

Does Human Development demand an independent policy in Pakistan?

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Abstract

Human development is significant for socially developed and strengthened nation. Pakistan is facing numerous issues. According to World Bank (2013), 60% of population of Pakistan lives below poverty line. This percentage of population does not access basic necessities of life and humans are the most neglected area of the country. This is evident by the absence of human development policy of Pakistan. This research aims to find out the need of having an independent national policy for human development. The qualitative technique of research has been adopted in this regard and primary data has been collected through interviews of participants belonged to the different sectors of the society whereas secondary data has also been consulted. The sample of the study has been selected through purposive sampling and data has been analyzed through content analysis. The findings of this research show that national level policy is required for human development with the input of all provinces. This policy can be considered as vision of Pakistan and all other policies are required to be aligned with this policy. The main elements of human development are physical, social and intellectual development whereas health and education are core areas to consider for improvement for developing the humans physically, socially and intellectually. It is required to improve the quality of education and health at the grass root level through local government system for developing the humans physically and socially. The government is required to include the different sectors of society like private and NGOs to work with its collaboration in developing the humans of the country.

Key Words: Human Development, Policy, Pakistan, Nation, Society

Introduction

Every human being has fundamental right of access to all the basic necessities of life for his or her development. Human beings should be equally empowered to get the necessities of life. Human development is very important dimension in the overall development process of any society or country. Humans are both ends and means of the development but they are ignored element in many countries (Jolly, Emmerij, & Weiss, 2009) and development is affixed with economic growth only and it is measured in physical capital (Haq, 1995). The literature of development economics and international development reveal that technical expertise and capital can

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only bring development which is based on Keynesian ideas (Malik, 2013). Marshall Plan is also evidence of this aspect of development which was brought to reconstruct Europe after Second World War. (Jolly, Emmerij, & Weiss, 2009). This plan has given birth to the concept of international development (Malik, 2013). The basic aim of the development is to enable the environment for people to have the benefit of long, creative and healthy lives but it is only considered in terms of expanded income (Jolly, Emmerij, & Weiss, 2009). On the other hand, the school of human development emphasizes on the expansion of development towards different dimensions i-e social, political, cultural and economics (Haq, 1995) and this view has changed the scope of development. In modern times, the developed societies are those which have more skilled, experts and educated humans. The developed countries invest in the humans by expanding the social, cultural, economic and political opportunities for them which lead towards strengthened society. In this modern technological and competitive world, developed human beings form progressive society and contribute in building the nation whereas in developing countries this concept is missing. The developing countries allocate resources in mega projects for economic development only but humans are the least prioritized area to invest in these countries. Economic development is mean towards the human development which is an ultimate end (Streeten, 1993). Different steps have been taken in developing countries like development projects have been designed to generate employment for reduction of poverty. The focus of all the steps is only economic development. Pakistan is one of the developing countries which has many issues like poverty, unemployment, mal-nutrition and law and order. She has developed many economic plans and policies for the development of the country since its inception but the results are not positive and the economic conditions are deteriorating day by day. The standard of living and quality of life of citizens are also depreciating. The economic policies of the country are not delivering and the people of Pakistan are deprived of all basic necessities of life like health, education, housing, transport and nutrition (Khan, AKRSP Local Support Organisations, 2009). 60% of the population of Pakistan is living below poverty line (World Bank, 2013). The element of human development is missing in all the policies of Pakistan. It is the least important area considered by the governments of Pakistan and it is manifested by the absence of human development policy in the country. Human development requires greater government presence and intervention because it is the business of government to provide basic necessities of life to the people of the state. The government has the responsibility to provide atleast education, health, nutrition, housing and transport to entire citizens of the country for developing them and later on build an environment for the people in which they can progress socially, politically and culturally. The human development is essential for the social

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progress which leads to the developed nation. This paper focuses on finding out the need to design and develop the national policy of human development which is very important in the current scenario of Pakistan.

Problem Statement

Human Development is indispensable for social growth and integration of society which leads to strengthened nation. Pakistan is a developing country where people are deprived of basic necessities of life and human development is not considered as an important phenomenon by the actors of government. The absence of human development policy is an evidence of this fact. This research will explore the need of designing an independent policy of human development in Pakistan as human development is imperative in building a socially developed nation which is of crucial importance for this country.

Significance of the project

Pakistan is a fragmented society due to economic and social inequalities and deprivation of citizens from basic necessities of life. It is necessary to develop the humans for reducing their disparities and for making the harmonious society of the country. This paper will help in designing the national policy of Pakistan for human development which will provide the framework and strategy to implement the designed policy effectively. It will help the government to find practical ways to invest in humans to make them developed human beings. The developed humans will form socially developed society which will lead towards strengthened nation of the country and it is the only solution to the problems of Pakistan.

Literature Review

The concept of human development is not new. It is traced back from the times of Aristotle and Plato (Haq, 1995). There are several other scholars of different ages who have considered human development as real development of the nation and country. Immanuel Kant has declared it as end not the mean only. Adam Smith, Robert Malthus, Karl Marx are eminent scholars of economics who have considered human development as an important aspect of the development of society (Haq, 1995). This shows that economic development cannot be delineated from human development rather it can be used as a tool to move towards human development.

In modern times, the concept of human development is more pertinent for the competitive societies and it is shown by the use of this concept in the

reports of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in 1990 (Sagar & Najam, 1999). Human development encompasses three essentials or dimensions i.e health, wealth to access resources for decent standard of living and knowledge according to UNDP. These dimensions have been measured by human development index (HDI) which has been developed by United Nations Development Programs (UNDP). Some more indicators have been identified for these three variables or factors of human development by UNDP(Sagar & Najam, 1999). There is a need to analyze the development in the context of people (Haq, 1995). Human development has broad horizon. It not only encompasses economic development but also includes social, political and cultural development. Streeten (1993) defines human development as the opportunity for full life and he also refers to Amartya Senwho explains opportunity as capability and functionality of full life. Streeten (1993) further gives the holistic definition of human development by applying Abraham Lincoln's definition of government on human development and states that human development is development of the people, by the people and for the people. Of the people relates to the jobs creation for adequate primary income generation whereas for the people applies to the social services for those who need it and generation of secondary income and by the people includes the participation or inclusion of the people (Streeten, 1993). This definition covers the economic, social and political dimensions of human development. It is required to create the link between the economic and non-economic factors for the holistic development of the society. There are two aspects of human development. One requires to develop the knowledge, skills and capabilities among people whereas second dimension demands to convert those capabilities into the developmental activities like social and political activities in the country.

Haq (1995) has identified the four important components of human development. These components are equity, productivity for improving human conditions, sustainability and empowerment which distinguishes human development paradigm from conventional economic models. Equity is defined as an equal access to economic, social and political opportunities without any discrimination (Sagar & Najam, 1999). This equal access of opportunities of quality life should be available to the future generations also and it is termed as sustainability which is core element of human development. When people have sustainable equal access towards opportunities in all aspects of life, people will be able to develop capabilities and skills which will convert into productivity for improving the human conditions. Empowerment is also one of the important dimensions of human development (Haq, 1995). The main objective of empowerment is to enable people so that they can make free choices according to their own will. It requires democratic set up where people can make the government of their

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own choice, it involves the decentralization of power so that people have their say in the government decisions and it activates the participation of whole society in decision making process(Haq, 1995). Human development goes beyond basic needs and many other aspects cover in it. It is not only concerned with developing or poor countries but it is also related to developed countries and the indicators of human development will be different in developed countries (Streeten, 1993). The developed countries have problems of high crime rate, divorce rate, drugs addiction which show the deterioration of social fabric of the society and it is one of the important aspects of human development (Streeten, 1993). Human development is only possible by the well-coordinated and integrated efforts of different institutions of the state including government and civil society. The role of global environment is also very significant in this regard. The government includes local, provincial and federal whereas civil society comprises of all the grass root organizations, NGOs, religious organizations, media groups, professional associations and public at large (Streeten, 1993). The global institutes cover those organizations which support the government of the country morally and financially for developing the humans of the country.

It is essential for developing societies to grow economically to reduce the poverty but it is also necessary to convert the economic growth into the quality of life socially, politically, environmentally and economically (Jolly, Emmerij, & Weiss, 2009) and here there is a need of public policy which can translate the economic growth into the quality lives of people.

Methodology

This is qualitative study which is descriptive as well as exploratory in nature. It has described and explored the concept of human development and its different dimensions which will lead toward the devising of national policy for human development.

Sources of Data collection

In this study both primary and secondary sources have been consulted. Primary Source: Common individuals of the society who are the main beneficiaries of this policy and well informed persons about human development are primary source of this study.

Secondary Source: The books, research articles, research reports are the secondary sources of this study.

Tool of data collection

Structured Interview has been used as tool for data collection. The interview guide has been developed for conducting interviews of the sample of this study.

Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling which is a non-probability sampling technique has been used for the selection of sample for conducting interviews. The sample represents different sectors of society like general public including lower and middle income group, government, NGO sector and judiciary.

Sample size

Eight (8) people have been selected from different sectors of society for conducting interviews for this study. Bryman (2010) has explained that minimum five individuals should be contacted for interview as it gives significant data for analysis in qualitative study.

Data analysis

Data has been analyzed through content analysis.

Results/Findings

The data analysis helps to discover the below mentioned findings or results;

Concept of Human Development

The participants of this research have defined this concept in detail. According to them human development is a broad concept but predominantly it is to bring the vulnerable people into the stream of development for equity and equality. Equity is more important in this context so that people have access to the basic necessities of life without any discrimination as it is first step towards human development. The development of an individual's personality is also an important part of it. It is required to identify the potential of the person to channelize it in the right direction for the benefit of the individual as well as for the society at large.

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Elements of Human Development

There are different elements of human development as per the participants of the research and all these elements together complete the holistic picture of human development. These components of human development include physical development of human, social development and intellectual or cognitive development. All these elements are interrelated and interconnected with each other. The physical development includes healthy individuals. It requires healthy food, clean environment and physical fitness. Social development is another aspect of human development and education plays an important role in it. It creates awareness and develops consciousness among humans whereas health also contributes its role in social development. The healthy and educated individuals or humans contribute in the society positively. One of the participants of the research also identifies emotional and spiritual development as elements of human development. The institutional role is very important in developing the humans emotionally and spiritually. These institutions are family and educational institutes. Spiritual development creates sense of right and wrong in the person whereas emotional development helps in the personality grooming. It develops the attitudes and behaviors of the person and polishes the emotional intelligence of the individual which is one of the important facets of the personality.

Importance of Human Development (HD) for Society and Country

The socially, physically, intellectually and emotionally developed humans contribute positively in the society but the individual escalation cannot influence the society. There is a need to develop cohesive culture in the society for collective efforts of group of developed humans for the betterment of the society and country at large. One of the participants of the research also identifies another type of development i-e negative development which is destructive in nature. It does not contribute in the society but it takes away from the society and country. The participant explains this argument with the example of Talibanization in Pakistan which is an attitude and a thought process in the country. It is damaging for Pakistan in all manners.

Role of Government in Human Development

100% of the participants are strongly agreed that the role of government is indispensable for human development. The health, education and infrastructure development cannot possible without government. In other sectors, the regulatory role of government is very important for the provision of facilities of life to common man at affordable cost.

Human Development (HD) Policy of Pakistan

Pakistan does not have HD policy. 75% of the participants of the research is strongly agreed with this fact that there is an urgent need to develop an independent policy on human development. This policy will be parasol and all other policies will be aligned and supportive to this policy. These participants elucidate the reason of absence of HD policy is, humans are the most derelict and least prioritized area in our country. 12.5% of the participants of the research does not agree with the development of separate policy of human development. According to this percentage, human development is the core objective of every policy so there is no requirement of an independent policy. If separate policy will be developed for this area, therefore, separate departments and other resources will be required for it. It will increase the financial burden of budget which is already in deficit. The remaining 12.5% of the participants has neutral opinion in this regard. The opinion stated by this percentage of participants is that policy provides standardized ways and patterns which create problems whereas human diversity is beautiful and it should be celebrated. If the policy is general and its aims and objectives are broad, thus, policy should be devised otherwise not. All the participants are strongly agreed with this fact that human development is a federal subject and if any objective or policy is developed then it should be developed at federal level with the input of provincial and local level governments.

Separate Department & Budget for Human Development

Participants of the research have different views regarding this aspect. 37.5% of the participants are disagreed to develop an independent department for human development. This group of participants explains that there are many existing departments in the country which look after human rights, women rights and empowerment and youth issues, these departments should be merged into one and this department should be responsible of human development of the country. 37.5% of the participants are agreed to have an independent department for human development in the country whereas 25% of the participants are neutral in this regard. As concerned to the budget allocation to this area, there are multiple opinions of the participants. 12.5% of the participants are agreed to this fact that government is required to allocate separate budget for human development in national budget whereas 87.5% of the participants are disagreed to allocate separate budget for this area. They have explicated that main areas for consideration of human development are education and health so government is required to increase the budget of these areas in national budget but all the participants are agreed to involve the private sector or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to work in the area

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of human development and finances can be generated by involving this sector but under the regulations of government.

Strategy for Human Development Policy

100 % of the participants of the research is strongly agreed with this fact that there is a need of strategy for the effective implementation of human development policy. They have stated that local government is an effective tool to implement the policy at grass root level. The involvement of people is vital for the achievement of the objectives of policy and local or district level government is an appropriate framework to include people for the implementation of the policy. It will help to bring the service delivery at the door step of common man.

Monitoring Mechanism

The participants of the research are in the view that there should be an autonomous body for monitoring of the policy implementation. This body is required to include people from different sectors including private sector and this body should work as watchdog for this sector. The sub-units of this body should be developed at district level also for monitoring the working at the grass root level.

Human Development in Pakistan

According to all participants, the core areas of human development in Pakistan are education (primary, secondary and tertiary) and health including reproductive health. 37.5% of the participants is of the view that the main problem of Pakistan is huge population which is increasing with the alarming rate whereas the resources of the country are not at par with the population, therefore, it is required to control the population so that limited resources can be utilized efficiently among the existing population. Family planning is necessary in this regard and it is required to create the awareness among the people of the country regarding family planning and its importance for the development of the humans.

Conclusion

Human development is vital for socio-politico-economic development. The policy for human development is important to devise and this policy is required to be main policy of the country and all other policies are aligned with it. The core areas of human development in Pakistan are education and health. All levels of education and health including family planning are required to

improve in the country for physical development of the individuals which will lead towards social and intellectual development of the humans. The role of government is imperative in providing education and health facilities to the people at affordable cost or free of cost. The regulatory role of government is also very important for facilitating the people to access other necessities of life like habitat, food and transportation at social safety net. The government is also required to take measures for controlling the growth rate of population so that existing resources can be utilized efficiently and effectively for the development of humans.

Policy Recommendations

The following steps can be taken in developing humans of Pakistan;

- The government of Pakistan is required to develop national policy for human development by taking the input of the provinces in this regard.
- Planning Commission of Pakistan can be made as coordination committee for implementing this policy in the provinces of the country and there is no need of developing an independent department for it.
- National Policy for human development can treat as vision of Pakistan and other policies will be aligned with the objectives of this policy.
- Population growth is the major issue of Pakistan. Family planning is required to control the population of the country. There is a need to create awareness among population in this regard. Extensive campaigning is required for creating awareness and media can be used as an effective tool for awareness campaign.
- Local Government or district level government can be used for implementing the policy effectively at grass root level. The important areas of human development are education, health and access to justice. These areas can be implemented at local level with the help of district government. Community Citizen Boards (CCB) can be made for monitoring of the performance of these areas at local level. These boards can also be used for providing free of cost justice to the people at their door steps in case of minor issues.
- Private sector can be encouraged to work in different areas of human development with the collaboration of government. The finances can also be generated through this sector for developing the humans.

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End Notes:

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