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# POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY IN PAKISTAN

A Policy Narrative on Social Safety Nets in Pakistan



# Introduction

Poverty is a state that should not only be defined by a lack of income but also as a set of multiple and cumulative deprivations in the access of fundamental human rights and dignity such as the right to food and nutrition, access to clean drinkable water, education, health, housing, decent work, lack of political voice and power.

Multidimensionality of poverty and interconnectedness of dimensions need to be recognized to design policies and programs that tackle poverty in a comprehensive and holistic way. Government in this regard, have a crucial role to play in addressing these root causes and creating an enabling environment for each segment of the population to be able to enjoy their rights and have their dignity respected. Clear identification of the vulnerable and marginalized groups is needed such as women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, victims of sexual orientation discriminations, Indigenous communities, members of castes and outcasts, (un)documented migrants, refugees etc. For many of these groups or individuals, constant stigmatization and discriminations push them into a vicious circle of poverty, powerlessness and exclusion. For children, poverty has devastating effects due to their particular life stage that lead to lifelong consequences.

## National Perspective (Pakistan)

In case of South Asia, Pakistan is amongst those countries that are naturally blessed with the finest natural resources and human capital available in the world. However, it is quite unfortunate that despite having so much potential in all spheres we still struggle as a nation to deliver as intended. According to a World Bank report titled “**State of Water Supply, Sanitation and Poverty in Pakistan and Its Impact on Child Stunting**”<sup>1</sup>, Baluchistan has by far the highest poverty rate, with more than 62 percent of its rural population living below the poverty line. However, the gap between rural and urban poverty is the widest in **Sindh** at almost 30 percent. In contrast, the urban-rural gap in Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa was 13 and 15 percent, respectively.

Combined with the slow pace of urbanisation, only about 35 percent of the country’s population lived in urban areas in 2015-16 this gap indicates that **80 percent** of Pakistan’s poor continued to live in rural areas.

Districts across Pakistan vary widely in poverty; though, the richest district in Pakistan is considered as Abbottabad at 5.8 percent poverty head-count rate followed by Karachi as the third-richest district in Pakistan in 2015, but despite its low poverty rate of 8.9 percent its large population share meant that 2.5 percent of the country’s poor lived here.

The poverty head count rate<sup>2</sup> at national poverty line in rural part of Pakistan is much higher than urban, as 30.7 percent versus 12.5 percent respectively. The average people living below poverty-line in

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank report titled as When Water Becomes a Hazard A Diagnostic Report on “The State of Water Supply, Sanitation and Poverty in Pakistan and Its Impact on Child Stunting”

<sup>2</sup> 2015/16 Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES), 2015/19 Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (PSLM), and World Bank staff calculations

Pakistan as of 2015-16 was calculated at 24.3 percent, much lower than as it was in 2005 at 50.4 percent. Some of the major reasons which contributed to this fall in poverty headcount since 2005-06 were poverty alleviation programmes like “Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), improved political situation with respect to transition from autocratic regime to democratic system, peace and tranquility, strong recovery from low GDP growth rate of 1.7% in 2008-09 to 4.5% in 2015-16, continued higher inflows of remittances especially from Middle East which are destined to relatively poor families.<sup>3</sup>

The Social Safety Programmes (SSNP) in Pakistan like Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) and Social Security & Welfare, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Employees Old-age Benefit Institution (EOBI), and Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) were always there but never gained any momentum until Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) came into existence.

However, a relatively newer intervention in terms of SSNP that is **Benazir Income Support Programme**, introduced in 2008-09 has gained sheer importance in easing the difficulty of poor if not reducing poverty completely. Since, inception in 2008, BISP has grown rapidly and is now the largest single cash transfer programme in Pakistan’s history. The number of beneficiaries has increased from 1.7 million in FY 2008-09 to approximately 5.63 million by 2017-18 (Refer **Annex – I** figure1). Collectivity Rs. 121 billion were disbursed in 2017-18 along with cash grants under 4 sub-divisionary programmes (Wasela-e-Rozgar, Wasela-e-Seehat, Wasela-e-Taleem, & Wasela-e-Haq) of BISP to the needy.

To reduce poverty and its related issues in the country, a special National Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Committee was also established in 2001 that came up with a dedicated plan to curb poverty in form of PRSP – I followed by PRSP – II. The PRSP formulation process took off in Pakistan with the finalization of the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) in November 2001, which after further refinement was evolved into the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in December 2003 for the period up till 2006. The PRSP since then has been the key strategy document of the federal and provincial government(s) for social development of the country.

The PRSP – II was formed on the basis of 9 broad pillars that are (i) Macroeconomic Stability and Real Sector Growth; (ii) Protecting the Poor and the Vulnerable; (iii) Increasing Productivity and Value Addition in Agriculture; (iv) Integrated Energy Development Programme; (v) Making Industry Internationally Competitive; (vi) Human Development for the 21st Century; (vii) Removing Infrastructure Bottlenecks through Public Private Partnerships; (viii) Capital and Finance for Development; and (ix) Governance for a Just and Fair System. Despite having a robust framework in form of PRSP there are still many bottlenecks that need to be addressed.

The Government of Pakistan scrutinized pro-poor expenditure in 17 sectors through the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) under PRSP-II. Expenditure on pro-poor sectors in 2013-14 stood at 7.7 percent of GDP. In 2016-17, total expenditures have been increased and reached to Rs 3,027.7 billion (Refer **Annex – I** figure2). This is worth mentioning that the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper initiative is somewhat instrumental in reducing poverty at state level. Since, inception it’s been carried forward with improvements and succor version has shown positive signs. Visible difference in terms of reducing the overall level of poverty within the country were witnessed but at micro level it still needs fine tuning and re-calibration to capitalize on its gains.

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<sup>3</sup> Economic Survey of Pakistan 2018

Unanimously most of the economist believes along with the finds of PRSP that education is the prime pillar that controls poverty directly. Urban poverty is correlated to the level of education of head of the family and therefore investment in the education sector is crucial for the social and economic development of the country.

Nationally, as far as the net rural enrolment rate is concerned it was 13 percent lower for primary school and 11 percent lower for middle school than in urban areas in 2017. For girls, these gaps stood at 17 and 14 percent, respectively. The rural female literacy rate, at 28 percent, was also less than half of that in urban areas. With almost 25 million kids out of school, the concept of development and social welfare is complete vague. Though lots of initiatives in education and health sector are currently being carried-out at state level but are not fluent enough to influence it by large.

Health is also considered as a primary pillar for sustainability of a developed society. Even though after taking so many poverty reducing measures and initiatives nationwide still the rural children are 8 percent less likely than urban children to have adequate immunization by 2 years of age, and rural women are 8 percent less likely to receive prenatal care. Pakistan has one of the highest maternal mortality ratios in South Asia. Although rural-to-urban migration is high, almost 42 percent<sup>4</sup> birth still take place at home in the lowest quintile, making the role of midwives crucial in providing life-saving services to those most vulnerable. Rural women were less likely than urban women to receive prenatal care from a skilled provider almost 8 percent less than women living in the urban centers. The lack of infrastructural facility is such in the rural part of the country that almost 28 percent of the women living in those region are less likely to give birth in a facility or a hospital, and 11 percent less likely to receive postnatal care. Hence, increasing the risk to the health of mother and child and leading towards a very high maternal and infant mortality rates. Rural households are also far less likely to have access to key utilities due to lack infrastructural and deliverance system. They are 15 percent less likely to have an electricity connection and 63 percentage less likely to have a natural gas connection than urban households.

One of the important findings is that **level of education** is a key determinant for urban poverty as opposed to the quality of infrastructure is found to be the significant determinant for rural poverty. Another Pakistan-specific study finds that the main determinants of urban poverty are household head's education and dependency ratio; whereas, the determinants of rural poverty are assets distribution, land and livestock.<sup>5</sup>

## Regional Perspective (Sindh)

Sindh is considered to be the second largest province of Pakistan by the size of its population with a total population of 47.88 million<sup>6</sup> people and 8.59 million households, according to the 2017 Population Census and accounts for 18% of its land area. Despite rapid urbanisation, 23 million people continue to reside in rural areas. Sindh contributes 32% of the national GDP, produces 56% of oil and 55% of natural

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<sup>4</sup> (PDHS 2017-2018)

<sup>5</sup> (Jamal 2005)

<sup>6</sup> Pakistan Bureau of Statistics 2018

gas in Pakistan and forms the backbone of the country's revenues, collecting 70% of Income Tax and 62% of Sales Tax.

According to a report of SDPI<sup>7</sup> Sindh is amongst the largest province in terms of rural poverty. The Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2016 presents a stark reminder of the extent of Sindh's poverty challenges and showcases Sindh's weak standing in comparison to the national scenario.

Indeed, per capita income of Sindh has risen eight-fold from \$208 in 1972-73 to \$1,749<sup>8</sup> in 2016-17, topping the national average per capita by about 26 percent. However, the difference between rural and urban per capita income still remains a big question as urban per capita income of Karachi alone stood at \$6,080 in 2017 that is nearly four folds in comparison to rural parts of Sindh.

With regards to rural poverty, Sindh's rural poverty of 43% is the worst in rural Pakistan. However, district of Hyderabad in Sindh increased its urban share by about 23 percent and saw the largest reductions in poverty in 2016-17. The **Gini-Coefficient**<sup>9</sup> stood at 33.5 percent in 2015 reflecting traces of high income and consumption inequality (income disparity) between the poor and non-poor population of Pakistan. This is the highest level of inequality ever recorded in Pakistan since 1987.

Sindh as being a province having dual economy of Rural and Urban and stark inequality between the two being Lower riparian it is highly vulnerable to impacts of climate change, absence of meaningful land reforms, high levels of illiteracy, a top down model of governance, as one of the prime determinants in the poverty riddle specially in the rural areas. Absence of Governance, tangible assets, and slow economic growth with growing population has limited the space for jobs in urban centers thus compromising the overall sustainability of the effort.

Pakistan continues to lag behind its neighbors and income peers in terms of child nutritional outcomes. Despite reductions in poverty and increases in wash access, **stunting** rates remain high. Indeed, stunting rates were somewhat lower in 2018 (38 percent) than in 2001 (42 percent) across Pakistan. At the provincial level, 48 percent children in Sindh were stunted in 2017. The incidence of diarrhea, a critical factor behind immediate weight loss, intestinal damage, and malabsorption of nutrients, also remained at 22 percent between 2006 and 2015 and again shows no improvement in the more recent MICS for Punjab and Sindh. This is clear indicator that predicts vulnerability of poor toward better/improved health and hygiene facilities in the rural part of Sindh, hence, creating a downward affect in poverty reduction.

Though there is high income disparity and lack of adequate infrastructure/health facilities still the Government of Sindh has kept education sector<sup>10</sup> as its priority, as demonstrated through increased education expenditure in the province. According to renowned economists like Dr. Kaiser Bengali unemployment and education is the foremost reason of urban poverty. Therefore, considering the fact the government of Sindh has allocated the second-highest budgetary allocation in the province of Sindh in terms of Educational spending. Between FY09 and FY15, nominal education spending grew on average by about 20 percent annually, while in real terms education expenditure increased by 10 percent

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<sup>7</sup> Sustainable Development Policy Institute

<sup>8</sup> //en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_Pakistani\_provinces\_by\_gross\_domestic\_product

<sup>9</sup> Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of income (or, in some cases, consumption expenditure) among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. Thus a Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality.

<sup>10</sup> Sindh Public Expenditure Review – 2017

annually during the same period (Figure 3 ref Annex- I). As a percentage of provincial GDP, education expenditures are growing steadily, and amounted to 1.6 percent of provincial GDP in FY15.

Above all the Government of Sindh has scaled up its efforts to resort the issue of poverty at rural level through multi-dimensional interventions. It is largely believed that the rural poverty is directly sponsored by the lack of asset acquisition and infrastructure. In this regards, Government of Sindh had rolled out the Union-Council Based Poverty Reduction programme phase-I (now called People's Poverty Reduction Program) in 2009-10 on pilot basis in 4 districts to harness social mobilization for assets generation and reducing vulnerabilities. The program employed multi-pronged interventions including micro-health insurance, income generation grants, community investment funds, low-cost housing and others. This intervention widely determined the proportion of the target population that were extremely poor (poverty band 0-11 under the Poverty score card) and chronically poor (12-18) has reduced significantly. Out of the major UCBPRP interventions/programmes, **Vocational Training Programme (VTP)** had the greatest impact, resulting in nearly five-fold increase in average Poverty score card's scores, as followed by **CIF (Community investment funds)**. In other words, investing in skills appears to be a more meaningful intervention than providing cash through micro/meso loans and grants.

Sindh Government's independent initiative of UCBPRP courtesy with International donor partner EU (European Union) funded programme termed as Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) has also intervened for the purpose of reducing **rural poverty** and the lack of **women empowerment** specifically in Sindh. The programme focused more on to poverty reduction through women empowerment. The programme has stretched out in 8 districts of Sindh to reduce poverty, and through provision of generous financial support of the European Union (EU) and helping hands of implementing partners (NRSP, TRDP, SRSO and Technical Assistance partner EY). Collectively, more than a 100,000 households have benefited from these interventions.

So far SUCCESS has helped and has been a critical role player for government of Sindh to scale up the Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) that was implemented in four districts initially. Looking at the accomplishments of the SUCCESS Programme and UCBPRP Phase I, in 2017, the Government of Sindh expanded UCBPRP, implemented by SRSO, to an additional six districts including Khairpur, Sanghar, Mirpurkhas Umer Kot, Badin and Thatta with the total budget of PKR 4.9 billion. After the launch of Extended Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) in January 2018, extending Government of Sindh's coverage of Community Driven Development (CDD) to 18 out of 23 rural districts in Sindh, with 8 districts being covered with the financial support of the European Union (EU) under the SUCCESS Programme. Within the next five years, the GoS funded Extended-UCBPRP (phase-II) and EU funded SUCCESS programme together will benefit 1.8 million households (approx. 12 million people) in Sindh.

## Impediments faced by Public Private Interventions at Sindh level

Though the government of Sindh partnering with other foreign donor agencies strives to curb the issue of poverty from Sindh but has only delivered to a small extent as compared to it's intend. Poor

government branding, a somewhat hands-off approach to overseeing its implementation, and an inward-looking operational strategy both by Government of Sindh and implementing partners evidenced by little knowledge generation and sharing, has led to the UCBPRP having small impact on shaping and influencing Sindh's policy narrative<sup>11</sup>. The Government of Sindh as an enabler fell short of meeting expectations, particularly in relation to its inability to create strategic and operational linkages between the Program, provincial line departments and the local governments which may have cemented the status quo, whereby government and communities work within their own spheres.

The lack of engagement with the private sector constitutes a major flaw in design and implementation. It is difficult to understand why a poverty reduction initiative would choose to not involve private sector and also why it would not focus on women's financial inclusion. A more important finding is that over-reliance on Community Investment Funds and its use as the principal instrument for the maintenance phase is difficult to justify because it provides no incentive for partners to develop exit strategies.

## Recommendations

### Urban Poverty

The major culprit of urban poverty is considered as unemployment and education. There are several ways through which poverty at urban level can be controlled and even be eradicated in the long-run.

- According to Dr. Kaiser Bengali, more than 55 percent of urban poverty is directly driven by Unemployment. This unemployment is correlated to rural to urban migration and this is a major reason of poverty and lack of job availability in the urban centers. This could be controlled through various interventions such as, **creation of rural growth centers** in the rural districts. **Creation of jobs on the basis of quota** with strict employment in the region of birth of the employee.
- **Public private partnership based initiatives must be carried** in industries like Construction, housing, education, health and transportation. These industries are inter linked with each other for example housing alone accompanies more than 80 different sectors that provides significant jobs in the labor market. Through this intervention there are possibilities that unemployment can be reduced to some extent. Employment can also be increased through **establishing labor intensive industries**. Most of the poor in urban are low skilled, and indulge in petty services or subsistence activities, hence, labor intensive industries must be promoted by the state to gain their share.
- Since, the budgetary allocation is an important element in our discussion. The fiscal budget allocation for education each year with minor increase has only researched to 2.2 percent of the US\$ 320 billion economy. Countries like Afghanistan, Tanzania, Vietnam and India averagely spend more than 4 percent of their GDP on education alone. However, they all have relatively

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<sup>11</sup> Impact Assessment of Programme Interventions of the Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme/2018-19

similar dynamics and none is considered as a developed economy. So it is essential that Pakistan should have **at least 4-5 percent of budget specifically allocated for education purpose.**

- Currently the **development of public sector education and its infrastructure** is mostly associated with rural development. However, it is equally important chapter for urban development as well. **Awareness campaigns must take place** on regular basis not only in rural areas but also in urban districts. The head of household or the breadwinner is responsible for the upbringing and encouragement of their children. Therefore, the awareness campaigns must be rolled out regularly within the community and amongst the household heads to make them aware of the importance of education for them and their families.
- Population explosion is also equally important a culprit in deriving rural and urban poverty. A lot more needs to be done in terms of **controlling the birth rate in the region.** Since, the land space is a constraint and with each percent of rising population rate the demand for food, shelter, and other necessities increases, this eventually leads to shortfall in resource allocation. Furthermore, this also lead to the concept of diminishing marginal productivity specifically in agriculture which employs almost 40 percent of total participatory labor force, hence, reduced wage rate and returns.
- The **minimum wage rate must significantly be increased** to at least \$ 180 (Rs. 25,000) /month or \$ 2,160 per capita per annum. Since, the increasing inflationary pressures and dollar price hikes has lead the purchasing power of a common man to squeeze. Therefore, it is essential that not only inflation must be controlled but also a justifiable compensatory wage rate must be offered so that it can at least offer some sort of relief and be somewhat instrumental in reducing poverty at state level. **Wage-flooring must also be ensured** by the state, the minimum wage rate for a Master or above must not be equitant to that of a matric or intermediately qualified individual. By creating such slabs, it will eventually increase the demand for higher studies and spending more time in schooling amongst the masses to acquire a more remunerating job. This practice needs to be ensured at state level both in public as well as private organizations. So this approach will work on a dual bases not only it will increase the drive of attaining higher education but will also produce more specialized work force in future.

### **Rural Poverty**

The Rural poverty is a broad chapter and fortunately most of the work that is being done in Pakistan in context of reducing poverty is being carried in rural areas.

- The primary driver of rural poverty is considered to be lack of **infrastructure and domestic asset acquisition.** The rural population's life is directly hampered by the lack of availability of infrastructure that includes housing, water access, toilet access, educational institutes, hospitals, markets, road networks and so forth.
- **Rural growth centers must be established** in order to stop rural-urban migration. These growth center can help in creating more job opportunities within the district and can be instrumental in



reducing the urban city light's charm and attraction that is one of the reason for rural-urban migration. **SMEs must also be encouraged** that can provide a valuable contribution in not only generating employment but also capacity building of locals.

- **One village one product (OVOP)** is considered to be a successful model in terms of reducing poverty of rural population. In early 2006, this was also introduced in Pakistan the idea was initially borrowed from Thailand, by the looks of its success rate through this intervention. The Government must seriously take up this initiative with more revamped and restructured model for this can surely be a game changer for boosting Pakistan's declining exports and also improving the status-quo of rural population. It will serve the twin purpose of gainful employment opportunities at the doorsteps of the rural population on the one hand and will minimize migration of people to cities on the other
- It's also really surprising that the Annual Development Budget (ADB) of Sindh does not have any head for urban or rural development alike. Hence, it is essential to have a **dedicated allocation in terms of Rural and Urban development programmes.**
- Though recent studies on pilot districts of Sindh, it showed that SUCCESS and UCPRP intervention schemes had significantly impacted in reducing the poverty at rural level. However, more than 10 different types of interventions were carried out of which TVST (Technical Vocational and Skill Trainings) had the greatest impact in improving the lives of residents of the observed region. Therefore, it is essential that the government at rural and district level **must pay special attention on TVST programmes** which will not only improve the living standards of the people but will also increase Human development.
- Creating employment opportunities in rural areas must be the priority, in most cases migration from rural areas to urban areas is reason for rise in poverty in urban area. Higher wage differential between rural and urban area and higher probability of obtaining job in urban area creates migration. For reverse migration it is important to **reduce wage differential.**
- The living standards and incomes of the rural population must be increased, to which most of the poor belong. The most effective way to do is to **enhance agriculture productivity through use of hybrid seeds and latest mechanization techniques, including livestock.** The main instrument that has been used for this purpose is the easing of credit constraint and extending commercial bank loans to small farmers. During the last five years, the bank lending to agriculture particularly small farmers has multiplied many fold, more efforts need to be done in easing the availability of flexy loan to the farms and especially tenants.
- The government must also try to inculcate Programmes like **National Rural Employment Schemes** especially in terms of agriculture sector. Like in India, The MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act) was initiated with the aims of enhancing livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year, to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The farmers in their lien period are subject to receive this allowance for more than 3

months. Such Schemes in Pakistan can also create a significant effect in reducing poverty at rural level. Though it's another debate that it will incur heavy pressures on the subsidy head.

- Another important side is health standards. Pakistan has extremely high rates of malnutrition and stunting at rural level despite the fact that agricultural production is increasing, the levels of stunting and malnutrition have not decreased in the last 40 years but the overall situation has actually worsened. Stunting is irreversible and has severe life changing consequences and most importantly, it reduces income as it results in 40% lower lifetime earnings. Healthy development must be prioritized, not just physically but also mentally, with a **special focus on infrastructure and service delivery of health facilities** to pregnant women and children and their healthy growth to ensure future generations are healthy enough to improve their living.
- **A women empowered labor force must be generated** specifically in rural areas. This means that more women must be given opportunities in the labor force because women tends to increase their spending on health and education of their children and family. They are also found instrumental in increasing the economic activity through spending more hence, increasing the overall wellbeing of the society.
- Gender pay gap is a big factor in low levels of female employments and higher rate of poverty. The income differential between urban Female House Holds and Male House Holds is about 50 percent as the average income in urban Female House Holds is Rs. 7,657 as compared to Rs. 15,173 in urban Male House Holds. The rural income differential is even larger 60 percent. So it is necessary to **level the pay gap between both the sexes** to encourage more women in labor force.
- The on-going social mobilization must be coupled with the new design include innovations such as District Development Challenge Fund, create a social business model and encourage market widening in terms of allowing for a wide variety of players (**public private partnership**) to **work with communities for development of the rural audience**.
- Another yet, important chapter is equity and justice. This includes **strengthening of the state machinery and un-prejudice behavior** as this is a big hurdle in the maintain equity at state as well as provincial level. The poor are always at the verge of shock and for their development, and driving them out of poverty it is essential that their voices must be heard on levels.
- Last but not the least PSC (Poverty Score Card) **must not** be considered as reference tool to measure poverty and its results. However, the MPI (Multidimensional Poverty Index) is a more viable and accurate tool to measure poverty at all stages. As MPI is not caloric or income sensitive measure, its measures education, health and living standards under 15 relevant indicators.

## Conclusion

Overall the state of poverty is considered as a sense of deprivation not only in terms of material goods but also deprivations in the access of fundamental human rights and dignity such as the right to food and nutrition, access to clean drinkable water, education, health, housing, decent work, lack of political voice and power. The rural and urban poverty divide is extremely high in Pakistan that is considerably sponsored by afore mention reasons. This paper estimates the determinants of poverty in Pakistan at national and regional level. The incidence of poverty is relatively higher in rural areas as compared to urban areas. The above results also shed light on very important policy issues; a higher premium on the level of education, for instance, suggests that higher education and employment status are important factors that can lead to a significant reduction of poverty. Thus access to education for poor households is the key determinant of poverty reduction. Employment status is another very important variable, as casual paid employees, unpaid family workers, seasonally employed and the like have a higher probability to fall into the poor or vulnerable groups. The analysis of different poverty statuses and their respective determinants shows that there is requirement for targeted policy to provide quick relief through employment opportunities especially in urban areas, and establishment of rural growth centers for rural employment as through this migration process can also be reduced to a significant level. A women lead or empowered rural growth is more viable option as it can significantly help in reducing poverty through increased spending on their families and children. Social mobilization through community driven development was also found an important pillar in reducing the vulnerability of the poor at rural level in Sindh. Intervention like SUCCESS and UCBPRP had influential impact on the lives of rural population and suggested that Technical Vocational and Skill Training can be a game changer in shaping lives of the rural population. Thus, poverty can be reduced to a significant level provided effective Social Safety Nets schemes must be introduced and also public private partnership based intervention should be encouraged.



### POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY IN PAKISTAN

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# Annexure – I

Figure 1 Benazir Income Support Programme Total Beneficiary and Yearly Grants

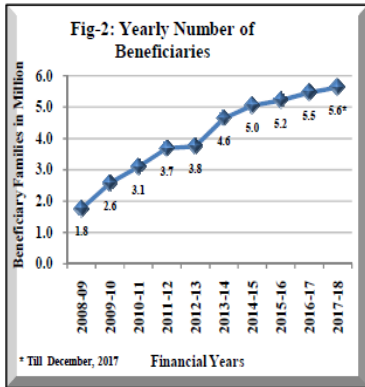


Figure 2 Pro-Poor Expenditure In From of PRSP Interventions

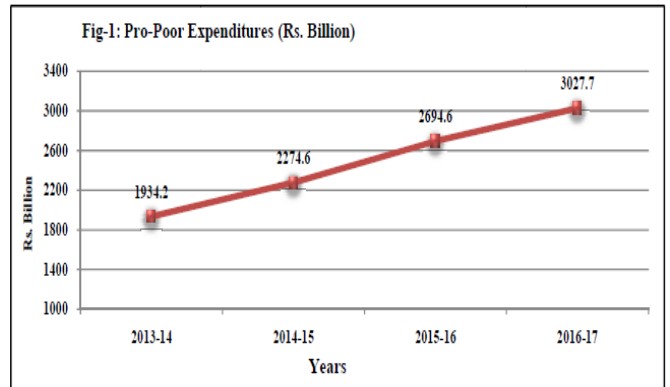
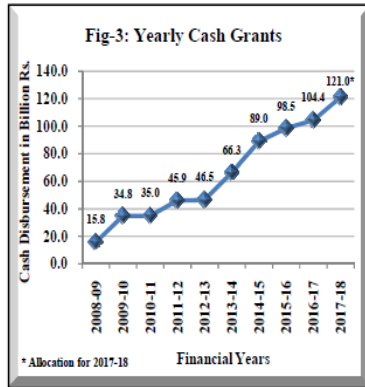
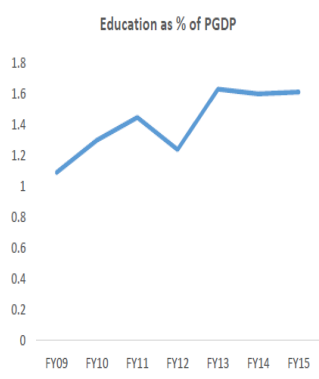
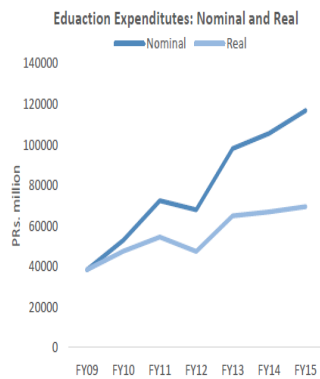
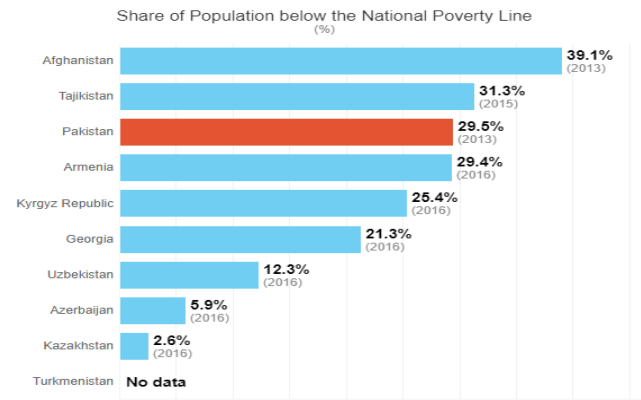


Figure 3 Educational Expenditure Snapshot Overtime in Province of Sindh



Source: Data from Accountant General of Pakistan.

Figure 4 Global Poverty Level Comparison at National Poverty Line (Head Count)



Source: Asian Development Bank. Basic Statistics 2018

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