

**RESEARCH PAPER****Sustainable Development Growth: An Extensive Approach to achieving Prosperity and Environmental Balance in Pakistan****¹Taram Malik, ²Dr. Tayba Anwar* and ² Dr. Sidra Karamat**

1. BS (Hons) Students, Department of Political Science & International Relations Government College Women University, Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan
2. Lecturer, Department of Political Science & International Relations Government College Women University, Faisalabad, Pakistan, Punjab, Pakistan
3. Visiting Lecturer, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Government College Women University Faisalabad, Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan

***Corresponding Author:** taybaanwar@gcwuf.edu.pk**ABSTRACT**

Sustainable development growth is a Complicate concept that aims to achieve economic prosperity while preserving environmental integrity and social equity for present and future generations. The Main objective of this research is to understand the existing track of development in Pakistan including its impact and challenges towards the extensive approach for achieving the prosperity. Achieving prosperity while preserving environmental balance is largely dependent on sustainable development, particularly in nations like Pakistan where population increase and rapid industrialization present serious obstacles. The Methodology of this research includes literature Review, Data Collection (Quantitative Data), Articles etc. The results of finding includes the Pakistan is on the way towards the prosperity after all challenges and Government took some initiatives for the well-being of Nation of Pakistan. As my recommendations for the prosperity and for the environmental balance is that Pakistan need to do in Green Investment. Pakistan need to focus on individual education, Technological advancement, and Agriculture. Pakistan should promote household business.

KEYWORDS Economic Growth, National Integrity, Promotion of Growth at Local, Prosperity, Social Equity, Sustainable Development Growth**Introduction**

Sustainable development growth is an Extensive approach to economic advancement that strives to satisfy present-day requirements without endangering the capacity of future generations to satisfy their own. It is an example of how social inclusion, environmental control, and economic progress may coexist together. Ensuring the long-term resilience and well-being of ecosystems and communities via advancement is the aim of sustainable development growth. Sustainable development growth is a comprehensive economic progress strategy that aims to meet the needs of the present generation without endangering the ability of future generations to meet their own." It stands for the well-balanced integration of social inclusion, environmental management, and economic progress. Through progress, sustainable development growth aims to guarantee the long-term resilience and wellbeing of ecosystems and communities. As such, sustainable development growth involves pursuing development pathways that are environmentally sound, socially just, and economically viable, aiming to achieve enduring progress that benefits current and future generation.

Literature Review

Husain, (1999) Pakistan: the economy of an Elistic State. This book examines the economic structure of Pakistan, and explores that how Aristocracy Impacts the sustainable economic Growth and its Development. (Hall, 2004) Social Policy for development. This book is not specifically for Pakistan but it offers a framework to understand Social Equity which can be implemented with the context of sustainable development in Pakistan. (Israr, 2019) Impact of Macroeconomic policies on poverty alleviation in Pakistan. This book Analyze the impact of Macroeconomic policies on poverty and Social Outcomes in Pakistan, Providing awareness into sustainable social development. (Walker, 2019) Sustainable Development Goals: Harnessing Business to Achieve the SDG’s Through Finance, Technology and Law Reforms. This book depicts vast point of view on Sustainable development growth globally, with the principles that can be implement with the Pakistan Context.

Historical Overview of SDGs in Pakistan

The way that the idea of sustainable development growth has evolved in Pakistan is indicative of a journey characterized by shifting priorities, shifting environmental consciousness, and shifting economic models. Pakistan neglected environmental sustainability in favor of economic development in the early years following its independence. To combat poverty and promote economic growth, development programs emphasized infrastructural improvement, agricultural growth, and industrialization. Deforestation, air and water pollution, and other environmental problems were becoming more prevalent in Pakistan, which prompted the government and civil society to take action. The June 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and the subsequent adoption of Agenda 21 influenced Pakistan's approach towards sustainable development, emphasizing the integration of economic, social and environmental objectives.

In the early 2000s, Pakistan began incorporating sustainability principles into its development policies and strategies. The government introduced initiatives to promote renewable energy, improve water management and address environmental degradation.

Pakistan aligned its development agenda with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and later the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which emphasized a more holistic approach to development. The SDGs provided a framework to integrate economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability into national development plans. (Michos, 1992)

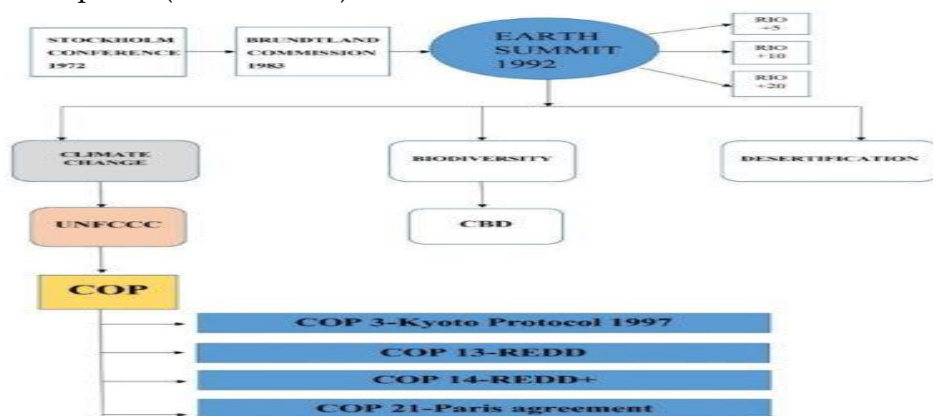


Figure 1

Milestones of SDG Development and Framework in Pakistan

In September 2015, Pakistan, along with other United Nations member states, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 SDGs and 169 targets. Aimed at addressing social, economic and environmental issues. Pakistan integrated the SDGs into its national development plans and policies. Vision Pakistan 2025, launched in 2014, served as the initial framework to align national priorities with the SDGs. Civil society, private sector and academia to mobilize resources, share knowledge and build capacity for the implementation of the SDGs. Pakistan submits Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to report on its progress towards the SDGs (A/RES/70/1, 2015).

Major Organs of Sustainable Development Growth

There is the vast distribution of organs in Sustainable Development Growth But few of them discussed below for an Extensive Approach toward the prosperity and Environmental Balance.

Economic Growth

Sustainable development growth fosters long-term economic prosperity by promoting innovation, efficiency and resilience. By investing in sustainable industries and technologies, Pakistan can create new employment opportunities, stimulate economic growth and improve competitiveness in the global market.

Our Government should take the following initiatives for the economic prosperity of Pakistan:

- Investment in Infrastructure.
- Promoting Entrepreneurship and Small & Medium size Enterprises.
- Strengthening Governance.
- Reducing Corruption.
- Rule of Law.
- Export Diversification and Trade Facilitation.
- Investment in Agriculture.
- Expand Market.
- Promotion of Regional Stability. (Liz, 2022)

Social Equity

Sustainable development growth prioritizes social inclusion and equity, with the goal of ensuring that economic opportunities and benefits are accessible to all members of society. For a holistic approach to prosperity and progress Government. By addressing issues of poverty, inequality and social exclusion, you help build more resilient and cohesive communities. Efforts to increase social sustainability can also benefit the environment.

For the Prosperity of Human in Pakistan Government should address these steps:

- Investment in Education.
- Healthcare Access.
- Poverty Relief Programs.
- Gender Equality.

- Social Pensions, Strengthening social Insurance Scheme.
- Urban Development. (Liz, 2022)

Environmental Protection

To protect the environment, natural resources must exist efficiently and minimize environmental degradation. It includes measures such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving biodiversity, promoting renewable energy sources, and adopting green technologies and practices.

Pakistan faces significant environmental challenges that require continued efforts to overcome. Some of the initiatives that should be taken are the following:

- Renewable Energy Transition.
- Water Management.
- Waste Management.
- Green Transport.
- Environmental Education and Awareness.
- Climate adaptation and flexibility.

Policies and Initiatives took by Government of Pakistan for SDG's

The Pakistani government has enacted a number of laws and programs designed to encourage prosperity and sustainable development. Several important laws and programs include:

Vision 2025

A comprehensive framework for growth, Pakistan Vision 2025 seeks to make Pakistan knowledge-based, industrialized, and wealthy country. It describes goals and plans for a number of areas, such as the economy, governance, energy, health, and education, in order to accomplish equitable growth and sustainable development. The seven pillars of Vision-2025 are fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Baqir, 2022)

National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)

Pakistan has developed its National Sustainable Development Strategy, aligning its priorities with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The **NSDS** provides a roadmap for integrating sustainable development principles into national policies, plans, and programs across different sectors.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

CPEC is a flagship infrastructure and economic development project between Pakistan and China. It aims to improve connectivity, energy infrastructure, industrial cooperation, and socioeconomic development in Pakistan, contributing to sustainable growth and regional integration.

Climate Change Policy

Pakistan has formulated a National Climate Change Policy to address the challenges posed by climate change and promote adaptation and mitigation measures.

The policy focuses on sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, and forestry to enhance resilience and reduce carbon emissions.

Clean Energy Initiatives

The government has launched various initiatives to promote renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower to diversify the energy mix and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Projects like the Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) and renewable energy policies aim to boost clean energy investments and reduce environmental impact.

Social Protection Programs

Pakistan has implemented social protection programs such as the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) to provide financial assistance to vulnerable households, reduce poverty, and promote inclusive growth. These programs contribute to enhancing social equity and human development outcomes (Shumaila, 2010).

Education and Health Reforms

The government has undertaken reforms to improve education and healthcare systems, including initiatives to increase access, quality, and equity in education and health services. Programs like the Prime Minister's Education and Health Initiatives aim to enhance human capital development and social well-being.

Water and Sanitation Projects

Pakistan has started initiatives to provide access to sanitary facilities and safe drinking water, especially in neglected and rural areas. The goals of programs like water resource management initiatives and the Clean Green Pakistan Movement are to address environmental deterioration, pollution, and water scarcity. Clean Green Pakistan (CGP) is a flagship five-year campaign of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan. Pakistan's dedication to sustainable development and prosperity is demonstrated by these policies and programs, which tackle significant issues and foster growth that is fair and inclusive in all aspects of the economy, society, and environment. In order to improve the well-being of all citizens and achieve long-term sustainable development goals, these activities must be implemented and monitored continuously. (Imran, 2021)

Challenges for Extensive Approach towards prosperity of Pakistan

Pakistan face Several Challenges regarding the prosperity and environmental balance till Now. Some of them are mentioned below:

Economic Stability

Pakistan faces economic instability due to factors like inflation, unemployment, and debt burden. Achieving sustainable economic growth and stability is essential for holistic prosperity.

Education

Despite efforts to improve education, Pakistan still grapples with high illiteracy rates, inadequate infrastructure, and quality issues. Enhancing access to quality education for all, especially in rural areas, is crucial.

Healthcare

Access to healthcare remains a challenge, particularly in rural areas where healthcare infrastructure is lacking. Addressing healthcare disparities and improving healthcare quality and accessibility are essential.

Infrastructure

Insufficient infrastructure, including roads, energy, and water supply, hinders economic development and quality of life. Investment in infrastructure development is vital for fostering prosperity.

Governance and Corruption

Corruption and weak governance have long been impediments to development in Pakistan. Strengthening institutions, promoting transparency, and combating corruption are necessary for sustainable progress.

Security

Security concerns, including terrorism and political instability, deter foreign investment and hinder economic growth. Ensuring peace and stability through effective security measures is essential for prosperity.

Water insufficiency

Pakistan faces water insufficiency due to factors such as inefficient irrigation practices and climate change. Sustainable water management strategies are crucial for agricultural productivity and overall prosperity.

Social Inequality

Social inequalities based on gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status persist in Pakistan. Promoting social inclusion and equity through policies and programs can contribute to holistic prosperity.

Environmental Degradation

Environmental degradation, including deforestation and pollution, poses significant challenges to sustainable development. Adopting environmentally sustainable practices and policies is imperative for long-term prosperity.

Regional Disparities

Social and economic inequality is made worse by differences in development between rural and urban areas as well as between various regions. Holistic prosperity requires addressing regional imbalances through focused development strategies. Government, business, and civil society must work together to address these issues, and change and development must be continuously prioritized.

Case Studies

Pakistan Progress and Prosperity Regarding SDG's

Pakistan, like many other countries, has made efforts to align its development goals with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations. Here are a few case studies highlighting Pakistan's progress and challenges in achieving the SDGs:

Means of Approach for Clean Water and Sanitation

Case Study: The Clean Drinking Water for All Program in Punjab

Punjab, the most populous province of Pakistan, launched this program to provide clean drinking water to its residents, particularly in rural areas.

The program involves building water filtration plants and improving sanitation infrastructure.

Challenges include funding constraints, infrastructure maintenance, and ensuring access to remote areas. (UNICEF, 2019)

Quality Education (SDG 4)

Case Study: The Sindh Education Sector Plan

The Government of Sindh formulated this plan to improve access to quality education and increase enrollment rates.

Initiatives include building new schools, providing teacher training, and enhancing curriculum standards.

Challenges include low literacy rates, inadequate infrastructure, and socio-economic disparities in access to education. (UNICEF, 2019)

Gender Equality (SDG 5)

Case Study: Benazir Income Support Program (BISP)

BISP is Pakistan's largest social safety net program, aimed at supporting low-income households, with a focus on women.

It provides cash transfers to eligible beneficiaries, empowering women to meet their basic needs and participate in decision-making.

Challenges include targeting the most vulnerable populations, preventing leakages, and addressing cultural barriers to women's empowerment.

Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11)

Case Study: Green and Clean Islamabad Initiative

The initiative aims to improve the environmental sustainability and livability of Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan.

Efforts include tree plantation drives, waste management improvements, and promoting eco-friendly practices.

Challenges include urban sprawl, inadequate public transportation, and waste management infrastructure. (Imran, 2021)

Climate Action (SDG 13)

Case Study: The project called Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Billion Tree Tsunami Afforestation.

This initiative was started in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with the intention of reducing the effects of climate change and fighting deforestation. It entails reclaiming degraded land and planting one billion trees around the province. The survival of planted saplings, stopping illicit logging, and obtaining enough money for long-term sustainability are among the difficulties. These case studies highlight Pakistan's progress toward the SDGs as well as its obstacles. Although many sectors have made great efforts, more work has to be done in order to overcome current obstacles and move the country closer to sustainable growth and prosperity. This work will require consistent dedication, investment, and efficient government. Billion Tree Tsunami Afforestation Project is aimed at planning, designing, commencing and implementing "Green Growth Initiative" in the Forestry Sector of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province - (Fazal, 2015).

Discussion

Pakistan facing the several issue from so many years. Pakistan facing extreme economic, social and Environmental problems. The inflation rate has reached to 25% and if we calculate it on weekly basis it has been reached to 38%. Food Inflation has reached to 35%. Ease of doing Business index ranking has been reached to 108. The Major social, Economic and environmental problem is that Pakistan's policies doesn't have the consistency. The major flaws is Pakistan do not have a sustainable economic policies. Pakistan has the state owned enterprises like WAPDA, PIA, Railway, Steel Mills but these enterprises gave huge lose till now didn't get benefit from the enterprises because these enterprises are not run by professionals or technocrats. These enterprises run by Bureaucrats or Government due to which these enterprises are at lose. Pakistan investing in SDG's but the policies made doesn't have consistency due to low budget. Pakistan took several initiatives related to Sustainable development growth for the prosperity and well-being of Pakistan. CPEC, Climate change Policy, Benazir income support Program, cleans energy initiative, clean Green Pakistan movement etc. Pakistan can comes out from these problems by investing in Small Business. Pakistan can be economically strong by promoting household business. Pakistan can support small enterprises. If Pakistan will promote household business it can reduce the poverty, can make resources for employment.

Conclusion

Pakistan must adopt a comprehensive and integrated strategy that strikes a balance between social inclusion, environmental preservation, and economic prosperity in order to achieve sustainable development progress. Pakistan can achieve sustainable resource management, innovation, and human capital investments as keystones on its path to long-term prosperity while preserving the environment for coming generations.

Recommendations

- Government need to make new policies and implementation as well.

- Pakistan need to do in Green Investment.
- Pakistan needs technological advancement our government should invest on technology.
- Our Government should focus on individual Education.
- Pakistan's Government should invest in Infrastructure.
- Pakistan's Government should take strict actions against Corruption.
- Pakistan Taxation system should be satisfactory.
- Pakistan should promote Household Business.
- House hold business reduces the poverty and increases the economy as well.
- Pakistan's Government should promote Health, Life Insurances for every citizen of Pakistan.
- Pakistan Should Invest in Agriculture to Expand Market.
- Pakistan Should Promote Entrepreneurship and Small & medium Enterprises

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