



Pakistan-Iran Economic Cooperation

Saad Shabbir*

Relations between Iran and Pakistan are rather complex and hard to articulate with commonalities based on religion, culture and traditions and lately differences based on political and religious ideology.¹ Iran is the second largest country in the Middle East with a total area of approximately 1,648,200 km² and a home to 77.4 million people.² It is located to the West of Pakistan and shares a border of 909 km. The neighbouring provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan in Iran and Balochistan in Pakistan are the least developed provinces in both the countries. Being the first country to recognize the independence of Pakistan, Iran and Pakistan with their ups and downs could never harness the economic relations to its maximum potential due to one reason or another.

A Brief Country Profile – Iran

A cursory look at the macroeconomic indicators of Iran since 2009 show that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) exhibited a steady increase from 362 billion USD in 2009 to 502 billion USD in 2012 after which there was a sharp decline to 369 billion USD in 2013. The GDP growth rate remained steady for these years with slight variations from 2009 to 2012. The year 2013 showed a negative growth rate of 5.8 per cent which is almost the largest

change seen since 2009. The life expectancy at birth remained the same around 73 years. The inflation rate has major fluctuations where the inflation rate was as low as 2.5 per cent in 2009 which jumped to 14.4 per cent in 2010 and then 25.7 per cent in 2011, the highest in last five years. There was a sudden decrease in inflation rate in 2012 to 5.9 per cent which again took a big leap in 2013 to 17.8 per cent.

Economic Relations

The bilateral trade between the two countries remained low despite a huge potential. Iran is a country rich in natural resources with the world's second largest natural gas reserves.⁴ Pakistan is an energy deficient country that has not been able to meet its natural gas demands. Lack of cooperation between the two countries was mainly due to the embargoes on Iran from the world.

Trade between Pakistan and Iran currently comprises mainly oil and gas from Iran and rice from Pakistan. Commercial exchanges between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan stands at \$1.5 billion out of which namely \$500 million relate to Pakistani exports. Imports from Iran peaked at 1017 million USD in 2009-10, as shown in Figure 1. Other export items of Iran comprise ar

Table 1: Macroeconomic Indicators of Iran

Series Name	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Gross Domestic Product (current billion USD)	362.66	422.57	528.43	502.73	368.90	362
Gross Domestic Product growth (annual %)	3.94	5.89	3	3	-5.8	-1.9
Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	72.81	73.13	73.45	73.76	-	-
Inflation (annual %)	2.54	14.39	25.70	5.93	17.81	15.8
Gross National Income per capita (Current USD)	4330	6570	5780	-

Source: World Bank 2015³

1. IPRI 2014, 'Pakistan- Iran Trade Potential' <<http://www.ipripak.org/pak-iran-trade-potential/>> (Date of access 28 February 2015)
 2. World Bank 2015, 'World Bank Country Profile: Iran' , World Bank, <<http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/iran/overview> >, Date of access 28 February 2015
 3. World Bank 2015 , 'World Development Indicators', The World Bank Group, <<http://databank.worldbank.org/data/views/reports/tableview.aspx>>, 28 February 2015.
 4. US Energy Information Administration 2014, Country Analysis: Iran, <<http://www.eia.gov/countries/analysisbriefs/Iran/iran.pdf> >, 28 February, 2015.

Figure 1: Iran-Pakistan Trade Dynamics

Million USD

Table of contents

1. Pakistan-Iran Economic Cooperation	1
2. Gender inequality in education: Evidence from Pakistan	3
3. Re-verification of Subscribers Identification Modules (SIMs) through biometric verification system: Gains and losses	5
4. Research-based policy outreach in provinces	7
5. Investment in Pakistan's energy sector development	8
6. Hindrances in the promotion of social sciences in Pakistan	10
7. Investing in children's future	11
8. Shield awarding ceremony	11
9. Sustainable use of water, a challenge	12
10. Challenges of implementing the protection of breast-feeding and child nutrition legislation in Pakistan	13
11. The economy of tomorrow and the good society for all -- constructing alternative models, creating innovative alliances	14
12. SDPI's Upcoming Workshops:	16

Edited by: Uzma T. Haroon
References standardised by: Imrana Niazi

titles such as iron ore, iron scrap, dates, detergents, transformers, chemicals, bitumen, polyethylene, propylene, etc., while export items of Pakistan include rice, fresh fruits, meat, cloth and mechanical machinery.

Bilateral and Multilateral Arrangements

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
ECO is an inter-governmental regional organization which was established in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. This organization replaced the earlier Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) to enhance the cooperation among the member states. In 1992, the organization expanded to include a total of 10 member states namely: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

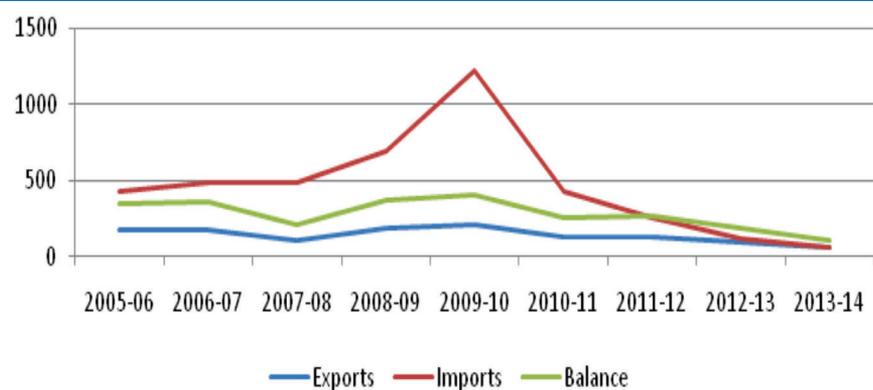
- **ECOTA – Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement**
ECOTA was signed on 17 July 2003 by 5 out of 10 ECO member countries namely, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The agreement has not been fully implemented yet due to different interpretations of the clauses related to tariffs.
- **ECO Trade and Development Bank**
The founding members of the ECO formed the ECO Trade and Development Bank in August 2005. The major objective of the Bank includes mobilizing and utilizing the financial, natural and human resources of the member States with a view to capitalizing on the region's economic potential.
- **Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)**
The ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) signed by all the Member States except Uzbekistan, and ratified by

eight Member States (all except Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) entered into force in May 2006. The agreement addressed all issues relating to transport and transit trade in a comprehensive manner. The ECO Fund for implementation of the TTFA has already been established with contribution of \$ 100,000 from the ECO Feasibility Study and General Purposes Fund. The joint ECO Secretariat and Islamic Development Bank (IDB) regional project for the implementation of TTFA worth \$ 512,000 is in its final stages of implementation.

Pak-Iran Preferential Trade Agreement

The Pakistan Iran Preferential Trade Agreement was signed on 4 March, 2004 that was ratified in May 2005. The objectives of this agreement were to enhance economic and political relationship between the two countries. Under the signed agreement, the

Figure 1: Iran-Pakistan Trade Dynamics Million USD



Source: State Bank of Pakistan 2014⁵

two nations were to treat each other as the most favoured nation and boost the trade flow by eliminating all non-tariff barriers on movement of goods.

Iran-Pakistan Energy Cooperation

Historically, Pakistan has agreements set in place to import electricity from Iran since 2002 for 74 MW. In 2012, Pakistan signed an MoU to import 1000 MW of electricity from Iran at PKR 10 kWh. According to NEPRA's fuel adjustment charges notification of November 2014 Pakistan imported 34.442 GWh of electricity from Iran.

Earlier this year, Iran has offered to export another 3,000 MW of electricity to Pakistan. However, owing to the recent dip in the world oil prices Iran's competitive advantage is not so lucrative anymore.

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⁴ US Energy Information Administration 2014, Country Analysis: Iran, < <http://www.eia.gov/countries/analysisbriefs/Iran/iran.pdf> >, 28 February, 2015.

⁵ State Bank of Pakistan 2014, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006. Exports of Goods and Services by Country, State Bank of Pakistan, http://www.sbp.org.pk/departments/stats/Annual_Export_Receipt/indexArc.htm, 28 February, 2015

Gender Inequality in Education: Evidence from Pakistan

Hira Mirza*

As we begin to plan for the post-2015 environment, it has become clear that inequality is the central challenge in achieving most of the development targets set and agreed upon by the international community. One of the biggest dimensions of inequality is gender.

It should come as no surprise that Pakistan is listed as one of the countries that have large education and economic gaps, therefore requiring heavy investment in girls' education to reap benefits in the long run. The Global Gender Gap Report 2014 ranks Pakistan 141st out of 142 countries in terms of the gap between men and women in economic participation, educational attainment, health and political empowerment. Last year it was ranked 135th out of 136 countries, leaving only Yemen behind in gender disparity. Since the inception of the index in 2006, Pakistan has recorded a meagre change of 1.6%.

For educational attainment, the country is placed 132nd in the education gender gap, the poorest in the region. Pakistan's score on

especially in the poorest strata of the population. "In Niger and Pakistan, more than eight out of ten poor young women aged 17 to 22 years have never entered school." The digest also identifies gender discrimination as having a negative impact on learning outcomes of children, along with factors like location and economic vulnerability.

The difference in Human Development Index for men and women is the largest in South Asia (17%), which also has the largest gender gap in education (15%). The Gender Inequality Index for Pakistan is 0.5 (which ranks it 127th out of 187 countries, sharing the position with India). Only 19% of females in Pakistan above the age of 25 years have reached (but not necessarily completed) secondary education compared with 46% counterpart males. The Gender Development Index for Pakistan is 0.750, placing it yet again in the bottom few (145th out of 187 nations).

National indicators show how data point to daunting gender discrepancies in the country. The labour force participation rate of women in Pakistan is 24%¹ : out of a workforce of almost 60 million, almost 14 million are female (out of which almost two-



Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jul/12/malala-yousafzai-inspires-pakistani-schoolgirls1>

the sub-index falls below the world average as women are able to obtain less than 90% of the educational outcomes that men do at any given level of education. By contrast, South Asian countries have performed better: Sri Lanka 59th, Bangladesh 111th, Nepal 122nd and India 126th.

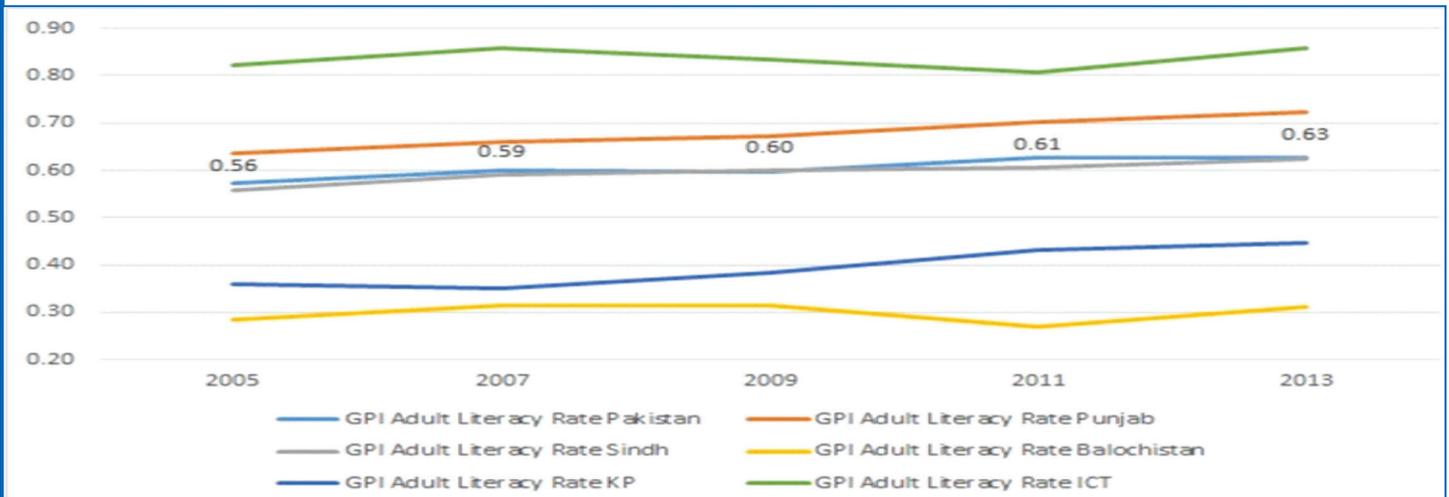
Similarly, the Global Education Digest points toward a solemn reality. It recognizes Pakistan as one of the countries that record the highest share of women exclusion from education,

thirds are employed in the informal sector – mostly agricultural settings). Many gaps in education delivery factor into the gender divide, but the fact remains: the literacy rate is highly skewed towards males (only 45% females are literate compared to a male adult literacy rate of 69%).

The following regional analysis of the education sector shows the very same underlying trend one would expect for any other sector in the economy. Punjab is the best performing province,

¹. PBS 2013, 'Labour Force Survey 2013', Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Islamabad, <<http://www.pbs.gov.pk/content/labour-force-survey-2012-13-annual-report.>>, Last viewed on 28 February, 2015.

Figure: 1



Source: PBS 2013 (Data for AJ&K, GB, FATA is not available with PSLM).

recording an upward trend in gender parity for adult literacy since 2005. It is closely followed by Sindh which has 6 literate girls for every 10 literate boys (GPI = 0.6)².

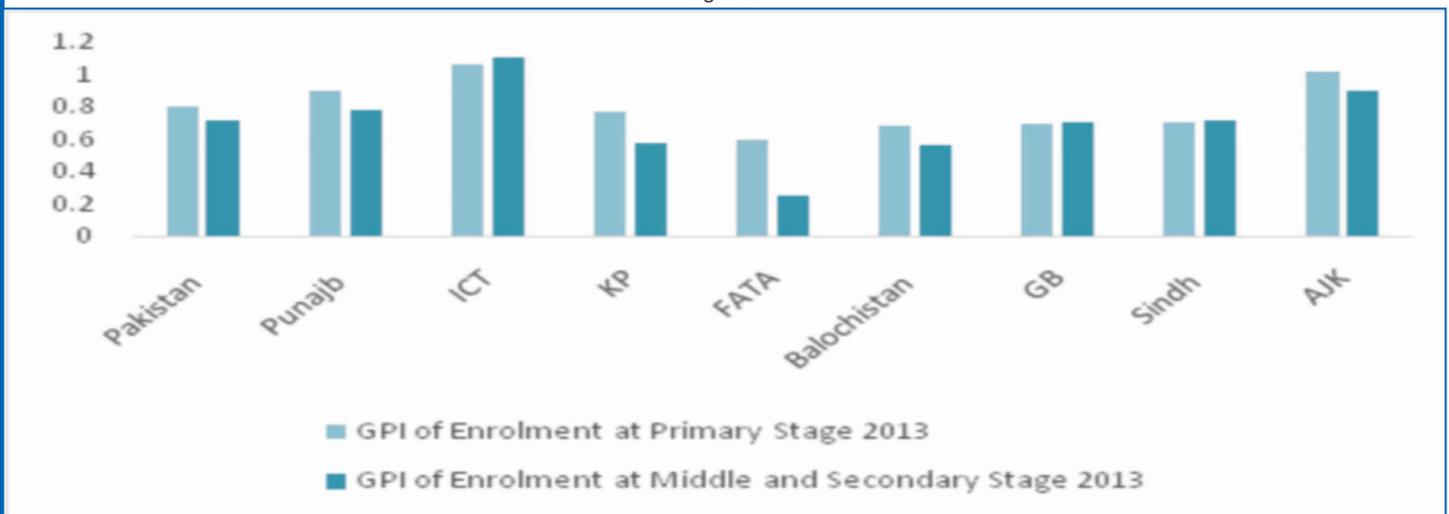
Balochistan has a worryingly low level of gender parity with a predominant downward trend. Although marginal, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), in contrast, has exhibited consistent progress over the years, moving up a notch in the index. The question is whether KPK will be able to scale up its literacy drive and have at least half of its girls enrolled in school in the coming years.

Further analysis reveals gaps, not only across regions, but also across different levels of education. At the middle level, there is higher gender disparity than at the primary level in Punjab, FATA, KPK, AJK and Balochistan.³

Ambitious national education objectives are listed down each year but the real need of the hour is strong political will and a cohesive national plan for implementation of policies. Enrolment drives must ensure equal enrolment of girls and boys, especially in the rural areas. As such voucher schemes, cash transfer and stipend programmes for schoolgirls in various areas have proven to increase enrolment (such as the Girls Stipend Programme run by the elementary and secondary education department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). However, their impact is limited, and more funds and resources need to be devoted to education activities in order to ensure gender parity.

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Figure: 2



² PBS 2005-2013, 'Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005-2013', Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Islamabad, <<http://www.pbs.gov.pk/content/pakistan-social-and-living-standards-measurement>>, Last viewed on 3 March, 2015.

³ AEPAM 2013, 'Pakistan Education Atlas 2013', Academy for Education Planning and Management, Ministry of Education & Training, Islamabad, <<http://www.atlas.edu.pk/>> Last viewed on 11 March 2015.

Re-verification of Subscribers Identification Modules (SIMs) through biometric verification system: Gains and losses

Mohammad Yasin*

This write-up is based on deliberations of SDPI's Study Group on Information Technology and Telecommunication in its 59th meeting held on 19 February 2015.

Background

The government has directed mobile telephone operators to re-verify all SIMs through biometric verification system (BVS). The exercise would involve about 103 million SIMs that have to be verified in 90 days. The work has already started. Reportedly, there are about 60,000 biometric machines in the country. However, how many of these systems are operational is not known.

The telecom industry and mobile operators continue to significantly contribute to Pakistan's economy in taxes. This becomes possible because of a large number of users of IT and cell phones. The law enforcement and security agencies are able to gather a large volume of intelligence through interceptions. Besides, the time allowed for re-verification is very unrealistic. The entire population of mobile users, particularly from far-flung areas will find it very difficult to get their SIMs verified before the deadline. The questions that need to be answered are:

The Regulator

Dr Syed Ismail Shah, Chairman PTA, deliberated on the regulatory aspects of the re-verification initiative which is being carried out under the National Action Plan. While covering a brief history of steps taken by PTA for verification of SIMs in the past, he shed light on the global perspective of similar exercises undertaken around the globe. He emphasized that the regulator has to maintain a fine balance between the increasing demands of Law Enforcement Agencies, in the wake of law and order situation and protecting investment made by cellular mobile operators. He informed the participants that during the last 38 days of the exercise, more than 50 million SIMs have been verified by 38 million individuals, however, a lot of progress is yet to be made as turnout of subscribers having three or more SIMs on their CNICs is very low. While concluding his remarks, he shared some thoughts regarding impact of the whole activity not only on consumers and law enforcement agencies but also on financial and economic progress of the telecom sector.

The Industry Representative

Mr Aslam Hayat, Vice President Corporate Affairs, Telenor, said that SIM is not a primary source of crime, but a useful tool for investigation. Sale of verifiable SIMs has remained a challenge



What would the exercise cost? How many SIMs will be blocked? What would be the loss in revenue and taxes? Will the volume of intelligence gathered through interceptions reduce? Will it reduce grey traffic? What difficulties and hardships the mobile telephone users will undergo?

The SDPI's Study Group on IT and Telecom comprising regulators, policy makers, academics, IT and telecom professionals, and mobile telephone operators met on 19 February 2015 to discuss the issue.

The regulator, representative of the industry, consumers and policy makers and other stake holders presented their arguments as below:

in Pakistan. He said that as a result of mandatory biometric re-verification of SIMs, the mobile industry faces a loss of rupees 100 billion in 2015 and the government will lose approximately rupees 22 billion in taxes. This will adversely affect future investment. The industry has already spent a huge amount on BVS and will need to spend more than rupees 530 million. This means the revenues and taxes will be hit. Besides, the exercise cannot be completed in 90 days. He emphasized the need for consultation between the Government and the mobile industry.

Consumer

Highlighting the importance of putting in place the required infrastructure for coordinated efforts, Mr Ammar Jaffri, Former

Additional DG FIA and currently Chief Executive “Pakistan Institute of ICTs for Development”, stressed the need for maintaining a balance between the vital need of registration of SIMs and the comfort level of people of Pakistan especially in rural areas. For the effective control of such initiatives in future, Mr Jaffri stressed the need for establishing telecentres in semi urban and rural areas of Pakistan under public-private partnerships. He said that because criminals of every society always take advantage of technological advancements, registration and regular documentation of SIMs has been a priority agenda for good governance in all countries of the world. A few countries could not make the required infrastructure in this regard; Pakistan is also included in this list. He said that in July 2014, as many as 70,000 biometric machines were installed at sale points of cellular mobile operators. SIMs are now being sold and activated only after online verification of purchaser’s biometrics (thumb/finger impressions) by the National Database and Registration Authority.

Discussion

Ms Ameena Sohail, Member (Legal) Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom, said that the government is doing its best to create a conducive environment for all stakeholders. She emphasized that relevant legislation is currently in enactment process while cases are being pursued in the court of law wherever required. Dr Ijaz S. Gilani was of the view that ideally a regulator should be an autonomous body to facilitate investors and consumers while watching the interests of the government. On the basis of presentations and discussion, following conclusions were drawn:

- a. The pros and cons of SIMs’ verification issue need further discussion / deliberation.
- b. There is no direct relationship between mandatory registration of SIMs and reduction in crimes. Rather, use of SIMs helps as a tool to investigate and eradicate crime.
- c. There is a need to create an ecosystem where all the stakeholders should sit together and discuss the impact of such endeavours before jumping to conclusion.
- d. ICT can contribute a lot in terms of facilitating law enforcement agencies in their investigation, which may lessen the burden on cellular mobile operators.

Recommendations made by the Study Group:

- Historically, telecom intelligence has been the primary information gathering tool most popular with the security agencies. In modern-day forensic environment and in Pakistan the errorists bank heavily on modern telecommunication channels to communicate. However, our Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) are way behind in catching with the technologies. Therefore, there is an immediate requirement for our security and intelligence agencies to be in step with the technology to be able to use it effectively.
- The perception that SIM is the cause of all ills is misleading and without any evidence. There is a need to create an ecosystem where all the stake holders, the Law Enforcement Agencies, Telecom Industry, and the Regulator



should sit together, build a trust level and take advantage of the latest trends in ICT to be ahead of the criminals.

- Cybercrime is one of the biggest threats facing Pakistan because the terrorists are shifting their global communication to cyber space. Pakistan is one of the few countries where the cybercrime law is yet to be implemented. Its full implementation must be ensured.
- Equally important is an effective cybercrime unit to ensure that the investigation and subsequent prosecutions are handled by ICT professionals. Presently, National Response Center for Cyber Crime (NR3C), a setup under FIA, is responsible for the cybercrimes. This organization is short of professionals and lacks modern techniques. It is, therefore imperative that a dedicated and an effective unit must be created with the capacity to enforce the laws.
- Taxes on IT and telecom services and infrastructure are relatively highest in Pakistan. This is not only deterrence to investment, especially the foreign direct investment, it is also an incentive for illegal gateway exchanges. The government should reduce such taxes which would result in reducing grey traffic because of reduced call rates. This core issue must be addressed sooner than later.
- Repeated re-verification of SIMs must be avoided by effective planning.
- Deadline for re-verification of SIMs should be extended to properly conclude the process. We need to strike a balance between the vital need of re-verification/registration of SIMs and the convenience of the people, especially of rural areas.
- To minimize loss in revenue to the mobile operators and tax loss to the government, efforts should be made to block a minimum number of SIMs.

The above recommendations have since been submitted to the policy makers, regulators and legislators.

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Research-based policy outreach in provinces

Mahmood A. Khwaja*

Adverse health impacts due to mercury exposure especially on children, pregnant women and the elderly are well known and established. Mercury ranked as the third most hazardous substance, is a fast emerging global issue of grave concern and has led to enacting “Minamata Convention on Mercury” already signed by Pakistan and many other countries. The main objective of the convention is to reduce mercury use and control its emission and release by 2020, for safeguarding public health and environmental protection.

Two recent SDPI studies carried out at selected dental teaching institutions, clinics and hospitals, have indicated alarming high mercury indoor air levels. There is little emphasis in the current Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) curriculum/syllabus offered to students at dental teaching institutions, regarding occupational

in KPK - Health and Environmental Impacts” in Peshawar on 25 February 2015. The objectives of the meeting were to impress upon EPA, KPK and provincial government to consider putting up a ban on mercury amalgam use in dentistry or at least restrict its use for pregnant women and children below 12 years age as well as awareness raising of stakeholders and getting their feedback including recommendations, on mercury related issues of national and global concerns, environmental and public health risks resulting from continued mercury amalgam use in the province and the control measures to minimize mercury exposure resulting from mercury emissions/releases at dental sites. The focus of the roundtable meeting was also to discuss and define pathways through on-going and future research work, training, awareness raising, advocacy and collaboration at the national level. The participants for the meeting were invited from dental teaching institutions (colleges and teaching hospitals), general hospitals, private clinics representatives from districts EPA, KPK,



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) – Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Joint Stakeholders Meeting: “Mercury Dental Amalgam Use in Khyber KPK - Health and Environmental Impacts”

health and safety, control of mercury emissions/releases and waste management. Mercury air monitoring results have been reported at 34 dental sites (teaching institutions 17, general hospitals 7 and dental clinics 10) in five main cities of Pakistan including Peshawar, Abbottabad, Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Lahore. Highly alarming levels of mercury vapours in the air have been observed which are known to be injurious to public health in general and healthcare workers in particular. The findings of another study/survey at 38 dental teaching institutions in the country indicated that the currently offered BDS curriculum did not effectively lead the outgoing future dental professionals and did not provide them adequate information, knowledge and training on the mercury/mercury amalgam human health related issues. The respondents overwhelmingly supported the review and revision of the dental curriculum at the earliest time possible.

In view of the above, EPA, KPK and SDPI, Islamabad, jointly organized a stakeholders meeting on “Mercury Dental Amalgam Use

provincial health departments, professional bodies such as the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC), Pakistan Dental Association (PDA) and Pakistan Higher Educational Commission (HEC), academic and research and development (R & D) institutions. Registered participants from Abbottabad, Mardan and Peshawar, outskirts of Peshawar were 35, including 12 from provincial health department/dental institutions and 10 from national/local media. The inaugural and closing sessions were, respectively, chaired by Dr M. Bashir Khan, Director General EPA and Mr M. Mushtaq Jadoon, Secretary, Health, Government of KPK. There were three technical presentations: “Dental Health and Amalgam Use in Dentistry,” by Dr Syed Nasir Shah, SB Dental College, Peshawar; “Minamata Convention on Mercury and Phasing Down Mercury Dental Amalgam Use” by Dr M. Bashir Khan, KPK Environmental Protection Agency; and “Need for Phasing Out/Restricted Mercury Amalgam Use in Dentistry - SDPI Air Monitoring at Dental Sites and Dental Curriculum Survey” by Dr. Mahmood A. Khwaja, SDPI, Islamabad. Prior to technical session, a short video documentary on the well-known

tragedy, resulting from mercury exposure, among local population of Minamata Bay, Japan, was shown to the participants.

Presentations were followed by over 90 minutes of question-answer session and open discussion moderated by Dr Khwaja, in which Secretary, Health, KPK, also participated and shared his views. Mercury dental amalgam related health and environmental issues were discussed and workable solutions proposed. Participants supported immediate review and revision of present curriculum offered at dental teaching institutions. The opinion with regard to "Ban on Mercury Dental Amalgam Use in KPK," was divided (among dental and health professionals) in view of scientific evidence/research based controversy regarding severe health impacts from mercury vapour releases from dental amalgam, its low cost and the on-going use of it in many other Asian countries. Some main recommendations made and accepted were as follows:

- As a signatory of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, dental mercury amalgam use should be regulated in Pakistan.

- At present, KPK province is not in a position to impose a ban on mercury-based dental amalgams as dentists have very few alternatives available.
- An immediate review and revision should be done of the current curriculum offered for bachelor of dental surgery (BDS) at dental teaching institutions in the country.
- Preparation of guidelines for mercury amalgam use by EPA, KPK, with support from SDPI, dental institutions and other academic and R & D institutions.
- Government of KPK and EPA would highlight the mercury dental amalgam issue and PC-1 would be submitted.
- Students would be encouraged to undertake further research work on mercury amalgam use in dentistry at dental colleges and universities.

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Investment in Pakistan's energy sector Development

Huma Dad Khan*

Investment in the power sector declined by 9.1% in 2013 and has massively deteriorated by the lethargic, inconsistent and insufficient policies. At a recent conference chaired by Prime Minister, he clearly stated that we have not met the targets in the energy sector investment and shows a failure of the government.

Energy sector witnessed inconsistent energy policy with rising demand, poor installed generation capacity, and untargeted subsidies. Malfunctioning energy sector has resulted into 4 per cent loss annually in GDP (Sattar 2013)¹. According to economic survey 2013-14, share of energy sector in GDP fell down to 1.9 per cent in the years 2012-13 and 2013-14 from 2.4 per cent in 2011-12².

The government announced its National Power Policy 2013 as shown by the economic survey of Pakistan (2013-14), which states that electricity shortfall will be zero by 2017 with initial energy projects investment of 5094MW³. Currently the average shortfall stands at 5000-7000MW per day with installed capacity

of 22158MW (Nepra 2013)⁴. It is also important to note that around 30 per cent of country's population has no access to power supply stations. The official estimated demand will actually be greater than 7000MW if this number of population is also added.

Similarly, a load forecast report released by National Transmission Despatch Company (NTDC)⁵ states that the electricity demand will rise to 35,000MW in the country by 2017-18. Pakistan will face a shortfall of around 7000-8000MW even if the government succeeds in adding 5094MW along with operating at full installed capacity of 22,158MW.

In the light of facts and figures mentioned above, the government officials and other important players involved in the energy sector should divert their attention to solving the energy crisis. The dire need of the falling energy sectors requires investors and fund raising for the present energy projects that have been launched but are not operational due to non-availability of funds and other existing loopholes.

Under this scenario, some questions arise as to what provisions and in which capacities the role of government is essential for the

¹ Sattar, S. 2013, Energy sector crisis. Issues & reforms: way forward, Planning Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad, <<http://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/Seminar/Energy%20Sector%20%20Issues%20and%20Reforms%20-%202011.pdf>> viewed 3 November 3 2014.

² MoF 2014, 'Economic survey of Pakistan 2013-14', Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, date viewed 6 March 2015.

³ Ibid (Energy Chapter)

⁴ NEPRA 2013, 'State of Industry Report 2013', Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, <<http://www.nepra.org.pk/Publications/State%20of%20Industry%20Reports/State%20of%20Industry%20Report%202013.pdf>>, 11 March 2015

⁵ NTDC 2008, 'Electricity Demand Forecast', National Transmission and Despatch Company Ltd. (NTDC), Pakistan electric Power Company (PEPCO) <www.ntdc.com.pk/LoadForecast.pdf>, viewed at March 4, 2014, p 9.

development of energy sector investments in Pakistan? Which better modes of investments can be pursued to attract private investors to make investments in the sector and how can the government facilitate investments in the upcoming challenges and opportunities in fostering the energy sector development?

The private sector independent power producers (IPPs) are generating around 53 per cent of the total power production. The entry of new private firms is difficult given the collusive behaviour of the existing players and because the structure of the energy sector is highly fragmented with poor governance in the policy management and regulatory mechanism. Existence of preferential treatment and distortions through statutory regulatory orders (SROs) also discourage new investors to come forward.

Besides the fragmented structure, the domestic investors are highly discriminated in the corporate tax rates. The government is biased in tax slabs for foreign investors with 20 per cent tax rate while 33 per cent tax is levied on the domestic investors. Similarly exemption under SRO 575(I)/2006 for solar energy investment was given to local manufacturers to invest in the solar energy, but this exemption has been withdrawn by the finance act 2014. Imposing 32 per cent import duty on PV cells, 10 per cent duty on batteries and 15 by on solar lamps also discourages the alternate modes of energy in the country.

Private investors also suffer badly due to monopolization of energy supply chain. Even after restructuring WAPDA, the NTDC is still under the government control and government is the sole buyer of the electricity. The private sector has no open access in distribution and transmission network in the country in energy generation; nor are they allowed to sell electricity directly to the consumers. This creates exploitation of the IPPs and making non-competitive market for private production units.

There is also an issue of liquidity crunch for the IPPs operating under the 2002 energy policy, where they have to buy fuel on their own for their operational activities. In contrast to them, for the IPPs under 1992 energy policy, it is the state which pro-

vides fuel to them through Pakistan State Oil or natural gas distribution companies. The IPPs under 2002 policy are not able to sustain if they do not make payments to the oil suppliers. These cash flow problems are not allowing the private sector to achieve their full capacity level.

In short, the barriers to investment in energy sector is not only law and order situation which is a common public perception. In fact those with larger capacity to invest, work under the regime of favourable sovereign guarantees and several layers of insurances and damage compensation.

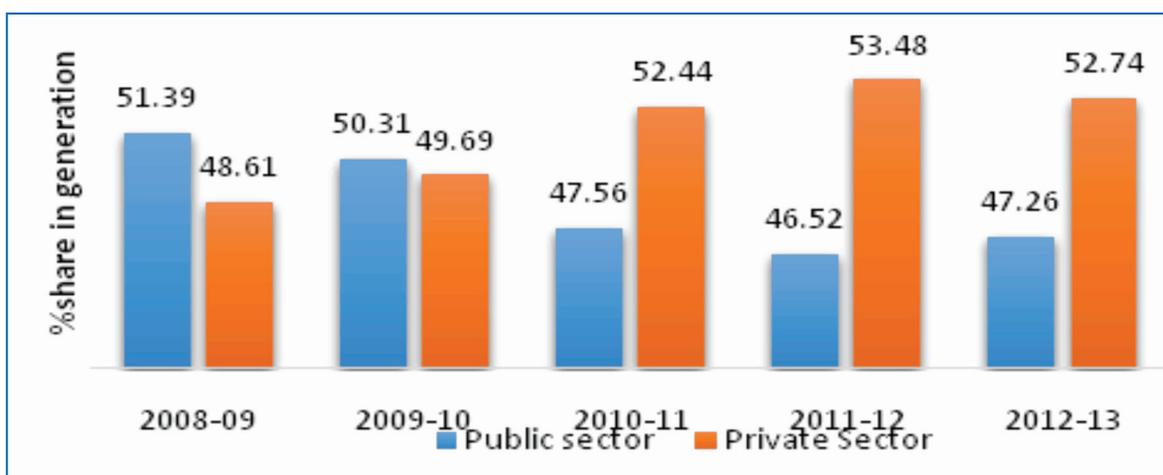
Investors show no interest to invest in the energy sector because of the fragmented energy governance, low revenue collection by existing energy generation and distribution companies, distorted fiscal incentives through SROs regime and lack of favourable regulatory and operational environment for alternative energy projects.

The business community also pointed out the ambiguous role of “state” in the energy market. The state apparatus in Pakistan persistently controls prices, supply quotas and also the import of energy inputs through which power is generated. Such a heavily regulated environment is acting as a barrier to entry for new firms who intend to invest in the energy sector.

The role of fiscal policy in promoting investors for energy security in Pakistan needs to be quickly revisited. Key reforms should be taken in terms of biased corporate tax slabs in case of local versus foreign investor. The finance act 2014 discourages renewable/alternative means of energy generation. This anomaly should be removed. Processes and procedures involved in the import of petroleum products particularly for raw material should be rationalized. The concerned authorities should resolve the issue of hidden, untargeted and cross subsidies given to the energy sector.

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Figure 1: Total Electricity Generation by Sector



Source: (NEPRA 2013)

Investing in children's future

Muhammad Irshad Danish*

The Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals has proposed a set of 17 goals and 169 targets for the post-2015 agenda. This outcome represents an inclusive effort to grapple with the complex social, economic and environmental challenges faced by people and the planet. The report is a significant achievement to build from in 2015 for the member states but it has yet to be examined through the lens of national implementation.

It is critical to apply a reality check in the early stages of formal intergovernmental negotiations that will begin during the first quarter of 2015. Negotiators' effectiveness will be enhanced if they are informed not only by political but by practical considerations helping to focus efforts on delivering a framework that will work. Save the Children has also been contributing to the OWG through different channels.

The MDGs urged political and financial commitments to achieve significant breakthroughs for children. However, the job is still not completed, and the world's most disadvantaged children are being left behind. The eradication of child poverty is not only a matter of social justice, but is also a keystone for effective, equitable and sustainable development for all.

The post-2015 framework will shape the future, and it is therefore imperative that needs and rights of children, as present and future citizens of the world, are fully reflected within it.

It is only through investing in children that one will break the cycle of poverty that is rooted in societies across the world. The post-2015 framework must focus global attention on the needs

of the children. The framework must ensure that the poorest and most marginalised children can live fulfilled and healthy lives, and that their voices are heard in decision-making.

Now is the time for bold and visionary leadership. As the outlines of the new sustainable development framework start to take shape, governments must maintain high levels of ambition and keep their eyes on the prize of a world free from suffering and want. To be successful, the framework must express firm commitments to eradicate extreme poverty in all its forms through goals and targets, work within planetary boundaries, and tackle inequalities so that nobody is left behind.

Implementing post-2015 sustainable development strategies will require effective coordination between the many ministries, departments and stakeholders that have a role to play across the different goal areas of the new framework. To achieve this, governments should consider establishing mechanisms to help coordinate between sectors and stakeholders.

Moreover careful planning by national institutions and financing will be required to implement SDGs successfully. Monitoring and reporting of progress towards post-2015 goals and targets must be transparent, participatory and inclusive, with meaningful opportunities for engagement and oversight by civil society organisations, parliamentarians and members of the public. Institutions or processes established for this purpose should link to official international human rights reporting and shadow reporting processes, and to the global post-2015 accountability mechanism.

*The author is Advocacy and Campaigns Specialist at Save the Children, Islamabad, Pakistan.



A shield being presented to Dr Mahmood A. Khwaja, Senior Adviser, SDPI, by Dr M. Bashir Khan, Director General, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in recognition of services rendered for the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of the environment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Sustainable use of water, a challenge

Ather Naqvi*

Report Review: Situation Analysis of the Water Resources of Lahore
Establishing a Case for Water Stewardship

Author: Dr Asad Qureshi

Co-Author: Ali Hasnain Sayed

Published by: WWF-Pakistan, CPI

Pages: 151

Price: Not mentioned

In view of the rapidly increasing population and absence of required efforts to conserve potable water, availability and sustainability of clean drinking water is a big challenge for policy makers in Pakistan. A few efforts have been made to devise and implement strategies to conserve water and use it efficiently.

One such effort has been made by the World Wide Fund for Nature and Cleaner Production Institute. The effort is part of a bigger project. WWF-Pakistan in collaboration with Cleaner Production Institute (CPI) and WWF-UK has launched a project funded by the European Union titled, "City-wide Partnership for Sustainable Water Use and Water Stewardship in SMEs in Lahore, Pakistan".

The project, if implemented successfully, will greatly contribute in improving environmental sustainability and livelihood. It also aims to support sustainable economic growth and development in Pakistan.

The report under review is one very important part of the project. According to the preface to the report, "The purpose of this study is to develop a comprehensive document ... regarding the water sector of Lahore."

The report can be regarded as a reference work as it gives basic information and talks at length about the water management system and risks for the citizens of Lahore.

Based on that information, it also spells out evidence to support implementation of water stewardship activities.

One of the very few of its kind, the report identifies water risks to the domestic and business sectors of the city.

The document has been authored by prominent experts in the field. Dr Asad Qureshi holds a Ph D on Water Resources Management from the Wageningen University, Netherlands. Besides, he carries extensive experience in agricultural and urban water resource management in South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East. Notably, Dr Qureshi was associated with the US-AID-funded project which developed the Master Plan for Peshawar for 2032, among others.

The co-author, Mr Ali Hasnain, is a development practitioner. He holds a master's degree in Environment and Sustainability from Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

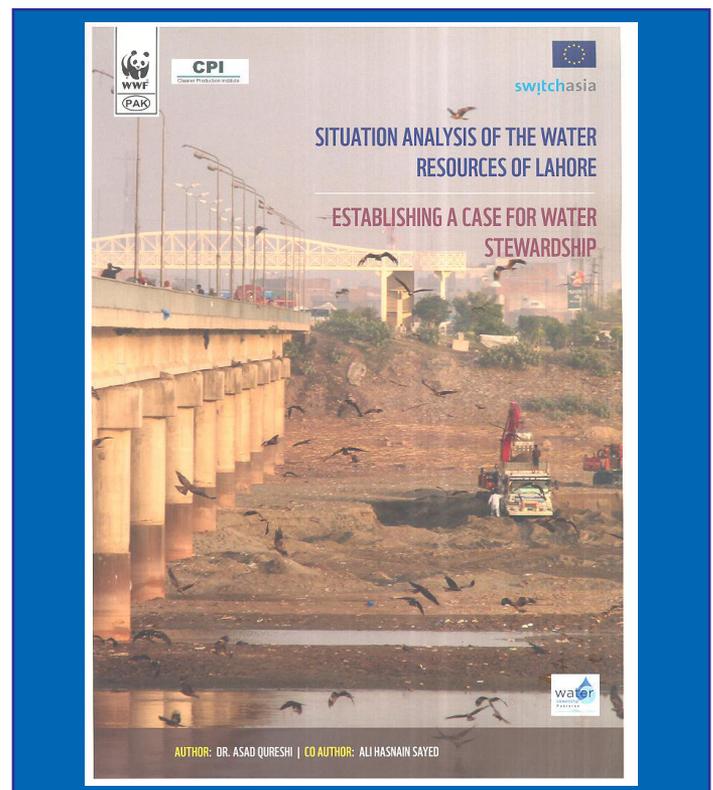
The report is divided into five chapters, each dealing with different aspects of potable water, such as water accounting, consumption, challenges, and management and mitigation. It also traces the use of water by the people before, during and after the British rule.

The document has been generously illustrated with relevant and authentic graphs, tables, maps, and images, which make it easy to understand as well as interesting.

The report will certainly serve as a ready reference for development practitioners, researchers, and environmentalists. It also calls upon the policy makers to pay attention to the very pressing issue being faced by the city. Only timely and concerted efforts in this regard will prevent the situation from deteriorating even further.

Availability of clean drinking water for decades to come must be the top priority of our policy makers. If the right steps had been taken, the situation would not have come to this sorry pass.

*Mr Ather Naqvi is a guest author and works as a researcher on issues of economic development and environment.



Challenges of implementing the protection of breast-feeding and child nutrition legislation in Pakistan

Rabia Manzoor* and Shehryar Khan**

one of the most universal aspects and gifts of being a mother is being able to breastfeed one's child. This helps in culminating a strong bond between mother and babies. So to speak it is equally important to mothers' and infants' well-being and health. In the past the whole idea of breastfeeding one's child was considered as an unusual choice. However, in the recent years research has proved that breastfeeding is the best source of nutrition for most infants. Furthermore, breastfeeding proved to have far-reaching and lasting effects on the health of mother and her child both in the short-term and long-term as the nutritious components of breast milk provide vital immunological and anti-inflammatory properties. These nutrients not only help in protecting the child against acquiring a host of illnesses and diseases but improve maternal health outcomes as well. Countries all over the world are trying to improve the uptake of breastfeeding as it is one of the simplest and most effective ways of improving the maternal and infant's health. A number of non-profit organizations in Pakistan are committed to finding ways of securing a good start in life for pregnant women and mother of young children by providing them relevant information which would help them in making informed choices regarding breastfeeding their babies. The irony is that in our country their efforts are not backed by strong and effective legislative framework.

'Malnutrition has been proven as one of the strong risk factors in child mortality, and is responsible for more than 50% of under-five deaths in the developing countries' (UNICEF 2009)¹. 'Over two-third of these deaths occur in the first years of life, which are often associated with inappropriate feeding practices' (WHO 2013)². It has been estimated that 830,000 deaths could be avoided if every baby is breast-fed within the first hour after birth (Save the Children 2013)³. Ironically, Pakistan has the lowest exclusive breastfeeding rate of 37% in South Asia (Mahmood 2014)⁴. In addition, Pakistan has the highest bottle feeding rate in South Asia which has increased from 31% to 41% in the last few

- Lack of political will and commitment
- Mistaken beliefs of people and health workers
- Less supportive work environments
- Aggressive marketing practices by baby food manufactures
- Growing urbanization and rapid social and economic changes

years (UNICEF 2009)⁵. Infants aged 6-11 months if not breastfed have an increased risk of deaths such as 15 times more likely to die from pneumonia and 11 times more likely to die from diarrhoea.

Breastfeeding is the foundation of adequate nutrition for child growth and helps in developing immunity that protects the child against disease. Breastfed children are healthier and face fewer health problems in their life than those who are not breastfed. Moreover, breastfeeding is the most economic, natural and viable way to control infant mortality and maternal mortality rates. Exclusive breastfeeding has the greatest potential impact on child survival from all preventive interventions.

Pakistan was among the 118 countries who had voted in favour of adopting International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes during the World Health Assembly in May 1981. However the legislation came very late in Pakistan when "The Protection of Breast-Feeding and Child Nutrition Ordinance, 2002" (XCIII Of 2002) was passed on 26 October 2002, and Pakistan became one of the 42 countries with legislation to adopt most of the articles of the Code. But implementation of law in Pakistan remained a dream in the absence of rules and detailed procedures for its implementation. These rules came very late through the Protection of Breast-feeding Rules 2009, notified through the Ministry of Health on 2 November 2009. Although The Protection of Breast-Feeding and Child Nutrition Ordinance 2002 also stressed on formation of a National Infant Feeding Board (NIFB) to monitor implementation of the said Ordinance, this NIFB came into existence very late on 5 July 2010. On 30 June 2011, 18th Constitutional Amendment abolished many Federal Ministries including health, and health became completely a Provincial subject in Pakistan. After this devolution, Provinces were authorized to make legislations pertaining to all matters in health including provincial level health policies and strategies (Save the Children 2013, pp. 13).

¹. UNICEF 2009, Tracking Progress on Child and Maternal Nutrition, United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF, http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Tracking_Progress_on_Child_and_Maternal_Nutrition_EN_110309.pdf, viewed on 12 January 2015.

². WHO 2013, Promoting Proper Feeding for Infants and Young Children's, World Health Organization - WHO, <<http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/infantfeeding/en/>> viewed on 30 January 2015.

³. Save the Children 2013, Super Food for Babies: How Overcoming Barriers to Breastfeeding will Save Children's Lives, Save the Children, <<http://www.savethechildren.org/atf/cf/%7B9def2ebe-10ae-432c-9bd0-df91d2eba74a%7D/SUPERFOOD%20FOR%20BABIES%20ASIA%20LOW%20RES%282%29.PDF>> Viewed on 12 February 2015.

⁴. Mahmood, A. 2014, 'Here is Why Breastfeeding Your Child is Important', The Express Tribune, <<http://blogs.tribune.com.pk/story/20611/here-is-why-every-woman-should-breastfeed-her-child>> viewed on 20 January 2015.

⁵. UNICEF 2009

'Punjab introduced legislation on breastfeeding and child nutrition in 2012, by adopting Protection of Breast-Feeding and Child Nutrition Ordinance 2002' (Murtaza 2013) . It is similar to Protection of Breast-Feeding and Child Nutrition Ordinance, 2002. The Sindh Assembly also unanimously passed the Sindh Protection of Breastfeeding and Child Nutrition Act-2013 on 13 February 2013, followed by KPK and Baluchistan in 2014. It is also similar to the Federal law and has the same implementation modalities.

Implementation Challenges in Breastfeeding Legislations

Despite breastfeeding legislations, only 38% infants (under six months) were exclusively breastfed (PDHS 2012-13) . Several challenges stand in the way of protecting the breastfeeding legislation. The low level of breastfeeding relate to the lack of public awareness at national and community levels, political will, unethical marketing of breast milk substitutes by multinational companies and paucity of professional training in breastfeeding among health providers. According to our respondents, doctors mostly recommend specific brands of formula milk. The alternative milk provision underscores ignoring promotion and supporting breastfeeding as a public health priority. An insufficient attention to breastfeeding practices and care also highlight potential problems associated with those mothers who do not breastfeed. Moreover, legal steps should be taken to prevent regulation of the unethical promotion of baby formula milk. In this case, Baluchistan has taken a positive initiative of not only adopting this law but establishing a provincial infant feeding board for its enforcement. The lack of coordination between the provinces has resulted in unchecked marketing of baby formula milk. It is pertinent to note that nutritional status of young children (under 2 years of age) is directly related to breast feeding practices.

The existing ordinances on children's health protection necessitate responding to aforesaid challenges and entail develop-

ing a well co-ordinated response by the policy makers, health providers at service delivery levels and private sector working on early childhood development and care. In addition, there is a need for developing a comprehensive engagement strategy which focuses upon dissemination of breastfeeding core competencies and best practices in accordance with provincial specific needs (data on breastfeeding) and social practices. Child health ordinances also require the establishment of provincial review boards consisting of skilled health professional's entrusted with the mandate of independently ensuring proper implementation of health legislations. In order to fully materialise breastfeeding and nutritional ordinances, there is also a need of reviewing provincial health strategies, plan and budgets in order to determine their consistency with children health ordinances. In this regard, the provincial legislative bodies should ensure coordination and planning between the federal and provincial health ministries for an effective enforcement mechanism of breastfeeding legislation.

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6. Murtaza, A. 2013, "Pakistan's Legislations on Infant Formula Milk Manufactures", SCOOP, <<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL1302/S00074/pakistans-legislation-on-infant-formula-milk-manufactures.htm>> viewed on 10 March 2015.
7. NIPS and ICF International 2013, Pakistan 2012-13 Demographic and Health Survey Key Findings, National Institute of Population (Pakistan) Studies and ICF International, http://www.nips.org.pk/abstract_files/PDHS%20Key%20Findings%20FINAL%201.24.14.pdf

The economy of tomorrow and the good society for all Constructing alternative models, creating innovative alliances

Philipp Kauppert*

The global financial and economic crises of recent years – with its multiple implications in the industrialized world, but now also increasingly visible in emerging and developing economies – are of political nature. The banking crisis in the US, which extended into Europe and triggered the Euro crisis, is a product of financial deregulation, but also of accumulation of public and private debts over the last three decades. The social con-

sequences of the crises in countries like Greece, Portugal and Spain have been severed by Germany-driven austerity policies. In order to overcome the economic crises and dangerous national fragmentations within Europe, more coordinated and consolidated financial, economic and fiscal policies would be needed. Again, the problem derives from the lacking capability and will of the political sphere, mostly in the hand of the nation-states, to deal with a deregulated capitalism.

At the same time, politics has been driven by a permanent obsession to follow the assumed needs of the markets. In Southern Europe, democratically elected national governments are being undermined by international technocrats dictating economic reform packages, instead of searching for a broad-based consensus for reforms, including the majority of the population. When criticized, the most prominent discourse from technocrats and European politicians has been: “There is no alternative” (TINA). Those simple words are a proof that politics has become subordinate to financial markets, and democratic principles are only suitable if they serve capitalism. But the old paradigms are coming to an end, and the new power struggles have just started.

Beyond the lacking political capacities and the existing public discourses lies a crisis of economic thinking and understanding. The majority of influential economic thinkers, largely following a neo-classical school of thought, have not been able to prevent or even predict the on-going financial and economic crises. Most of the countries on the globe are now sharing similar challenges, despite very different starting points: to find ways to build up a socially inclusive, financially stable and ecologically dynamic economy. Hence, new economic concepts are urgently needed, in order to define policy instruments oriented towards the needs of a growing global population. Ultimately, the economies should create full opportunities for all, making the economic and financial markets an instrument of policy-making rather than a goal in itself.

In order to achieve forward-looking economic models, one has to understand the political economy of reforms, in every specific context. Very often the coalitions maintaining the status quo have built up very powerful networks with direct or indirect influence on the processes of policy-making. For the purpose of change, platforms for the discussion of reform agendas have to be established; new alliances including diverse stakeholders have to be created. Alternative narratives and long-term visions with the ability to convince different groups of society are needed for winning public debates and building up political pressure on decision-makers. In the end, the way towards the Economy of Tomorrow is a political struggle.

In South Asia, two of the current megatrends of socio-economic change are the rise of a young middle class and rapid, uncontrolled urbanization, leading to an urge to redefine development priorities. Furthermore, the political crisis in countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh underline the need for negotiating a new social contract. This cannot be achieved unless the political cultures become more inclusive of civil society actors and broad coalitions of different actors are formed. Processes of democratization in developing countries do not follow linear patterns, but happen along lines of socio-economic transformations that produce many internal contradictions and conflicts. The biggest challenge is to understand the political economy of reforms, since political and economic developments do not happen in isolated worlds.

A long-term oriented, normative vision can be helpful in overcoming differences of interests and perceptions. Such a vision has to be based on the needs and cultural values of every society and can only be built from within the country. The current predominant development models in Asia – mostly referred to as the Washington and the Beijing Consensus – are excluding the dimensions of the society. In simple terms, the Washington Consensus emphasizes on free market mechanisms and a weak state, whereas the Beijing Consensus claims the importance of a strong state regulation and export-led growth. Instead of focusing on a dichotomous relationship between the state and the market, the question should rather be how to include a stronger social dimension into future development models. This might finally lead to a vision of a “Good Society with Full Capabilities for All”.

**Philipp Kauppert is the Resident Director of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), a German Political Foundation committed to the values of Social Democracy. FES has been working in Pakistan since the early 1990s, supporting democratization and social justice with its various local partners.*

Note: Part of this essay was published by the author in The Express Tribune on 18 October 2013 which can be accessed at the following weblink <http://tribune.com.pk/story/619234/the-economy-of-tomorrow/>

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