

Key Elements of Sustainable Development

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Abstract

This article illustrates the impact of policy making and governance on sustainable development. Through empirical observation, this equation has been examined with reference to the rule of law, stakeholders' quality, and management of the resource. Overall, Pakistan's substantial and obvious progress in Sustainable Development Goals has been explored and highlighted. It also sheds light on the course of action launched into operation by representatives and officials to accomplish economic and political objectives, respectively. It outlines how governance has implemented adaptable planning for sustainable development of any developing and developed country by addressing complications relating to the transformation of societies and the wellbeing of citizenry. The study stresses the importance of policy as contrary to static and how it requires consistent adaptation and reformulation thus, maintaining the current resources for future use. Moreover, this article has reviewed the implications of MDGs in Pakistan along with a critical review of challenges faced by the country in all aspects.

Keywords: Governance, goals, impact, policy, resources, sustainable development

Introduction

Policy can be defined as “a course or principle of action adopted or proposed by an organization or individual” (Briscoe, 2018). It is a deliberate system of guidelines and framework required for effective decision-making that can achieve coherent organizational goals. Policies are usually adopted by top management within an organization to set the course of action determined to achieve desired goals and outcomes successfully. Arguably, they provide the foundational framework for decision making by higher management and implementing guidelines for subordinates. According to George R. Terry, "Policy is a verbal, written or implied overall guide setting up boundaries that supply the general limits and directions in which managerial action will take place." (P., 2002) Thus, policy can be defined as the main building block for successful administrative and managerial actions.

Following are the role of policy in an organization

- a. Provide general guidance about the organization's mission.
- b. Provide specific guidance toward implementing strategies to achieve the organization's mission.
- c. Provide a mechanism to control the behavior of the organization (The role of policy).

Policies and procedures are thus the bedrock of any formation. They manifest and reflect strategies and sequences that regularly adhere with each other for maximum productivity within an organization (Sanelli, 2018). Furthermore, they also build up the crucial organizational structures by establishing an affirmative foundation through well-communicated policy settings for expeditious, prompt, and effective output. Organizational policies are reinforced to reiterate existing interests of employees, outlining necessary course of action, defining strategies for approaching challenges, highlighting ideologies of the establishment, and lastly for identifying and timely mitigating potentially adverse outcomes.

Good Policy Characteristics

According to former US secretary of Labor, Elizabeth Dole, “The best policy is made when you are listening to people who are going to be impacted.”

- a. **Endorsed** – Policy devised should be thoroughly supported by management. Since Actions speak louder than words thus, for a policy to be successful and inherently practical, leadership must not only have faith in the policy, but they must also act according to the agreed upon principles to demonstrate an active commitment to ideal. All of which required visible approval, participation, and validation in action.

b. Relevant - Policy must be applicable at organizational level. Strategically, it must support the guiding principles and goals of relevant organization. Meanwhile, organizational compliance is essential for

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its success. If policies are not in an alliance with institutional ideals, then commitment to their successful execution comes under direct threat in a manner that they might get ignored or be regarded as unnecessary.

c. Realistic – Policy must be sensible and address practical concerns. For otherwise, they will be conveniently rejected. Moreover, they ought to reflect the reality of the environment in which they will be employed.

d. Within reach –For policies to be thoroughly implementable they should be made seamlessly accessible. Unattainable interests must not be the objectives of any policy, and therefore policy makers should be aware of targeted objectives beforehand.

e. Flexible – Policy should accommodate change and remain open to further developments. A stagnant set-in-stone policy is detrimental to innovation. Hence, to thrive and grow, establishments must also accept changes in the market and be willing to take calculated risks.

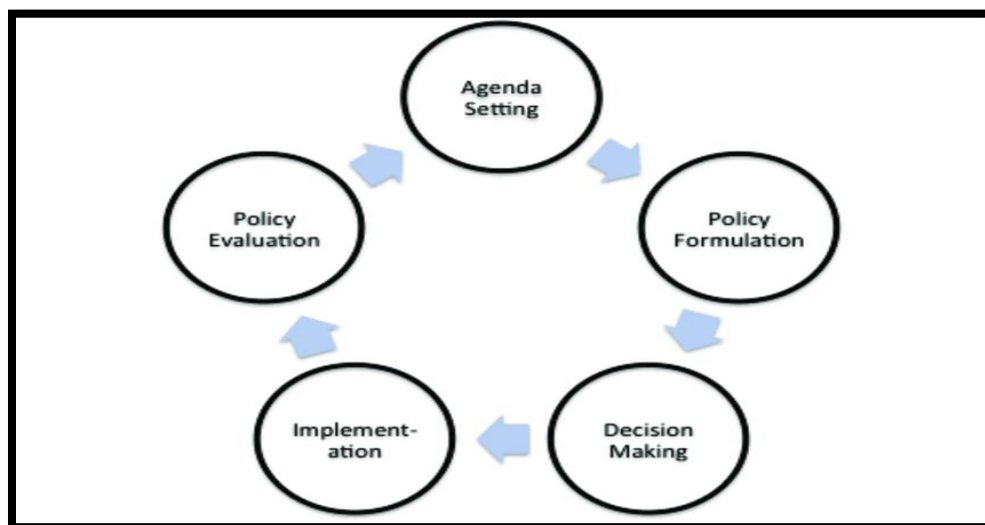
f. Enforceable – Policy must be statutory. So that certain administrative, physical, or technical controls can be put in place to support the policy, that compliance can be measured and, if necessary, appropriate sanctions could be applied.

g. Inclusive – Policy formulation process should take into consideration all significant stake holders, including external parties, for the sake of creating a comprehensive policy framework. The ultimate success of policy is contingent upon the success of contribution of all stake holders (Metivier, 2016).

Policy Impact

The impact of policy can be evaluated by measuring the degree of change in key indicators. Changes that have occurred since the implementation of a policy and their extent are both critical part of process. Effectiveness of policy is judged by the practical outcomes, positive outputs and attained objectives. Meanwhile, policy making is the activity of deciding on new policies, especially by a government institute, political parties, and stakeholders. The overall process of policy making goes through several stages from inception to conclusion. These stages often overlap among each other, along with addition of several mini stages. Arguably, making it a part of process that never really ends.

Figure 01: The Policy Cycle Model



Source: The Policy Cycle Model (after Wu, Ramesh & Howlett, 2017)

According to former American national security advisor Henry Kissinger, “No policy-no matter how ingenious - has any chance of success, if it is born in the minds of a few and carried in the hearts of none” (Kissinger, 1988).

Contributing Factors of Policy Development

a. Innovative Approach: Relevant, high-quality research to make room for new debates and opportunities.

b. Socioeconomic Context: Community openness, availability of resources, participants of policymaking, legitimacy, political framework, and environment of government acts as source and recipient in policy development process.

c. Legal structure: Laws, regulations and statutes reflecting institutional process, legal settings, local government interests and its framework.

d. Institutional Framework: Regional and local advocacy groups, structure of formal settings such as Non-Governmental Organizations, central and provincial governments, agencies, private sectors, parties, and organized groups.

e. External/International Influence: Regional players, organizations, media, events, international news, and agreements.

Factors Influencing Public Policy

a. Public Opinion: Increasing public concerns directly affect policymaking process since inclusivity is the key driver of policy initiatives. Additionally, democratic societies particularly derive their policies from public opinions for the legitimacy to authority is usually taken from public opinion.

b. Economic Conditions: Utilization, delegation, and allocation of resources also influences public policy. Economic factors such as land, labor, and capital are key determinants of policy structure.

c. Technological Improvement: Technological integration and innovation promote user-friendly and reliable data, that offers large-scale practical changes which can contribute to effective political changes on administrative level.

d. Interest Groups: Interest groups and lobbyists play a vital and crucial role in policy making process, by formally incorporating their critical insight into policy formulation process and by sharing their valuable social and economic suggestions.

e. Business community: Individual companies and business corporations collectively work to influence public policy. Thus, they uphold policies and promote strategies that are in the best interest of business communities, industries, and concerned localities.

Policies in Pakistan – Conditions and Predicaments

Since its very inception, Pakistan inherited numerous challenges. Some of which managed to outlive other and continue to derange it even today. Such as:

a. The historic Kashmir dispute with archrival and immediate neighbor India.

b. It's Borderline dispute with Afghanistan over Durand line issue.

However, four major events or developments in the past can be termed as a root cause of the present dilemma. Two among them are essentially external.

a. Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, that compelled approximately three million Afghans to seek refuge in Pakistan. (Hillali, 2017) Such an inevitable debacle led to demographic shift in overall region with mushrooming of Afghan migrant community in Pakistan.

b. The 2001, US and NATO Invasion in Afghanistan, after the 9/11 forced non-state actors and various other militant groups to target neighboring Pakistan's territory (Hillali, 2017) and to carry out their retaliatory revenge attacks.

The remaining two can be termed as internal or homegrown dilemmas.

c. The **patronage of criminal elements** and activities, by political, religious, ethnic groups and vested parties especially in Karachi, interior, and borders, made the landfall in the category of some of most unsafe places, of the world.

d. The **surge of nationalist elements**, due to bad governance, consistent political instability, besides presence of hostile agencies for their nefarious designs through foreign covert interventions.

Pakistan's Policy Shift - Post US Withdrawal Scenario

The impromptu withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan recently, that resulted in a swift take over by the Taliban, has begun to show a domino effect on our policies. To maintain the consequences of unfolding circumstance, Islamabad will have to extensively revolutionize and revise its political, economic, and social comprehension of scenarios.

Current Standing

Due to lack of farsighted leadership, opportunist politicians and groups often find it easier to take advantage of affairs and maneuver them for their own interests. However, as for now, the contemporary internal threats sprout from our redundant, irresolute policies, political fragility, lack of rule of law and unaccounted governance are the prime obstacles standing in the way of progress. Moreover, because of our unsatisfactory policies, external factors, internal political instability, economic commotion, and lack of proactive law enforcement; our reputation in international realm has often come under question.

Pakistan's Promising Future and Growing Eminence

Despite given odds, Pakistan resiliently stands among some of the proud nations of world. Its history is one perseverance, determination, and sacrifice. Each of which reflects positively at how the future may appear.

Aspects of Pakistani Policymaking

Several stakeholders play pivotal role in policymaking and development process in Pakistan. Including as follows:

a. **Law Enforcement Institutions:** Police is the cornerstone of law enforcement institutions in Pakistan. Aimed for policy formation to initiate uniform standards, enforcement of authority, accountability, checks and balances, and ensuring protection of the society.

b. **Parliament:** The legislative body monitors the executive of the country and shapes internal policies for maximum efficiency within the standard parameters. Parliament seeks to protect its citizen by drafting crucial policies to appoint the constitution.

c. **Bureaucracy:** The bureaucracy assists the legislation by enforcing the general and specific policy mandate into effect. The policy and rule-making process of the country ensure the implementation of policies laid out by the government.

d. **Think tanks:** Think tanks ensure a systematic or structural analysis along with qualitative research of policy initiatives. The firsthand ideas allow having an informed decision for channeling foreign policy-related concerns influencing public policy by incorporating detailed analysis, in terms of holistic as well as the grassroots approach that needs to be introduced within the policymaking framework (Ahmad & Baloch, n.d).

e. **Judiciary:** The third pillar of the government is as influential in policymaking as the other two. The judicial establishment issue legal notices and recommend changes in policy for restructuring of public policy. To reflect and present new aspects of legislations. They, however, are subject to amendment given the legal provisions and existing laws (Chaudhry, Muhammad, Hussain & Hussain, 2021).

f. **Role of media:** Media is regarded as the fourth pillar of the government. Thus, it plays a critical role in restructuring and influencing the public policy debate. Citizens use this platform to formulate policies that serve public interest. Furthermore, it outlines information about political participation and accountability, while also acting as a transparent platform between the government and the public.

g. **Civil societies:** Pressing, well-articulated and urgent debate on certain matters is carried out through civil society organizations. They promote and suggest alternatives for prompt and just solutions. Each of which contributes to facilitation and catalyzation of policy formation process.

Similarly, private sectors, religious leaders, and donors feature the needs of groups represented by them. Public policy is therefore acutely influenced by the implementation, formulation, and evaluation of the strategies.

Props for Development

Pakistan is currently embroiled in 7 F's crisis;

a. Fiscal Policy:

Fiscal policy is the act of revenue generation from the government received by the population (Uremadu & Ndulue, 2011). As per this policy, a country's taxes and annual expenditure is analyzed and evaluated to positively influence the economy. As for fiscal policy of Pakistan, it is to endure and promote economic growth and stability via the accumulation of taxes aimed to be distributed as wages to government employees, allotment for defense, development, infrastructure and education, health, etc.

Pakistan is facing mounting challenges to manage increasing debt pressure and address the revenue goals settled for fiscal years. Furthermore, the Covid-19 pandemic has severely increased the financial and human resource pressure on overall economy (Haq & Bukhari, 2020).

b. Fuel:

Pakistan is in the middle of facing another case of petroleum shortage. Primarily because of the plummeting global prices and the oil industry's attempts to prevent supply losses. "Pakistan is losing about Rs. 300 million per day (Rs. 110 billion per annum) on account of sales tax and petroleum levy owing to the smuggling of petrol, diesel, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) because of the suspension of Pak-Iran border" (Kiani, 2020). Pakistan's major supply comes from Pakistan state oil, constituting about 80% of the fuel source (Muneer & Asif, 2007), however, the lack of financial funds turned it to imports. Despite this, the root cause remains unaddressed as investment in these sectors remain quite low. In between the pandemic, oil consumption in Pakistan and region altogether has significantly dropped (Alamgir & Amin, 2021).

c. Food:

Despite being the abundant producer of wheat and rice, many households in Pakistan are still unable to afford and consume a nutritious diet. Because of recurring poverty, natural disasters, economic and political volatility Pakistan is facing food insecurity on ravaging scales. Due to which, about 45% of children's development is hindered and hampered as per the UN World Food Program (Bengali & Jury, 2010). Poor administration and ill-fated government have not been able to protect the agriculture department or provide basic facilities to farming communities.

d. Fragility of climate:

The wide-ranging effects of climate and environmental change are affecting Pakistan inevitably. The catastrophic, climatic situation has become volatile and is only expected to further deteriorate, causing mounting pressure on Pakistan's less developed policy structures. Extreme weather conditions, heat, rising temperatures, and melting glaciers require innovative shifts in conventional policy formulation process.

e. Frontiers:

Ever since its inception Pakistan has dealt with border issues that have significantly influenced its internal and external security conditions. Territorial borders with India and Afghanistan have often incited instability and several complications for Pakistan.

f. Fertility:

The Pakistani government has shown increased concern for the rising agricultural predicaments. Apart from natural calamities such as flooding, drought, and insufficient soil fertility, government policies have failed to provide practical incentives for agricultural boost on grass root level. Failure to resort to modern agricultural technology, inadequate financial profits to the farming community, insufficient infrastructure, and deficient economic holdings have resulted in overall loss of agricultural productivity.

g. Functionality of Democracy:

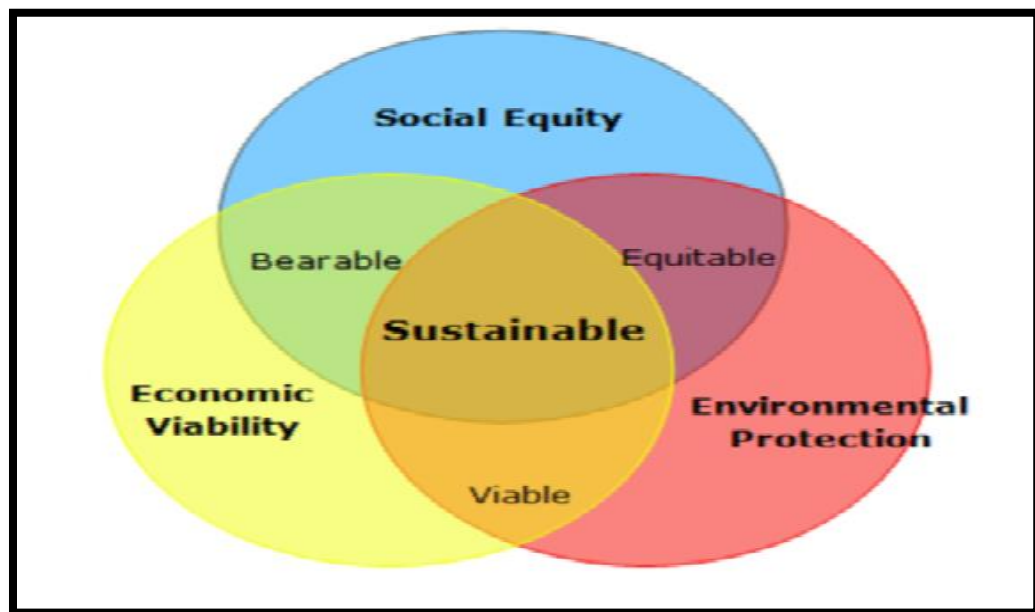
Despite claiming to be democratic, the internal structure and policies of Pakistan are in dire need of a democratic revolution. The country requires more than the episodes of selection to address and monitor its manifold challenges. The complex relationship of non-state actors, feudal politics, and religious elements have resulted in democratic instability and a crippled national outlook. Democracy in the country has been seriously impaired concerning the safety of human rights, civil liberties, implementation of accountability and rule of law as well as, protection of minorities.

In addition, all these are more affected by the pandemic (COVID-19). They are all interconnected and cannot be dealt with in isolation.

Growth Strategies v/s Development Agendas

Sustainable development (SD) is “Enhancement of peace, social justice, and well-being, within and across generations” (Aneel, 2019). It entails the philosophy of “leaving no one behind.” SD employs improving the quality of human life. It is the extension and preservation of development, safeguarding natural resources for future generations, and sustenance of long-term development, economic and political balance by ensuring dignified and prosperous living conditions along with human rights. It accounts for refining and maintaining environmental, economic, and social resources for the comprehensive protection of the current human species and the forthcoming generation (Bonem, 2018).

Figure 02: Sustainable Development



Source: Thomas, André & Trentesaux, Damien (2014).

Pakistan's stance on SDGs

Pakistan has incorporated SD goals into its national development curriculum across all levels, after committing to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development in 2015 (Khan, 2019). Under this framework, a comprehensive guide to implement SDGs was ensued and prioritized particularly to address critical issues and challenges through the formulation of development strategies on a national framework. Organizational groups were to oversee and monitor the current and potential growth and success of development models on a national and provincial level. Pakistan also participated in a voluntary National review to calculate and weigh progress.

Despite Pakistan's commitment, the developmental performance of Pakistan was not up to the mark. Most of the goals outlined under the MDGs remained unaddressed. The need of hour is to come up

with a well-devised strategy along with a meticulously formulated plan that can contribute in smooth implementation of the goals.

a. Pakistan should conduct an elaborative and comprehensive analysis to understand if SD goals can be seamlessly integrated into the existing national policy framework and in place development strategies.

b. A thorough institutional assessment is required to evaluate the potential of institutional frameworks to formulate, implement and oversee the evolution and headway of SDGs. Consequently, this analysis would boost the performance and competence of institutional provisions that are seemingly responsible for practical implementation of the goals.

c. A systematic and methodological approach that comprehensively incorporates all actors, agencies, and developmental mechanisms to coordinate and act in accordance with each other are also equally essential.

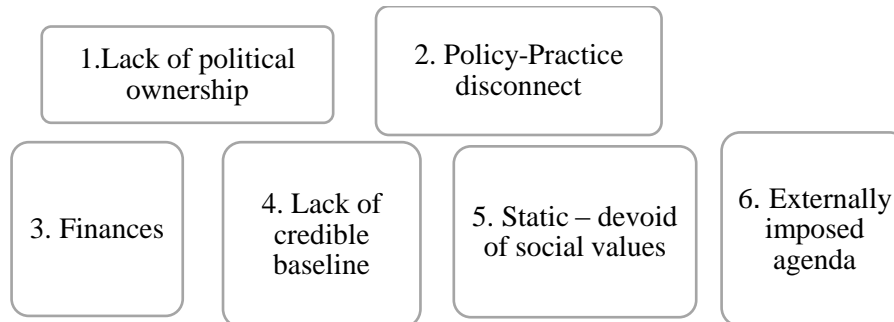
d. Research and analysis-driven programs and development platforms should be strengthened in capacity building to take help from national and international actors, who are working effortlessly to implement SDG goals. The results of the research would assist policymakers and administrators to change the course of national policy or address the faulty course of action.

By enhancing research-based mechanisms, integration of regional and international actors, along with capacity building of domestic actors; progress of efforts can be tracked after their collective and efficient implementation.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Impact

Historically, the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) catalyzed a major thrust towards the improvement of services (September-2000).

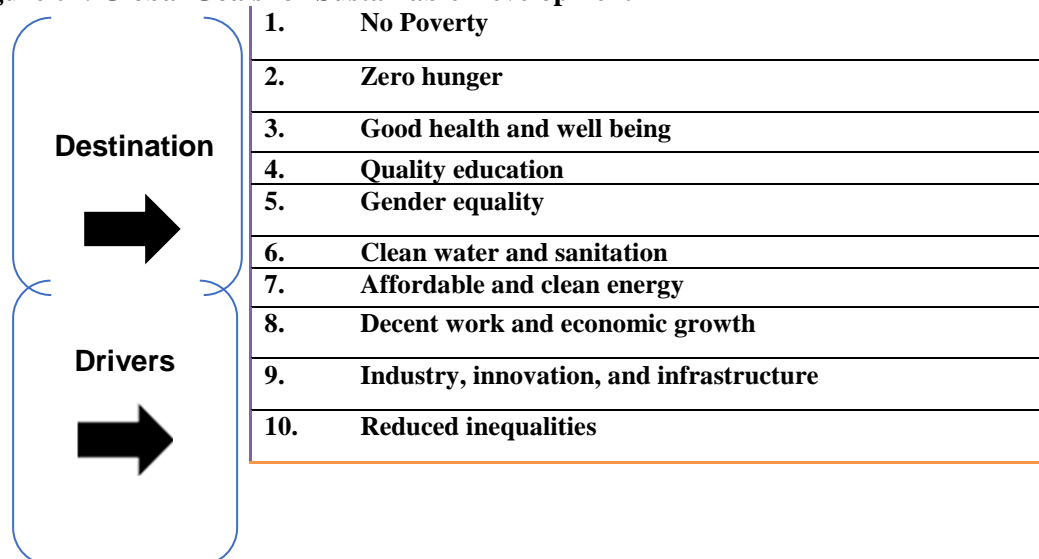
Figure 03: Lessons Learnt from MDGs




Source: (Wendler, 2013)

Global goals for sustainable development (September-2015) are given in figure 04;

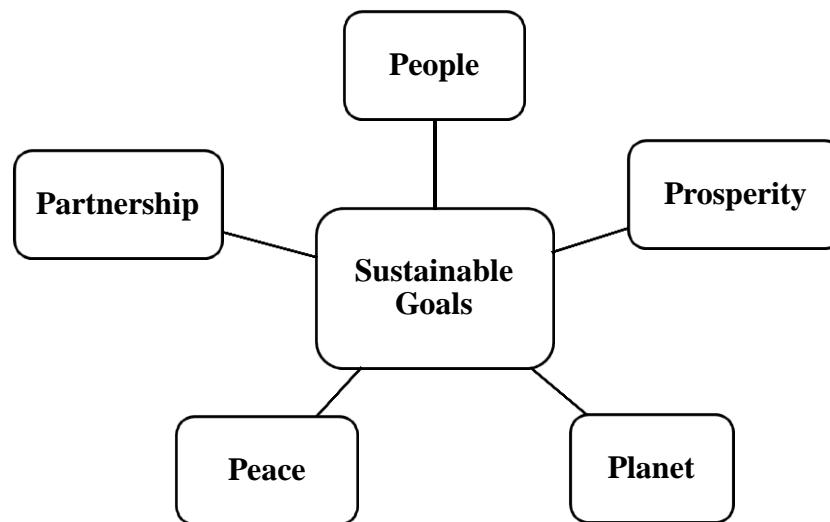
Figure 04: Global Goals for Sustainable Development



Under Threat 	11. Sustainable cities and communities
	12. Responsible consumption and production
	13. Climate action
	14. Life below water
	15. Life on land
	16. Peace, justice, and strong institutions
	17. Partnerships for the goals

The principal theme and idea of sustainable goals revolve around people, partnership, prosperity, peace and planet (Figure 05).

Figure 05: 5 “Ps” of Sustainable Goals



Challenges Faced by Pakistan

“Despite spending Rs. 4.06 trillion since 2012-13, Pakistan has failed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in health, education, social welfare, and other areas” (Haq, 2017).

- a. There has been persistent non-alignment of the SDGs with the national planning process.
- a. There is significant absence of Institutional structures and sense of coherence for delivering the SDGs among each party or province, in post 18th Amendment era.
- b. There are insufficient financial resources to assist the execution of Sustainable Development Agenda.
- c. Continuous immobilization of the stakeholders and partners to facilitate and deliver the SDGs.
- d. Failure to implement government-induced health programs such as Health Worker Program and Child Health Programs (Siddiqi, 2004). Provincial governments lacked proper administrative mechanisms, coordination platforms among provinces, and adequate financial setup.
- e. Lack of standards and thresholds identified that has resulted in poor implementation of policies.
- f. There is improper setting of resources to people-growth ratio. The funding, particularly in the health sector did not entail the annual growth rate of the country.
- g. Lack of efficient plans and effective implementation mainly due to disorganized urbanization and alarming environmental conditions, has hampered development in planning and service deliverance.
- h. There have been very limited facilities for research, abundant lack of knowledge, insufficient comprehension of policymaking management and obvious shortage of educational resources.

i. Most critical challenge is predominantly weak governance, transparent performance evaluation strategy, and feeble management structure across all sectors.

SDGs: Policy Alignment – Current Progress

- a. Article 8-28 and article 38 of the Constitution of Pakistan (Fundamental Rights)
 - i. National Assembly unanimously adopted the SDGs as part of the National Development Agenda on February 16, 2016.
- b. In 2017, the first Local Government Summit on the SDGs identified education, employment, energy, water, peace, and governance as major issues to address.
- c. The Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) doubled funding for law and order and overall security (Ahmed, 2017).
- d. Education, health, and water have been prioritized.
- e. SDGs national framework with prioritized goals was approved in March 2018 by the National Economic Council (Mateen, 2018).
- f. Pakistan submitted its first Voluntary National Review following on that framework in 2019 (Asad, 2019).

Institutional Structure – Progress

Horizontal and vertical coordination

- i. Ministry of Environment
- ii. Irrigation
- iii. Food
- iv. Agriculture
- v. PDMA
- vi. Urban Planning
- vii. Rural Development
- viii. Finance
- ix. P&D
- x. Forests
- xi. Livestock
- xii. Health
- xiii. Climate Change Commission Punjab

As per Budget 2020-21, Net Federal revenue is Rs. 3,700 billion, however, only debt service/retirement is Rs. 2,946 billion (Ashfaq & Bashir, 2020). Government must borrow money to pay existing debts. Under IMF Program and under fiscal consolidation, SDG Progress will be negatively affected.

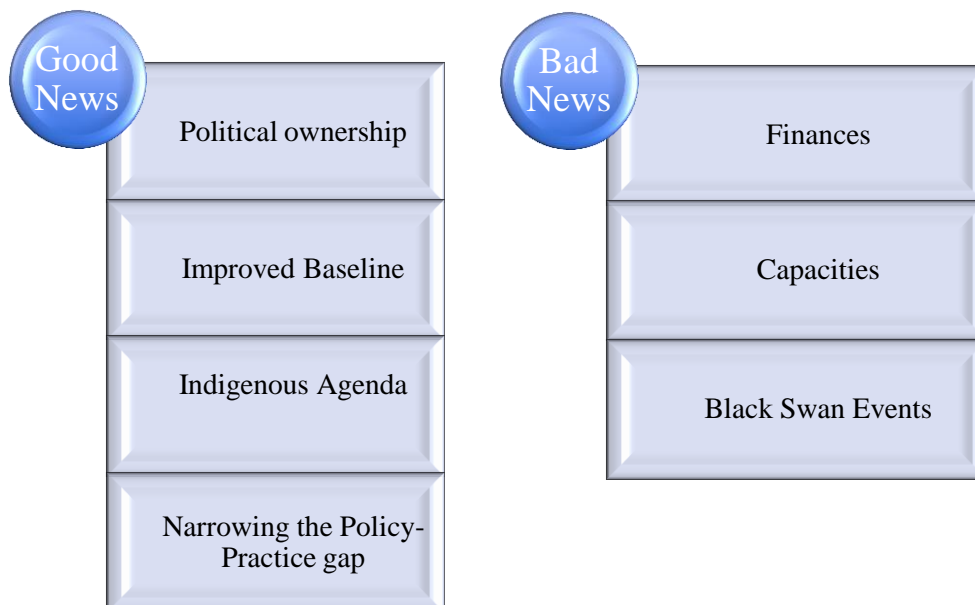


Figure 06: Effects on SDG progress

Unpredictable Effects of Covid-19 on SDGs

- a. SDG 1 – Loss of Income
- b. SDG 2 – Food production and distribution disrupted
- c. SDG 3 – Devastating effect on Health
- d. SDG 4 – School closed and a smaller number of school days
- e. SDG 5 – Women economic gains at risk and domestic violence
- f. SDG 6 – Supply disruption
- g. SDG 7 – Disrupted access to electricity
- h. SDG 8 – Economic activities suspended
- i. SDG 10 and 11 – Population living in slums face higher risks
- j. SDG 13 – Reduced Commitments to Climate Action
- k. SDG 16 – Those in conflict areas are most at risk
- l. SDG 17 – An aggravated backlash against globalization

Way Forward

Pakistan is a great country; its people are resilient. Despite many serious and worrisome setbacks, they have endured well. Albeit, Pakistan has consolidated itself on numerous fronts, it still needs a sincere and sustainable approach to affairs. Mainly:

- 1- To tackle upcoming challenges
- 2- To improve public service delivery

Through consistency in implementation and adoption, along with an innovative and focused approach, Pakistan is expected to achieve SD Goals. Against economic, political, and financial quagmire, consistency is the key that can facilitate planning, development, and implementation strategies. Moreover, since Pakistan is optimistic to accomplish goals set till 2030 and thus, by considering the momentum initiated by the government via mechanisms and approaches of institutional support to bring the short and long-term goals in an alliance (Nadeem & Rehman, 2021). If, the government of Pakistan develops a coalition with local, regional, and international actors, efficient solutions can be devised making this country a pioneer in the techno-centric industry and resourceful economy with integrated use of population.

Recommendations

Pakistan requires an engaging structure to localize development programs, pinpoint existing gaps and reinforce modified strategies, by giving power to the institutional capacity, for initiating effective implementation of SDGs.

a. Augment capacity & increase capability of organizations by providing resources, technology & operational autonomy to relevant institutions. Priorities should be identified and defined, while efforts should be well coordinated. Extraneous interference in organizational affairs must be discouraged. Pragmatic decisions should be streamlined, and policies must be conveyed in local languages for mass level understanding and affect. Elect and select right individuals for right job. Knowledge-based, skill-driven initiatives are essential for necessary progression.

b. Allocate mandatory resources, reinforce cooperation, and launch mechanisms for monitoring and regulating. The Punjab government in collaboration with UNDP has initiated policy restructuring to achieve standard targets (Hassan, 2017).

c. The provincial government should support integration, innovative measures, and approaches to catalyze the achievement of SD Goals in top priority areas. Policy support from multiple actors should be addressed, focusing on the human and financial resources in research and analysis programs from the grassroots level along with insights management.

d. Effective use of resources should be advocated resulting in a favorable environment catering to good governance and effective institutions that indirectly unlock essential aspects for sustainable

development. Therefore, policies that advocate and promote a healthy governance situation should be welcomed. Integration of additional resources locally and internationally should be recognized. Regional and domestic policies that address issues regarding rule of law and governance concerns, need additional effort and valuable limelight. Partnership with development experts and accountability mechanisms that have a commendable success should be promoted.

e. Policy assistance and advice should be gathered from developed countries particularly in terms of technical and technological aspects of SDGs to ensure practical implementation of futuristic tech in positive manner.

f. Domestically, the participating government should establish proper planning techniques, forums, and platforms for resource mobilization and its practical utilization and implementation to achieve the SDGs. Domestic resource mobilization is the cornerstone of financing any development program. Therefore, taxation and revenue generation systems should be strengthened to support the informal economy of the country, evade low taxation, develop strong financial institutions, and achieve checks and balances within the government (Gupta & Bird, 2012).

g. The government needs to launch domestic private-based financing and funding programs for development interventions in multiple sectors. The private sector consists of households, multinational companies, financial actors, intermediaries, and banks. Despite its limited role, private financing can help in establishing infrastructure for financial sustainability. Private funding in sectors like health, education, and physical infrastructure has assisted the creation of employment opportunities and resulted in quality goods and services.

h. Policies of private financing should be introduced to alleviate poverty, delivering public service, and improving development rather than just maximizing profit. In Pakistan, independent power plants produce about 50 percent of the country's generation capacity (Private Power & Infrastructure Board, 2016). They play a significant role in reducing the energy shortage and filling the existent demand-supply gap, which during times of acute energy crisis can reach up to 7,000 megawatts (Government of Pakistan, 2014). As a result of the privatization drive in the country, "over 77 percent of the commercial banking sector, 100 percent of the textile and telecommunications sector, and a significant part of the cement, sugar, automobile and fertilizer sector are in the private sector" (Asian Development Bank., 2008). Such examples shed light on the importance of employment prospects, infrastructural development, and energy growth.

i. Institutions such as State Bank, Higher Education Commission, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Industries and Production, should work collectively to guide industries and academic scholars for methodical and practical execution of initiatives.

j. Post-Covid rehabilitation and financial reimbursements are imperative to accommodate employment losses which are around 20 million (Khan, 2021). Pakistan needs ample resources at provincial and federal development through an interdisciplinary approach.

k. Need-based programs and initiatives should specifically be promoted. For example, *Ehsaas* and *Sehat Sahulat* are two foundational programs that can significantly reduce poverty and introduce health setups, respectively. From 2019 to 2020, almost 5.2 billion have been invested in these programs to amplify their potential.

Conclusion

While peaceful political transitions occurred in both general election years 2013 and 2018, the country is still facing a mounting debt crisis and a perennial trade imbalance on the economic front. Furthermore, Pakistan's high-profile political disputes with neighboring India and Afghanistan have periodically resulted in violence which continue to pose a deadly threat to regional and international security further delaying growth.

Pakistan needs to reformulate and research evolving local and regional milieu based on facts. To achieve desired agenda, government must form alliance with developed world to learn from their insight. It

cannot achieve its agreed goals in isolation. In affiliation with stakeholders and local groups, development objectives can transpire. In addition, teamwork among sectors and emerging conglomerates should be recognized for consideration of accessible resources eventually optimizing benefits. Partnerships and meticulous collaborations with a broad array of governmental, private sector, civil society, media sponsors, and international development associates, supplemented by regional and international support should continue to be a major feature for an affirmative shift, letting Pakistan join the upper league member countries by 2030.

Pakistan should draft policy shifts and amend strategic directions with the allocation of additional resources coupled with evaluation and reprioritization of existing resources. Pakistan should work on its perception by bringing a holistic integrated approach that considers political, social, economic prosperity as its primary goal. Or else, without an intrinsically intervened and holistic approach, the accomplishment of millennium development goals for Pakistan will only remain an illusion or an unachievable utopia.

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