

***POVERTY ERADICATION IN BALOCHISTAN:  
(A STUDY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS)***

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**Abstract:**

*According to the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Reform (2016), "nearly 39% of Pakistani live in multidimensional poverty with highest rates in Federally Administration Tribal Areas (FATA) and Balochistan. Over two-thirds of people in Balochistan (71%) live in multidimensional poverty". Community development programs are a collection of programs prepared to develop the people living standard and reduce poverty. The first program was initiated in 1954 through the Federal Government of Pakistan which is known the pilot project in Karachi. Since 1954 till today a number of programs have been executed by Government departments and NGOs to reduce poverty and develop the socio-economic condition of people particularly the deprived people. The aim of the research study was to know the major contribution of community development towards the reduction of poverty in Balochistan. The parameter was used for evaluation included utilization of poverty eradication programs, change in poverty level and the number of beneficiaries. The research study endeavored to*

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*analyzes the socio-economic consequences of these programs on the communities where the poor live. The study used interviews and document analysis. A sample of 50 beneficiaries was selected through a pre-structured interview schedule for primary data. The finding of the study may help to policymakers, poverty planner experts and national and international organizations to take serious and suitable actions for reducing multidimensional poverty level in Balochistan.*

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**Key Words:** Poverty Eradication; Community Development Programs, Balochistan.

### Introduction

Poverty is a condition in an individual's life in which their fundamental requirements such as food, clothing, and shelter are not being accomplished. Individuals confront pains and miseries that it doesn't achieve a survival dimension of such needs. It can also, be understood as a social condition characterized by insufficient access to fundamental human needs to the sustenance of socially acceptable minimum standard of living in a given society "No society can definitely be prosperous and happy, of which the far larger part of the population are poor and depressed" (Arif,2011). In poverty condition people can't be able to get any proper opportunities and accomplish his/her basic requirements of life. Poverty and disparity are directly linked, and disparity emerges to have been on the rise worldwide in recent decades at both countrywide and global levels (Ahmed,2011).

Basically, it is consider that poverty is only related to the income of an individual. But, it is multidimensional, comprising social, economic and other views. Economically, an individual is only deprived of financially and capitals and don't get any chance at any field . Jobs, health, education and so forth are often not easy for them to access. Poverty also affects their education condition as well and they can't be able to get equal opportunities for jobs and other quality of their lives. Poor health, due to insufficient food

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and available health services, further limits their views for work and obstructs them from realizing their mental and physical potential. This weak position is made worse by uncertainty. Living in insignificant conditions with no resources to fall back on, shocks become impossible to offset. The condition is made worse by the structure of societies and institutions that tend to leave out the poor from participating in decision-making that affects social and economic development (Aref,2011a).

Most of the world countries and populations are living in poverty it is estimated that “more than forty percent of the world’s the population lives in countries where income gaps are expanding. On the other side, the world richest people which covered only twenty percent have seventy-five percent of the world income, according to UNDP report (2010)”, poverty is the principle idea behind hungering and under nutrition. As per assessments of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2009), the quantity of hungry individuals worldwide has achieved 963 million (Fifteen percent) of the total populace. Poverty basically consist of two angles, firmly characterized "income" shortage and a more extensive thought of "human" need. Income shortage is characterized as the absence of necessities for least material welfare controlled by the national poverty line. Human need implies the dismissal of decisions and open doors for a worthy life in all monetary and social parts perceiving the issue, the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations additionally hold a guarantee to partition the extent of the total populace living in extreme poverty by 2030.(UNDP,2010a)

Pakistan is facing some sever problems due to the high rates of poverty and mostly people of Pakistan are in vulnerable conditions, lacking basic facilities ,not being able to fulfill their basic needs just because they not economically stable. As per Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform (2016a), said that four out of ten Pakistanis are living in intense poverty with the number of inhabitants in Balochistan charging the most appalling among the regions. The report demonstrates a pointed decrease with national poverty rates tumbling from 55 % to 39% from 2004 to 2015. The report states 38.8% of Pakistan's populace lives in poverty. A larger number of the rural populace (54.6%) lives in intense poverty while this proportion is just 9.4% in urban regions.

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When it came to search about the ratio of poverty in Pakistani provinces, Balochistan province can be trace in deep trouble due to much high rates of poverty as compare to other provinces of country. Among the provinces, multi-dimensional poverty is the most common in Balochistan and the least in Punjab. Overall Pakistan has not made much progress in social development sector. Social development in Pakistan has been bad. Policy markers likewise not fulfillment, but rather advance in wellbeing has been merged. Out of the blue since autonomy, the aggregate number of unskilled people in Pakistan declined. Proficiency rates rise, especially for women. welfare programs during the 2015s enhanced gradually or, at times, not under any condition. Yet, there has been little improvement in decreasing Pakistan's high maternal mortality and under-five death rates and in tending to ill health. A considerable lot of these outcomes need to don't just with wellbeing strategy yet in addition with moderate advancement in enhancing access to safe water and sanitation.

Much has been already discussed about the poverty level of Balochistan, where masses are really in miserable condition, basic human need such as water is not available for ruler village areas of Balochistan. Balochistan covers the most land space of Pakistan regarding the land region, including 44 percent of the national domain. It is, equally, the smallest as far as a populace. The vast majority of the populace lives in scattered, insufficiently populated settlements, around water sources in the midst of a dry, ungracious landscape. More than 50 metallic and non-metallic minerals have been found in Balochistan, of which 41 are right now being mined. Balochistan region has the world's eighth-biggest group of cows and the third biggest crowd of goats. The region is, be that as it may, the minimum created among the four unifying units of Pakistan regarding social and efficient indicators. By and large, 56 percent of Baluchistan's populace falls into the class of 'multi-dimensionally poor'(GoB,2006).

There are numerous reasons which have come about because of rising poverty in Balochistan. For instance, one of the principle reasons can be unemployment in the state and the individuals who are utilized aren't up

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to the norms, so these unsatisfied representatives think about themselves jobless. Also, the shortage of employment, then again, has made the general population of Baluchistan to endure in an variety of results where handy and smarts are jobless and think that it's difficult to live in the merciless condition of the nation and without winning a business has expanded the rate of poverty in Baluchistan (Zeeshan,2016).

According to the survey conducted by Pakistan first since forever Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and by the significant experts' reports that about 39 percent of Pakistan is under the multidimensional poverty line with the most noteworthy rate in Baluchistan,71 rates live in multidimensional poverty (UNDP,2016). Poverty does is an frustrating risk for the present and a future danger for Balochistan where the absence of open administrations implies that those living in ghettos don't have appropriate to utilize instruction and wellbeing administrations which both are their essential rights.

This paper evaluated the contribution of community development program toward reduction of poverty in Balochistan. The parameter were used for evaluation included utilization of poverty eradication funds, jobs generation, change in poverty level and number of beneficiaries. This study analyzed the socio-economic impacts of a number of programs on people lives. .

### **Community Development**

Community development programs are basically required to improve the living conditions of a particular community, and these programs are highly valuable to bring improvement in a community. Initially, it's a way to deal with recognize planned changes in a community. These attempts open understandable way to upgrade community physical structure for the targeted communities. For the past twenty years, this approach has recognized a professional discipline to academicians and practitioners. Since professors believe it is an organized step to develop the capacities of people and developing the personal and as well as collective skills. While some practitioners agree that this approach, as a result, develop the socio-economic and infrastructure of the community. (Phillips and Robert, 2008).

Community development has a variety of strategies accessible to meet up the basic needs of people and groups who are privileged,

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commonly in poverty. Community experts help communities, but their enthusiasm lies irrationally with people who do not have enough resources to meet their basic needs. These people and communities get special attention from government departments and NGOs broadly being underprivileged. In short, fixing poverty is a main theme within community development, but we have infrequently examined the theories that underlie the dominant practices addressing poverty (Gimbi,2002).

Balochistan province is in special need of high rates of community development programs because the region is very least developed area, most of the population of Balochistan are living in mountains and country sides where basic human needs are mostly not met. Mostly health related issues are the most common issues in province because of lack of basic facilities in the province.

**Research Methodology**

This research paper tries to summaries the current state of knowledge about poverty, problems created by poverty and to study national policies, plans and programs for poverty eradication in Balochistan. The primary data was collected from 50 respondent throughout Balochistan and the relevant secondary data was collected through a multi sources such as published research papers, survey reports and related books.

**Table 1: Profiles of respondents (N=50)**

Respondent characteristics	Number	Percentage respondents
<b>Male</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Education</b>		
Secondary	11	22%
College/University	31	62%
Without formal education	08	16%
<b>Age</b>		
16-24 years old	04	08%
25-34 years old	26	52%
35-44 years old	10	40%
45+ years old	10	40%
<b>Occupation</b>		

NGOs employed	20	40%
Employed	20	40%
Unemployed	10	20 %

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Source: Filed survey, August,2016

### **Area of research study**

The study area for this research study was the province Balochistan which the largest province by land mass, Balochistan, The Province covers 34.7 million hectares, relatively 44% of the nation's territory region, with a populace of around 8 million individuals (12 people for every sq. km.). The area is situated in South-Western (220N to 320N, 660E to 700E) Pakistan. About 80% of the territory can be named between precipitous. The staying 20% comprises of surge fields and waterfront fields. The Province is partitioned into 30 areas (GoB,2006a).

### **Objectives of the study**

- To study the contribution of the a number of towards poverty reduction in Balochistan.
- To study the role of government and non-government organizations programs in developing the living conditions of people in Balochistan.

### **Poverty Alleviation Programs (Literature Review)**

There are a number of approaches and programs have been introduced to reduce the deficiency in the Pakistan and mostly community development (CD) approaches were adopted to reduce the poverty level in any area of the world. *The initial program was launched in 1954 on the recommendation of UNO.* Since 1954 the government and NGOs implemented multi-sectors programs (health, education, recreation and etc). *The overall purpose of these programs was to develop and advance the physical, social and economic situations of people throughout the country.* The history of community development programs in Balochistan can be traced with the following programs, the Village Agriculture Industry Development (V-AID) was the first government program in Balochistan funded by United State Agency. The purpose of the program was to encourage needy people at grass root level. The program was anticipated to increase systematically the overall resources and the government for

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concerted efforts to achieve the needs of rural community (Charles,1958).The essential goal of Village-AID Program was to develop provincial capital through enhanced cultivating rehearses, house enterprises and creature farming and in addition gives the viable link between line Departments to decrease poverty. (Abbas, Lodhi, Mehmood. what's more, Muhammad, 2009).

In 1972, government of Pakistan initialed another program named Integrate Rural Development program. The program was based upon the results of Shadab Pilot project which was focused to integrate different interventions of several organizations and departments by brining all departments at one central point which is known " Markaz".( Ayuub,2013). The program was proposed to initiate self-help programs and also extend the socio-economic situation of farmers at all level. The most focused purpose of the project was to reduce poverty. The key approach was making the departments more strong and putting their all resources together at one central point for the betterment of agriculture, economic and social aspects.( Shireen,2002).

In April 1989, on of Pakistan stream political party “Pakistan People’s Party” started The People's Program. The ultimate goal of the program was the to boost all sectors of the community (rural & urban), using the local resources organized and systematic ways and also give equal chance to all people to develop their skills. The program was executed by the national government. In spite of the fact that the program, the individuals from National and commonplace collect given the duties regarding undertaking advancement exercises in their separate supporters. (Abbas, M. T. E. Lodhi, K. Mehmood. and S. Muhammad,2009a)

Government of Balochistan commenced a project "Social Action project" with the support of the federal government in 1992 to deal with the necessary and primary needs of people that were ignored by previous governments and started the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy. The program focused the four major aspects such as to reduce poverty, boost economic conditions, open new opportunities for youth and special focus the most backward areas of the province. (M. Arif and Shujat Farooq,2001).



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In July 2008, Pakistan People's Party commenced a new project name " Benazir Income Support Program". The basic purpose of this project were to cover the negative effects of financial crises and also control the infection and food shortage impacts. This project was proposed only for deprived women who don't have any access to fulfill their basic needs where one thousand cash transfers per month to eligible families. Government of Pakistan, lunched this program to achieve the objectives of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to eliminate acute and persistent poverty. (Ahmed Ali Mengal, Zaheeruddin Mirani and Habibullah,2014). Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal allocates a lot for the poor, deprived, widows, orphans and ill regardless of their gender, caste, religion. PBM offers help under a range of programs like provisions of food, financial assistance, rehabilitation, vocational training, and many others. (Sarfaz,2005). Zakat is also a program through which a financial aid provides to needy and poor people who are living in poverty line which included allowance, education and health services, social welfare, rehabilitation, and marriage support through usual Zakat program and other Zakat programs and national and provincial Level Schemes (M. Khalid,2006 ).

Microfinance was also one of the major projects to eradicate poverty in the country. Through the project, it was tried to make common people enable to start self-initiatives businesses and become empowered. The project covered several segments such as loan, micro saving and microcredit's and etc (GoP,2010).

**Results and discussion:**

The basic aim of this study was to summaries the poverty condition in Balochistan and how the community development programs, national policies, planes and programs were contributed to eradicate the poverty level in the province. Above all else, the cooperation of the local community is critical to the accomplishment of poverty eradicating programs. Without people group cooperation, the projects are tormented with the political and bureaucratic disorder and corruption at each dimension. We can't prevent the commitment from claiming Community development programs in Balochistan and they positively affect individuals lives and enabling the powerless parts of the populace.

**Table 2: Profiles of respondents Age:**

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<b>Age Number Percentage</b>		
16-24 years old	04	08%
25-34 years old	26	52%
35-44 years old	10	40%
45+ years old	10	40%

During the survey, out of 50 respondent's majority of respondents age were from 25 to 34 that is 26% out of 50 respondents, 10 respondents were between the ages of 35-44, 10 other respondents were 45 age 45 plus while 04 out of 50 respondents were between age 16-24.

**Table 3: Profiles of respondent's occupation:**

<b>Occupation</b>		
NGOs employed	20	40%
Employed	20	40%
Unemployed	10	20 %

During the survey in regard of respondent's occupation 40% of respondents were NGOs employed and other 40% were employed at different respective departments while 20% of respondents were unemployed out of 100%.

***Discussions***

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We can't refute the input of community development programs in Balochistan and they have very good impacts and results on people lives and reducing poverty and empowering the vulnerable parts of the population. The above programs were implemented to alleviate poverty and get better the living conditions of people. According to this study findings, the program didn't bring any effective improvement in people lives. However, these programs opened some good jobs opportunities for the political parties and influencers and brought litter positive results in income generation in some cities. Overall the programs gave a good result where these programs were implemented.

Programs were failed due to lack of involvement of people in programs and people were not involved in any stage of the programs. The programs faced a lot of problems such as poor quality, interfere of political parties, misused of resources of several departments. UC level departments have not given any officially authorized to employ *community development programs*. *The performance of the programs only matched their expected purposes*

On the other hand, the programs unsuccessful because of over appointments of staff and poor coordination among government and non-government organizations. Secondly, the responsibilities were allocated without any proper training and skills. Thirdly, the appointed staff qualification and requirement didn't match the criteria's, They majority of staff were hired on the basis of political influence and pleasure.

The findings of the study also explained that no significant development work was implemented to reduce poverty rather it was a story of intense favoritism and political exploitation as the both opponents tried their best to dull the progress attempts started by their opponents. The present community development programs have many faults, difficulties, and insufficiencies. Deprived people have very less chance to participate and low coverage. The study also indicated that corruption in these programs, like BISP. Besides this, these institutions are not in a capacity to implement or go on board on activities which are not in their domain. Overlapping and duplication of activities are also evident in NGOs programs.

The Zakat, Bait-ul-Mal and BISP programs do not have any obvious and reliable system of targeting the justified people, which

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rejects ordinary and un-source able people from these programs. According to the World Bank report (2007), thirty-seven percent of receivers getting cure grants were not needy at an early stage. The report also gave proof of mishandling and bias in the Zakat relief system. The beneficiaries were selected without any proper criteria and Zakat has given to closed relatives or political workers.

The bureaucratic delivery mechanisms of community development programs more raise the problem of targeting and community development programs have very weak institutional structures, limited funding, ineffective targeting and low coverage. The coverage of programs is low; therefore, the impact of community development measures in Balochistan is very limited. In Pakistan, only 0.5% of the total GDP is allocated to these community development programs and even this allocated amount is not used effectively. The present community development programs in Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan, do not cover deprived people needs to reduce poverty.

**Conclusion:**

In this research, we have been able to give a concise backdrop to the poverty eradication programs in Balochistan. Without uncertainty, we can observe that efforts were tried by government and NGOs to improve people lives. These attempts although, there is overlap of target and intervention strategies, lack of continuity of programs and some programs were stopped before getting their maturity. In addition, considering the present poverty occurrence in the country, one can conclude that poverty alleviation programs in Balochistan have not attained much. This is maybe due to the problems recognized above which are hindering the efficient implementation of the programs.

**Recommendations**

It is well known fact that poverty is a curse and the essence of poverty push people to commit any kind of crime, alienate them from the social fabric of community as well as poverty can guide the towards committing suicide. In such disastrous circumstances the government, non-governmental organizations, civil societies and members of communities should provide better health facilities, drinking water facilities and

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education so that people living below poverty line can improve their lives and these respective institutions and authorities should properly address the needs and demand of a community as well as should properly propagate the issues and solutions of community to bring particle changes in a society. Several recommendations can be made based on this study on Poverty Eradication in Balochistan, A case study on community development programs, following statements are the suggestions and recommendation on this area of study:

- Involvement of local communities and people's participation in different programs should be essential.
- Decentralization of the programs by strengthening the local system
- Proper mechanism should be introduced for community development programs
- Government should create an independent monitoring institution to monitor these programs to reduce poverty ratio in Balochistan
- Provincial government should establish a department called-Poverty Alleviation Balochistan
- Credit policies to promote farm investment and rural micro enterprises Policies to promote human capital to expand the capabilities of the poor Development of rural financial markets.
- Self-Help Group Approach to be strengthened as it is a proven method of empowerment of the poor.
- Provision of safety nets like targeted food subsidies, nutrition programs and health.

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