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SDGs IN PAKISTAN: OBSTACLES AND THE PATH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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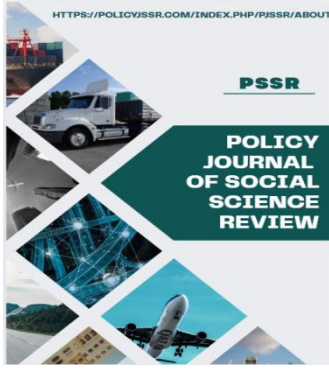
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to explore the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals agenda through the analysis of Pakistan. In this study, the previous literature is reviewed, and the transformation of the United Nations Agenda for Millennium Development Goals into Sustainable Development Goals is examined. The Millennium Development Goals agenda was signed by 149 countries in 2000, which included eight goals to promote peace, health facilities, etc. Developed countries performed well on this agenda, but some developing countries were not performing well, such as Pakistan. Thus, the agenda was replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, and 193 countries adopted this agenda, which included 17 goals and 169 indicators. World leaders committed to ending poverty, achieving zero hunger, promoting gender equality, advocating for peace, etc. This agenda will conclude in 2030. The SDGs have received more attention than the MDGs. These goals are the "Five Ps": "People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership." In this study, Pakistan's perspective on this agenda is examined. Pakistan is the first country to declare the SDGs as national goals in the National Assembly on 16 February 2016. Pakistan has taken many initiatives for this agenda, such as the "Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives (MOP&SI)" and the "Federal SDGs Unit," which work for the SDGs in Pakistan. The United Nations Development Program is also helping Pakistan with this agenda. However, Pakistan's performance on this

Page No: 178-193



Policy Journal of Social Science Review

ISSN Online:3006-4635

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agenda is not satisfactory. In this study, a qualitative approach is used, with both secondary and primary sources. The study explores the challenges impeding Pakistan's performance regarding the SDGs and provides recommendations to address these challenges. Pakistan has performed well in terms of poverty reduction, disaster resilience, health, and internet access. According to the UNDP's Annual Report on Sustainable Development Goals 2025, Pakistan is ranked 140th out of 167 countries. This study suggests that if Pakistan wants to fulfill the SDGs, it should first set its priorities and then work on those priorities with accountability.

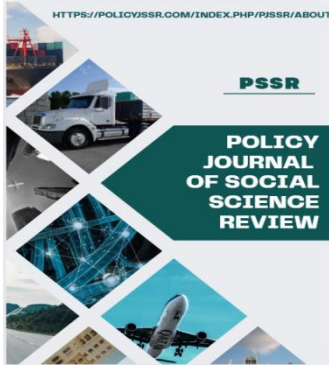
Keywords: SDGS, MDGS, United nation, Pakistan, Agenda, federal

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 Agenda is a global initiative aimed at eradicating poverty, protecting the environment, and ensuring worldwide peace and prosperity. Stemming from the United Nations Millennium Declaration, endorsed by 189 nations in September 2000, 147 global leaders pledged to address inequalities, illiteracy, hunger, illness, and gender discrimination. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aimed to achieve specific targets by 2015, notably in health, but Pakistan's progress has been slow. The Ministry of Planning reported that Pakistan achieved only four out of sixteen targets and showed uncertain progress on 24 indicators. Despite the expenditure of Rs 4.06 trillion since 2012-2013, progress in health, education, and social welfare remains unsatisfactory compared to regional peers. The MDGs formally ended in 2015, though the MDG Acceleration Framework continued until

2018. In September 2015, world leaders adopted the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals," comprising 17 objectives and 169 tasks focusing on people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. The Pakistani Parliament unanimously approved the 2030 plan in February 2016, and the country is receiving UN support to achieve the SDGs. The UN Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF), or Pakistan One United Nations Program III (OP III) 2018-2022, was ratified in 2018, outlining key outcomes from stakeholder consultations aligned with Pakistan's development goals. UN agencies are collaborating with the Pakistani government under this framework to reinforce commitment to SDGs and drive progress towards the anticipated results.

Pakistan is persistently working towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but limited progress continues to plague us due to few self-perpetuating roadblocks. Pakistan ranks 140th of 167



Policy Journal of Social Science Review

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countries on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index, with an overall score around 57%, a slight decline from earlier performance, according to the Sustainable Development Report 2025. However, the country still grapples with significant challenges including overpopulation, low literacy rates, ineffective policy priorities, lack of knowledge about SDGs and economic limitations. Patterns of external shocks such as Covid-19 and climate-related disasters (notably floods) have also hindered the pace of developmental agenda. Nevertheless, moderate progress has been achieved in Pakistan for several facets as observed through visitations upon poverty mitigation efforts and provision of basic amenities such as electricity, internet access, or financial inclusion. However, most of the SDGs continue to be surrounded by serious or severe challenges, especially with regards to education, health, inequality and environmental sustainability.

Pakistan's progress towards the SDGs by 2020 is inadequate and fragmented, meaning major technical assistance in effective governance, policy implementation, awareness at large and sustainable economic planning environment will be vital for attainment of 2030 targets.

Literature Review

Jocelyn Baker (2022) wrote book Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) He covers the fundamental ideas of sustainability

and sustainable development in this book. He will introduce the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals (SDGs), as well as their origin, creation, and implementation, in this book. The justification for each SDG is also discussed, along with concrete examples of how they can be addressed at the individual, local, national, and international levels. In his book, he writes about being given the chance to take advantage of the SDGs' transformative effects by taking part in a variety of learning opportunities and exchanges. He discussed with a global SDG community of practice and looked into ways to increase social impact and environmental justice while working with an active student base that represented a variety of geographies and perspectives (Baker, 2022).

Ms. Dora Benedek, Mr. Edward R. Gemail, Mr. Abdulkhak S. Senhadji, Alexander F. Tyman (2021) wrote a book titled A Post-Pandemic Assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals in this book they discuss about the COVID-19. The 19 pandemic had a severe impact on international development goals. According to them, the economic downturn eventually pushed millions of people into extreme poverty and reduced government funding available to spend on achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Using a recently developed dynamic macroeconomic framework, this staff discussion note examines the current situation regarding funding for the SDGs



Policy Journal of Social Science Review

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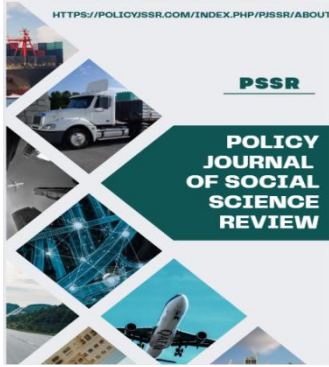
in five key development sectors: education, health, roads, electricity, and water and sanitation (Benedek, 2021).

Dr Abdur Rehman Cheema" Research Analysis "Pakistan SDGs Status Report of 2021" The SDGs' progress in Pakistan is shown in this report. The Pakistani government has not released comprehensive report since 2015 that compares the country's progress on SDG indicators to their baseline values. For the purpose of identifying and prioritizing areas that need policy support and resource allocation, this type of monitoring and tracking is crucial. The report compares the baseline (2014-2015) values of the 133 SDG indicators with their corresponding available and latest values in 2020-21 in addition to capturing the current data availability gap by sources of data. This report presents the Pakistan SDGs Index as well as a statistical overview of Pakistan's SDG progress. The purpose of this report is not to evaluate the government's sectoral priorities and accomplishments. The nation has made only modest overall SDG progress. Providing high-quality education, skill development, and job creation are the remaining challenges. Pakistan has done well in terms of reducing poverty, disaster losses, access to health care, and the internet. (Cheema, 2021).

United Nations" (2020) "Sustainable Development Framework for Pakistan submitted report 2018" which is about ONE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME III 2018-2022 in this

report mention United Nations Program III (OP III), also known as Pakistan One, sets out the strategic planning framework for cooperation between the United Nations system and the Government of Pakistan from 2018 to 2022. 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are closely aligned with Pakistan's National Development Plan, Vision 2025. The report also notes that the UN system's dedicated partnership with Pakistan is built around a common goal: 'delivering as one' to achieve the SDGs. UNSDF/OP III reaffirms this partnership and outlines our shared goals for a Pakistan free from poverty and destitution, where the benefits of development are equitably distributed, and where the environment is protected. A situation in which the wealth of the economy and the quality of life of the people serve as the yardstick for measuring progress.

To ensure that their needs guide all programs and policies and that their potential is met with dignity and equity, the most vulnerable groups in Pakistan, especially those who Struggles with multidimensional poverty will be at the forefront of UN efforts to support the government. (United Nations, 2020). Planning Commission ministry of Planning Development Reforms" Launched a Document as a name of "Pakistan Vision 25" In this Document "MACRO" Describe the country's plan of action for achieving its objectives and aspirations. Pakistan's economy is expected to rank among the top 10 in the



Policy Journal of Social Science Review

ISSN Online:3006-4635

ISSN Print: 3006-4627

world by 2047, which is the ultimate goal. The foundation of Vision 2025's seven pillars is the need to embrace change and transformation as well as to seize new opportunities. The following constitute the foundation of the Vision: Women's empowerment and the development of social and human capital come first. Growth should be sustained, indigenous, and inclusive. Democracy as a form of government Energy, water, and food security; institutional reform and modernization of the public sector; Entrepreneurship: private sector and entrepreneurship-led growth Knowledge economy: enhancing existing economies to become more competitive - Regional connectivity and the modernization of transportation infrastructure (Macro C., 2014).

Recent analyses of Pakistan's progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reveal that in accordance with the 2025 Sustainable Development Report, the country is experiencing slippage from its pathways to achieve then once-and-future milestone, the 2030 Agenda: at present no SDG has been fully achieved and only limited progress remains on granular targets. The United Nations Development Program states that Pakistan is on course to achieve only about 35 out of the 169 goals, it was noted: "instead of complete success, achievement here is partial". The literature regularly notes stagnation among multiple goals and regression on critical areas like environmental

sustainability and inequality, mainly due to resource constraints, climate vulnerability, and governance challenges. Moreover, while analyses highlight significant advances in the integration of policy with institutional mechanisms for implementation, they signal that gaps still remain in implementation and resource allocation Fully meeting SDG targets by 2030 will require accelerated reforms and transformative investments across Pakistan; further increasing spending on social transfers and social protection can bolster capacities to deliver rights-based services (SDGs) to all citizens. (UNDP, 2024; Sustainable Development Report, 2025).

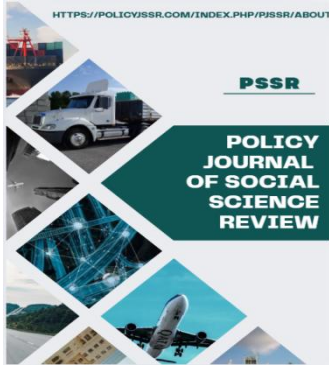
Read several articles, books and reports for this research report. Various authors have written about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals agenda. They wrote about SDGS in different ways, and I learned a lot about it after reading articles, reports and books. But there is one gap that no one discusses: the reasons for non-fulfilment of the SDGS in Pakistan.

What are the reasons for Pakistan's slow progress on this agenda?

Why did Pakistan achieve only two goals in the last ten years?

Research Methodology

This study is fully qualitative and descriptive in which data is analyzed and collected from books, articles, document and information available on electronic media. Descriptive and explanatory nature of research is conducted. Qualitative approach is also based on



Policy Journal of Social Science Review

ISSN Online:3006-4635

ISSN Print: 3006-4627

secondary data, which is collected from all the secondary resources mentioned above. To analyze the contemporary situation, primary data is also used in this study. Pakistan Vision 2025, UNDP Annual Reports on Sustainable Development Goals, Pakistan's Development Agendas etc, used in this article. Pakistan's SDGS progress discuss in detail in this article.

Results and Discussions

Challenges of Pakistan towards Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development Goals are Pakistan's national goals, but Pakistan is not doing very well in this agenda because Pakistan faces many challenges towards SDGS. According to my research, some major challenges are given below.

Over Population

Overpopulation is one of the major issues in Pakistan Pakistan became the fifth-most populous country in the world. When Pakistan adopted the Agenda of SDGS in 2015, Pakistan's growth rate was 1.30%, and now, in 2023, Pakistan's growth rate is 1.98%. (Macrotrends LLC. 2023).

In this situation, how does Pakistan become sustainable? Pakistan is a developing country. Increasing the rate of population growth directly affects Pakistan's sustainability. Population rate in rural areas is higher than urban areas in Pakistan. Pakistan is an Islamic country, and some people believe that if their family grows large, that is a good thing because this is a part of our religion. But they don't realize that if they are not

capable, and not responsible for their family responsibilities so this is the wrong perspective. Pakistan's growth rate also leads to many issues, just like poverty, illiteracy, snatching, living at a low standard, beggars, murderers, etc., over population, which are directly linked with every SDG. Because if the population rate remains low, the country will perform well in SDGS. if the rate of growing will be low, So, Pakistan can use its resources effectively and make sure all resources reach every single person in the country, and also Pakistan, can utilize and explore many resources as well.

Wrong Priorities

Pakistan is not doing well in the SDGSs agenda, and claims that Pakistan is getting poorer day by day. The reality is that Pakistan is failing to set its priorities straight Pakistan spends a lot of expense on wrong priorities, like election campaigns, stickers of leaders, their quotes and other types of posters that are plastered in every corner of the country. Leaders make policies for the poor but do not give them an opportunity to earn. For example, the current government's flour distribution policy and people took advantage of this policy wrongly. People collected a lot of stock, which they sold in the markets. This is the reason why Pakistan has not achieved sustainable development goals. Because people are lazy, they want to benefit without any effort. Therefore, if people do not perform effectively, then Pakistan will not become sustainable.



Policy Journal of Social Science Review

ISSN Online:3006-4635

ISSN Print: 3006-4627

Political Instability

"Political instability (the probability that government policymakers are removed from office) is also an important determinant environmental policy outcome, deforestation, and resource extraction rates" (Fredriksson, 2016).

Political instability is a major problem in Pakistan. Political instability in Pakistan gives rise to many problems, such as long-term policy not being implemented in Pakistan. A leader made a policy and then his government replaced another government. And the new government introduces new policies and new leader are not focused on previous policies and then no policy ever worked. Leaders in Pakistan work for their own personality and criticized other political leaders. No one works for Pakistan and nation. When Pakistan adopted the SDG agenda, Nawaz Sharif was the prime minister. In 2015-2023, Pakistan changed four Prime Ministers, no one political leader thought about the objectives or sustainability of Pakistan. How can this situation be maintained if the leaders of Pakistan not be able to responsible then Pakistan not well performed in sustainable goal?

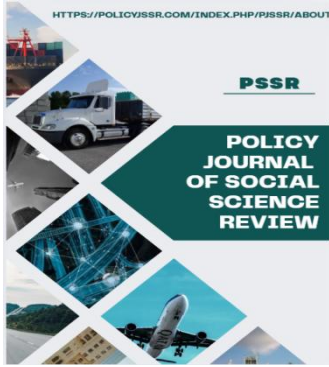
Check and Balance

"A checks and balances system refers to the self-regulatory mechanism of separation of powers between various persons or departments in private organization of government to prevent power abuse. Governments mostly use checks and balances to ensure that all departments check and control each other's powers" (Vaidya, 2023).

Check and balance is another big problem in Pakistan. No technique is used for check and balance in Pakistan has a federal system. The federal government determines the budget reach sector but does not ensure that the budget is properly utilized. 118 billion was approved in the budget for SDGs, which was distributed to each province of Pakistan, but due to the lack of a check and balance system, no one worked on this budget effectively. For example, the project manager not the manager a large amount of money to ensure that good materials are used in the project, but the manager uses poor quality materials, and in the situation of a disaster everything is destroyed for this reason. Pakistan will not meet its SDGs Agenda 2030 if the system is not updated and the government does not ensure checks and balances at each stage of the SDGs plan.

Corruption

"Corruption is dishonest behavior by those in positions of power. Those who abuse their power may be individuals or they may belong to organizations, such as businesses or governments" (Chen, 2022). Corruption is a very major issue in Pakistan. Corruption is a mother of many issues in Pakistan. Corruption is found in Pakistan not only in major institutions but also in small minor institutions. Basically, people are thought corruption is only a part of politics. Pakistan's nation talks about our leaders are corrupt, but they don't even realize that if they don't perform their duties honestly, they are also corrupt. In



Policy Journal of Social Science Review

ISSN Online:3006-4635

ISSN Print: 3006-4627

Pakistan, individual base corruption is greater than that of political leaders. No one is performing honestly in Pakistan, e.g., shortcut use in every sector is common in Pakistan. No laws follow in this situation. So in this situation, how would Pakistan be sustainable? Pakistan's stability is impossible due to corruption.

Illiteracy

Illiteracy is an important and traditional problem in Pakistan. Pakistan's current illiteracy rate is 58.9%. A major cause of illiteracy is over population. Pakistan's resources cannot meet the needs of the population. In this situation, people do not have access to education, good quality of life, and good employment opportunities, or if some people get good education and then educated youth do not get good jobs, they engage in wrongdoing, e.g., begging, stealing, drugs etc. In this situation, Pakistani youths do not play any role in the development of Pakistan. Illiterate people lead the project, so no new ideas are generated in Pakistan to lead the implementation of Pakistan's SDGs. Pakistan is not performing well in SDGs due to traditional ideas or illiterate people.

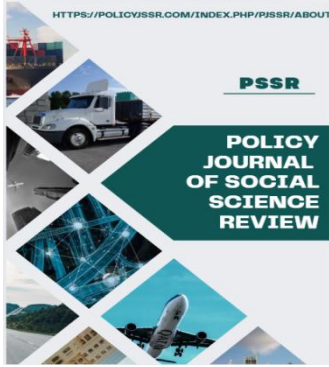
Water issue

Water is a great blessing from Allah, and no one can live without it. Water problem is very serious issue. Pakistan is facing this problem, over population, industries, food needs, water theft, leakage, and waste all create this problem, which Pakistan is not able to solve. Pakistan is an agricultural country. The agriculture sector accounts for 24% of

Pakistan's GDP. Agriculture demand about 90 percent of the water. Water savings in Pakistan last only 30 days. Pakistan's agricultural sector is traditional. Water wastage is common in this sector as agriculture is irrigated through the canal system. So water leaks and theft are also common in this sector. And the water that is used in industries gets dirty after it is used, and then without any sanitization it is discharged into the rivers. Which causes water pollution and has a direct impact on the environment. If this system cannot be improved, then Pakistan will not be able to achieve its goals.

Gender Discriminations

Caste system is very common in Pakistan is not becoming sustainable due to caste system. Dishonesty gave rise to the class system in Pakistan. Pakistan has an elite class in every field. Bribery is very common in Pakistan. A person who does not know anything but belongs to a high family is a master, but if a person has a lot of knowledge but belongs to a middle class, he is a subordinate. Discrimination on the basis of sex, color, race or mainly caste is very common in Pakistan. The hardworking people or the middle class did not lead any sector of Pakistan. Competition is only between the middle or elite class but the elite class always wins and the middle class remains subdued. These conditions create dishonesty in people. Although they know very well that they have performed very well, they do not reach any position. Therefore, they are not performing their



Policy Journal of Social Science Review

ISSN Online:3006-4635

ISSN Print: 3006-4627

duties honestly. Gender discrimination is also very high in Pakistan. A patriarchal system exists in Pakistan. Male-dominated society always discriminates against women in every sector. Women faced discrimination such as physical, sexual, and honor killing, as well as domestic violence. This issue occurs more in rural areas than urban areas. Third gender also neglect and discriminated in Pakistan in these situations Pakistan will not be able to develop further.

Energy Crisis

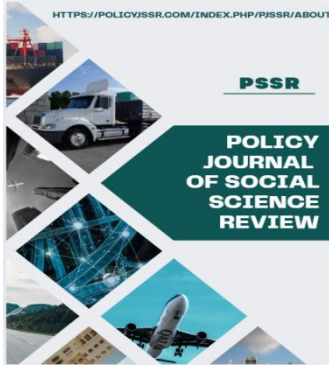
The energy crisis is another major challenge to Pakistan's sustainability. There is a difference between demand and supply. Overpopulation industries, and urbanization demand high amounts of energy, but the supply of energy not equitable, because outdated energy infrastructure exists in Pakistan. Pakistan's investment in energy is very low, energy sector shares only \$74.5 billion in the Pakistan, this is not enough for Pakistan's needs. Pakistan relies on non-renewable energy sources like oil, coal, and gas, which cover 80% of the country's energy needs. because other or new remedies are so expensive that Pakistan can't afford them. Shortages of energy create many more major issues in Pakistan, such as productivity loss. Industries lose, and individuals also suffer because of this situation. Policies were made to overcome this challenge, but they were not implemented because high-level polities were involved in it.

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a major challenge for Pakistan to achieve sustainable development goals. Pakistan is among the worst countries where food security issues are high. Pakistan is facing this problem due to climate change, over population etc. 37.2% people are poor. Pakistan does not meet the food needs of the people. The ravages of climate change, floods destroy crops, and then import and export are not processed on time, which exacerbates food security issues. The crisis of food shortage creates dishonesty among people. People accumulate a lot of stocks because they think it can be expensive day by day. The government raises the prices of basic necessities on a regular basis, and people living below the poverty line cannot afford basic food. There is also a difference in the rate increased by the government, but the shopkeeper increases twice the government rate. And people only question government policies. Adulterated food is also common in Pakistan. Consumers add stones to rice and water to milk for their personal benefit. Packaged items in Pakistan are also packed without any cleaning, and are sold to people at high prices. These problems increase hunger in Pakistan. Due to this problem, child labor is common in Pakistan. Hunger creates other evils in society, such as theft, drugs, extortion, murder, etc.

Environmental Issues

Environment plays a huge role in every country, but Pakistan has traditionally



Policy Journal of Social Science Review

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ISSN Print: 3006-4627

faced environmental problems, with noise pollution, water pollution, and noise pollution being major causes of this problem. In Pakistan, most of the people focus on private transport, which increases noise pollution as well as air pollution. Which has a direct impact on people's health. Laborer, the capital of Punjab, is always included in the list of the most polluted cities in the world due to traffic and air pollution. Without recycling, water is discharged into rivers and people use this water. which also affects people's health. This problem also includes lack of trees. Pakistan has very little plant life. People cut trees without paying attention to growing them. Greenery in Pakistan is almost gone as climate change also affects trees. The previous government took steps to control this situation, but now the government has changed and this project is not being completed.

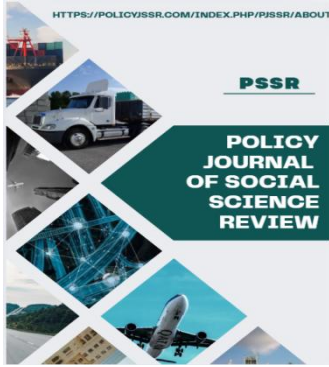
Poor Health Care

Pakistan is failing to provide sustainable health facilities in the country. A poor health care system, especially in rural areas of Pakistan, threatens people's lives. Some backward areas do not have health facilities. Due to non-availability of health facilities, women face difficulties during childbirth. sometime she dies or their child dies. There are hospitals and health facilities in urban areas, but they are all very expensive. A common man cannot afford their treatment, so a person is already worried about his health, and then the hospital bills him excessively, so he becomes even more

worried. Now he is mentally worried about how he will treat his health. Another problem is the proliferation of pathology labs in Pakistan. Doctors refer patients to specialized labs for disease testing. Doctors contract with Path Labs for their own interests, and Path Labs pays doctors commissions for getting their patients to be its customers. Apart from this, the infrastructure of hospitals in Pakistan is not modern. Technologies are not used in Pakistan unlike those used in other countries, and therefore most of the diseases cannot be treated in Pakistan.

Terrorism

Terrorism is a major threat to peace and Pakistan's sustainability, Pakistan is a Muslim country and has always promoted peace in the whole world. However, due to terrorism, peace is not maintaining in Pakistan. Pakistan's people feel unsafe in their own country because terrorist attacks happens everywhere in Pakistan, such as in schools, mosques, shopping centers, parks, etc. Unemployment is a major cause of terrorism people who get education but not getting opportunities of income, so they turn in wrong directions and show aggression. Terrorist one of them because terrorist shows aggression towards others. They revenge from government as a result, they target people directly but indirectly government the Pakistani government will fail to maintain peace in the country. Many operations have been launched against terrorism in Pakistan come were



Policy Journal of Social Science Review

ISSN Online:3006-4635

ISSN Print: 3006-4627

successful but this threat has always existed in Pakistan. There is a flaw in Pakistan's policies, government against action terrorism that helps to temporarily stop attacks in Pakistan but not long-term action taken by the government in Pakistan for stopping terrorism. Recent attacks on school teachers is an example of this terrorism.

Poor Education System and Unemployment

The education system of Pakistan has failed to provide good quality education to students. The education system has been updated but there is not enough for youth. "The education system of Pakistan provides much stress less than knowledge". The education system in Pakistan is focused on quantitate rather than quality. Students suffer badly in Pakistan. There is a lot of stress a student. Due to stress, they do not perform well in their studies. There is another issue in Pakistan that is in rural areas: there are no colleges and universities for high education in those reaps. Students forced to go to urban areas for further education, or some backwards-areas school's ire not there. Boys easily move to another place for education, but girls face restrictions on it. because some people think girl's education is less important than boys so they won't be allowed. This is a big challenge for Pakistan. Another situation in Pakistan is the expense of education. Pakistan's education is going to become more expensive day by day, and the quality is not being better. Parents can't afford, expense so they stop their child's

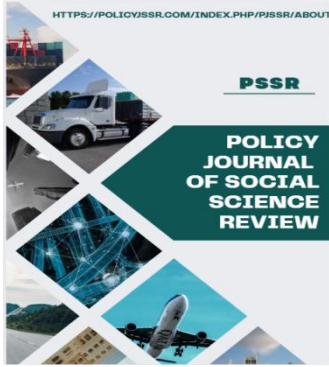
education, and youth get not be educated. And if some young people take an education, they have to faced employment issues. Employment opportunities are very limited in Pakistan. mostly Youth do not get jobs according to their interests. They forced to do any job to fulfil their own or their family's responsibilities. Dishonesty exists in many sectors in Pakistan. Some people get jobs through their relations or bribe. Girls mostly faced discrimination in job opportunities. These situations lead to many other evils in society, such as stealing, drugs, child labor, as well as unemployment and poverty.

Budget Issue

Every sector has a very important role in the budget. No country can move forward without a budget. The same theory is prevalent in Pakistan. The scope of the Sustainable Development Agenda requires large expenditures To achieve a better, more sustainable future. Pakistan must finance the Sustainable Lopment Goals. Out of "USD 118 billion for PSDP, Rs 68 billion" has been eartascikced for Pain to meet the SDGs. Unfortunately, the amount allocated for each SDG is insufficient to address the problems that the nation now faces in the environmental, social, and economic core components of the SDGs. (Sheikh, 2021)

Pandemic COVID-19

COVID is a disease and virus that affected the whole world in 2019. During the pandemic. the world suffered badly. The whole world economy destroyed, but developed countries control this situation



Policy Journal of Social Science Review

ISSN Online:3006-4635

ISSN Print: 3006-4627

after Pandemic, and developing countries like Pakistan could not be in a good position after a pandemic. COVID-19's effect badly on Pakistan's economy as well as the Sustainable Goals agenda.

"COVID-19" has had a serious influence on individual financial, social, and environmental events in Pakistan. It has a significant influence on every area of the economy, including availability, commerce, manufacturing, and tourist. The fall in international trade, the reduction in remittance inflow, the loss of regular make jobs, the immobility of the Labor force during a lockdown, the decline in production level, the interruption of the supply chain, the drop in trade and foreign direct investment, projects, etc, are some of the factors that make it difficult to achieve "sustainable development goals in Pakistan". "COVID-19", which hinders Pakistan's progress towards its "Sustainable development goals", (Fatima, 2021)

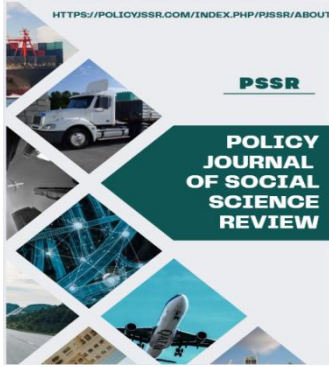
Lack of Knowledge about SDGs

Lack of knowledge about sustainable development goals is another major obstacle to Pakistan's stability. Most of the people in Pakistan have no knowledge about the SDG agenda in Pakistan. 100 out of 5% people in Pakistan know about UN Sustainable Development Agenda. Pakistan will not perform well in this agenda if people remain unaware of it. Mainly due to illiteracy people are not interested in any kind of development in Pakistan. People think that nothing can change in

Pakistan. Why should they do anything for the development of Pakistan when their leaders are not doing their duties.

Conclusion

The United Nations, established in 1945, aims to foster global peace and stability. Its commitment to sustainable development began with the 1972 Conference on the Human Environment, laying the groundwork for its Sustainable Projects. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were introduced in 2000 with eight central objectives focusing on various facets of human well-being—such as health and education—targeting completion by 2015. However, many countries, including Pakistan, struggled to meet these targets. For instance, Pakistan reported achieving only four out of 24 indicators, citing its performance as "less satisfactory in a regional context." Despite significant financial investment, the country fell short of the MDGs in critical sectors like health and education. Following the MDGs, the UN introduced the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, which encompass 17 goals aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting gender equality, and ensuring environmental sustainability, among other priorities. Signed by 193 countries as the "2030 Agenda," the SDGs emphasize integration across social, economic, and environmental dimensions and are structured around the "Five Ps": People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. Pakistan has actively engaged with this agenda, officially recognizing the SDGs as



Policy Journal of Social Science Review

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ISSN Print: 3006-4627

national goals in a 2016 National Assembly announcement. The Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives (MOP&SI) coordinates efforts for the SDGs, developing the "Pakistan Vision 2025" framework, which outlines the strategy for sustainable development and economic growth. A Federal Sustainability Unit was created in 2017 to support these initiatives, prioritizing short-term (2020), medium-term (2025), and long-term (2030) goals.

Although Pakistan has made strides towards achieving the SDGs, its overall performance remains subpar, facing challenges such as overpopulation, prioritization issues, corruption, and impacts from COVID-19. Nevertheless, there are achievements in areas like poverty reduction and health access. The UNDP's Annual Report on Sustainable Development Goals 2025 ranks Pakistan 140th out of 167 countries, reflecting its limited progress and the need for continued efforts to address persisting obstacles to sustainable development.

Recommendations

Pakistan would be successful in the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 agenda if Pakistan controlled its challenges that hampered Pakistan's sustainability

The government should provide the best opportunities for education for the people of Pakistan that help them learn about how Pakistan can become sustainable

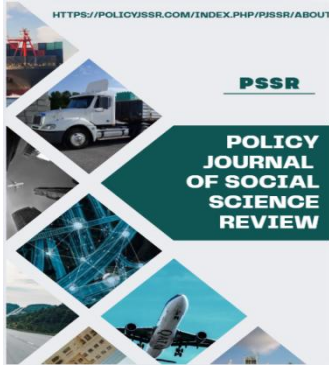
If the government wants to stop overpopulation, the government of

Pakistan should run family planning awareness campaigns to raise know-how among the public masses, and those campaigns will help people understand that overpopulation is a key to many challenges in Pakistan. If the overpopulation can't be stopped, Pakistan would not be sustainable and the government should make policies and laws on this issue and make sure everyone follows those laws.

The government of Pakistan should set priorities that contribute to Pakistan's stability and not opt for policies that do not benefit Pakistan and are only a waste of money. The government of Pakistan should create opportunities for the middle class instead of policies that created laziness and discouraged hard work.

Pakistan's sustainability is possible if the leaders and politicians of Pakistan work for Pakistan's sustainability and do not work for their personal interests and stop bleating and criticizing each other. If one government implements a policy and then its government is replaced, with new government then the new government should complete the policy and project if those policy and project benefit Pakistan rather than introducing new policies. First, complete the existing policies, and then new policies and projects will be introduced

Pakistan would be sustainable if it updated the check and balance system. Federal officials should introduce new technologies that check step-by-step SDG progress and also make sure nobody



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shows any dishonesty in their duties. The government should also make strict laws about dishonesty and makes sure those laws apply to every sector.

Government of Pakistan should start awareness campaign against corruption in Pakistan. Campaign will help people to know what corruption really means. When people don't know the real meaning of corruption, they just think that politicians are just corrupt, but they ignore their honesty. Which is a major cause of high level corruption in Pakistan. Pakistan should implement laws that deal with the roots of corruption.

Pakistan's government should ensure the best quality and the average expense of education youth. especially for those young people that belong to rural areas. After good quality education, the government should make sure to provide the best earning platforms. If youth will be happy, then youth play an important role in Pakistan's SDG agenda

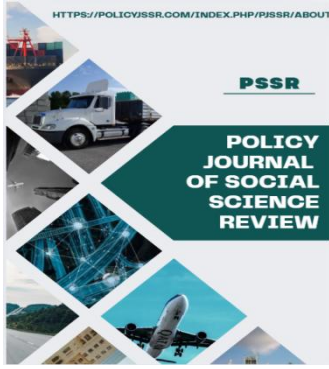
if Pakistan wants to be sustainable with its water problem, the government should avoid doing mega dams and focus on building small dams in every province to increase water capacity. The government should formulate policies against water theft and implement them as well. Also, use technology to ensure water purification. Also, platforms should be created for farmers, those platforms will tell them how to protect water from leakage so that it is not wasted.

The Government of Pakistan should ensure the elimination of discrimination on the basis of caste and it is part of the

Muslim religion. Competition should not be between classes. Instead, the contest should be between right and wrong. The government should ensure that no one becomes a chief simply because he belongs to the elite. The government should also provide opportunities to the middle class so that if someone belongs to the middle class but has knowledge, he also can become the head of Pakistan's projects. The government should also make laws for women's protection and also making a gender equality platform for women's rights, and also should making policies and laws for third gender rights and the government should also make sure no one discriminated just because of his or her gender, and if anyone is involved in these kinds of crimes, the government should take strict action against him or her.

If the government renews the infrastructure, Pakistan can solve its energy problems. The government should make policies and ensure that there is no politics in them. Privatization of energy sector should be promoted. So that Pakistan may be able to overcome this situation and be satisfied.

If Pakistan must be sustainable in goal 2, zero hunger, firstly, it must ensure food security all over the country. The government should not increase the rate of basic income irregularly so that poor people will not face hunger. The government made income platforms for poor people where they could work and fulfil their basic needs. The government should apply the system of sensitization



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for checking food purity, so that pure food reaches everywhere.

Environmental challenges will be solved if the government restricts people's that they used ally public transport and avoids the futile use of private transport and through campaigns inform people about pollution, which has a significant impact on the environment. The current government should rework the former government's policy on plant life and greenery in Pakistan Also, the government should pass laws against cutting down trees so that Pakistan will be sustainable in 2030 Agenda

Government of Pakistan should ensure health services in rural areas by building hospitals and clinics. If Pakistan currently does not build hospitals in these areas, the government should provide health facilities by providing health care in these areas. Government of Pakistan should also focus on best technology in hospitals which will help to eradicate diseases among people Government should ensure reduction in cost of medicines and treatment. The Pakistani government should also make a law against pathology labs, if Pakistan takes these steps, better health facilities can be provided in the country

If Pakistan wants to maintain peace, it should take strict and long-term action against terrorism, as well as government should promoted strict security in public places in the country.

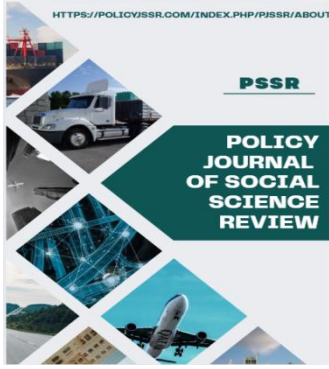
The education system should be further updated so that less emphasis is placed on students and increase creativity so that

youth can create employment opportunities according to their interest. Government should build schools, colleges and universities in backward areas. Due to which employment opportunities will also increase. Government should make people aware about girl education through campaign. Along with this, the government should focus on creating employment opportunities. If Pakistan takes these steps, then Pakistan will become sustainable in this agenda.

The government of Pakistan should increase the budget for sustainable development goals and ensure that the budget is used in the right direction. So, if the budget is used in the right direction, then this agenda can be done quickly.

In case of COVID-19 or any disaster, Pakistan should implement better technology. promote better online services, business, services, business, online education etc. to make Pakistan stainable. Pakistan should have chosen to adopt a system in COVID-19 that would help people meet their needs and not stop their work, and Pakistan would not have reached this position. Now Pakistan has to focus on its trade and economy, this is the solution that will be able Pakistan sustainable.

Pakistan's government should make learning platforms about sustainable development of Sustainable Development Goals. And ensure that people join those platforms. Those platforms will help people to know in



Policy Journal of Social Science Review

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Pakistan, sustainability is possible if they play their part effectively in this agenda.

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