the age of five who suffer from wasting (low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition);
- Child stunting: the proportion of children under the age of five who suffer from stunting (low height for

their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition); and

- Child mortality: the mortality rate of children under the age of five (partially reflecting the fatal synergy of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments)”(International Food Policy Research Institute, 2016).

Pertaining to Pakistan’s socio-economic issues, The Nation, daily newspaper published from Pakistan may be quoted, “Under-five mortality among children born to mothers with no education is 112 deaths per 1,000 live births. It is almost twice that of children born to mothers with secondary education, 57 deaths per 1,000 live births. Under-five mortality is least for children born to mothers with higher education, 36 deaths per 1,000 live births.

“Available data tells the real story. Education of mothers is a key to the survival of children. Unfortunately, 57 per cent of the female population is illiterate. Uneducated mothers rely on traditions while handling children. Educated women start caring children even during pregnancy. They regularly visit gynaecologists, get BCG vaccine and take proper diet till giving births,” said Dr Abdul Rauf, a leading family physician.

“Birth spacing is important for mother and child health. It increases chances of survival of a child. Education of a mother is a key for birth spacing that is helpful for child survival”, he (Dr Abdul Rauf)said. “Educated mothers give due importance to nutrition and hygiene and immunisation of children against vaccine preventable diseases. They waste no time in taking children to doctors even in case of minor illness”, said Dr Abdul Rauf, who daily take dozens of under-five patients at his clinic. “Educated mothers are more aware and curious. They ask questions regarding health of their children”. Further by referring the Nation, “Yes, education is important. There are factors that are directly linked with female education. Socio economic status of a family is important in provision of education to females. Those living below poverty line can’t enjoy this luxury. As such more educated women are usually more independent especially economically. They can provide better nutrition, hygiene and medical care when needed,” said Dr Khuzaima, consultant at Institute of Child Health and Children’s Hospital, Pakistan. Further, in Pakistan “rural and urban divide also affect child survival. Children in rural areas are more likely to die young than those in urban areas. Under-five

mortality in rural areas is 106 per 1,000 live births compared to 74 per 1,000 live births in urban areas”. “Women literacy is much lower in rural areas as compared to urban areas. Similarly, women are not financially dependent in rural areas (The Nation, October 17, 2016). Thus based on two Pakistani newspapers, viz., Dawn and the Nation, it is evident that socio-

economic development is sine qua non at the juncture.

Further, few development Indicators in India and Pakistan based on “Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities & Building Resilience” Human Development Report 2014 are presented below (table-1).

Table: 1 Few development Indicators in India and Pakistan

Item	India	Pakistan
A. Life Expectancy at birth (years in 2013)	66.4	66.6
a) Female	68.3	67.5
b) Male	64.7	65.7
B. Maternal Mortality Ratio (Death per lakh live births 2010)	200	260
C. Per capita gross National Income (2013, based on 2011 PPP \$)	5150	4652
a) Female	2277	1707
b) Male	7833	7439
D. Literacy rate (2005-2012)		
a) % of youth 15 years and above	62.8	54.9
b) % of people 15-24 years	81.1	70.7
E. Expected years of schooling (2000-12) in years	11.7	7.7
a) Female	11.3	6.9
b) Male	11.8	8.4
F. Expenditure on Education (% of GDP) 2005-2012	3.3	2.4
5. Labour force participation rate (% ages 15 and above		
a) Female	28.8	80.9
b) Male	24.4	82.9
6. Homeless people (% of population in 2009)	1.0	6.2

Source: “Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities & Building Resilience”

Human Development Report 2014

Although the table is self-explanatory but few important points as observed from the table are:

- Life Expectancy at birth for both India and Pakistan are almost same, but maternal mortality ratio (death per lakh live births 2010) is

very high in Pakistan. In this regard, necessary analysis has already been made by quoting the newspaper the Nation of Pakistan.

- Per capita gross National Income and female per capita income are much lower in Pakistan than India.
- Expected years of schooling (2000-12) for both female and average persons are at low level in Pakistan indicating education has not been given importance in Pakistan. The data further evince only 2.4 percent of GDP is spent on education in Pakistan.
- Homeless people are also high in Pakistan which in 2009 was 6.2 percent in Pakistan against 1 percent in India.

According to an estimate, cost of war on terror from 2001 to 2011 was to the tune of 17.830 U.S \$ billion in Pakistan.

According to Pakistani authors Zahid Iqbal and Sumaira Lodhi in their research article ‘Extremist and Religious Violence: An Economic Overview of Pakistan’ have mentioned that “According to the MOF (Ministry of Foreign Affairs joint Ministerial group) of Pakistan, the total direct and indirect cost of terrorism incurred by Pakistan amounted to be 2.66 US billion U.S. dollars which reached

to 17.830 U.S \$ billion in recent years.

Pakistan had to pay a heavy cost for joining war against terror as U.S and other countries imposed a travel ban on their citizens like investors, importers and tourists to visit Pakistan or invest in Pakistan. This affected a large proportion of Pakistan’s exports and prevented inflows of foreign direct investments”.

Further, according to the authors, the district of Swat along with the *Malakand* Agency is famous for their specialized agricultural produces all over the country. The area of *Malakand* division has earlier made substantial contribution to national production of various crops, e.g. peach account for 60% of the total national production, pear account for 34%, tomato 18%, apple (15%), plum (14%), tobacco (11%), maize (8%), onion (8%), all vegetables (5%), apricot (5%), wheat (1%), and rice (1%). A survey by the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) shows that nearly 48 per cent of Pakistan’s total fruit is produced by the NWFP, with Swat district being a major contributor”. Now both agricultural productions and tourism have been suffering in the region.

By referring *Ibrar ul Hassan Akhtar*, (Dt 16/5/2012 in SciDev Net), it can be mentioned that ‘Pakistan a predominantly

agricultural country with 174 million people still relies on irrigation developed during the British rule over the sub-continent with few additions like *Tarbela and Mangla* dams along with link canals. During independence in 1947, the irrigated area was around 10.75 million hectares, which increased to over 18 million hectares. The current crop reporting system of collecting agricultural statistics from over 22 million hectares of cultivated area and on crop acreage and yields is outdated. It is also mainly based on land revenue records, and limited to Punjab province’.

In Asia and Pacific countries, irrigation has been the dominant water usage and exceeds 90 per cent of total water demand in many countries, most notably in India and Pakistan (scidev.net, 17 /10/2016). While talking about the development indicators in Pakistan, the growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) can be mentioned. In recent years growth of GDP was hovering around 3% which is abysmally low. Although remittance of Pakistani living abroad has been playing important role in its economy as 7 million strong Pakistani contributed US\$11.2 billion to the economy of Pakistan during the financial year of 2011 but remittance cannot be considered as good indicator of

development as it is not sustainable one. Pakistani policy makers should put emphasis to develop primary and secondary sectors which will facilitate to develop service/tertiary sector.

Thus, it is evident from the above discussion that Pakistan should give more importance on development issues.

Conclusion:

Improving relation between India and Pakistan is sine qua non for the economic as well as social development of both the nations. Belligerent attitude will never help to develop common people as crores of people of both the nations have been suffering from the blights of poverty, unemployment and illiteracy which at length has been discussed here. We the Indians and Pakistanis are victimized of British policy of divide & rule which they (British) initiated in 1905 by partitioning Muslim Bengal and Hindu Bengal but could not succeed as Rabindranath Tagore and others as well as common people resisted. But finally British were successful to divide us in 1947 at the cost of millions of people and till today we have been suffering. Even our many leaders Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and many others did not want partition. Before winding up, I wish to mention

peace brings development, development brings happiness, and happiness brings brotherhood, so economic development is sine qua non not conflict.

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