

Analyzing the poverty Alleviation strategies of India and Pakistan

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Abstract

This research explores the various methods employed by India and Pakistan to combat poverty. Through an examination of policy frameworks, economic initiatives, and social interventions, the study highlights both commonalities and differences in the strategies adopted by these nations. By assessing the impact of governmental policies, grassroots efforts, and international collaborations, the research aims to provide insights into effective approaches for reducing poverty. The Current work is basically qualitative in nature and conducted through a comparative analysis between India and Pakistan. Launched in March 2019, the Ehsaas Poverty Alleviation Program is a broad initiative. Current initiatives to directly relieve the suffering of Pakistan's extremely poor include the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Bait ul Maal, and many others of a similar nature. Proposals such as the Housing for All by 2022 and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana aim to house the impoverished in both rural and urban areas of India. Recently launched government initiatives such as Stand Up India and Start-Up India are aimed at enabling people to make a living. . The findings of this comparative analysis add to a more complex understanding of the challenges and

successes encountered in combating poverty in the distinct socio-economic landscapes of India and Pakistan.

Keywords: Poverty Alleviation, Pakistan, India, Economic initiatives, Policy frameworks

Introduction

Poverty is a big problem that affects many countries, like Pakistan and India. It stops countries from growing and developing in different ways. Poverty is not just about having no money. It also includes not having things like food, clean water, a place to live, healthcare, and education.

With 1,441,719,852 inhabitants, India is the most populous nation in the world in 2024, with a total population of 8,118,836,000. In January 2024, there were 242.8 million people living in Pakistan. According to data, Pakistan's population (5th most populous country) grew by 4.7 million (+2.0%) from the beginning of 2023 and the beginning of 2024. In Pakistan, there are 50.4 percent males and 49.6 percent females overall.

In India, a lot of people are associated with farming. Even though India's economy is growing fast, not everyone is getting better lives. Poverty and unemployment are still big issues.

Pakistan became a country in 1947 is bordered by India, Afghanistan, Iran, China, and the Arabian Sea. It has diverse geography, including mountains, plateaus, and fertile plains along the Indus River. The population is around 187 million, with most people living in urban areas. Life expectancy is about 61.5 years for men and 63 years for women. Percentage of the population below a certain daily income is the most widely used indicator of poverty. This figure is called the poverty line. The World Bank has set a daily threshold of \$1.90 as the extreme poverty line. Because they were below this line, 13.7 % of the population in the world lived in extreme poverty in 2011. Approximately 15% of the world's population, or 963 million people, are undernourished, according to a 2009 report published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. About 70% of people in India live in rural areas. Mahatma Gandhi, who is like the father of the country, once said, "India lives in its villages," and this is still true today India is growing really fast and has one of the quickest-growing economies globally. The amount of money the country makes (called GDP) grew by 9.6% in 2006-07 and around 9% in 2007-08. Because of this growth, fewer people are living in poverty – it went down from 55% in 1973-74 to 36% in 1993-94 and then to 27.5% in 2004-05. However, even though the country is doing well economically, not everyone is benefitting. Poverty and not having jobs are still big problems that the people in charge need to work on. The key to reducing poverty is economic growth. Despite Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that Islamabad should take a cue from New Delhi on how to combat poverty, statistics released this week by the

World Bank indicate that both India and Pakistan have a long way to go in eradicating poverty.

Pakistan is one of the nations where the poorest people's incomes are growing faster than the average, according to the World Bank report "Poverty and Shared Prosperity." Despite having one of the fastest growing economies in the world, India is among the nations where the incomes of the poorest people are growing more slowly than the average.

All things considered, the data indicates that although India is outperforming Pakistan in certain areas, Pakistan is outperforming India in others.

According to the data, a higher percentage of Indians—21.25 percent—than Pakistanis—8.3 percent—live at or below the \$1.90 daily poverty line set by the World Bank. And while 45% of Pakistanis earn \$3.10 per day, 58% of Indians do the same. India also does a better job of combating undernourishment; in 2015, 15.2 percent of its people were undernourished, compared to 22% in Pakistan.

According to the World Bank report, Pakistan's annualized mean consumption growth for the bottom 40 percent during 2007 and 2013 was 2.81 percent, while the population as a whole experienced 2.53 percent growth. Compared to the overall population, the bottom 40 percent had a mean consumption or income per capita (measured in US dollars per person) of 2.07 percent versus 3.81 percent. The most current year's data demonstrates that the population as a whole experienced an annualized growth rate of 4.42 percent, compared to 2.44 percent for the bottom 40 percent.

Since India became independent, getting rid of poverty has been a big goal for the government. They've made lots of plans and programs to help poor people, mainly through the Planning Commission. But to really make a difference, local governments and departments need to work together with a clear plan and enough resources from the federal and state levels. In 2004–2005, about 27.5% of India's population was living in poverty, which was less than before. But poverty is still a big issue, especially in rural areas, where people struggle to find good jobs and basic services like roads and schools.

In 2011, around 21% of Indians were living on less than \$1.90 a day, which is considered the poverty line. Even though some programs like subsidized food and housing are helping, there are still about 300 million people in India living in poverty. To be officially considered poor in India, a person's monthly expenses need to be below a certain amount set by experts. There are programs to help these people, like job training and loans for building homes.

Both India and Pakistan are focused on reducing poverty and making sure everyone benefits from economic growth. This paper looks at how they're doing this and what more can be done. The biggest development challenge

facing Pakistan is figuring out how to meet the MDG, which asks for bringing the nation's 33 percent poverty rate down to 18 percent by 2015. Poverty is still a big issue in India, and it changes depending on how well the economy is doing. When the economy grows a lot, poverty goes down faster, but when the growth is slow, poverty decreases more slowly. This happens in both cities and villages. Measures used to see how widespread and serious poverty is show that reducing poverty doesn't just help the very poor but also those who are a bit better off. However, because India's population is growing fast, even though poverty is going down, there are still more poor people than before.

The government in Pakistan is working on a plan to reduce poverty. They asked for help from the Ministries of Finance and Planning to make a strategy. The International Labor Organization (ILO) is also involved because they think creating jobs is the best way to help people out of poverty. As Pakistan is a country with a lot of resources and smart people, but it still struggles to do well. One report shows that Baluchistan has the highest poverty rate, with over 62% of rural people being poor. Sindh has the biggest difference in poverty between rural and city areas, with almost thirty percent more rural people being poor. In other regions like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, fewer people are poor, especially in cities.

Different groups are working to reduce poverty in Pakistan. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has a plan to help, and they've been doing this since 1999. They're looking at things like the economy, education, and foreign investments to see how they affect poverty. But there's still more to understand about how these things are connected.

There's a new plan in Pakistan called PRSP-II to keep reducing poverty. It learns from the first plan and looks at what's happening in the country now. To make this work, Pakistan needs a stable economy and policies that focus on reducing poverty. The plan explains how economic growth and reducing poverty are linked. To reduce poverty in Pakistan, the country needs to grow its economy quickly and fairly. Just growing the economy isn't enough to end poverty. The kind of growth matters too. Sectors like IT, small businesses, and farming can create jobs and help people out of poverty.

The most recent estimates by the UN for 110 countries derived from survey data spanning the years 2017–22 indicate that 21.5 percent of Pakistani citizens are living in severe multidimensional poverty, while 12.9% are at risk of multidimensional poverty. Reducing poverty is a big goal for both Pakistan and India. They're working on different strategies to do this, like improving the economy and making sure everyone has a chance to succeed. There's still a lot of work to be done, but progress is being made. The main discussion of the article will look at a number of aspects related to poverty, such as its prevalence and incidence, the effect of economic opportunity, and the steps that Pakistan and India have taken to combat it. The conclusion will

include an overview of the key ideas and recommendations for Pakistan and India's future steps in eradicating poverty.

Literature Review

Rahul Anand and Naresh Kumar (April 2014), Strong economic growth has been a key factor in India's efforts to reduce poverty and promote inclusivity. Using a novel definition of inclusive growth, they investigated how macro financial conditions and economic policies contribute to the understanding of inclusive growth and its constituent parts. In order to promote inclusive growth, social expenditures, education spending, and educational attainment rates are crucial. It is also criticized that macro-financial stability, with a focus on inflation risks, encourages inclusive growth.

M. Ali Shah, feels that poor governance is to blame for the country's pervasive poverty. During his presentation at the National Defense College in Islamabad, the ADB's country director in Pakistan talked about the main reasons for country's poverty. Which include a lack of jobs, especially in rural areas due to a lack of connections between urban rural areas, slow economic growth in the 1990s, and increasing debt leading to a decline in public development programs. The key priorities identified for addressing poverty involve promoting enterprises, boosting exports of higher value agricultural products, supporting microcredit and poverty reduction programs, investing in education and health, establishing social safety nets for excluded groups, and improving governance by addressing fiscal issues, social exclusion, corruption, intergovernmental relations, and public trust in institutions.

Dawn News 2021 (Syed Irfan Raza), Ex Prime Minister Imran Khan announced that the government has developed a comprehensive plan to increase people's purchasing power and alleviate poverty by generating wealth for the underprivileged. As the chair of the Kamyab Pakistan Program, he said that China had been successful in lifting millions of people out of poverty over the previous 30 years. He continued, "The government's top goal is to make the people economically self-reliant, in addition to providing financial assistance to the oppressed segments of society." Media representatives were informed by a prime minister's advisor in an unofficial briefing that while the government could not reduce inflation, it was improving the purchasing power of the average person. According to him, Prime Minister Khan stated that while prices cannot be brought back to their previous level, there are steps the government is taking to increase people's purchasing power. These include providing subsidies totaling Rs1.1 trillion to farmers and the agriculture sector, which benefits 70% of the nation's population who live in rural areas. In order to end poverty, Imran establishes Ehsaas One Window Center. Some of the services offered are EhsaasHunar, Ehsaas Utility Store, LangarKhana, WaseelaTaleem, EhsaasNashonuma, One Woman One Account, EhsaasTahaffuz, EhsaasWifi Café, Ehsaas

Scholarship, Ehsaas interest-free loans, and the Nadra office for biometric verification. To better serve students, the prime minister suggested that all federal and provincial education scholarships be combined into a single database. According to him, the government would be able to directly subsidize the poor so they could buy goods through Utility Stores at a lower cost thanks to the database.

Riaz Riazuddin (April 1, 2023) Dawn News, The most admirable things that humanity has ever done are very easy to recommend but very difficult to carry out. These are to support the orphan, clothe the impoverished, feed the hungry, and assist those in need. Therefore, the elimination of poverty—which includes all such deeds represents the ascent of humanity. However, the reason poverty cannot be eradicated is because we lack the forbearance and forbearance of people like Mother Teresa and Abdul Sattar Edhi, who devoted their entire lives to providing the poor with the means to live with dignity. In FY19, The percentage of Pakistani citizens living below the national poverty level is known as the poverty headcount ratio, and it was 21.9 percent. Even since more recent estimates are unavailable, poverty must have increased during the Covid-19 pandemic. In light of the exceptional growth and the management of the pandemic, it most likely decreased in FY21–22 before rising again in FY23 due to flooding, elevated inflation, and the deceleration of large-scale manufacturing activity. Readers are urged to note that the national poverty level was determined by estimating the monthly cost of a fixed basket of essentials based on FY19 rates, which came to an estimated Rs3,757.85 per adult. This cost is yearly and will rise dramatically in FY23 due to inflation. Policies should be needed to reduce poverty.

Goal of short-term programs is to identify the impoverished so that money can be given to them unconditionally to cover their basic needs, which are primarily food. Conditional cash transfers are among the medium-and long-term policies that enable impoverished household members to pursue education and vocational training in order to enter the labor force, to supplement their income. One aspect of medium-term policies to control inflation and maintain employment and growth is prudent macroeconomic management. Poverty reduction is aided by both the public and commercial sectors. The government-run Ehsaas Emergency Cash Program and the Benazir Income Support Program both significantly contribute to decreasing the extremes of poverty. These rely on unrestricted cash transfers to targeted impoverished households to augment their income. Additionally, BISP uses conditional cash transfers to support primary education, thereby empowering low-income households. With operations in 147 districts across the nation, the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund also administers conditional cash transfer programs. "PPAF helps families gradually move from consumption support to asset transfers, interest-free loans, and microfinance," with the goal of reducing reliance on social protection.

Pakistan has also made notable strides toward lowering poverty through private philanthropy. As per the Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy's 2021 Giving Report, eight out of ten Pakistanis donated to charities or assisted the underprivileged throughout the year.

Dr. Kaiser Bengali, asserts that unemployment is a direct cause of over 55% of urban poverty. The relationship between unemployment and migration from rural to urban areas is one of the primary reasons of poverty and a lack of jobs in metropolitan areas. Several interventions, including the establishment of rural growth centers in the rural districts, could be used to control poverty. At least \$180 (Rs. 25,000) per month, or \$2,160 per capita annually, must be the minimum wage rate. The cause of poverty in both rural and urban areas can be attributed equally to population explosion. In order to reduce the birth rate in the area, much more work must be done. Regular awareness campaigns are necessary. Initiatives based on public-private partnerships must be implemented in sectors like construction, housing, health care, education, and transportation. These sectors are interconnected; for instance, housing alone supports over 80 different industries and provides substantial positions available in the labor market. Dawn, December 8th, 2022, Miftah Ismail has written about how our governments are incompetent and that we are adopting the incorrect import substitution model, which causes boom-bust cycles. The creation of a new "elite bargain" that demands progress and development is the only way out of this poverty cycle. He gave a brief explanation of the six fundamental components he believed a development compact should have. His first pillar of development was population control. Unless we slow down population growth, Pakistan will remain engulfed in poverty and illiteracy for eternity. Creating a new "elite bargain" is the only way out of the poverty cycle. The States and The majority of a city's income must also be raised internally. In addition, districts should receive 60% of the divided pool funds allocated to subnational governments, with 20% going to divisions and 20% going to provinces. This would establish districts as the center of metropolitan services.

His second growth pillar was to empower local governments to raise revenue and handle issues like zoning, health, education, and law enforcement. An effective and responsive government should be facilitated by a multitude of competing jurisdictions. Maintaining a budget that is smaller than our growth rate was his third pillar of advice. As a result, we must choose exchange rate and fiscal strategies that result in a current account balance.

The modification of export promotion policies as his fourth pillar was an alternative to for import replacement. Three primary factors account for our low exports: first, we don't supply energy continuously at affordable prices; second, foreign buyers don't think our nation is safe to visit; and third, our businesses prefer to sell to a domestic market that is protected.

Increasing agricultural yields and productivity constituted his fifth pillar. Even though we consider ourselves an agricultural nation, we import \$8 billion worth of agricultural products each year, including wheat, cotton, edible oil, lentils, chickpeas, garlic, and ginger. When compared to China and India, which have comparable conditions, our farm yields for the majority of crops are significantly lower. Our population is growing by over five million people a year, so unless we improve our to import higher farm yields. Additionally, this will reduce poverty in rural areas and increase farm income. Education, which merits a column all by itself, was his sixth pillar. Senator Sardar Mohammad Yaqoob Khan, Nasar's remarks on poverty and inequality, though inappropriate, have sparked a crucial discussion on poverty in Pakistan. It's suggested that he and others read a recent report by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund and the Sustainable Development Policy Institute. The report analyzes poverty in Pakistan, pointing out significant differences between provinces and urban-rural areas. Balochistan has the highest poverty levels, followed by KP, Sindh, and Punjab. The report recommends immediate action, emphasizing the need to improve governance, address corruption, and invest in infrastructure, especially in poor, rural districts. The government should also focus on policies for natural disaster-prone areas and reconsider ownership of natural resources. Despite the focus on mega projects, discussing and tackling poverty remains crucial, and the Senate Functional Committee could lead a comprehensive policy review.

Dr. Saurabh Mani and Apoorva Verma (June 30, 2020), discuss the challenging goal of ending severe poverty by 2030, a critical issue in India and worldwide. Poverty is closely linked to inequality and has negative effects on productivity, efficiency, and health. Those in deprived communities struggle to meet basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, and education due to poverty. Rural poverty in India decreased from 50.1% to 25.7% between 1993–1994 and 2011–2012, with a higher reduction rate in urban areas. The Tendulkar Committee estimates show a decline in the poverty rate by 17.89% (1993-2004) and 41.13% (2004-2011). According to the SDG India Index Baseline Study (2018), 21.92% of Indians were living in poverty in 2011. The essay highlights how crucial it is to reduce poverty in order to successfully accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. It focuses particularly on India's efforts to reduce poverty in relation to the SDGs.

Nazeerudin(2015), The government's commitment to ending poverty is embodied in the Reconstruction and Development Programme . In order for this vision to become a reality, The three main objectives of policy should be to develop human resources, provide fundamental requirements, and create a thriving economy that can provide jobs that are sustainable. A strong macroeconomic and fiscal foundation is necessary for the government's growth, employment, and redistribution (GEAR) plan to

succeed. This policy will benefit from rural development. Eliminating poverty and offering the bare minimum of services are essential components of any plan aimed at raising standard of living. Without a noticeable and widespread improvement in these areas, no development process can be considered sustainable. Now that there is sufficient data, it can be concluded that rapid growth significantly lowers poverty. additionally, a focus on faster growth will aid in achieving the goals of reducing poverty when combined with a public policy stance that is considerate of the needs of the impoverished. In order to improve the living conditions of the impoverished, economic growth and employment opportunities might not be enough on their own. Policies that improve the social and physical aspects of life must go hand in hand with them. With this background in mind, the paper critically examines the evolution and reformation of the poverty reduction strategy . I

In 2007, Bhutto and Bazmi, conducted research on Pakistan's rural poverty eradication and sustainable agriculture. A descriptive study demonstrates the relationship between rural poverty, land access, population increase, and the expansion of agricultural. They discovered that the main concerns of Pakistan's agriculture industry include growing population, shrinking arable land, rising water resource demand, severe soil degradation, and inadequate infrastructure. There are links between population expansion, growth in agriculture, and poverty alleviation in this study. They proposed that Pakistan's agriculture industry would be an easy way to alleviate poverty in the upcoming time. Pakistan can increase the output of its agricultural sector by offering small farmers an easier financing system, supplying high-quality pesticides and fertilizers, offering tractor and harvester services, improving irrigation systems, and educating farmers. They came to the conclusion that in order to boost agricultural output and manage the poverty rate in Pakistan's rural areas, the rapid rate of population expansion needed to be curbed.

Gupta and Mitra (2004), looked at poverty, health, and economic progress. The findings indicate that poverty tends to decline in correlation with growth and health condition. The empirical research also demonstrates the beneficial relationship between economic growth and health status, as well as the apparent benefits of industrialization, literacy, and reduced poverty. I Ishrat Husain ,Governor, State Bank of Pakistan(27 September 2005), Growth is a prerequisite for reducing poverty, but it is not enough in and of itself. Numerous other complementary policies and actions must go hand in hand .There is a strong correlation between reducing poverty and growth rates, as evidenced by the recent examples of China and India. Improving incomes and living conditions for rural residents is the second component of the plan. Emphasizing human development that is, health, education, sanitation, nutrition, water supply, population, and gender is the third component of the strategy. In addition to drinking water supply and village

electrification schemes, the Khushal Pakistan Program (KPP) ought to furnish the fundamental infrastructure amenities in rural areas. Fifth, over time, the ability of reputable institutions like the judiciary, police, and civil service has gradually declined. Even if all of the above listed policy measures are put into place, there will always be some weaker and more vulnerable members of society in any community. This section needs social safety nets and transfers like Baitul Mal, Zakat, and private generosity to survive.

Hassan and Siddiqi (2010), investigated how poverty, commerce, and investment are related. According to the empirical research, trade and investment foster economic expansion and reduce poverty. Naved Hamid, Safiya Aftab and Safdar Parvez. (2002), the two biggest issues facing Pakistan are lowering poverty and reviving growth. The operations plan of ADB for Pakistan will supplement the government's efforts to reduce poverty. ADB's operational strategy for Pakistan will be centered on improving governance, with efforts to promote poverty growth and guarantee socially inclusive development serving as a counterbalance. However, a significant decline in poverty will only result from increased GDP growth rates if that growth is widespread. To create enough jobs to reduce poverty over the long run, it is imperative to promote private enterprise and encourage investment from both domestic and foreign sources. The government wants to reduce infant mortality from 90 to 30 per 1,000 births, increase life expectancy from 62 to 69 years, and reduce the percentage of people living in poverty to less than 15 percent by the year FY2011. The net primary school enrollment rate from 42 to 100 percent and the adult literacy rate from 52 to 78 percent, with the aim of achieving gender parity in each area. The objectives also include raising economic growth to 6.5 percent and decreasing population growth to 1.6%. The main underlying cause of poverty is inadequate leadership, or poor governance.

Muhammad Azeem Ashraf (2017), almost every administration, including Pakistan's, is concerned about poverty. Pakistani national and international organizations have been conducting ongoing study on policy measurements that show the country's poverty rate has decreased. Over the past three decades, the government has implemented numerous social measures to aid in the country's effort to lower the rate of poverty. In addition to the government, a large number of organizations made significant contributions to the fight against poverty. Nevertheless, there is a dearth of research on the need of social policy domains in particular, as well as the efficacy of these policies. Another significant element that has been covered in practically all studies on poverty is the disparity between the populations of urban and rural areas. But nonetheless, relatively few Pakistan's social policies are concentrated on the rural populace. In order to create new social policies that can benefit all residents, the nation must conduct further research on the topic of social policy especially with regard to poverty alleviation.

Pervez (2014), looked into the connection between education and reducing poverty. The study discovered that although life expectancy has a favorable effect on poverty, the literacy rate has a substantial long-term impact on poverty that is inverse. He applied the Johnson Co integration, causality, and ADF approaches to time series data. Afzal et al. (2012), In Pakistan, poverty, education, and economic growth are correlated. An empirical investigation shows that although education boosts economic growth, it also lowers poverty by boosting productivity.

Research on poverty and military spending in Pakistan was done in 2013 by Kalim and Hassan. The analysis finds that the expansion of the industrial services contributes to the reduction of poverty, military spending and inflation have a favorable short- and long-term impact on poverty in Pakistan. Time series data from 1972 to 2009 were employed, and the Johansen cointegration test was performed. Pakistani poverty and public defense spending were also examined by Kalim and Hassan (2014). The analysis demonstrates that public investment has a major acceleration effect on poverty in short and long terms.

Methodology

This research aims to analyze the poverty alleviation strategies of Pakistan and India. This research will be conducted through Comparative Analysis Test. The present study is basically a qualitative in nature while some quantitative data about poverty ratio in Pakistan and India, is added as well. This analytical study is based upon secondary sources including newspapers, internet, some reports about poverty and articles published in various journals etc.

Research Questions

Which initiatives to alleviate poverty are currently in operation in Pakistan and India?

What is the rate of poverty level in India and Pakistan?

How do social welfare programs in Pakistan and India differ?

How does the education system influence poverty reduction in both countries of India and Pakistan?

What is the role of Government policies in shaping poverty alleviation strategies in both countries?

Statement of the Problem

The persistent challenge of poverty in Pakistan and India necessitates a comprehensive analysis of existing poverty alleviation strategies. This research aims to investigate the effectiveness of current interventions in both countries, addressing the following key issues: the impact of governmental policies, the role of economic growth, the influence of cultural and regional factors, the contribution of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international aid, and the sustainability of poverty reduction efforts. The study looks at these factors in an effort to pinpoint its advantages,

disadvantages, and potential improvement areas in order to provide evidence-based recommendations for enhancing poverty alleviation strategies in the unique socio-economic contexts of Pakistan and India.

Main Objective

To Analyze the programs and policies adopted by the government of India and Pakistan to Tackle Poverty.

Sub Objectives

To comprehend the Government of Pakistan and India's Poverty Alleviation Initiatives .

To Compare and Contrast the social welfare programs in both countries.

To explore how various programs and policies contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty in Pakistan and India.

To investigate the sustainability of poverty alleviation efforts in Pakistan and India.

Comparative Analysis Test

Present work aims to conduct a detailed comparative analysis of social welfare programs in Pakistan and India , utilizing statistical tests to identify significant differences and similarities in their outcomes.

Poverty Alleviation Strategies Adopted By India and Pakistan

Various studies by both local (Pakistan and India's Government) and international (World Bank; United Nations) organizations have examined the issue of poverty in these countries. The colonial period, from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries, saw a rise in poverty due to laws that compelled craftsmen into agriculture, leading to a lack of labor, capital, and knowledge. India ranks 62nd out of 107 nations in the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2020 and 101st out of 116 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2021, indicating severe hunger levels. In Pakistan, rural areas historically have higher poverty rates than urban areas, though poverty decreased overall until the 1990s when it rapidly increased, particularly in rural regions.

Strategies Of Pakistan to combat Poverty

Governmental reforms

Governmental reforms include a three-tiered local government system introduced in 2000, aiming for a people-centered approach and providing essential services like health and education. Initiatives like the Food Security Program and microfinance projects such as Khushhali Bank aim to uplift the impoverished.

Ehsaas Program

Ehsaas One Window Center, established by former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, offers various services to combat poverty. Social security programs, initiated in the 1960s and expanded in the 1970s, provide assistance to workers and their families. Public-private partnerships aim to improve service delivery and infrastructure development.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like Edhi Welfare Trust and Agha Khan University play significant roles in providing social services and healthcare. The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), launched in 2008–09, is one of Pakistan's largest cash transfer programs, benefiting millions.

Khushhali Bank

In 2000, Khushhali Bank was founded by the assistance of the Asian Development Bank. Its primary objective was to create small-scale businesses and infrastructure projects, as well as to generate income for the impoverished. In the two years following its founding, the bank disbursed Rs. 100 million to 15,000 clients, with 30% of its borrowers being female.

The government of Pakistan established the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) in 1997 to provide loans to the underprivileged. Based on Islamic customs, the Zakat and Ushr Department was founded in 1980. It mandates that wealthy individuals give the needy a set amount, calculated at a rate of 2.5 percent of their total wealth. In 1992, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) was established as a self-governing corporate entity. PBM was founded with the goal of reducing poverty by focusing on widows, orphans, the destitute, impoverished, and those with disabilities, regardless of their sex, caste, creed, or religion. It offers free medical care, free educational support, residential housing and other amenities, and encouragement of self-employment programs.

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)

The Benazir Income Support Programme, which was launched in 2008–09 and is a relatively newer SSNP policy, has become extremely important in mitigating poverty and even eradicating it altogether. The largest single cash transfer program in Pakistani history, BISP has expanded quickly since its launch in 2008. By 2017–18, there were over 5.63 million beneficiaries Rs 1.21 billion distributed among poor, up from 1.7 million in FY 2008–09. 5.63 million by 2017–18, roughly (Refer Annex --I figure1). The four sub-divisional programs of the BISP worked in this regard (Wasela-e-Rozgar, Wasela-e-Seehat, Wasela-e-Taleem, & Wasela-e-Haq). A unique National Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Committee was also formed in 2001 to address poverty and its associated problems in the nation. This committee developed the PRSP, a specific plan to alleviate poverty.

Public-Private Partnership:

This is when the government and private companies work together. The private companies invest money and run projects that usually would be done by the government. Sometimes people who use the services pay for them, not taxpayers. The government might help by giving money or assets to the project.

Recommendations include decentralization, strengthening healthcare systems, promoting collaboration between public and private sectors, and effective monitoring and evaluation of programs. Best practices involve evaluating public-private programs in healthcare and considering an

Economic Growth Framework for equitable service delivery. Selection criteria for best practices prioritize inclusivity, innovation, sustainability, and potential for replication.

Strategies Of India to Combat Poverty

India's endeavors to diminish poverty spanned across eleven Five-Year Plans, each with distinct goals and strategies.

The First Plan (1951–1956) aimed for balanced development, focusing on irrigation and agriculture.

The Second Plan (1956–1961) prioritized increasing national income, job opportunities, and boosting basic and heavy industries.

The Third Plan (1961–1966) faced challenges due to drought, war, and aggression, leading to the introduction of three-year plans until 1969.

The Fourth Plan (1966–1974) aimed for financial growth and social justice, while the Fifth Plan (1974–1979) aimed to uplift more impoverished individuals above the poverty line.

The Sixth Plan (1980–1985) targeted poverty eradication, emphasizing economic expansion, unemployment reduction, and technological self-sufficiency.

The Seventh Plan (1985–1990) focused on job creation, but the Eighth Plan (1992–1997) fell short of its objectives.

The Ninth Plan (1997–2002) concentrated on agriculture, employment, poverty, and infrastructure. The Tenth Plan (2002–2007) aimed to decrease the poverty rate to 21%. The Eleventh Plan (2007–2012) aimed to reduce poverty by 10%, create 7 crore new jobs, and ensure electricity access for all hamlets.

Best practices in India involve empowering women and youth through Self-Help Groups, promoting innovativeness, and implementing impactful practices like self-sustained sanitation programs. Initiatives like the National Food for Work Programme (NFWP), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) play pivotal roles in poverty reduction by providing employment opportunities, housing, and food security.

The National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA)

The National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) oversees projects like the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), enhancing rural connectivity. Additionally, schemes like the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) further contribute to poverty alleviation efforts.

The National Social Assistance Program (NSAP)

The National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) supports vulnerable groups through pension schemes for the elderly, maternity benefits, and family benefits. The Annapurna program provides nutritious meals to senior citizens unable to care for themselves.

The Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

Launched in April 1999, the Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) organizes supported poor families (Swarozgaris) into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and uses a combination of government subsidies and bank credit to lift them above the poverty line.

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY): Introduced in 2001, the scheme aims to increase food security and enhance nutritional standards by creating new wage jobs in all rural areas. Any rural impoverished person in need of paid job who wants to perform manual labor and unskilled labor around the village or habitat is eligible to apply for the SGRY.

The Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY), which was introduced in 2000–01, aims to provide the States and Union Territories (UTs) with Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for a number of basic services.

The Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), which was introduced in 1995 with the aim of fostering opportunities for self-employment, is now executed by the Village Industries Commission of Khadi (KVIC). Under the REGP, business owners can create village industries by utilizing bank loans and KVIC support with margin money for projects up to Rs. 25 lakh in total cost. Up until March 31, 2004, 1,86,252 projects had received funding under the REGP, creating 22,75 lakh job possibilities. During the Tenth Plan, the REGP has set a goal of producing 25 lakh new jobs. In the years 2003–04, 8.32 lakh job possibilities were already generated. A goal of 5.25 lakh new job possibilities per year has been set for 2004–05.

The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) was established in 1993 with the intention of providing unemployed youth with options for self-employment by supporting them in establishing any business that is profitable. Up to now, the PMRY has established almost 20 lakh units, generating extra job opportunities.

Programs to reduce poverty in India can be divided into five groups:

- 1. Self-Employment Programs:** These programs started in 1978-79 and evolved in 1999. The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) was launched in 2009 to empower the poor through community mobilization.
- 2. Wage Employment Programs:** Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) merged various programs in 1989.
- 3. Food Security Programs:** Public Distribution System (PDS) is crucial as a safety net for the poor.
- 4. Social Security Programs:** This includes initiatives like the National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) for those Below Poverty Line.
- 5. Urban Poverty Alleviation Programs:** Initiatives involve community and NGO participation.

The Impact Of Education System On Poverty Reduction

The impact of the education system on poverty reduction in India and Pakistan has been significant but varies due to several factors. Here's an overview of the extent and how the education system has influenced poverty reduction in both countries:

India:

Increased Literacy Rates: India has made substantial progress in improving literacy rates, which contributes to a more educated and informed population.

Skill Development: Educational initiatives have focused on skill development, enhancing employability and reducing poverty by creating a more skilled workforce.

Economic Growth: India's economic growth has been fueled, in part, by a growing number of educated individuals contributing to various sectors, leading to job creation and income generation.

Gender Equality: Efforts to promote education for girls have positively impacted gender equality, enabling women to participate more actively in the workforce and contribute to poverty reduction.

Pakistan:

Increased Enrollment: Pakistan has seen an increase in school enrollment, particularly in recent years, contributing to a larger educated population.

Vocational Training: Emphasis on vocational and technical training has aimed to equip individuals with practical skills, enhancing their employability and income potential.

Social Mobility: Education has provided a means of social mobility, enabling individuals from marginalized communities to access better opportunities and escape the cycle of poverty.

Awareness and Health Improvement: Education contributes to increased awareness of health practices, leading to improved health outcomes and a potential reduction in healthcare expenses.

The population growth rate significantly influences poverty levels in India and Pakistan. Rapid population growth exacerbates the demand for resources, making it challenging to sustain economic development and address poverty effectively. Limited resources are stretched, leading to increased competition for jobs, education, and healthcare. Consequently, higher population growth rates often contribute to elevated poverty levels as social and economic infrastructure struggles to keep pace with demographic expansion. Sustainable population management and targeted poverty alleviation measures are crucial for addressing these challenges in both countries.

OverPopulation In India and Pakistan

With a population estimated at 207.8 million in 2017, Pakistan 6th most populated country in the world. When compared to other South Asian

countries, its population growth rate of 2.40 percent is the highest in the region, with growth rates ranging from 1.0 to 1.5 percent. With the first post-independence census conducted in 1951, Pakistan's population has more than six times grown. Poverty, unemployment, and terrorism are only a few of the major obstacles that this enormous population growth presents to the nation's socioeconomic progress.

China's population is estimated at 142.57 crore, while India's is estimated at 142.86 crore in the United Nations Population Fund's 2023 State of the World Population Report. Considering that India's population has been growing by roughly 1.6–1.7 crore people a year in recent years. In January 2024, there were 1.44 billion people living in India. Data indicates that between early 2023 and the beginning of 2024, India's population grew by 13 million (+0.9%), making it the most populous nation in the Asia-Pacific region, surpassing China.

In 2024, there will be 245,209,815 people living in Pakistan, up 1.96% from 2023; in India, there will be 1,441,719,852 people living there, up 0.92% from 2023.

Challenges and Limitations:

The population growth rate significantly influences poverty levels in India and Pakistan. Rapid population growth exacerbates the demand for resources, making it challenging to sustain economic development and address poverty effectively. Limited resources are stretched, leading to increased competition for jobs, education, and healthcare. Consequently, higher population growth rates often contribute to elevated poverty levels as social and economic infrastructure struggles to keep pace with demographic expansion. Sustainable population management and targeted poverty alleviation measures are crucial for addressing these challenges in both countries. A recent global survey ranked Pakistan at 147 out of 188 countries in 2014, indicating low human development compared to neighboring countries like India, Bangladesh, Iran, and Sri Lanka.

Pakistan faces challenges in health, with low indicators and limited access to services, attributed to minimal public spending on health. Education access is also a concern, with low enrollment rates and disparities in primary school attendance, especially in rural areas. Gender inequality is evident, with low female literacy rates, worse health status, and income disparities.

Rawalpindi has lower poverty due to job opportunities, while Southern Punjab and Sindh struggle with higher poverty. Interestingly, Northern Punjab, despite agricultural poverty, has the lowest overall poverty, while Southern Punjab, despite abundant agriculture, faces high poverty levels. Over 55% of urban poverty is directly linked to unemployment, which is influenced by rural-to-urban migration. This migration contributes significantly to the lack of job opportunities in urban areas. Addressing this issue involves creating rural growth centers, implementing job quotas based

on birthplace, and fostering public-private partnerships in key industries like construction, housing, education, health, and transportation.

The budgetary allocation for education in Pakistan is only 2.2% of the GDP, whereas countries like Afghanistan, Tanzania, Vietnam, and India spend over 4%. Dr. Bengali suggests allocating at least 4-5% of the budget specifically for education. Additionally, there is a need to raise awareness about the importance of education in both rural and urban areas.

Quality Disparities: Both countries India and Pakistan face challenges related to the quality of education. Disparities in educational standards can limit the effectiveness of the education system in breaking the cycle of poverty.

Inequality in Access: Despite progress, there are still disparities in access to education, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged areas, hindering the overall impact on poverty reduction.

Employment Mismatch: In some cases, there's a mismatch between the skills acquired through the education system and the demands of the job market, limiting the potential for income generation.

According to the world bank report Poverty headcount ratio at \$2.15 a day (2017 PPP) (% of population)

India	11.9
Pakistan	4.9
(2021)	

Population growth (annual %)

India	0.7
Pakistan	1.9
(2022)	

GDP growth (annual %)

India	7.2
Pakistan	4.7
(2022)	

Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate)

India	4.8
Pakistan	5.6
(2022)	

Foreign direct investment, net inflows (% of GDP)

India	1.5
Pakistan	0.4
(2022)	

Recommendations

1. Clearly plan and design exit strategies for development projects like PPHI.
2. Consider welfare-focused financing with good governance in donor-administered projects.

3. Performance audits should go beyond financial regularities and check how funds are used.
4. Integrate vertical projects for better administration and management in the development budget.
5. Pay close attention to costing during concept design.
6. Reform and strengthen the institutional framework of models like PHHI or BISP to retain and efficiently use capacities.
7. Maintain accountability while focusing on performance, monitoring service providers, and staff competence through continuous training.
8. Expand PPHI critically based on best practices.
9. Ensure efficient coordination in disease-specific programs by integrating them into the national program.
10. Enhance school health with a referral system, aiming to reduce dropouts and place students appropriately.
11. Approach health education with technical expertise rather than just campaigns or special events.
12. Public health needs dedicated professionals with a missionary zeal.
13. Don't fear experimentation; learn from new measures and experiments in public health.

Population growth exacerbates poverty, leading to increased demands for resources. Dr. Bengali recommends controlling the birth rate and highlights the importance of a significant increase in the minimum wage rate to alleviate poverty.

For rural areas, infrastructure and domestic asset acquisition are critical to reducing poverty. Establishing rural growth centers, encouraging small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and adopting successful models like "One Village One Product" can contribute to poverty reduction. The government should allocate funds specifically for rural and urban development programs. Improving agriculture productivity through modern techniques, easing credit constraints for small farmers, and implementing employment schemes like those in India can enhance rural livelihoods. Health standards must also be prioritized, with a focus on infrastructure and service delivery to ensure the well-being of future generations. Promoting a women-empowered labor force, reducing the gender pay gap, and fostering equity and justice are crucial steps in poverty reduction.

Commonalities and differences Between India and Pakistan regarding poverty alleviation strategies

Commonalities:

- 1. Government Initiatives:** Both India and Pakistan have implemented various government-led poverty alleviation initiatives, including financial support, social welfare programs, and reforms in governance structures.
- 2. Financial Institutions:** Both countries have established financial institutions to support poverty alleviation, such as Khushhali Bank in

Pakistan and the establishment of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and Khadi Village Industries Commission in India.

3. Social Security Schemes: Both nations have introduced social security schemes to support vulnerable populations, including the Food Security Program in Pakistan and programs like the National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) in India.

4. Public-Private Partnership: Both countries acknowledge the role of public-private partnerships in delivering services and addressing poverty-related challenges, with a focus on sharing financial, technical, and operational risks.

5. Role of NGOs and Civil Society: NGOs and civil society play a role in poverty alleviation efforts in both countries, with a focus on social development, health, and education.

Both India and Pakistan face historical challenges related to poverty, with colonial-era influences contributing to agrarian lifestyles, illiteracy, and low productivity.

Both countries have experienced fluctuations in poverty rates over the years, with rural areas often having higher poverty rates than urban areas.

Both nations have implemented poverty alleviation strategies, including government initiatives, financial institutions, and social security schemes.

Differences:

1. Global Indices: India's poverty situation is reflected in global indices such as the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and the Global Hunger Index. India's Global Hunger Index (2023) ranking is 111 out of 126 nations, indicating severe hunger levels. This year marks a fall in poverty from the previous year's rank of 107 (2022). While Pakistan has been ranked 99th out of 126 countries in the Global Hunger Index report released in July 2023. The report reveals that Pakistan's score has dropped from 38.1 in 2006 to 26.1 in 2022, yet the level of hunger is described as "serious".

2. Decentralization: India has implemented a three-tiered local government system to decentralize power, whereas Pakistan's decentralization plan focuses on establishing "people-centered, rights and responsibility-based, and service-oriented" government structures.

3. Islamic Principles: Pakistan has institutions like the Zakat and Ushr Department and Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, which operate based on Islamic customs, mandating wealth distribution for the benefit of the needy. India's poverty alleviation strategies do not explicitly mention adherence to religious principles.

4. Cash Transfer Programs: Pakistan has the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), a significant cash transfer program, while India's poverty reduction programs are categorized into self-employment, wage employment, food security, social security, and urban poverty alleviation.

5. Five-Year Plans: India has implemented a series of Five-Year Plans with specific goals for poverty reduction, while the data does not provide similar details about long-term plans in Pakistan.

These commonalities and differences showcase the nuanced approaches both countries take in addressing poverty, reflecting their unique socioeconomic and cultural contexts.

FINDINGS

The research delves into the diverse poverty alleviation strategies implemented by India and Pakistan. India's efforts include the execution of multiple Five-Year Plans, with a focus on self-employment, wage employment, food security, social security, and urban poverty alleviation programs. Specific initiatives like the National Food for Work Programme and Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana are also discussed.

In Pakistan, the research highlights the establishment of Khushhali Bank, the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), and various social security schemes. The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) stands out as a significant cash transfer program aiding in poverty reduction.

Both nations have instituted governance reforms, with India emphasizing decentralization and Pakistan introducing a three-tiered local government system. NGOs and civil society organizations, such as Edhi Welfare Trust in Pakistan and health programs at Agha Khan University in India, play pivotal roles.

India has prioritized poverty reduction since independence, while Pakistan aims to decrease poverty from 33% to 18% by 2020. However, challenges persist, including underemployment and inadequate infrastructure. Both countries must focus on achieving rapid, broad-based economic growth to effectively combat poverty. Strategies should encompass macroeconomic stability, sectoral growth, human development, and infrastructure enhancement. Continuous monitoring and evaluation are essential for assessing the efficacy of poverty reduction efforts.

Historically, both nations have faced poverty challenges, with rural areas experiencing higher poverty rates than urban areas. Strategies encompass government initiatives, financial institutions, and social security schemes.

India ranks 62nd out of 107 countries in the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2020 and 111th out of 126 nations in the Global Hunger Index (2023), indicating severe hunger levels. Conversely, poverty rates in Pakistan declined in the 1970s and 1980s but surged in the 1990s, particularly in rural areas. Pakistan ranks 99th out of 126 countries in the Global Hunger Index (2023). Utilization of Islamic principles in poverty alleviation is observed in Pakistan through institutions like the Zakat and Ushr Department and Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal. Despite India facing a severe

hunger situation, ranking lower than Pakistan in the Global Hunger Index, both countries share common challenges and employ varied strategies.

Recommendations include decentralizing control, enhancing healthcare systems, fostering public-private collaboration, and implementing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The research offers a comprehensive examination of poverty alleviation endeavors, encompassing historical context, government initiatives, social security programs, public-private partnerships, and the roles of NGOs and civil society in both nations. As of 2024, Pakistan's population stands at 245,209,815, with a 1.96% increase from 2023, while India's population is 1,441,719,852, marking a 0.92% increase. Sustainable population management and targeted poverty alleviation measures are crucial to address these challenges effectively. Both nations grapple with significant challenges due to their large and growing populations, necessitating strategic population management and poverty alleviation efforts.

CONCLUSION

Poverty, in essence, denotes a state where individuals lack material possessions and fundamental human rights, including access to food, water, shelter, healthcare, education, and decent employment, alongside political disenfranchisement. Addressing poverty necessitates strong national leadership and widespread societal support. Both Pakistan and India grapple with high poverty rates, particularly in their rural areas. India exhibits a higher incidence of poverty (21.25%) compared to Pakistan (8.3%), based on the \$1.90 daily poverty threshold. A larger proportion of Indians (58%) earn \$3.10 per day in contrast to Pakistanis (45%). Despite India's progress in poverty reduction, a substantial segment of the population still lives below the poverty line, with varying rates across states. Government initiatives in India focus on subsidized provisions, housing schemes, skills training, and employment generation efforts.

Pakistan faces persistent poverty challenges despite its abundant resources and human capital. Baluchistan records the highest poverty rate, while Sindh demonstrates a significant rural-urban disparity. Collaborating with international bodies like the International Labor Organization (ILO), Pakistan employs employment-centric strategies to combat poverty. Macroeconomic factors such as GDP, inflation, education, and foreign investment significantly influence poverty levels in both nations, indicating that economic growth alone is insufficient for poverty eradication. Targeted interventions and equitable growth approaches are imperative. Furthermore, educational attainment and employment status emerge as pivotal factors in poverty alleviation. Enhanced access to education and employment opportunities through public-private partnerships and robust social safety net programs can substantially reduce poverty rates. A comparative analysis of poverty alleviation strategies underscores the necessity of tailored

approaches considering the distinct socio-economic contexts of India and Pakistan. However, challenges persist, including disparities in educational quality and accessibility, along with a mismatch between skillsets and job market demands. Sustained efforts are vital to ensure education's effectiveness in poverty reduction by making it accessible, of high quality, and relevant to individuals' needs. The burgeoning populations in both countries exacerbate these challenges by intensifying demands on resources like jobs, education, and healthcare. Managing population growth and implementing targeted poverty reduction measures become indispensable strategies to address these issues effectively.

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