

DEVELOPMENT NEWS



2020-21

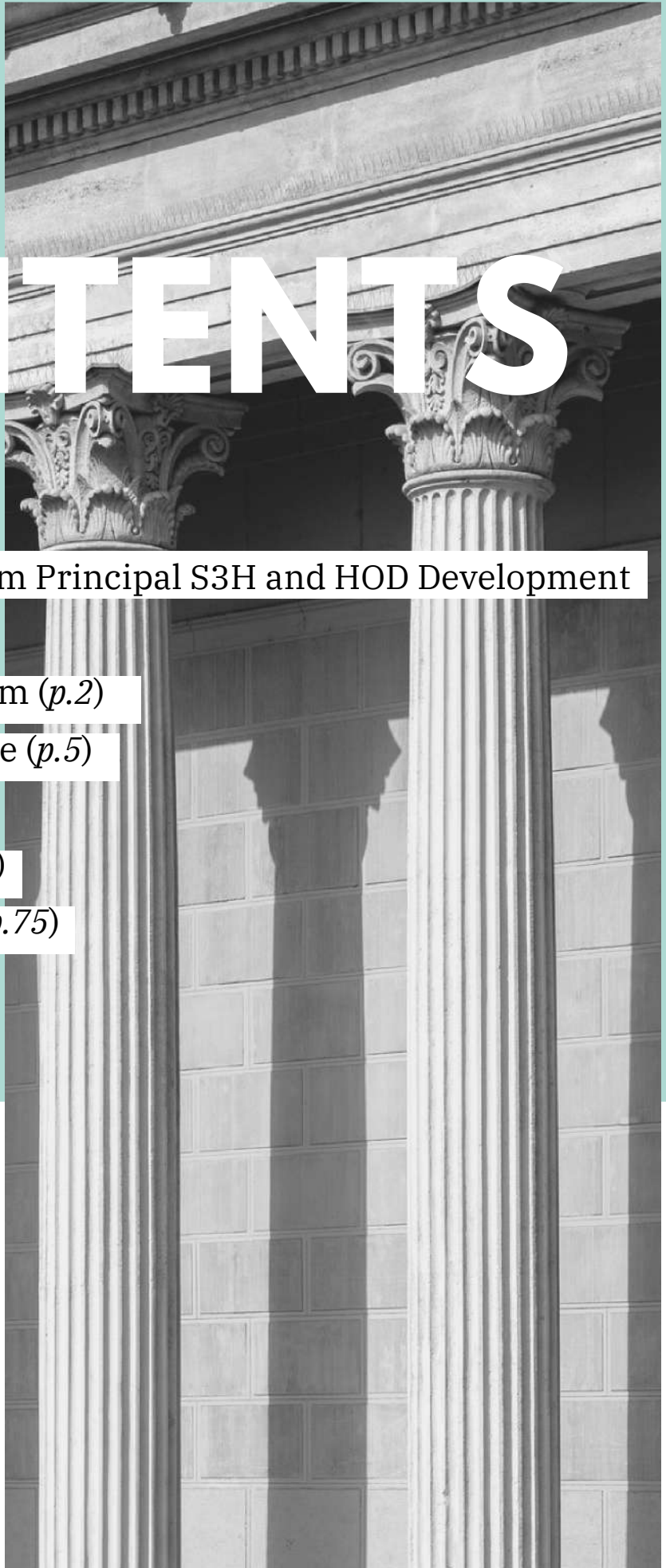


The Great Reset?

Inequality & sustainable development in the COVID-19 context

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WELCOME NOTES

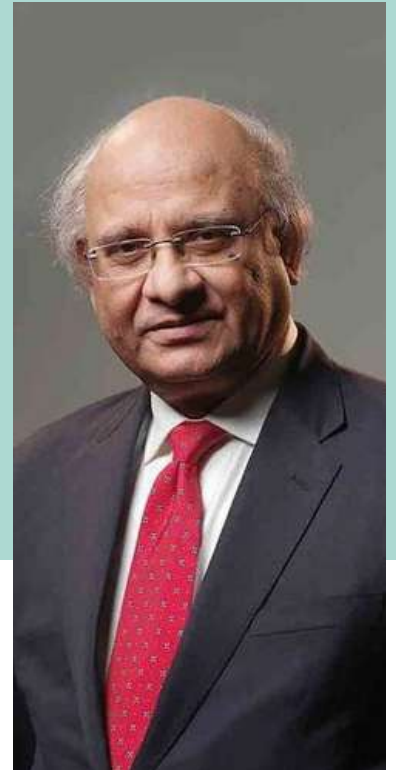
Welcome to the Department of Development Studies at the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (S3H), NUST Islamabad. This department is set up to bridge the gap between academia and practical realities on training the professionals with sound knowledge of Development Studies. I am pleased to announce that the newly established department with a life of only five years has achieved an important milestone in the form of "Development News" newsletter that portrays interesting (formal and informal) activities of the students and faculty at the Department. No doubt growth and excellence of our student body and teachers, as projected in this newsletter, contribute to highlight inter- and intra-departmental activities to make Development Studies department a state of the art platform to learn and excel in the field of development studies. I wish the department and newsletter every success in its efforts.

Dr. Ashfaqe Hasan Khan

PHD ECONOMICS

THE JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, USA

PRINCIPAL & DEAN, S3H



Acknowledging the tireless efforts of the Development News team, especially under the difficult times brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, I am happy to share this refined issue of Development News. It covers the outstanding performance of our students and faculty. In this newsletter, you will get an insight into what has been happening in the Department of Development Studies. For our dear alumni, this is a way of staying in touch with their successors as well as faculty members. While reading this issue of the newsletter, you will be surprised and excited about all the wonderful things happening in the Development Studies Program at NUST. This issue sheds the spotlight on the Post Covid-19 era of inequality through interesting articles, as well as a section on "What the Faculty and Students Have Been Up To" during the last year. Enjoy reading it!

Dr. Umer Khayyam

HOD DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

NOTES FROM THE TEAM



EDITOR'S NOTE



Who could have predicted that 2020 (and now 2021) would be such an uncertain year*? For more than a year now, we have pivoted to alternate ways of working - with students in our case. We have become accustomed to planning for contingencies in every aspect of our lives. At times, our conversations allude to plans once things “return to normal.” On other days, we talk about the “new normal.” Perhaps the old normal is not the best place to return to - we have evidence of systems that

have failed to adequately address this public health crisis, of less than ideal individual behaviours, and most importantly, of deep-rooted inequalities setting developmental advances back by decades. We are now in a place where we can define the new normal, and we must make it worth everyone’s while.

The Department of Development Studies at S3H, NUST, has worked tirelessly in order to maintain its quality of work, as reflected in the departmental updates within this newsletter. Our students too have been asking important questions in the context of Covid-19. This issue of Development News features their thoughts on society and inequality in the context of the pandemic, the impact on migration, vaccine distribution, and the relevance of a global health crisis for our fight against another global crisis: climate change. As classes moved online, our students cultivated their reading habits, as reflected by the wide-ranging selection of book reviews offered in this issue of the newsletter. Despite the strange times, our students also managed to successfully defend their theses and join our illustrious alumni community. At the end of the day, we can all be very proud of our resilience over the course of this pandemic. I hope you will enjoy this issue as much as my team and I have enjoyed putting it together.

Maheen Zahra

* As it turns out, various entities had warned us about the havoc a pandemic would cause in our world. These include scientists, social scientists (such as Hans Rosling, who listed a pandemic as one of five major threats for the twenty-first century in Factfulness), philanthropists, and eerily enough, Netflix (the docu-series titled Pandemic premiered in January 2020). Similar entities also warn us about climate change; what will it take for us to listen?

Ammara Kalsoom

CO-EDITOR

My bonhomie with words and the various contextual meanings they give when combined together and connected with punctuations is what made me reach for this opportunity of being the co-editor. It was a privilege in itself as I got to learn a lot apart from satiating my thirst for writing and editing.

2020 and now 2021, have been unpredictable years for the human beings all around the globe. We faced a pandemic: COVID-19, got accustomed to 'new normal', and adapted to life styles that were alien to us in the pre-pandemic world. This newsletter focuses on the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic in social, cultural, economic and political perspectives for Homo sapiens. The faculty and students of Department of Development Studies at S3H, NUST have worked tirelessly on putting together this newsletter with a dedication to look at pandemic with a critical and developmental lens. This pandemic has proved to be a glaring truth that in today's era, issues and conflicts transcend borders and only inclusive development is the solution to avoid such problems in future. We hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter cover to cover. Happy reading and learning!



Nuha Saad

CO-EDITOR

When I joined this newsletter in my first semester, the world was a different place. I joined because I loved editing and playing with words. Now I've realized that as we study development, the newsletter serves the crucial purpose of giving us an outlet to share our analysis of the world around us in light of the theory we study. This issue, themed on the global COVID-19 pandemic, is a great example of the efforts put in by the faculty and students of the Department of Development Studies, in actually engaging with concepts of development, growth, equality, and inclusiveness as they live in this strange universe..

Ameera Adil

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

While I have prior experience editing, putting together a 80+ page newsletter was my first official experience in graphic designing - and I hope the readers find it aesthetically pleasing and easy to navigate. To be honest, I learned a lot more during this degree than I expected to, thanks to truly incredible instructors (with a special shoutout to Ms. Maheen Zahra, because of whom I decided to pursue this degree).



Faculty Achievements

Dr. Umer Khayyam

Publications:

- Khayyam U., Alvi, S. and Bano R. (2021). Towards Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Risk Perception and Motivation of University Students of Islamabad, Pakistan. *Comparative Sociology* 20(1), 138-158. DOI: 10.1163/15691330-BJA10028 [ESSCI/HEC: X].
- Qurat-ul-Ain A., Khayyam U. and Nazar U. (2021). Energy Production and CO2 Emissions: The Case of Coal Fired Power Plants under China Pakistan Economic Corridor. *Journal of Cleaner Production*. 281, 124974. DOI: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.124974 [IF:7.246]
- Shahzad A., Nawaz S.M.N. and Khayyam U. (2020). How does one motivate climate mitigation? Examining energy conservation, climate change, and personal perceptions in Bangladesh and Pakistan. *Energy Research and Social Science*. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 70, 101645. DOI: 10.1016/j.erss.2020.101645 [IF:4.771]
- Munir, R. and Khayyam U. (2020). Ecological Corridors? The case of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. *Geoforum*. 117, 2020, Pg. 281-284. DOI: 10.1016/j.geoforum.2020.06.023 [IF:3.098] .
- Shahzad A., and Khayyam U. (2020). Mitigation and adapting to climate change: attitudinal and behavioural challenges in South Asia. *International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management*. 70:101645. DOI: 10.1016/j.erss.2020.101645. [IF:1.791]

Faculty Achievements

Ms. Maheen Zahra

Publications

- Zahra, M. (2020). Pandemic (Un)Preparedness and Policy Transfer. In Naz, F. (Ed.), Covid-19: Challenges for Pakistan. NUST University Press, Islamabad.

Other activities

- Participated in Columbia University Roosevelt Institute's Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery Hackathon, February 26 – 28, 2021.



Ms. Fariha Tahir

- Completed an online course /certification from University of Utrecht, titled "Human Rights for Open Society".
- Completed an online course/certification from University of California, titled "The art of Negotiations".
- Mrs. Fariha Tahir was appointed as Coordinator for the establishment of NUST law department.

Student Achievements

Waqar ul Shams (MSDS 2k20)

Waqar Ul Shams is a student of MS Development Studies 2020. Currently working as a Program Coordinator for a Canadian Funded project, Mr. Waqar is contributing to strengthen the role of women legislators of National and Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan. He is also creating opportunities of learning and development for fresh graduate students through Young Parliamentary Fellowship Programme enabling young graduates to work with parliamentarians at the federal and provincial levels.



In 2020, working on a DFID funded project, Mr. Waqar initiated linkages between the National Assembly's standing committee on Climate Change and subject matter experts through creation of a Pool of experts. The pool of experts contains more than 40 thematic experts from academia, think tanks, and civil society organizations who are assisting the committee member

in evidence-based legislation. This remarkable achievement of building linkages is being incorporated in the guide book of the UK House of Commons on "Conducting Post Legislative Scrutiny (PLS) of Climate Change Laws".



Past experiences of Mr. Waqar include, working with Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) as Programme Officer and has also worked on multiple assignments with different international organizations including UNICEF, UNDP, British Council, UNFPA and UN Women.

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EMBRACING SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

NIDA NOOR (MSDS 2020)

COVID-19 brought with it a major social change of a unique sort. It is different in a way that, being a pandemic, it has restricted people's movements and interactions to the point that a change in social settings became inevitable. It has caused various social, economic, health, and psychological impacts. This pandemic has far greater effects as compared to those in the past because the world was not as globalized during the previous pandemics, like the Spanish Flu in 1918 or the Flu pandemic in 1889, as it is today. With the greater permeability of borders which not only includes the exchange of services but also of goods and people, the chances of spreading for the virus magnified and the virus became uncontrollable. It was then unavoidable to limit the movement of people not only across borders but also within the country to minimize the effects of the novel coronavirus.

The social change initiated by Covid-19 restricted travel, social gatherings, movement in malls, grocery stores, restaurants, cinema halls, bars, and cafes.

This led to a decrease in economic growth as the business-owners suffered a great deal. The businesses were shut down as the government imposed a lockdown to keep people in their houses. The year 2020 has come to be known as the 'year of lockdown' and people are hoping that 2021 turns out to be different. The change that Covid-19 has brought on every sector of society has also had grave impacts on the mental health of people as they were quarantined in their houses for several months. The lockdown eased towards the end of summers but as soon as the winter season started, the coronavirus cases began to rise, and with those, the second wave started.

Because of the travel restrictions, many people have been stuck away from their homes for months with no clear notifications about the lifting of the travel ban. Social gatherings were also banned as it was seen that people who did not follow the SOPs, further added to the spread of the virus. People arranged weddings, birthday parties, and other social events ignoring the gravity of the situation and not

realizing the threat that Covid-19 could cause to the entire society. It was almost too late, and the virus had already spread when people realized its seriousness. Still, there were a lot of conspiracy theories about the virus being a hoax too.

The lockdown imposed by the government forced people to stay in their houses and come out only in case of emergencies. In many countries, the governments imposed complete lockdown, some even enforced curfews where the situation had gotten out of control like in Italy, whereas in others, something like a “smart lockdown” was implemented so that the working class, especially the daily wagers, do not go out of jobs. It came as a dilemma because a complete lockdown would have reduced the spread but would also have kept people out of jobs.

Furthermore, the travel restrictions caused many international and national businesses to halt which also affected the economy negatively. The economic conditions of the least developed and the developing countries were more affected by Covid-19 and they will take longer to recover from the economic crunch. In developing countries like Pakistan, small and big business owners suffered greatly as the markets shut down. The industries and business owners had to lay off employees to compensate for the losses incurred. The unemployment rate increased and it became difficult for the working class to meet its daily needs. In addition to that, public health conditions deteriorated as the virus spread further, and with the lack of

basic healthcare facilities, testing kits, and adequate quarantine centers, the conditions worsened and impacted the already weakening economic situation.

Many of the developing countries will face a drop in the GDP growth rate and Pakistan might face an even worse situation as the GDP here is already very low. The geographic location also posed a great threat to Pakistan as China and Iran, the immediate neighbors, faced major outbreaks. Coronavirus entered Pakistan through people and pilgrim groups coming back from Iran; it made Pakistan vulnerable to the threat of the pandemic. Public healthcare is not up to par as the doctors to patient ratio is low and so is the hospital's beds to patient ratio. There was a lack of proper protective gear for doctors and nurses in the quarantine wards. Also, there were inadequate testing kits for coronavirus tests and the testing procedure is also expensive. The OPD closed and only the emergency patients are being treated as the primary focus of hospitals has been the treatment of Covid-19. Other health-related issues and scheduled surgeries have been put on hold. The disruptions in the supply chain also make the pharmaceuticals expensive and unavailable.

Another aspect of social change brought about by Covid-19 is in the educational set up worldwide. All kinds of educational institutions were closed because of the lockdown and to compensate for the loss of education and the courses being missed, distance learning was introduced as the mainstream teaching method.

Online education classes are although easily scheduled, there are many other issues related to distance learning. For starters, distance learning does not give the mainstream classroom experience where there is an interaction between students and teachers. The sense of inclusion and connectedness cannot be experienced through online learning, participants are not able to interact easily, there are connectivity issues, many people live in far-off areas where the internet is inaccessible, and the ability of the students to comprehend what is being taught cannot be judged in an online class.

This social change in the education system is affecting the learning capabilities of students. Online exams and quizzes are other hassles for people who were not accustomed to the idea of online learning. Parents of young students, who are not well versed with technological gadgets, find it hard to operate those. Such issues are a hindrance in effective learning which is being lost somewhere in between all of this. Indeed, education must not be compromised in the pandemic but there is also a dire need for technological knowledge on the part of parents and surety of easily accessible internet facilities throughout the country by the government.

Adding to that, education is a secondary need, and it must be met once all the basic needs are provided for. The guarantee of food supply, dependable source of income, and easily accessible healthcare facilities take priority in this pandemic. The sustainable development goals (SDGs) by the UN include education for social change and unless that education is ensured at

every level without any discrepancies, after the provision of basic needs, a positive social change would remain a far-fetched idea in the country.

Another aspect of social change in this pandemic is the change in the power structure of the international world. The former US ambassador to NATO, Nicholas Burns, termed the effect of Covid-19 to have a potential “as serious as a world war.” Coronavirus has unveiled the vulnerabilities and the shortcomings of the systems that run the world and they have become more apparent because of this global pandemic. The indirect impacts of Covid-19 have also been observed on gender roles which is another aspect of the social change being characterized.

It cannot be ignored that countries like Pakistan, where economic conditions are already weak, should have prepared for a pandemic-like situation beforehand. However, there is still time to overcome the negative social change that came along with coronavirus by developing a resilient economy able to withstand the economic crunch, switching to emergency mode and setting up short term policies for relief, practicing the principles of social cohesion, and managing the financial surge. Businesses, employment options, and health facilities require foremost attention whereas educational institutions come next in the list of priorities. Moreover, responsiveness and responsibility on the part of the citizens are also crucial to deal with the second wave and to avoid a potential third wave. The social change caused by coronavirus cannot be avoided but it can be managed smartly.

GENESIS OF NEW NORMAL: A DISCOURSE ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

AMENAH SHAHID AND AMINA SAEED (MSDS 2020)

Embracing this unique social change positively is the wise thing to do in the wake of a pandemic that has brought the whole world to a stop.

Human development approach revolves around improving the lives that individuals lead in terms of income generation, health and education facilities. COVID-19 has been a hit to all the key components of human development; therefore, the human development indicators around the globe have dropped significantly in the pandemic.

The world saw a decline in the number of cases during the late summers of 2020, largely in view of the fact that nations have established the limits and components of crisis response over the long term. However, as the pandemic continues to flare-up, there is a dire need to take further steps to reduce the risk of transmission while maintaining social and monetary exercises. Today, with large parts of many countries at a standstill and millions without access to education, the effect on human development is immense.

Pre-COVID life was a completely different setting. A night out implied heading out across the city to a cinema, a musical night



or to attempt another eatery; presently it implies making a trip across your neighborhood to a doctor for testing, minimal contact interaction maintaining a six feet distance. Previously, it would have been bizarre to wear a face mask to the market; presently it is considerate to go across the road when you see somebody coming your way.

We have supplanted summer excursions with night strolls and terrace conversations. Organizations that used to sell us liquor or hair-care items currently make hand sanitizer. We are jobless, or we know somebody who is. As a result, the financial crisis has also become a pressing concern.

In the aftermath of COVID-19, our lives are inevitably different, and they are likely to remain this way until the pandemic is controlled, or medications and vaccines are introduced.

Recently, we have adjusted to the new normal and are trying to stay energized about the things we have joyfully cast off alongside our schedules, the things we miss being a part of our previous routine, and the ways we have adapted to preserve health, income, and new varieties of education dissemination.

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the course of human development at large. It has brought the entire concept of life at a standstill. The pandemic exceeds the crisis of global well-being. It is a profound emergency for human development, which has historically profoundly impaired the financial and social components of change.

According to the UNDP, for the first time in 30 years the new normal could reverse the course of human development. The decline in some fundamental areas of human development is experienced all over the globe – from the underdeveloped to the developed nations; however, based on their resources and economic structure, the impact of the pandemic may differ. The fall out of COVID-19 has hit poorer economies harder than expected, and they are unable to deal with the socio-economic impacts of the virus.

The world has seen many crises in the past, each impacted human development on a different scale; however, global growth was able to find itself back. What we are dealing with this time is going to affect global health, education and income, and this will change the glimmer of hope of global development occurring anytime soon.

While the global death toll of Covid-19 has continued to increase, we are expecting a below 4% decline in the global per capita income.

With school closures, globally 6 out of 10 children are not getting education and the blatant divide of internet accessibility, in countries with less human development, has more than 86 percent of children at primary level who are out of school. Existing inequalities in health, technology and social security are adding more to the vulnerability of the less developed countries. With over a million unemployed, only 29 percent of the world has the pleasure of social protection coverage.

Hence, the new normal may not be something adaptable for everyone across the globe as it is based on the privilege of who can afford to adapt. It is an eye opening situation: increasing the gap between the rich and poor more than ever. Social distancing and a virtual environment has households at stake with the declining economy. Policies with mitigating steps towards the far reaching impacts of COVID-19 can help economies tackle the threat to human development. An equity-focused, determined intervention is the way forward to integrate the new normal globally rather than it being a magnifying glass for inequalities.

A collective impact of these shocks is a threat to the largest reversal of human development, as the real question is can every country adjust to the new normal. Countries have to work together and learn from each other in order to fight off the inequalities that are a hindrance to human development – from quality healthcare to lowering the gap of internet access.

As the UN Secretary-General said earlier last year, for the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan “We must come to the aid of the ultra-vulnerable – millions of people who are least able to protect themselves. This is a matter of basic human solidarity. It is also crucial for combating the virus. This is the moment to step up for the vulnerable.”



POST COVID-19 WORLD AND INEQUALITY (THE CASE OF MALAWI)

MAURICE CHAFULUMIRA (MSDS 2018)



Historically, pandemics are found to be associated with increased inequalities among populations in different regions of the world. Apart from exacerbating marginalization, evidence indicates that pandemics also set the stage for inequalities that have existed for centuries (Hansen & Yracheta, 2019). Like other pandemics, Covid-19 has proved to be an unequal virus that has affected the populations unequally with the poor being further dragged into the poverty trap (Stiglitz, 2020).

In developing countries like Malawi, disparities have been witnessed in the education sector, health sector, tourism sector and the labor market during the partial lockdowns that were affected as a measure in the fight against the pandemic. These disparities have long term impacts on the affected population livelihoods that will make their resilience almost unattainable.

Education Inequalities

Apart from inequalities emanating from

income and geographical background in the education sector, gender disparities in education attainment is also an issue in Malawi. Despite having a higher primary gross enrolment rate of 146.96% for females compared to 142.69% for males in 2019, the gross secondary enrolment rate for females remained low at 33.65% compared to 40.52% for the males (UNESCO, 2019). Other than cultural, institutional and infrastructure menaces, teenage pregnancies remain one of the major factors that impede progression of girls in their education; hence, most NGOs are implementing projects that aim at keeping the girl child in school to reduce these early pregnancies and marriages.

In the event of Covid-19, Government suspended all education activities with the aim of decongesting the schools and preventing further spread of the virus. Given that this was against the idea of keeping a girl child in school to prevent teenage pregnancies, a 3.79% increase in teenage pregnancies was registered between the months of March to June, 2019 when the country had no Covid-19 comparing to the same period in 2020 when the government started implementing measures against the pandemic according to the available information from Ministry of Gender Children and Social Welfare. The implication of this is that gender disparities in education have increased; thus denying education to a girl child let alone denying them economic opportunities in future that compels an increase in inequality between men and women.

Likewise, the performance of the students that sat for the Malawi School Certificate of Education at secondary level which qualifies them for selection into public and private colleges/universities or get absorbed into the job market depicts the negative effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Over a decade, the country has produced the poorest results where only 41.42% passed the 2021 exams. This poor performance is attributed to among others writing the exams during the Pandemic period when schools were closed. The implication of this is that 58.58% of these students will be denied opportunities in future hence increasing the income inequality which is already high in the country.

Furthermore, when the government relaxed the Covid-19 measures due to a reduced positivity rate; among others by reopening the schools, public school teachers demanded an allowance with regard to Covid-19 which the Government was and is not ready to owner. This led to national wide sit-in for more than a month and still ongoing by the public school teachers thereby denying access to education for the poor who cannot afford the private schools. This has a great impact on the public students given that all the private and public students will sit for the same national exams.

Health Inequalities

Inequalities in the access to health care have mostly affected the poor in rural settings due to high illiteracy levels. Most of the rural people have resorted not to

access health care services from the hospitals including pregnant women for fear of contracting Covid-19. The situation worsened when the government introduced the vaccination Programme against Covid-19 as most people believe that the vaccine is being administered with the aim of controlling population growth. This has the potential of increasing maternal deaths and malnutrition especially for the rural masses.

Loss of Livelihoods

The Covid-19 measures led to loss of livelihoods mostly by the poor sections of the population. Travel restrictions meant loss of business to those who rely on imports and reduction in the production by some companies let alone retrenchment. A total of 5006 employees were retrenched between January to December 2020 against 3393 during the same period in 2019. Most companies reported Covid-19 especially in the tourism sector as the reason for retrenchment. Closure of schools resulted in pay cuts to the private school teachers in worse scenarios going without pay as their employers had no revenue to pay them. All the mobile markets popularly known as Kabwandire were closed from which most of the poor population earn their livelihood. The entertainment industry including musicians who benefit from live concerts and football players who benefit from gate collections were also much affected because of the government restrictions on public gathering. All these have increased the income inequality affecting the resilience of the poor people in the long run.

Conclusion

With the above discussions, it can therefore be concluded that inequalities with regard to income, gender, and health have increased in the post Covid-19 world and if nothing is done by the government and other stakeholders to cushion these inequalities, a large chunk of the population is going to be left behind in terms of development which is against the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda.



COVID 19: A NEW EPISODE OF INEQUALITIES FOR PAKISTANI WOMEN

MS. FARIHA TAHIR



Covid-19 is one of the several emerging infectious outbreaks in recent decades with significant public health and economic impacts. First, it was the Influenza which created havoc globally by killing more than a million people around the world. And presently, Covid-19 has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), - affecting millions of people in 185 countries, with more than three million deaths recorded (Covid-19 Pakistan Socio-economic Impact Assessment & Response Plan).

“The absence of gender equality means a huge loss of human potential and has costs for both men and women and also for development. Societies with a high level of gender discrimination, pay a price in more poverty, slower growth, and a lower quality of life. Gender equality on the other hand enhances development” (Momsen and Janet, 2010).

The Women of Pakistan make almost half of the population of Pakistan; however, despite contributing significantly within

and outside the household, women generally suffer from multidimensional inequality, particularly in terms of access to opportunities. And Covid-19 in all its dimensions is adding further misery to the already difficult lives of Pakistani women and girls.

Given the infectious nature of the Covid-19, in order to contain the spread of the virus, the government has instructed public and private schools to shut down across Pakistan. As observed globally and in previous health emergencies such as the Ebola outbreak, the education system in Pakistan with low learning levels and high dropout rates is likely to be severely impacted with this pandemic. According to the data, in Pakistan, the literacy levels of both genders (72.5% males vs 52.4% females) are disproportionate (UN Women). Within the system, it is the vulnerable students, especially the female students, who are facing the most disproportionately negative impacts. Given mobility constraints, when schools are closed, due to COVID restrictions, it is observed that girls are generally given more household responsibilities versus boys and male members of the household. Because it is an understood fact that female members are the only ones responsible for domestic chores. Also, household responsibilities are not considered a manly job within the patriarchal culture of Pakistan. Prolonged closure of educational institutions could exacerbate the inequalities in educational attainment as this will result in higher rates of female absenteeism and lower rates of school completion. As the schools open, a

lot of girls will find it difficult to balance schoolwork and increased domestic responsibilities.

In Pakistan, customs and norms dictate that women and girls are the main caretakers of the household. And the stereotyped gender roles expect a woman to be an unconditionally available, voiceless servant of the household. These gender roles demand from her sacrifice in tangible as well as intangible terms for the family without even uttering a single word of question or refusal. This can possibly mean giving up work/career/ignoring pending assignments academic or office/ to care for children/siblings who are out of school due to Covid-19, or taking care of sick household members. It is a daughter's job to assist her mother in cooking and other domestic chores as affording household help is gradually becoming a luxury beyond the affordability reach of many of the households in the country. It is observed that with the current lockdown situation the workload of household chores on women and girls has increased substantially and is further shrinking their time dedicated for learning and skills development. This will have serious consequences on the efforts of women empowerment which will not only be seen in the short run but also in the medium and long run.

Another potential emotional burden added on the shoulders of already overburdened womenfolk, including those who are married, is the increased episodes of domestic violence. Women stuck at home

with abusive male family members are getting increasingly frustrated by the impact of the pandemic, both economically and psychologically, and have nowhere to go. According to a UNODC report titled 'Gender and Pandemic - URGENT CALL FOR ACTION' advocacy brief, 90% of women in Pakistan have experienced some form of domestic violence, at the hands of their husbands or families. 47% of married women have experienced sexual abuse, particularly domestic rape. Most common forms of abuse, according to the report, are Shouting or yelling (76%), Slapping (52%), Threatening (49%), Pushing (47%), Punching (40%), and Kicking (40%).

It is necessary for Pakistan to adopt large-scale, inclusive policies to address these deep-rooted social and economic gender inequalities that have become more prevalent during the Covid-19 crisis. If not tackled well in time, countless more girls will be left in the darkness of time, many more women will have to survive Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence by living in hell with an abusive partner/family member. Now is the time to pause for a moment and requesting our patriarchal norms where one gender is ruthlessly depriving the other gender of their constitutional, religious and moral rights. As academics, researchers and development practitioners, let's be united and work hard for elimination of the exploitation and creating equality of opportunity as this is what our constitution says:

“The State shall ensure the elimination of all forms of exploitation and the gradual

fulfilment of the fundamental principle, from each according to his ability, to each according to his work.”

(Article 3, Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan).



Source: *The News*

SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, AND STATES' RESPONSE: AN INCREASING MIGRANTS' VULNERABILITY IN TIMES OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

HIRA MASOOD

Covid-19 pandemic started earlier in 2020, restricted associated travels to contain the virus spread, impacted mobility of people across the globe. Among various repercussions, this virus has affected international migration, an essential component of a globalized economy (Chamie, 2020). Security in all its dimensions is an important phenomenon and remains a top priority of policy agendas of international bodies in the age of globalization. This paper highlights security threats faced by international migrants, investigates how the movement of people (refugees, migrant workers, international students and so) has been stopped, and the consequences of mobility restrictions. It will conclude by discussing global governance and management of the crisis and what state of origin and destination could do to address challenges associated with international migration.

Securitization of migration has been on the rise for the last two decades. National security policies and legislations were formulated by international actors to



control and regulate cross-border movement (Tallmeister, 2016). The need to protect the lives of people and the normal functioning of communities has been commonly used in migration securitization where governments are barring non-citizens, deporting undocumented migrants, detaining refugees, and imposing strict travel bans. Politicians worldwide termed the virus originated in Wuhan, dispersed globally via transnational movement. Therefore, the migrant population is being perceived as a security threat.

Security dilemmas include all forms of potential threats. International migration has also been labeled as a security threat (Tallmeister, 2016). (Chamie, 2020) argues that by mid year 2020 more than 12 million people got infected with the virus and more than half a million people who died were international migrants. Migrants were placed in overcrowded shelters/camps and could not practice social distancing. They have limited or no access to healthcare and other allowances since they are not entitled to citizens' rights. So, migrants might encounter difficulties, and the security of an individual remains at risk.

Free movement of people is an established norm of a globalized economy. To curb virus spread, countries globally turned their borders shut for international migrants. (Connor 2020) says, 90 pc of the world population resided in their countries with increased restrictions on people arriving from across borders. Most countries have banned and postponed

hearings of asylum seekers and resettlement programs. The USA became the first nation to do so not due to health risk, but to protect the economic well-being and employment of employees (Chishti and Pierce 2020). The socio-economic and political implications of similar steps had disastrous consequences that will increase the vulnerabilities of migrants, their families, and societies.

People move seeking economic opportunities. The joblessness of migrant workers and international students' return shows economic contractions and a decline in remittances (KOLODKO, 2020). Such decline, (Chamie, 2020) argues, tends to be the largest in years and has impacted migrants' families. In sending countries, where a huge proportion of GDP depends on remittances, the decline is threatening food security, basic healthcare, education, and raising poverty levels. Moreover, when the migrants are sent back, the governments need to opt for migration return and economic integration policies so that level of poverty is reduced, and economic growth is achieved.

Germany and the USA are limiting the entry of international migrants. Under the protectionist executive order, "Buy American and Hire American" initiated by the Trump administration in 2017, immigration reforms surrounding student and work visas have limited the application rates of foreigners seeking admissions and employment in the USA (Coyne & Yatsyshina, 2020). Since the pandemic has emerged the US tightened its borders for

trade, international migrants, and students are sent back to their home countries. This would have lasting consequences on the economic development of sending and host countries. Far-right politics and the national security agenda of the world's largest economies are triggering nationalism over globalization, impacting the migrant population.

Irregular migration, an internal security threat, triggers the rate of illegal acts. In many South Asian and African economies, economic uncertainty and lack of opportunities might cause another wave of irregular migration towards the EU. This may exacerbate the inflow of crisis, violence, and illegal activities. The Hungarian government, for instance, used coronavirus as a cover and introduced a state of emergency to limit the inflow of migrants from African states (Rogg, 2020). Humanitarian catastrophes would be witnessed, and refugees will pose a threat as criminal activities increase despite unemployment and limited financial assistance from international bodies.

Refugees and asylum seekers are most vulnerable and considered as a security threat if not regulated accordingly. Due to border closure, they are trapped in harsh living conditions in detention centers. They are at higher risk of contracting disease, facing physical insecurities, and have limited healthcare access. International actors must have policies to manage camps and protect the migrant population. With the differential status and ethnic background, such influx might impact the

socio-cultural fabric of receiving countries. Therefore, strict nationalist policies prove to be efficient in protecting the lives of local citizens.

While the world is experiencing the largest movement of people in human history, the globalized economy is left with challenges posed by COVID-19. Securing borders and national sovereignty is being prioritized despite the hype of globalization. International migration is recognized as a security threat when it comes to migration management. National sovereignty and societal stability is a considerable factor for countries in times of prevailing health crisis. Developed countries are progressing in terms of economic growth whereas political fallout has been noticed as large democracies failed to show their structural strength. States should restructure institutional policies, double efforts to protect borders, and address human rights issues of international migrants.

International migration is an essential component of a globalized world that fuels the economic cycles of sending and receiving states. However, it poses a threat due to socio-cultural differences of migrants and the local population. Social integration of migrants is important to ponder by international actors through capacity building and media projections. It is a huge challenge as western figures named the pandemic as 'China Virus'. The receiving countries need to employ measures that would draw a line between the status of migrants. Furthermore, influx settled on borders should be managed to

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SABA LARAIB (MSDS 2019)

ensure the necessities in detention camps. Similarly, sending countries must adopt policies for structural advancements and integration for migrant return. In the post-pandemic era, it is assumed that there will be democracies with a more authoritarian rule where nationalism will take its heights.



Since the initial days of COVID-19 spread, an academic debate prompted about its impacts on the global economy in general and for the marginalized populations, in particular. Although catastrophes and pandemics affect everyone yet are considered to be levelers of higher-end inequalities for the vulnerable communities notably both legal and undocumented migrants. States, today are classifying migrants in different categories, encouraging mobility of certain groups while restricting many others (Guadagno, 2020). After COVID-19, states have responded with the policies of travel restrictions for foreign travelers and border closure for immigrants. By choosing to adopt these externalizing policies, states are creating financial, health-related and social issues for migrants inside (Simmons and Kenwick, 2020). The immigrants here, are at the disadvantaged side as having low chances of being prioritized for getting better health facilities in a foreign country, where the hospitals are already overcrowded due to the pandemic. For such communities, adopting COVID-19 SOPs and

practicing social-distancing are yet another level of luxury, while residing in a three-meters tent on a foreign soil.

Since coronavirus got viral in January 2020, states under-went complete lock-down, restricting emigration and immigration (Chakraborty and Maity, 2020). Thus, the sudden halt, posed a greater threat to human development, which is considered to be inter-linked with migration especially from conflicted zones. The restrictions on migration from conflicted zones especially, posed threats to the human-security paradigm, severely affecting health and economic securities, on personal and community levels (Shani, 2020). Suffering from xenophobic sentiments, the international community, made their migrant community more vulnerable to health insecurity (Guadagno, 2020).

Both developed and developing countries, with a larger proportion of immigrants faced challenges in responding to an essential component of human-security paradigm, the health-security during the pandemic. The health systems in the under-developed African states and developing states of Asia and the Americas were already fragile and over-loaded and thus needed a little disruption from COVID-19 to cause its complete collapse (Peters et.al., 2020). Since, the larger proportion of migrant community often have low wages and thus were unable to afford any self-funded health-care during the pandemic. They never became a priority for the receiving-government to empty the hospital beds for the refugees,

be it Europe, USA or UK. According to an OECD report, the prevailing factors for the COVID-19 spread among the migrant community were, unawareness of prevention measures due to linguistic barriers while following public health-announcements, reliance on public transportation, being compelled to live indoors in already crowded places during the lock-down and inability to get timely health-assistance due to fear of arrest. These factors compelled the immigrants to hide their illness, or visiting quacks which further contributed to the transmission of the virus to their relatives (OECD, 2020).

Due to the rapid urban growth with a rate of 5 to 50% today, is resulting in more slum settlements, where many people live under same roof, with improper sanitation facilities and shortage of running water (Malika et.al., 2020). The European refugee camps have already reached to its maximum accommodation capacity, now turning into slum areas (Hargreaves et.al., 2020). Alongside the poor housing conditions at these camps, immigrants also have to use public transport to reach to their workplaces, which results in further transmission of the virus (OECD, 2020).

In order to contain the virus successfully WHO announced preventive measures including, social distancing, using a face-mask, washing hands repeatedly, and using a hand-sanitizer. But what about those, who are living an over-crowded refugee-camp, with poor sanitation? And what about those who cannot afford a hand-sanitizer or face-mask, and are unable to

have access to running water? And what about those who cannot “work from home” due to the physical nature of their “3D” Jobs (Dirty, Difficult, Dangerous)? (Shani, 2020). Developing countries still lack the expertise to detect and record the patients and trace others, who are infected by them. The hospitals, working mainly in slum areas, also lack artificial respiration equipment, while coping-up with emergency situations. These hospitals are also insensitive towards the hygiene situation, lacking protective gears for the staff as well (Peters et.al., 2020).

Those states like USA, UK, Switzerland, Germany, and Jordan, which has a higher proportion of migrant population must adopt health-inclusive policies. Those societies will ultimately fail in the contention of the virus, while failing to provide health-care to the larger chunk of the population. According to a survey, out of 287 people in Singapore, 200 people were migrants, living in over-crowded spaces. This spike will result in, communities taking longer times to recover, bearing heavier long-term consequences (Simmons and Kenwick, 2020).

While access to “universal health-care to all”, is the SDG-3, a basic component, in the Agenda 2030. Yet, millions of migrants were excluded from national health-policies in many European and American states (Langellier, 2020) although being signatories of the Agenda 2030 (Hargreaves et.al., 2020). 28 million uninsured Americans had to rely on NGOs and self-

finances to get treated during the pandemic (Sally Hargreaves, 2020). While China on the other hand, responded promptly, irrespective of the ethnicity, provided health-care to the whole community, resulting in successful contention of the virus. Their doctors and nurses also volunteered their services abroad (Peters et.al., 2020).

There is increase in migration across the globe in the recent times due to the civil wars in the states and between the states. COVID-19 outbreak added more calamities to these situations, both for the receiving-states and the migrants. Some states chose to shut their borders while others played a responsible role for the successful contention of the virus. The responsible role of the states, the UN, its agencies, and NGOs cannot be overlooked during this pandemic. The UN High-commissioner, Filippo Grandi, called it a “shared responsibility”, and to facilitate the human race on the whole, not diving the communities into ethnic divisions.

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To get a holistic view of the impact of a pandemic on development in migration settings, a tool used in this article is the five livelihood assets given in the “Sustainable Livelihoods Framework” provided by the UK “Department of International Development (DFID)”. The five assets are Human capital, Financial capital, Social capital, Natural capital, and Physical capital (Knutsson, 2006). Along with the holistic view, this approach can also help us to understand the consequences of the policies targeting migration initiated after the pandemic on the individual migrant and state itself. The state is truly sustainable if its citizens are rich in the five livelihood assets and detrimental policies towards migration can contribute negatively not just to the livelihood of migrants but also the country implementing such policies.

Do we consider migrants in pandemic preparedness plans? Migrants are disproportionately exposed in the event of any health emergency. Many migrants have limited access to welfare and health services.



Novel viruses continue to appear, posing zoonotic and possible pandemic threats, such as influenza AH7N9. In 2017, an estimated 258 million individuals lived in a country other than their country of birth, including 26 million refugees and asylum seekers, reflecting a 49 percent rise since 2000 (Wickramage et al., 2020). A review of the World Health Organization on Pandemic Preparedness Plans (PIPs) in 2011 showed that out of 119 countries, only 13 (11%) countries established communication strategies for minority groups. WHO emphasized equity, gender, and human rights but never provided specific recommendations to be added to PIP (Wickramage et al., 2020). While these observations are made during bird flu spreading in 2013, cases discussed below reveal that migrants are still not part of PIP for the Covid-19 pandemic, putting livelihood assets of migrants in danger along with the sustainability of receiving country itself.

Migration policies based on self-interest in the integrated world can prove to be pernicious for both migrants and a state. Essential workers of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) working in western Europe who were denied entry to give employment to local people illustrates this case. In response to Covid-19, Europeans failed to come up with an appropriate response to the crisis in an age of interdependence because of political, societal, and economical struggles (Paul, 2020). Denying entry to CEE workers created a labor shortage in construction, agriculture, and caregiving. Despite the rising unemploye-



-nt, Brits refused to take these jobs although the government tried hard to convince the students who lost their job to the pandemic. Students were only interested in part-time positions. The government of the UK needed 400,000 workers to cut the crops and avoid the food shortage and for that purpose, special flights and trains were arranged to bring the essential workers from CEE (Paul, 2020). Selfish policy not only impacted the financial capital (Income) of migrants but also the United Kingdom which lacked Human capital (Skills and Labor) and brought the country to the brink of food insecurity.

In 2014, in the context of the Ebola virus originating in West Africa, Guangzhou reported the African population of 16,000 living in the city legally. Because of Ebola fear, they were subject to mistreatment by the city's government. In April of 2020, the same city reported the African population at 4,500 in the context of Covid-19, a significant decline in just six years. Africans were playing a vital role in organizing the commercial activity between Guangzhou (China), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), and Mombasa which is in Congo (Castillo & Amoah, 2020). Harsh policies resulted in the loss of social capital (trust and network) on Africans' end and financial capital for China in terms of trade. Donald Trump blamed China for the Covid-19 and declared the country dangerous for the global community (Jaworsky & Qiaoan, 2020). But this time, stakes are high as both are the top two largest economies of the world. Like Africans in China, Chinese people living in the US can face discrimination, and loss of social trust can produce economic disruption (Financial capital) between the two countries, creating uncertainty for the integrated global community.

Germany experienced the refugee crisis in 2015 and developed structures and networks to handle the crisis. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Germany used the same networks to control the spread of the virus successfully. *Intercrisis* learning is important for the preparation of pandemic plans. In "Refugee crisis", the administrative performance was significantly positive because of civil society networks and other administration tasks extended and

intensified into the community before the crisis. For the Covid-19, the use of the same networks with civil society, administrative units, and the private sector revealed a positive effect on administrative performance during the pandemic. "Refugee crisis" helped in building the organizational networks and memory to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic (Schomaker & Bauer, 2020). It makes Germany an interesting case where the migration crisis helped a country to prepare for the pandemic response in the future.

Pandemic preparedness plans that are inclusive of migrants and ensure mobility enable increased health protection of the public (Wickramage et al., 2020). Unfortunately, migrants are left out in the process of preparing plans for the pandemic. From the post-pandemic strategy of the United Kingdom towards essential workers of CEE, we can learn that pandemic or no pandemic, migration is now the core of the global economy, and hindering it can result in an unsustainable situation. Instead of opting for the zero-sum game in developing the migration policy, migrants should be included to create a win-win situation. This is the only viable option because migration is driving the global economy and neglecting that fact can only put the whole system in an unsustainable position. The focus should be on designing a system that enables mobility and safety in post-pandemic times. Post-pandemic economic policies based on self-interest can manifest in pernicious migration policies threatening not just the

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livelihood of migrants but also the sustainability of a country. In the globalized world, the livelihood of the migrant is no longer separate from the long-term sustainability of a receiving country itself.



Question: How has COVID-19 influenced the irregular migration in the EU? And how does the EU plan to address the worsening migrant crisis?

Introduction

The Coronavirus Pandemic has upended the world in a blink of an eye. The one major challenge posed by Covid-19 has been mobility as countries have closed the borders, enforced travel bans, and sent back expatriates to their origin countries to contain the virus. Though affecting various segments of the society, this paper will particularly be looking into how Covid-19 has worsened the migrant crisis of 2015/16 in the European countries and how the European Union plans to address the challenge.

Background of European Migrant Crisis 2015

The European Migrant Crisis occurred in 2015 when more than a million refugees entered Europe, the largest movement of people across the region after World War

II. According to the documentary Human Flow, more than 65 million people were displaced from their homes during the same year (Wei, 2017).

Asylum seekers were flocking towards Europe to escape decade long persecution in their home countries. Some arrived in search of better economic or social opportunities while some were forced to migrate due to natural disasters destroying their homes. The largest number of asylum seekers/migrants were from Syria (around 53%), Afghanistan, Iraq, and Eretria (BBC, 2016).

First getting past the uphill task of surviving perilous journeys, these migrants have to endure the ordeal of living in inhumane conditions in the refugee camps for indefinite time. With no proper food, shelter, clothing, water, sanitation facilities or other resources like electricity, gas, these refugees have been at the mercy of the INGOs and the host countries. Going back is not an option and moving forward is strewn with too many hurdles.

The Effect of Covid-19 on the European Migrant Crisis

As if the migrant crisis wasn't enough of a conundrum, the Covid-19 exacerbated the issue. In March, Schengen states agreed to a European Commission plan to close Europe's external borders for thirty days that further added to the ordeal of irregular migrants.

Even at the time of the migrant crisis in 2015, the political discourse and public

opinion in Europe were divided towards these refugees. Far-right politicians have always used refugees as scapegoats to explain economic and societal problems.

Currently, due to covid-19 spreading risk and as the populist support for the far right grows, states are adopting hardened migration policies that reflect rising xenophobia. Most recently, Greece declared a state of emergency after Turkey allowed migrants to pass into Greece in February 2020. Under this state of emergency, Greece suspended acceptance of new asylum applications and extended emergency powers. (Cain, May 2020)

There is a danger that some European countries might take Covid-19 as an opportunity to reinforce broader, longer-term agendas built around xenophobia and the "othering" of migrants. As deaths inevitably increase, these leaders will have increasing public support for tighter short-term migration restrictions. This could further worsen the plight of refugees.

According to the Article 18 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, migrants can seek asylum and the principle of non-refoulement (i.e. not returning the asylum seekers where they are not safe) have been protected by the 1951 Refugee Convention and Article 19 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of EU. (ICJ, June 2020). Despite these laws, some of the European countries have been forcefully returning refugees and closing their borders. Article 19 also prevents the collective expulsion of asylum seekers by the state and the 'closed

borders' is effectively collective expulsion.

The European Court of Human Rights concluded in *Sharifi and Others v. Italy and Greece* (2014) that states violated the prohibition of torture by sending asylum seekers to Afghanistan without being given the possibility to apply for asylum. In *Ilias and Ahmed v. Hungary* (2019), the Court ruled under the prohibition of torture that asylum seekers cannot be sent to unsafe third countries where insufficient asylum procedures may lead to rejected claims and return to a dangerous home country. Closed borders may lead to increased refoulement and thus unlawful derogations.

Although states hold sovereignty and have border control, in two cases the European Court of Justice claimed that states need to allow the asylum seekers to lodge applications and that courts shall review the claims even at times of national emergencies.

Nevertheless, due to travel restrictions and nation-wide lockdowns, there have been less support provided to the influx of refugees especially in terms of SAR operations/ Mediterranean Rescue programs. Even in the pandemic, around 800 people crossed over to Europe from Libya in the month of March and were turned away (Cain, May 2020). Malta reportedly ignored distress calls and then later sent a Navy boat to cut a migrant boat's electricity cable (Cain, May 2020). Médecins San Frontiers condemned Italy and Malta's actions, and pleaded for states to stop using COVID-19 as an excuse to

enact inhumane migration policies.

Even when these asylum seekers reach safely to Europe, the inhumane conditions of the camps further increase the risk of the spread of the virus. Médecins Sans Frontières reported on the need to evacuate refugee camps on the Greek islands as unhygienic conditions and overcrowding were posing a real threat to public health (ICJ, June 2020). People in such camps have to queue to access toilets or to get food, have no access to health care and suffer from insecure conditions further leading to a toll on mental health. Due to covid-19, the suspension of some asylum seekers had left them destitute in the streets, increasing homelessness. In Greece, people including homeless asylum seekers were being fined for being out in the streets.

How is the EU planning to control the migrant crisis post Covid-19?

On September 23, the EU passed the 'EU Pact on Migration and Asylum' (EUPMA) to lay out its strategy for the next five years. The pact had been much awaited but critics have argued that it is nothing more than 'old wine in new bottles'. Two points of concern have been raised by an LSE Critic in the new Pact (Petroni, 2021). Firstly, the EU only showed solidarity 'on paper' with the southern European states that bear the most migrant pressure but didn't formulate any effective policy for the equal distribution of the migrants among European states. The asylum responsibility still is borne by the countries of first arrival i.e. Italy, Greece, Spain and Malta. The only

responsibility of other states is ‘return sponsorship’ i.e. the failed asylum seekers of the ‘first state of arrival’ should be helped out in terms of finances, capacity building or technical support.

Secondly, the hurdles of disembarkment at the first state of arrival have not been resolved. The pact emphasizes that there should be a ‘coordinated’ approach to disembarkment but there isn’t a proper mechanism apart from handing over the issue to NGOs or ad hoc mechanisms. The pressure still lies with the frontline states even in rescue and search operations.

The pact generally is focused on preserving the status quo with securitizing ‘irregular migration’ but not empirically showing solidarity with the asylum seekers i.e. improving the practical situation. For example, the pact’s major focus is on partnerships with third countries, returning failed asylum seekers, combatting human traffickers and smugglers, and stepping up efforts to police external borders rather than on sharing the migrant burden for example.

Furthermore, the pact makes little *adjustments* to the repercussions of Covid-19 on asylum seekers and refugees even though it has drastically changed the international migration policies. The pact doesn’t refer to the ‘Global Compact on Refugees’ (GCR) that was formulated after the migrant crisis of 2016. The GCR and the EUPMA along with INGOs like UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP and migration related other platforms like the MICIC (Migrants in

Countries of Crisis) can be leveraged to work in synergy to address the grave challenge.

Conclusion

Covid-19, should therefore not be used as an excuse to promote xenophobic or nationalist views but should be taken as a ‘window of opportunity’ for the EU states to show solidarity in spirit and in essence.



OUR COMMON DOOMED FUTURE, OR NOT?

IMAN TARIQ



The current oeuvre will attempt to unveil the “secondary crisis-in-making” which the government of a developing country like Pakistan is incognizant of. Since its outbreak, COVID-19 has disrupted conventional social routes and to cater the current threat it poses to the economic and health structure of a country, world governments were seen to be moving towards stringent measures. The global economic recession coupled with the social upheaval has pushed the marginalized communities especially people with history of mental issues towards desolation. For instance, COVID-19 has increased the “dangers of institutionalization”, which as per Center for American Progress’ report should be the pivot of policy discussions as the “people institutionalized within psychiatric facilities [...] are acutely vulnerable to infection and death during the pandemic.” Also, soaring prices of care, shortage of psychologists, psychoanalysts and psychiatrist, and lack of universal health care (mental) services make the brawl against mental disorders and access to treatment strenuous.

Over above that, owing to the instigation of pandemic, inestimable people with no history of mental issues are exposed to or will be pushed towards mental misery via communal and personal loss/trauma and confined movement resulting from lockdown. The bumping up research on the topic leads to the belief that people around the globe are experiencing death fear/anxiety, fear of infection, frustration, depressive symptoms which may/mayn't be triggered by physical/verbal abuse, child abuse, trauma, constant exposure to unhealthy family environment and economic instability. Jack C. Lennon in "What Lies Ahead: Elevated Concerns for the Ongoing Suicide Pandemic" reports an upsurge of neurotic disorders and difficulties in reaching out for help. Also the researcher highlighted socioeconomic status and social isolation as strong predictors of suicidality which is expected to rise, if left unchecked.

In all probability, after/during COVID-19 condition of people with mental health disabilities is to slump further, as it is a well-established fact that people suffering from neurosis/psychosis are already forced to contend with the disproportionate intergenerational poverty, criminalization and discrimination in housing and employment opportunities. The situation for both the exposed and likely to be exposed to mental health issues will nosedive due to the inequitable access to mental health services. Shoukai Yu (2018) defined mental health inequality as "the differences in the quality, access, and health care different communities and

populations receive for mental health services" where, as per World Health Organisation mental health/stability is "the state of wellbeing in which individuals realizes their own ability to cope with normal life stressors and productively work to contribute in their own community".

Nevertheless, Pakistan, like other developing countries is suffering from public health system that is similar to "choked pipes" (limited capacity vs illimitable strain). With such stretched public health system, the ignored mental health issues of the country are of no surprise. Nisar and colleagues in "Perceptions pertaining to clinical depression in Karachi, Pakistan." have reported that in the year 2019, 50 million people were suffering from a mental health disorder, whereas only 500 psychiatrists were registered (a ratio of 1 doctor per 100,000 patients), whereas Mohammed A. Mamun in his research pivoting suicide and COVID-19, reported that since January-2020, 29 suicide cases were reported, where 16 suicidality cases (i.e., 12 completions and four attempts) were because of COVID-19. Another research (Rabbani and colleagues, 2020) have also reported that in Pakistan, women are more likely to suffer from death anxiety, highlighting the ramifications of COVID-19 on the lives of already marginalized. Nevertheless, the country can muddle through the rough patch via timely actions. Along with the publication of 26 pager document regarding the COVID-19 associated adaptive/coping strategies pivoting stress, anxiety and depression,

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HAFSA HASSAN & HAFSA ZAFAR

based on WHO guidelines (on <http://covid.gov.pk/>), sustained funding and reforms need to be put in place to cater the present and projected psychological repercussions of pandemic, as response to trauma or development of unhealthy behavioral patterns is often delayed, and the stats for people suffering from mental illnesses is likely to rise. Without required reforms and injection of money in the health (especially in mental health) sector, Pakistan will have to endure economic stagnation as WHO has put “mental health central to human development”.

Services intensive industry is responsible for contributing roughly around two-thirds of the global economic output. Moreover, it is the source of around half of the world’s job opportunities and also represents almost a quarter of the direct exports. The noteworthy fact here is that the direct exports of services are just the tip of the iceberg. Considering the indirect contribution of services, including the ones that are produced domestically by non-services organizations, services have the potential to account for almost two-thirds of the total exports. Additionally, the services industry makes up two-thirds of the total productivity growth in developing countries which gives services a pivotal role when devising a strategy for industrialization, economic development and economic growth (Antunes, 2020).



Like China, the goal of most developing nations is to transition to a more sustainable post-industrial services and consumption-driven economy. Generally, the economies of developing nations rely primarily on investment of capital and

exports of goods and products before shifting to consumption driven models. With the trend of slowbalization categorized by slowing down of economies and decreasing productivity already in place even before the pandemic struck in the start of the year of 2020, the dire consequences like increase in unemployment and poverty were already a huge problem for the people and business alike.

Across the globe, many people in the developing world are working in the informal sector which include the marketplaces, but the current situation has impacted many people due to COVID-19. The countries across the globe are imposing lockdowns and each day the unemployment is on rise which is pushing people into poverty or making them increasingly vulnerable to shocks across the ever changing economic landscape. The businesses are facing many problems such as disturbances caused in the supply chain, decrease in the demand sector, hurdles to trade and exports and shortage of raw materials and all these contribute to the deterioration of the national economy as a whole. All over the world, the effects of COVID-19 can be witnessed from the lockdowns that the cities are imposing, putting a ban on travelling and the restrictions on labour mobility. This restriction on mobility has resulted in the loss of income of the workers and many people in the workforce have lost their jobs. The countries that are most vulnerable are those with weak health infrastructure, with economies relying heavily on tourism and

trade, who are heavily in debt and whose capacity is very limited to respond to shocks (Ren, 2020). Due to the full or partial closures of the workplace, about 80% of the workforce is affected globally. There has been a decline in the working hours worldwide.

According to the figures released by ILO, Asia and Pacific have experienced the most decline in working hours. Majority of the countries in Africa, Asia, Middle East, Latin America and the Pacific have faced severe economic crises due to the pandemic and now they are working on reviving their economy and putting it back on track. In Ghana, the population could not financially bear the COVID-19 lockdown so the restrictions had to be lifted by the government. In Indonesia, the job losses are being minimized by the government and the same is the case in the Philippines where the measures of COVID-19 have been lifted by the government to reduce unemployment and poverty (David Evans, 2020).

In Pakistan, the majority of the population is living below the poverty line and has a large mass of unskilled people working in different industries, agricultural and daily wagers which constitute a major portion of the population vulnerable to economic fluctuations. In Karachi, due to lockdown, the daily-wagers have been hit the hardest because almost 4 million people in Karachi work on daily basis (Ren, 2020).

Continued on next page.

Economic Indicators	IMF			World Bank		ADB	
	FY20 (Pre COVID- 19)	FY20 (Post COVID- 19)	FY21	FY20 (Post COVID- 19)	FY21	FY20 (Pre COVID -19)	FY21 (Pre COVID- 19)
Real GDP Growth (%)	2.4	-1.5	2.0	-1.3	0.9	2.6	3.2
Inflation (%)	11.8	11.3	8.0	11.8	9.5	11.5	8.3
Fiscal Deficit (% of GDP)	-7.2	-9.2	-6.5	-9.5	-8.7	-8.0	-
Exports Growth (%)	5.6	-2.1	-4.7	-19.7	-5.3	-	-
Imports Growth (%)	-8.8	-16.0	3.0	-26.3	-7.7	-	-
Remittances Growth (%)	3.4	-4.8	-1.5	-6.5	-6.0	-	-
Current Account Deficit (% of GDP)	-2.2	-1.7	-2.4	-1.9	-2.0	-2.8	-2.4
Debt (% of GDP)	84.6	89.8	87.8	90.6	91.8	-	-

Figure 1: Pakistan's Economic Indicators

This table shows that Pakistan's economy has been and will be severely affected by Covid 19 due to which unemployment will keep on increasing and which in turn will cause an increase in poverty.

Due to technological advancements, the employees can easily work remotely from their homes hence minimizing the physical contact which serves as an effective preventive measure in the prevailing circumstances. The Organization of International Labor has focused on supporting incomes, employment and businesses, the economy and the jobs will be stimulated, the workers would be protected in their workplace and negotiations or consultations would be used between workers and employers to find solutions.

With thoughtful and judicious moves, businesses can, not only manage the Pandemic's impact on the services sector

but also keep the workforce supported and effective. The three-step approach can be adopted by the service organizations to adjust to the new normal in the immediate term. The first step is securing the personnel and customers alike. The second step is stabilization (setting up and enhancement) of a virtual workforce on an emergency basis and the last step is management of service-level expectations and contracts. The management of mid-term uncertainty can be accomplished through the rapid assessment of demand and matching supply.

In the prevailing situation, the amalgamation of preplanning and quick response is necessary by which not only the employees and businesses are positively affected but also makes the economy resilient in the face of an unprecedented and unforeseen crisis.

COVID-19 VACCINE ALLOCATION: PRIORITIZING MINORITIES AND DISTRIBUTING ITS BENEFITS

NAVEEN SHAHZAD & M. KHALDOON AMIN

Since the day it broke out, COVID-19 has shaken the lives of many. The pandemic has disrupted life as we know it, affecting not only health, but also the entire world's economic and social structure. Despite its global reach, the virus is reported to have affected the less affluent more. It has reinforced the long-established developmental imbalance in the world.

To be more specific, ethnic and racial minorities around the world have been largely impacted, as by virtue of them already being a part of marginalized communities- and having limited financial gains and minor social influences- they lack adequate access to healthcare. Thus, the infection rates have been higher among such communities. The APM Research Lab reports that the death-rate of white Americans is on average 3.5 times lower than that of people of color, and that people from Asian backgrounds are 1.5 times more likely to get infected by the virus. African Americans and Hispanics, in particular, seem to be hit the hardest as the underlying racial discrimination against them is still the highest. Take Chicago, for



instance, where African-Americans make up about 32% of the population, yet they constitute more than half of the reported COVID-19 cases and nearly three quarters of the total deaths caused by it.

This discrepancy in health is directly associated with socio-economic determinants such as poor people living in crowded neighborhoods where practicing social distancing becomes undoable, or simply not being able to afford healthy diets. Going outside their homes to maintain their current meager sources of income is necessary for them to support their households, all of which adds to their vulnerability. The Black community, exclusively, has experienced higher rates of unemployment, displacements and hospitalization due to the outbreak. Unstable premises like such make the already disadvantaged masses even more susceptible to devastation when struck by any adversity.

Disregarding the aforementioned aspects whilst planning the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine can further aggravate the scenario by widening the differential gaps between communities of various kinds, the impact of which can linger on even after the pandemic comes to an end. However, the World Health Organization (WHO) has taken note of such national disparities; it is considering the limited availability of newly developed vaccines. It has advised States to give precedence to the deprived groups, in addition to those who are at greater biological risks. The key here is to analyze who is more needful of the vaccine: an aged person with a safe space available for isolation, or a younger person with underlying health conditions living in a congested house.

Although the industrial response is gradually inclining towards the inclusion of

racial minorities in vaccine clinical trials- especially, ever since the ignition of the Black Lives Matter movement- the drug companies are not aware as to how to engage a diverse group of participants, claiming that the entire process of inclusion and navigation bears greater costs. Due to lack of participation, the minorities inevitably tend to doubt the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine which further reduces the chance to get their hands on the immunization. It had, thus, been proposed that the representation of such minorities could be ensured in the trials to be taken place once the vaccine would be out in the market. But, thankfully, it was realized sooner that waiting for another number of years would not be feasible considering the pace at which the marginalized were being infected and ultimately, dying. The APM Lab elaborates this fact by stating that around 133 people with Indigenous backgrounds in every group of a hundred thousand Americans have died due to COVID-19, followed by the second highest mortality rate within the Black community with 114 deaths- whereas the deaths among the Whites are reported to be around 70.

The US Supreme Court has directed policy makers to adopt strategies that will uplift the vaccine distribution on a criteria designed to emphasize the worse-off minorities but not unambiguously. These schemes will be based on geographic and socioeconomic factors, such as housing density, that would help filter out the neediest among the needy.

Similarly, steps towards maintaining racial-

-ly racially impartial standards of vaccine distribution would be underway. For these strategies to be actualized, the Area Deprivation Index (ADI) could be used as a tool of measurement which reflects the social and economic deprivation within a specific geographical location, and is correlated with respective health outcomes in the designated area. Income, employment, education and housing quality are embodied in the Index. Even though the ADI does not recognize race as an integral factor, it still incorporates the notion of irregularity in destitution and draws its connection with systemic racism because of which the minorities are said to be in comparatively less advantageous positions.

Pakistan's response to COVID-19 has been commendable to a considerable extent, fortunately. Nonetheless, like others, Pakistan must move towards adopting the Index as a vital tool to formulate policies and shape strategies in the coming days to overcome the remaining challenges that accompany the virus's existence. This can pave the way to help those, in foremost places, who are deprived to get the vaccination first. Timely vaccination can enable such communities to withstand the pandemic without feeling the need to get admitted to hospitals that have already become oversaturated due to the increased influx of everyday patients. Moreover, it can enable them to continue working as they had been, because relying solely on savings for months is not an option that the majority may have. Lastly, vaccination among closely-knit communities can help control the spread of the virus, significantly

As a result of this, the number of emerging COVID-19 cases can ultimately be reduced to a great extent. Strategies of this sort can only bear desired outcomes if the provision of adequate assistance is pledged by the government. In simple words, just policies must be formulated- based on the principle of equity- that aim to benefit the minorities with a long-term goal of saving as many public lives as they can.



VACCINE NATIONALISM AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

USMAN AKBAR

As the world optimistically watched, the United Kingdom, the United States of America (USA) and other high-income countries like the UAE kick started the emergency-based vaccination of their populations against the deadly virus that emerged in March of 2019 in Wuhan, China. Since then, it has taken thousands of lives globally and infected millions, upsetting the social, economic, cultural, communal, and political arrangements across the globe. As the campaign for the vaccine began, many governments struggled to stretch their health and economic systems. First to prevent the spread of the virus and now to arrange vaccines for their citizens. It is perceived that the much-awaited vaccine from Pfizer and BioNtech may take years to reach the poor people and communities. And 9 out of 10 citizens will miss out on a dose of vaccine, due to pre purchase agreements and hoarding of vaccines by rich nations for their citizens, labelled as vaccine nationalism.

In such a worrying environment, it would be a challenge both for developed and under-

developed countries and international organisations to ensure the availability of the vaccine equally to people of different regions, without any financial constraints. However, the arrangements to vaccinate people of the poorer countries seem to have higher risks of failure, probably leaving millions of people vulnerable. AstraZeneca intends to reserve and sell 400 million doses at cost price to middle- and lower-income countries. Johnson & Johnson and China's state-owned Sino pharm plan to make the availability of the vaccine a global public good, rather than taking it as a commercial profiting opportunity.

The cost of the vaccine is not the sole factor in undermining its availability and access. Many of the up to date health care systems are lacking the infrastructure, institutions, storing and timely distributing mechanisms. Pfizer and Moderna aim to produce 1.3bn and 1bn doses of vaccines per year. However, according to Duke university researchers, it can still take around four years to vaccinate the overall

global population. World leaders, rich governments, and International organisations like WHO will have a test of their credibility and interest in addressing global inequalities.

The global Covax scheme by WHO in this regard, is an initiative to ensure the immunization of at least 2bn people in the 91 most vulnerable countries of Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. However, due to limited production, shortage of doses, limited financial capacity and the competitive global quest among countries to get the vaccine first, is preventing the poor countries from obtaining the shots. According to a report by Gavi, the chances of failure of the Covax scheme are exceedingly high, as it was set up in a hurry, with no clarity of territorial chartering.

Prospects of financial pressure on poor economies and underfunded international projects like Covax will also have detrimental effects on immunization processes and targets. According to WHO, it requires at least 4.9bn dollars for its Covax programme to succeed. European Union is the chief contributor to the already raised 2.1bn dollars, with no contribution from China and the USA. Nevertheless, if the remaining resources are not accumulated or if the prices change due to delayed supply, the objectives and targets of the scheme may not be accomplished.

Many multilateral organizations like WB, ADB and IMF are extending cheap loans to poor economies to ensure their populations



are immunized properly. However, due to the complicated deal making procedures and already debt burdened poor governments, with no international obligations on rich nations to contribute, achieving the immunization targets seem a distant dream.

COVID-19 is a global problem which requires a sophisticated and collective response. The globalized interconnected economy will continue to suffer, until and unless the vaccine availability is ensured equally among countries. The structures of profit generating pharmaceutical industries need to be altered in these unprecedented times to save economies and humanity. Sharing the technology and scientific knowledge of making a vaccine should be centered. To guarantee availability and affordability, reasonable long-term loans should be given to poor countries. The international community, IGOs, NGOs, national governments, civil society, and pharmaceutical companies ought to comprehend the fight against COVID-19 a global public good, avoiding vaccine nationalism and hoarding. As stated by Dr. Tedros, Director general WHO, there is a need to acknowledge that working together is the best and sustainable solution to protect individual and collective interests to counter the pandemic and reaccelerate the global economy.

CLIMATE AMBITION SUMMIT 2020 AND PAKISTAN: GETTING READY FOR THE NEXT BIG STEPS

SAMAVIA BATOOL & SUMAYYA KHALIL

As the name suggests, Climate Ambition Summit 2020 ended on a high note as global leaders made ambitious commitments to address critical climate change issues; Pakistan is no exception to this. Pakistan has shown tremendous progress on the climate change front by achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action) 10 years before the deadline. Not only this, a \$169 million Billion Tree Tsunami afforestation project added 350,000 hectares of green land which received massive global recognition, according to the World Economic Forum. The achieved target even surpassed the commitment made by the country at Bonn Challenge, which shows strong political will of the incumbent government to address climate issues.

This year too, Pakistan was chosen among top 10 countries to be represented at Climate Ambition Summit as the global community gears up for COP 26 in Glasgow. To this end, Prime Minister Imran Khan announced a huge transformational change in the energy outlook of Pakistan to

shift away from coal based power production towards clean energy sources. However, the question remains as to 'how' can we accelerate our transition to clean energy pathway especially given our current energy mix and 'what' actions do we need to take to ensure that we fulfill our promises made to comply with the Paris Agreement.

Pakistan's energy requirements are rapidly expanding and around 50 million people in the country still do not have access to electricity. With rampant corruption, electricity theft, rising circular debt, outdated infrastructure and low generation capacity, it is becoming more and more difficult to meet the increasing energy demands of the populace. In terms of current energy mix, Pakistan fulfills 66% of its energy requirements from natural gas and fuel oil, 26% from hydropower and 8% from renewables and nuclear power (Economic Survey of Pakistan, 2019). However, on a positive note, the year-on-year data on renewable energy use has shown a slow, but a steady increase in

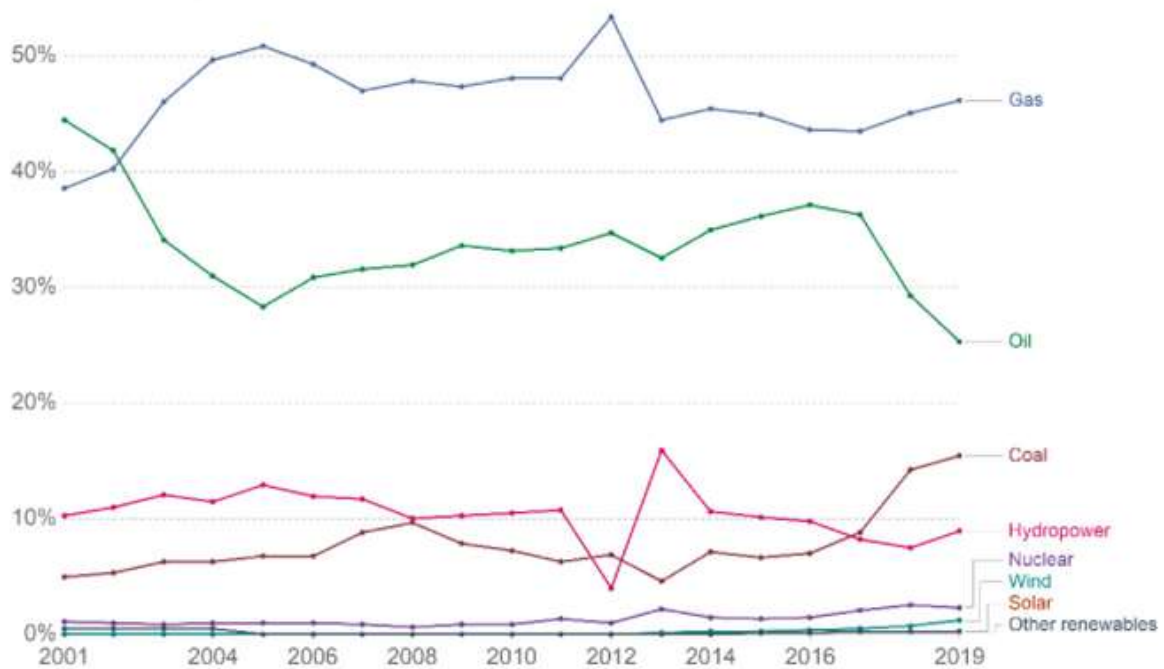


Figure 1: Share of energy production by source.
Source: Our World in Data (2020)

renewable energy sources (Figure 1).

This is directly in line with the progress envisioned in Vision 2025 which puts considerable focus on investing in renewable energy sources and makes it cost-effective for commercial use. However, energy production from coal has almost doubled since the onset of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project in 2015. Six coal plants have been built as part of CPEC so far, adding almost 5,000 megawatts of energy to our national grid (World Economic Forum 2019). In the coming years, CPEC phase II projects will require more supply of energy, so to meet these demands the government is left with two options: either to import or to produce indigenous energy.

Given the current scenario. Prime Minister Khan vowed to shift at least by 60% energy generation to clean energy by 2030. Not

only this, 30% automobiles in the country will be powered by electricity. Now given the current energy mix and generation pattern, it seems like a far-fetched dream. This is particularly because major projects under CPEC could be a prime emitter of GHG. The construction of roads from Kashgar to Gwadar would be at the expense of deforestation. Similarly there is a possibility of emission of 36.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide because of passage of almost 7000 trucks each day from Karakorum highway (Ebrahim, 2020).

However, the capacity of alternative energy sources in the power sector rose up to 5.2% till 2018 and from 2013 onwards there was an increase in installed capacity in different renewable energy sectors comprising an increase of 50 MW in hydropower, 600 in wind power, 160 in biomass, and 400 MW in solar energy (IRENA, 2018). Despite all these improvements, Pakistan is still not getting

maximum benefits from its natural resources as in the economic survey of 2018 the total share of renewable energy is just 1.1%.

In this context, major transformational steps need to be taken in order to ensure we're on track to achieve targets agreed upon in the Paris Agreement and particularly during the Climate Ambition Summit, by the end of next decade: First, government should develop a conducive and enabling policy environment for private sector to invest in renewables. Private sector is considered an important stakeholder for green growth and climate action and without their participation, it is highly unlikely that a country like Pakistan would be able to achieve a 60% transition to renewables by 2030. OECD provides a number of success stories of private climate investment mobilization, and harnessing the skills and knowledge of private actors, that Pakistan could learn and benefit from. Opening up the renewable sector to the private sector would not only attract local actors, but also international actors to invest in Pakistan, which could prove highly beneficial in the long run.

Secondly, the Alternative Energy Development Board should be at the forefront of climate action, along with the Ministry of Climate Change. These two departments can work together for the integration of renewable energy in the national grid. For example, Danish Energy Agency works with a number of different departments, both at the vertical and horizontal scale of governance, thus ensur-

-ing that renewables are mainstreamed across all domains of project planning and execution.

Lastly, and more importantly, Pakistan should think outside the box when it comes to achieving climate targets. Solar power has huge potential and has already penetrated the local Pakistani market. As compared to other renewables, solar energy is highly-cost effective as a number of local manufacturers are now producing the latest machinery at low cost. Tapping on such resources, we can develop a 'micro-home renewable energy system' whereby the general public can install solar power panels for domestic use and then sell excess energy to the government for further distribution. This system is currently running in Sweden and Germany and could easily be replicated in Pakistan.

All in all, Pakistan has shown tremendous progress on the climate change front and has a highly progressive policy system in place. However, there is a need to have climate change as a cross-cutting theme across all industrial policies so that the goals identified in Pakistan's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) could be materialized. Otherwise, the promises made by us at the international level will never see the light of the day.



INCREASING GENDER INEQUALITY: THE ODDS OF BEING A WOMAN IN THE PANDEMIC

JAVARIA NISAR

'For me, the hostel and the university were like a refuge. I had opportunities to earn my own money away from home but since COVID-19 hit, I have been quarantining myself at home trying to keep my sanity intact'- 22-year-old Hina talked about how the pandemic had turned her life upside down. It is not just Hina or a few women, more than 50% of women in Pakistan are affected by the pandemic either economically, socially, or emotionally.

Women have been hustling for their whole lives under the rule of patriarchy. The decades of protests and activism have been futile in smashing the patriarchal hold over women. Ironically, the women in our society are unaware of this invisible yet powerful hold over them. In consequence, men and women over the period of time start internalizing unknowingly the patriarchal values around them. The need to fall in line and follow the traditions adds fuel to the fire. It leads not only to societal crises but also to financial ones. The increase in poverty during the pandemic is a clear indictment of these deepening flaws



in our society.

More than ever this pandemic-induced poverty is further widening the gender gap and women are the ones who are taking the brunt. The preexisting gender income inequalities have increased, throwing women deeper and deeper into the black hole of regression.

The gender gap is the difference between males and females in terms of economic,



political, cultural, and social attitudes. The impact of the pandemic has been great on men, but women have been hit hardest by COVID-19. Their employment, education, and most importantly health is at stake. According to the executive director of U.N Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, “there is a danger that women are the ones who are likely to opt to work from home, and offices may just end up being the places where men go”.

According to a recent study, 8 percent of Pakistani women are more likely to lose their businesses or income than men. The pandemic and economic crises have taken a toll on women especially those who were already marginalised or poor. The impact of the pandemic is not gender-neutral rather it has exacerbated the gender inequalities in Pakistan.

For a female student, it is her education that is affected. For a single mother, it is her children’s livelihood that is at risk. For a housewife, it is her mental health that is at stake because of the domestic work burden. Pandemic and the lockdown measures have rolled back on the economic benefits and incentives for women. One of the early reports posits how 96 million people will be pushed into extreme poverty, 47 million of whom are women.

Statistics show that 67% of women are involved in the agricultural labor force in Pakistan as a significant source of income comes from this sector. The lockdown has affected the local markets and has restrained the access of women to them.

This again has worsened the economic conditions for women as the lockdown has also increased the domestic burden on them. The female students from rural areas are also juggling their studies and house chores. Online education has become another issue for female students as most of them cannot afford smartphones or laptops. Reliable internet connection is hard to find in rural areas and not everyone has access to these facilities.

According to the statistics released by Punjab Unified Communication and Response (PUCAR-15) and Punjab Safe City Authority (PSCA), there has been an alarming rise in domestic and gender-based violence in Pakistan during the lockdown. Just across eastern Punjab, there is a 25 percent surge in domestic violence cases. Although a helpline has been set up, rural women are unable to access it.

The poverty rate for women was supposed to decrease around 2.7 percent between 2019 and 2021 but unfortunately, because of the pandemic now the poverty rate is expected to further increase by 9.1 percent. However, with swift restorative policy action, this widening gender gap and economic inequalities can be controlled.

This is a pivotal time for Pakistan's policymakers to shift these crises into a drive to reset and build a more inclusive policy to ensure equitable growth for both men and women. Problems like gender pay gaps, work-related segregation, and derisory access to affordable healthcare and childcare need to be addressed. Reliable data availability is needed on the

gendered impacts of COVID-19 to tackle these issues efficiently. Gender equality bonds, income support packages for vulnerable women, and ensuring multifaceted social protection programs are some solutions needed to make backtracking on progress evitable.

Given the millions of lives of women at stake, we need to reset and commit ourselves to counter the regressive effects of the pandemic on women to ensure that no one is left behind.

BOOK REVIEWS

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TEN LESSONS FOR A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD BY FAREED ZAKARIA

AMMARA KALSOOM (2020)

Fareed Zakaria is an Indian-American journalist who hosts a show on CNN named Fareed Zakaria GPS (Global Public Square); a show that transcends boundaries. He is largely known as a political liberal. He is the author of many bestselling books including the recent *In Defence of a Liberal Education* and *Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World*. His rational and thoughtful views about the world are largely not new for those who read his columns in *The Washington Post* and watch his show on CNN. *Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World* is further proof of him being a thoughtful thinker.

This book, as the name suggests, consists of ten lessons, Introduced and Concluded by chapters named “The Bat Effect” and “Nothing Is Written” respectively. A saying by Lenin in the opening chapter sets the tone of the book, “There are decades when nothing happens, and then there are weeks when decades happen” (p. 3). The tale of COVID-19 is exactly the same; it changed the world in weeks. When 2020 started,

nobody had imagined the disease that had just emerged in a Chinese city could turn into a global pandemic and reverse the world’s economic development in a few weeks. Fareed discusses in the book the possible political, economic, and social impact of the virus on humankind and the world. He discusses how the world has changed in a way that is unprecedented and irreversible. Every pandemic in human history comes with consequences, some are big and some are small, but changes are inevitable.

This book is a comprehensive read in which the author discusses everything from the causes of the pandemic to the digital life in the future, as well as the impacts of Covid on Globalisation, global inequality, and the possible re-emergence of a bipolar world. It discusses the pandemic from a social, economic, and political lens at the national, regional, and global levels.

Fareed discusses that this pandemic has, once again, highlighted the centuries-old

truth about countries; ultimately they are on their own. When an emergency such as a pandemic arrives, countries look inward. It is contrary to the ideas of globalisation and mutual cooperation. This pandemic is recent proof of the fact that every state went into lockdown and closed its borders to even the states with which it used to cooperate. Every state focused on self-survival before helping others. Another strong revelation of the pandemic has been that viruses know no border. Even if countries lock themselves up, they cannot stop the virus. To combat such viruses in the future, the world needs a comprehensive health system that ensures healthcare for every individual, of every stratum. The virus does not know the societal stratifications of rich and poor; it is not racially selective like states and societies, it affects everyone alike. The author says, “You cannot defeat a global disease with a local response” (p. 28).

The pandemic highlighted the need for quality governments. Only countries with good governance were able to cope with the virus effectively. The book discusses the governance model of Singapore as a good example. The failure of a world superpower- the USA to cope with the catastrophic virus shows that what matters the most is the quality of governance; not the quantity of spending and budget allocation. Fareed further reiterates that free markets are not enough as Covid has challenged economic orthodox views. The world needs to listen to experts in order to combat the deadly virus and bring the world back to normalcy, and experts also

need to listen to people. When the power is vested in the hands of experts, it kills empathy. The widespread conspiracy theories about Covid through the internet and social media, and the racial stigma attached to the virus by naming it ‘Wuhan Virus’ or ‘Chinese Virus’ by the world political elite stresses the fact that countries need to invest more in knowledge and science. The politicisation of such natural calamities and power politics for personal gains in such crucial times hinders collective good.

Aristotle regarded human beings as social animals who could not live in isolation. Living alone is not in our DNA. However, the pandemic brought forth the alien concepts of social distancing and isolation. The resistance that came from people against lockdowns around the globe were proof that Aristotle was right in his claim.

Every calamity comes with its own baggage of challenges and opportunities. The exponential rise in e-commerce and working from home revealed that the world has entered a digital age. The future is purely digital and the world is never going back to the previous normalcy any time soon. The post-pandemic world is full of lucrative digital opportunities. Human beings are strange in that they adapt to a change very quickly and move on. They will adapt to the new digital era soon by equipping themselves with the tools essential for the post-pandemic world. However, the countries that will not equip themselves will be left far behind in the race of economic development.

Apart from being a boon for some sectors, this pandemic will widen the inequalities among people, as well as nations. The world made unprecedented growth after World War II and the global inequality gap narrowed down; however, the pandemic has toppled down economies. Developed economies may absorb the shock and bounce back to their pre-pandemic level of economic development soon while developing and underdeveloped economies will not. It will lead to worsening global inequality. The world has entered an era where every day many people are being pushed into extreme poverty. The situation in the Global South was that people were dying of COVID if lockdowns were not imposed and they were dying of hunger if lockdowns were imposed. The racial and economic divide that the pandemic has created in the world is a bane for all humans on earth.

Fareed Zakaria is regarded as a political liberal; therefore, his writing in defence of Globalization was not a shock for people who have been reading him for a long time. Apparently, when the world is signalling towards a crisis of Neoliberalism and reverse Globalisation, Fareed seems adamant on his belief that the world is trapped in a vicious cycle of interdependence; that it is impossible for Nations to come out of this cycle of complex interdependence.

This reviewer is also of the view that Globalisation cannot be reversed in this age of open markets. Even if the Nations try to

look inward, they cannot survive without looking outwards. The process of Globalisation may slow down for some time in the post-pandemic world; however, it will not die any time soon and the world will not enter into the de-Globalised state that existed in the past.

The world is entering into a bipolar state slowly, but evidently. China's rise as the world's second-largest economy and the rise of other power blocks in the political arena of the world buttress that the world is becoming bipolar where the USA is not the superpower; rather it is the hyperpower.

In a nutshell, this book is a great piece of literature to get an insight into a post-pandemic world that we have already entered- a world in which opposition to the traditional ways of living is being challenged, a world that is making noise on the top of its lungs that global problems demand global solutions. We are in a world where security threats to the sovereignty of States are not nukes and border conflicts; the real threats are pandemics, climate change, and cybersecurity. There is a very close nexus between these three. Countries need to collectively look into issues that are tearing apart the globe and endangering the lives of the humans on this planet. The world is in dire need to mend its ways and protect the Earth. Otherwise, we can expect more frequent pandemics.

DISORDERED MINDS: HOW DANGEROUS PERSONALITIES ARE DESTROYING DEMOCRACY BY IAN HUGHES

AMMARA KALSOOM (2020)

Introduction

Ian Hughes is a well-known author who has written many books including this: *Disordered Minds: How Dangerous Personalities Are Destroying Democracy*. The way he combines science with psychology in his books leaves the readers mesmerized. Hughes writes on personality disorders and their impact on communities on his blog, disorderedworld.com. The book is written in the context of culture, politics, and society in the light of the human psyche. It talks about personality disorders in detail in the light of the theory of Psychoanalysis. It takes into account three main personality disorders: Psychopathic, narcissist, and paranoid personality disorders. It elaborates the impact leaders with these disorders have on countries and the catastrophes they cause. Countries face violence and suffer a lot in the leadership of such individuals who have underlying personality disorders. The twentieth century is evidence of this, as the world had to face the consequences under the regimes of such authoritative leaders with

personality disorders. Hitler, Stalin, and Mao are glaring examples. History shows that such dangerous personalities emerged as the ruling elite in totalitarian and dictatorial regimes or regimes with weak democratic roots. Hughes suggests democracy as the primary defence of humanity against such dangerous minds, as it bridles the power of such leaders. In addition to that, it protects the freedom and dignity of people.

This book gives great insights for a post-pandemic world where the world saw that countries with effective leadership and strong State institutions were the ones that managed to cope with the deadly COVID-19. Leaders of countries can be analysed based on the findings of this book. Hence, it is a great source to get a deeper knowledge about why leaders act the way they act in a globalised world.

Contents and Theme of the Book

This book consists of six chapters that give a comprehensive psychological insight into

leaders with personality disorders and how they are a threat to democracy: a system that was established after centuries-old struggles and many wars and conflicts.

Hughes, in *Disordered Minds*, builds three interrelated arguments. According to the first argument, people with narcissism, psychopathy, and/or paranoid personality disorder are a great threat to humanity. These psychologically abnormal people pose a serious threat to the normal population. The catastrophic triangle of leaders with such personalities, a facilitative environment, and their susceptible followers proves to be a decisive factor in bringing these dangerous minds to power. The twentieth century is replete with instances where states toppled down just because leaders with destructive personalities were in power corridors. The dictatorial regimes of Pol Pot, Hitler, Mao, and Stalin are evidence of the destructiveness and misery brought to the people under their regimes particularly, and for world politics generally.

The second argument suggests that democracy is the answer to curb the power of these dangerous personalities. It is an answer to unbridled state power concentrated in a few hands and a counter against a regime where dangerous personalities deteriorate state institutions for personal gains. This book deems democracy as a defence against tyrants that ultimately block the way for effective policy making for the ultimate good of a country. The soul of democracy is freedom, equality, and justice, and that leads to an

egalitarian society where everyone enjoys human dignity and freedom.

The third argument is based on inequalities that have divided the world into Haves and Have-nots; the Global North and the Global South. The global inequalities are widening and an extreme of anything is bad, whether it is poverty or wealth. Extreme economic divide in society gives birth to elite capture; which in turn leads to concentration of wealth in a few hands while depriving others of wealth and their rights in the same country. Elite capture allows dangerous personalities to enter into power and influence state policies for personal gains.

This book presents strengthened democracy as the answer to all the woes discussed above.

Analysis and Evaluation

Hughes has built a correlation between psychology and political history in a very admirable manner in this book. A critical analysis into the personality traits of the likes of Hitler depicts predictable patterns behind the steps they took that eventually tore apart the social and political fabric of their respective countries. Racism, genocide, holocausts, world wars, and mass starvation are some of the results of their dysfunction.

Pathological groups under these figures, take control of society. History says that every state ruled by them had to face the weakening of state power through wars, economic crises, and mass-level poverty.

Such disordered minds pose a serious threat to the sovereignty of the State and social fabric of the society. History buttresses the fact that such dangerous personalities have been proved to be a threat to egalitarianism, democracy, and human rights in society.

This book was written in 2018 when Donald Trump was still the president of the USA. His term ended in 2021 in the White House and Joe Biden has been sworn in as the 46th President. The findings of this book and the arguments built seem to be of more importance in today's world. The world saw Trump unwilling to accept defeat and all the drama created in the Capitol by people who were incited by him. The world will not be out of the 'Trump spell' anytime soon.

Furthermore, India is known as the world's largest democracy. In recent times, under the rule of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister, India has experienced rising fascism. Abrogation of Article 370 and 35A in 2019 that stripped India Occupied Kashmir (IOK) of its special status was proof of the views of Modi's government. His government is being criticised not only by the Indian opposition but by world leaders as well. The sectarian hatred in India under his government and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in 2019 strengthens the arguments built by Ian in his book against dangerous personalities destroying democracy. Spewing venom against Muslims and other minorities in India also depicts the RSS-favoring views of Modi's administration, and it shows how a

leader with a dangerous personality can influence those under him. They then tear apart the whole society of the country and state institutions.

Such people have a lust for power and wealth. Their policies are centered around their vested interests; not on national interests. Transparent, strong, and qualitative democracy is the answer to xenophobic leaders. Democracy is what gives common people the right and the power to choose.

Conclusion

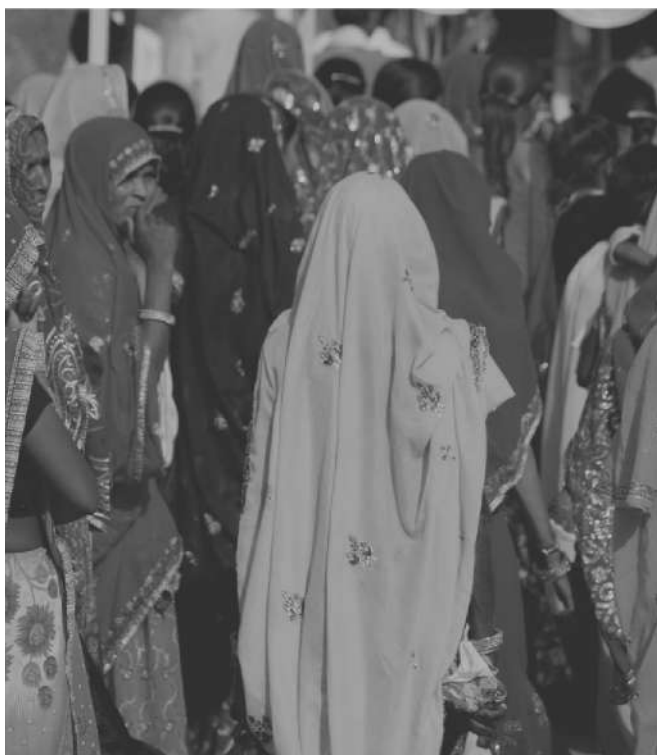
In the end, this book is a very interesting read for people who love reading about political history and statecraft. The writer has written the book in a way that grasps the attention of the reader. In the post-pandemic world, the personality types discussed in the book have become more relevant as in the future the quality of government will matter, not the quantity of government. The protests, stage-ins, and impeachments occurring from America to India, Israel, Pakistan and more, are enough to prove that the world is going through a democratic recession. The world needs to strengthen

democracy for the collective good of humanity of the entire globe. These are the matters where zero-sum policies do not prove effective. COVID-19 has made it clear that looking inward is the solution in some instances but ultimately the solution lies in looking outward. Viruses transcend borders and so do the ideologies of leaders. In the

GENDERED CITIZENSHIP: UNDERSTANDING GENDERED VIOLENCE IN DEMOCRATIC INDIA BY NATASHA BEHL

SAGAR MAHESHWARI (2020)

age of globalisation, the decisions taken in one country have a direct or indirect impact on the other countries because the world is so closely knitted. In a nutshell, safeguarding democracy is in the best interests of every country. It is a global challenge and global challenges require global solutions.



Published in 2019, *Gendered Citizenship* is a rich and fresh contribution to the literature of gender studies by Natasha Behl. This book is divided into six chapters based on gender violence taking place with different communities and the role of the Indian democracy. In this book, Behl focuses and talks on the aspect of gender in citizenship, mainly in the light of Indian democracy. Through this book, she compares the democracy of the Indian State to the realities such as religion, culture, and caste system that is locally prevailing in the country. Behl talks about gender violence through the rape incident of a young woman who was traveling alone on a local bus. Behl demonstrates the experiences of people that have taken place to form a strong base. She argues that although all citizens are equal in the constitution of liberal democracy, the legal provision does not guarantee protection against political exclusion and discrimination.

According to Annavarapu (2020), this book epitomizes massive clarity on prose and th-

ought, in which Behl asks why women's lives are at risk of death whether be it in public or private space, even though when democratic institutions of India are considered to be nominally all-inclusive in regards of gender equality and equity. This puzzle starts a discussion on different factors including religion, citizenship, gender, and democracy in India. In the light of prevalent gender violence and sexual incidents taking place in India, Gendered Citizenship explains and emphasizes the fact that democratic equality for women is unrecognized in the country. Due to this, there is a gap formed between practices and promises of democracy. The author investigates how this difference shapes the experiences and gender violence that is taking place in India. Behl finds that these experiences move us to ponder over how these moderating forces and their norms, rules and policies impact citizens. Behl further creates a strong case on political ethnography which focuses on politics compared to the governmental institutions, electoral politics, and political elites.

Furthermore, the book focuses on the Sikh community of Punjab, in India. Here, Behl states that the members of this community are comparatively neglected and understudied on the aspects of gender and religion in South Asia. Moreover, Behl's approach also focuses on analyzing media narratives and critical legal discourse of such cases that have taken place around the country.

Behl also emphasizes on the social movements, that they are so limited in

terms of taking legal measures to eradicate gender violence. She also argues that the traditional understandings of democratic citizenship are not sufficient to understand this proposition.

She further talks about "situated citizenship" as being a methodological framework to analyze contradictory and uncertain experiences of the Indian democracy. Moreover, understanding situated citizenship in social relation, the framework would help out women experiencing such incidents and situations to stand in the democracy and their communities broadly.

Gendered Citizenship has played an important role and contribution especially for the people who criticized political science as being technical and quantitative. Natasha Behl's interview-based and participatory research has added value to people's lives. (Majic, 2020). Furthermore, with the help of this research and collecting data Behl discovered that democratic citizenship is an uneven experience and is highly gendered (Majic, 2020).

Behl has made a strong contribution and impact in social science. Through this book, she has not only been able to grab everyone's attention, but also contributed to research for those communities that are not given much importance. According to Behl (2019), this book shows the realities of the lives of the people and whatever they are going through. Besides, people should also give this book a read and understand the concepts of democracy, violence,

HOW NATIONS SUCCEED: MANUFACTURING, TRADE, INDUSTRIAL POLICY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY MURAT A. YÜLEK

SABA LARAIB & RUQIA JADOON

power, and citizenship. This book is also recommended to scholars of religion, citizenship, Indian politics, and feminism. The research presented therein calls for a framework for better level understanding of gender discrimination so as to safeguard lives for the future.

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How Nations Succeed well-defines and explains the concepts like the introduction of the new form of imperialist government by the Europeans in Americas, Africa and Asia, which was called Colonialism. The book mentions the systematic advancements which helped the European states in the initiation of the industrialization process, which led the world towards global imbalances in terms of manufacturing, exports, GDP and growth. It also provides a deep insight into the concept of monopolized trade in the colonized world and the historical background to Old and New World orders. It builds a strong argument on the basis of evidence from the past, about how Colonialism helped the Europeans, especially the British to have control over the Indian trade and taxation system. Marching past, it also presents the current models of manufacturing, imports and exports led growth in developing and the developed world. The explanation of the historical context helps build a stronger argument about the industrial policies, about how an effective policy helps in



advancement of human technical skills and the overall capacity building of the state.

The book opens up with a detailed and a convincing prologue, which provides a broad and analytical overview and an extensive summary of this book. The prologue is followed by a division of the content in three comprehensive parts with many subheadings offering a thorough debate suggesting literature on relevant aspects individually. The first part is about the factual and historical aspects on how today's most advanced countries actually started to industrialize. The part of the book seeks to find the patterns of Eurasian trade routes and the savage stories of acts of brutality done by Europeans against African Slaves to dig more income out of Asian trade, while turning the pages of history. The second part, discusses in detail the manufacturing process and the question, why a country chooses to manufacture. It also deals with the expression that manufacturing helps in growth of the country led by enhanced exports. While the third part of the book discusses how an effective industrial policy helps the country, in the capacity-building process that is most essential and is a must for the development of human skills sets and institutional capabilities.

The introductory part of the book excellently describes the tales of exploration of New Lands by Europeans sailors (especially, The Portuguese, British, Dutch and Spanish). It further elaborates the idea that these lands were forced to open up their markets for the British goods, produced by newly-established industries

in Great Britain, through trade treaties. However, the discussion in this section is mainly confined only to the industrial process in Europe, trade routes between Asia and Europe and commerce and economic policies and unfair treaties of the Colonizers in the colonies. On the subject matter, the effects of Colonialism in the afterlife of an individual is discussed in more detail in the context of culture, politics, and a special reference to language by Maley (1997). Paranjape (2012), also designates Colonialism as Multiculturalism. He argues that although new movements in the world order are inevitable, due to which, a decisive change occurs in the human mentality of those who suffer at the hands of these movements.

The second part of the book discusses in more detail the merits of manufacturing and the share of manufacturing in GDP. And which countries manufacture more as well as the causes of fall in manufacturing. The result is drawn from the discussion that in international trade, exports normally lead to growth and provide enhanced opportunities of employment. While imports, slows down the development process, as it has a negative effect on the services industry in a country. Countries have been divided into High income countries, High middle income countries, Low middle income countries and Low income countries, on the basis of income generated from international trade.

However, the role of value of a currency in international trade is not explained, as is discussed by Auboin, (2012) with a special reference to value of US Dollar as an unch-

-allenged international currency and also Euro in international trade. He focuses more on the currency's value in the denomination of the trade.

The Smile Curve and the phenomenon that increased level of production increases national income, is also well explained in this section. Case studies of the countries like, South Korea, Turkey, China, Malaysia, Brazil, and India have been presented in this section, to indicate the growth or decline in the manufacturing ratios of these countries in different timeframes. South Korean success stories have been shared, on how an appropriate industrial policy with achievable goals, helped South Korea to transform its economy from aid- based to trade- based. However, the aftermaths of economic shocks in international market and emergencies in terms of recession and decline in prices are not classified, as Feler and Senses (2016) and Alessandria, Choi, Kaboski and Midrigan (2014), define first and second moment shocks and fluctuations in prices in international market more precisely. The first and second moment shocks are the factors that cause endogenous fluctuations in production internationally, while second-moment shocks lead to increases in trade in relation to GDP in times of recessions.

The third part of the book deals with a detailed account of the significance of an appropriate industrial policy, with a special emphasis on the capacity building within a state through the industrialization process. Initiating the debate with the claim that the Industrial Revolution gave birth to a Scientific Knowledge Revolution in Europe.

It mentions the contribution of different scientists including the Muslim scientists from Arab world in the fields of algebra, chemistry, mathematics, optics, physics and medical sciences. The Industrial Revolution is classified into four phases, starting from initial textile industries. The second phase is characterized by the mass production facilitated by assembly lines in the end of the nineteenth century. The third phase is considered to be the introduction of electronic and information technologies in the second half of the twentieth century. The fourth phase is considered to be facilitated by digitalization in this modern age. It is believed that the earlier stages, one and two, of industrialization are easier to be achieved, because it normally involves simple learning processes. The real issue is the transition into stage three and four, from stage two. Because it requires larger amounts of physical and human capital investments. The transition from stage three to stage four is nearly impossible for the underdeveloped and developing countries as it requires a systematic building- up of technical and technological investments, both at the firm level and national level.

This section also explains with the term Industrial Layer comprehensively, which is comprised of firms, entrepreneurs, finance, and labour. The Industrial Layer is indicated to be very important for the successful industrialization process. Moving forward, it elaborates the process of industrialization because it is helpful in the learning of new technical skills and thus resulting in capacity building of the state.

He argues that a state's well designed and implementation of an industrial policy to give a push to industrialization is very crucial for economic development in the long run.

The author has mainly discussed the financial advantages of industrialization on the state, while completely ignoring the social, environmental and human aspects of life affected by the industrialization process in society. As Muhammad, Aziz and Yew (2018), compared the pre-industrial period with the industrialized world today. They argue that industrialization has doubled the human burden especially of women, due to high costs of living. And it became a catalyst to increased level human migrations, global pollution and ill planned urbanization, and wider rich and poor gaps leading towards global inequalities.

Apart from the mentioned limitations, the book is a must- read addition to literature of development studies in general and trade and industrialization systems in particular. It provides comprehensive knowledge regarding the history of industrialization, structural and procedural process of industrialization, manufacturing procedures and the contemporary production models with special reference from the industrialized countries. It also explains the pros and cons of an industrial policy thoroughly, which will result in the systematic process of successful industrialization. Wrapping it all up, the book also suggests the successful models of industrialized states in today's world, mentioning South Korea's Automobile industry, Sweden's Aviation sector and

Europe's multinational industry of Airbus. Therefore, the book appears to have touched on all three distinct timeframes: Past, Present, and the Future patterns of industrialization leading to development of an economy in the long run.



INVISIBLE WOMEN: EXPOSING DATA BIAS IN A WORLD DESIGNED FOR MEN

BY CAROLINE CRIADO PEREZ

NAVEEN SHAHZAD (2020)

power, and citizenship. This book is also recommended to scholars of religion, citizenship, Indian politics, and feminism. The research presented therein calls for a framework for better level understanding of gender discrimination so as to safeguard lives for the future.

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“Do It Like a Woman”, which came out in 2015, was the first book that Perez wrote. Following this, in March of 2019, ‘Invisible Women’ was officially released under the publishers Chatto and Windus in Britain, and Abrams in America. This book has had tremendous reviews and is becoming known as one that should be on everyone’s reading-lists; men’s and women’s, laymen’s and policymakers’. The book has won several awards in 2019, namely, the “Financial Times and McKinsey Business Book of the Year Award”, the Readers’ Choice Award (“Books Are My Bag Readers Awards”), and the “Royal Society Science Book Prize” (Penguin, 2019). A third book with the provisional title “Now You See Us” is currently underway and is expected to come out in 2020, picking up the threads of *Invisible Women*.

Invisible Women is a book that encapsulates within it numerous statistical evidence of the persistent yet, concealed, gender discrimination prevalent in the world, gathered from multiple sources. The aim of the book is to provide researched-backed



proof that despite rising notions of feminism in the 21st century, women and their experiences are largely overlooked in all aspects of life - be it relating to work, security, health, education, or integral human rights in general. The author has assembled pertinent accounts into six categories, dividing the overall content into sixteen subchapters all of which centre around different facets of everyday life. This is coupled with Perez's own analysis revealing the long-lived ramifications of gender bias on the entire society. Connecting the dots for the readers, she has used a hint of humor that is noticeable throughout the book making the message easier to comprehend.

Perez has extensively looked into modern day facts and figures to represent how the world revolves around patriarchal standards, favoring men in most spheres of life. Though this issue has been voiced for quite a while now, giving rise to feminist mindsets along the way, the book presents staggering reports of how deep-rooted the discriminatory practices have become, to the extent that they seem to be passed on inter-generationally rather unconsciously. Research has not been gender sensitive, and the data is rarely ever gender disaggregated, owing to which policies are formulated upon generalized male-oriented parameters. In order to cater to the needs of women, which are vastly different from those of men, women are to be deemed as equally important beings that make up half the population of the world. The author draws upon the work of Simone de Beauvoir who was one of the firsts to reco-



-gnize that women are seen as the secondary sex class. Deeming femininity as convoluted, revolving merely around emotions and hormones, rather than rationality- such as proposed by Sigmund Freud- is what makes the sexual gate-keeping in decision-making persistent. Keeping women in the dark, or simply 'forgetting' them, has direct repercussions on their access to resources and, inevitably, their lives. Perez talks about unpaid work that is carried out mainly by women alone, and is made more strenuous and stressful if they have additional jobs. The work-life balance is barely ever accounted for. Workplace dynamics are accustomed to men's needs, ranging from varying pay scales to determination of the office temperature, and work-hours allocation. This translates into the structure of public services- unsafe toilets, lack of street lights, dangerous commutes etc. Unsafe conditions increase the chances of sexual abuse and violence, the victims of which are predominantly females. The vulnerability of women increases in disastrous scenarios where the inadequacy of the disaster response can cause more damage than the actual calamity.

Moreover, technology is designed keeping males as references. Mannequins used to test the safety of vehicles are given the shape of a manly body- this correlates with why women are more likely to get physically harmed in a car crash. Similarly, phones, voice recognition features, fitness gadgets etc. seem to be easier to use for men. The same is reflected in case of health service provision where drug trials are run on men, and the usage of the same drugs can have unanticipated effects on women's bodies. Women are also kept away from scientific and technical domains as it is generally assumed that the more feminine a woman is the less intelligent she would be. This is why women's accomplishments, whether minor or significant, are often suppressed. Making use of many more findings of the like, whilst supporting them with factual figures, Perez reveals to the world the relentless gap in research data that lies right under our noses. She makes sure to inform readers that her work is not intended to strike back on her male counterparts; rather it seeks to spread awareness about an underlying issue that keeps on exacerbating conditions for women. As opposed to answering why this issue is perpetual, she aims at dispelling people's credulity and wishful thinking that gender equality has been achieved.

The author of this book is a woman, that too, a white British woman residing in London, yet she is putting forward stout opinions and overwhelming statistics. This, in itself, shows that the problem of gender inequality still lingers on both, in the developing and developed world. Much the

same way, many people, especially anti-feminists are of the view that gender discrimination has been significantly reduced and that women are now present in every domain. But the author established the point that the issue is not as simple as the inclusion of the number of women, rather it is more about how feasible the modern day environments are to dwell in for those women who are meagerly involved (Nyabena, 2019). Crosschecking the findings that Perez puts on the table reveals their validity. For instance the Human Development Report (UNDP, 2016) testifies that women encounter many impediments in the way of finding productive work, and in accessing basic facilities. As of the year 2020, only four countries in the entire world have attained 50% female political representation (IPU, 2020).

The number of women is disproportionately large in the informal economy and in the realm of domestic service which comes with job insecurity and lower pays, and they spend more than double the time doing domestic chores (Riaño, 2005; UNW, 2016). For instance, the work-hour ratio is 3:11 hours of unpaid care-work for males and females, respectively (Oxfam, 2020). Moreover, the pays of permanent female employees in the UK are around 20% less than that of their male equivalents (Catalyst, 2020). Similarly, the number of girls expected to be deprived of primary education is said to be twice than that of boys- as for the former, the schools may be unsafe or simply because their future is deemed as insignificant to invest in (UNES-

-CO, 2016). At a rather vicious end, one out of every three women is subjected to gender based violence, around 140 million girls have gone missing, and after every 2 seconds a female child is forced into marriage (WHO, 2017; UNFPA, 2020; UNICEF, 2012).

Thus, what is intriguing about this book is that it backs every claim with an authentic source, so it leaves little room to deny the obvious, making one ponder upon the staggering figures. Hence, it can be said that statistics are essential as they provide an objective approach towards an investigation, leading to informed policy-making if given due attention (UNCTAD, 2020). Thus, through the power of credible information, a consciousness can be, and has been, awakened within a lot of male readers caving them into the book's main thesis. The results put forth range from deadly circumstances- such as regular exposure to pollutants released from stoves increasing female death rates- to comparatively insubstantial traits within the structure of the society - such as women not being able to reach high shelves.

Revelation of such knowledge backed with proof does leave one wondering why such irregular patterns surround the notion of gender. There is a need to eradicate the gender data gap as intentional or unconscious biases of this sort can negatively affect the already disadvantaged. Kimberly Crenshaw had proposed the concept of 'intersectionality' back in the 1980s, and this book reminds us to take up her approach when it comes to research as

it helps target separate groups, debunk assumptions, and emphasize on individual contexts (UNW, 2020). The book is, hence, very insightful and triggers serious concerns in the minds of readers. However, it can also come across as solely descriptive leaving little guidance as to what steps to take to better the situation at hand. But it does unravel the fact that very little is done to improve the conditions for women not only because there is an absence of gender disaggregated data but also, because those in power simply do not care about this lack



NO VISIBLE BRUISES: WHAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CAN KILL US BY RACHEL LOUISE SNYDER

HAFSA HASSAN (2020)

No Visible Bruises is an award winning book written by Rachel Louise Snyder who is a journalist and a writer.

Snyder takes the readers into the lives of abusers, those that are abused and those that survive. The book introduces the readers to Michelle whose husband Rocky killed himself but before killing himself he killed his wife (Michelle) and his children. In this book the author has shown Michelle as a determined lady. Rocky is an abuser and imposes coercive control on his wife which means that the abuser controls every aspect of the life of the victim and he also physically abuses her and isolates her from her family just to make her dependent on him, monitoring her movements, controlling her money and much more while Michelle was on the road towards freedom. Rocky in this book is shown as a drug addict who treats Michelle with violence, despite the fact that she tries to save her life and her children's life but it doesn't work. Michelle, after all this, confronted her husband one day and arrested him but the legal system of the

country failed her and Rocky's parents soon released him from jail and when he got home he put an end to all of them.

On the other hand, the author says that there are victims who stay in abusive relationships, the victims have no choice but staying with the abusers while highlighting Michelle's situation and how the societal structures failed in addressing her situation. Domestic violence is not taken seriously by the law enforcement agencies which is why Michelle also lost hope. The victims stand by the side of the abusers in front of the police or lawyers because they fear for their lives. In our culture we are told that family is the core institution of our society and that an ultimate goal is being in a relationship and that our children must have a father. The author in this book also takes into account why women stay with their abusive partners. She notes that the colored women are more likely to stay with their abusive partners than white women because they do not have that many opportunities to look after themselves as compared to white

women. In this book Dorothy lived with her abusive partner because she had no choice. She did not want to move into a shelter because she did not want to shatter the lives of her children, their education, and the daily routine, and the landlords do not give houses on rent to women and children who live in a shelter so staying with her husband was the only option.

Most men who abuse want to be treated the way men are treated. They want to get respect from their family members in their homes, they want to be served and be the head of the table. In this the problem comes with the power. The author in one passage has stated how Rocky keeps turning the camera on in Michelle's underwear. She asks him to stop again and again but then she gives up and simply ignores him so the author says if Michelle asked him to stop and he didn't listen and she finally gave up so why is this so? At this stage this is a loss of power. The nature of domestic violence cases has been addressed by the author. The injuries are not visible on the women and their bruises are not that much obvious as a result of which the police and the victim reduce the severity of the incident because the physical evidence is not significant. Due to this, the abusers mostly strangle women rather than stabbing them with knives or hitting them with fists so it is not possible to prove that strangulation has occurred because the bruises are not external.

This book has shown that in America, domestic violence is a national emergency but is not treated like one. According to the

author the males are also the victims of domestic violence but in most cases men harm the women. Domestic violence does not occur because of someone being in the wrong place but it's from someone you know. This book contains emotional and intimate stories of women and children who were murdered or who lived their lives with a constant fear of losing their life by their partners who loved them.

The reviews of this book are extraordinary and powerful. Many readers say that the author has deeply highlighted the factors about gender, poverty and depression; she has written about how men beat their wives or their girlfriends, the author has a powerful empathy for the victims. This is a must read for everyone because in this the hidden crises have been exposed. The intimate partner violence has been investigated powerfully (Synder, 2020).

To conclude this I personally think, there is a lot of grief in this book and was not an easy read. The author has shown us that what is happening behind closed doors affects everyone. We should not ignore this because due to our ignorance these dangerous acts continue to increase. To end this violence, men should be taught to recognize that process and disrupt that process that leads them to hurt their women and children. Women should be provided with firearms in such a situation so that she can defend herself. The author has argued that the police and the family must have safety plans and shelters for emergencies which will make it easier for the victims to escape their violent homes.

Abusive women should be empowered so that they can shape their own lives rather than being dependent on the abusive partner for financial support. From this empowerment phrase the women in Kenya set an example to the world.

There is a village in Kenya named “Umoja” (Unity) in the middle of a desert. There is a woman named Rebecca who created a whole village just for women and no men can enter. The woman who built this village was in an abusive marriage, she was beaten and treated like a second class citizen but when she looked around she saw that we were not the only ones. It is normal in Samburu culture for women to be beaten and raped and it’s even normal for them to have their private parts cut and mutilated. They have a patriarchal culture. When Rebecca asked the authorities to protect them from their husbands, no one helped, the world turned their back to them. So one day she and a group of 14 other women decided to create their own world.

All the men around them thought how could they possibly make it by themselves? Because they were women and women are weak but Rebecca and her women proved everyone wrong. They built everything with their own hands and even built a school to teach their own children. No men are allowed to live here. With time they saved money and eventually bought the entire men’s village to live without any male violence (Bindel, 2015). When women get a chance, they succeed, they can build a society, and they can lead and run businesses. But in most cases unfortunately

women are not even given the chances to prove themselves in this world. Our governments need to make better policies to protect and give more chances to women and parents need to educate their sons to respect women, so that one day not just this village but the whole world will be a place where women can succeed.



THE MOMENT OF LIFT: HOW EMPOWERING WOMEN CHANGES THE WORLD BY MELINDA GATES

GULMEENA TAHIR (2020)

"How can we summon a moment of lift for human beings – and especially for women? Because when you lift up women, you lift up humanity," (Gates, 2019).

Research from world renowned organizations such as the World Bank, UN and IMF show that greater gender equality results in greater economic growth all around the world. In other words, when we lift a woman up, they have the power to change the entire community around them. This topic is close to Melinda Gates' heart as well, as she has based her entire book on this.

The Moment of Lift is Melinda Gates' first book. The subtitle of the book "How empowering women changes the world" is in itself a giveaway. So as one might already have guessed the book is basically directed at women and policy-makers and focuses on women empowerment. Even more than that this book is an adamant call to action.

The way Gates structures her story is extremely well-thought-out. She first takes

us to the beginning, where she grew up in Texas. Her father was an aerospace engineer involved in rocket launches- from where she learned about "the moment of lift". She came to associate a spiritual connotation to the term "moment of lift", rather than a physical one.

For her, the moment of lift goes beyond a physical "lift towards the sky", rather she came to see this as lifting people up and simultaneously understanding that they as a person have something to offer. She came to believe that lifting is about recognizing our own blind spots, it is about recognizing that we cannot succeed unless we part from the mindset of "us" & "them" and work together as "we".

Most of all, it is about recognizing that we all have so much in common, and by realizing this we would ultimately also realize how weak, how humble and how flawed we all truly are.

Malinda, in this book, beautifully talks about her journey of self-exploration with her initial belief that women were expected

to be at home with her children which later on at the age of 22 after the birth of her first child, turned into Melinda considering herself a feminist who wishes to remove the barriers for women around the world. After many years advocating for women's rights, she understood that it is more than providing birth control or helping with families. It is about creating a world where everyone understands that society as a whole is stronger when women are given equal facilities to succeed as men. In other words, if you wish to uplift a nation, you have to stop keeping the women of that society down.

Melinda Gates has a sharp eye for heart touching tales. Through her book she introduces us to 11-year-old Selam, who spent a day cheerfully helping her mother prepare for a party only to be told, that evening, that she was to be married that night; and Meena, who, upon meeting Gates, told her she was unable to raise her two children and asked Gates to take the children home with her. Meena said that while she eventually learned about family planning, the education came "too late." Unsurprisingly, the author, thinks that continuing to work on new technologies that can improve human lives is important, but just as crucial is the development of new and better "delivery systems." What distinguishes this book from so many other depictions of women's struggles around the globe is the author's ability to connect Meena and Selam with women in white-collar workplaces around the world. Gates does not just want rural farms to be rid of bias; she also wants offices in major cities to be "compatible with family life."

women are not even given the chances to prove themselves in this world. Our governments need to make better policies to protect and give more chances to women and parents need to educate their sons to respect women, so that one day not just this village but the whole world will be a place where women can succeed.

In this captivating book, Gates shares the lessons she has learnt from the inspirational people she has met during her lifetime. Writing with honesty, emotion and elegance, she talks about the amazing women she came across and explains the true strength that lies in connecting with each other. As she herself narrates, "When we lift others up, they lift us up, too."

Towards the last section of the book Melinda emphasizes the need to accept people's suffering without giving it back. She talks about the value of reaching out to those that society has excluded. She further emphasises that the strongest voices are those who are able to take the suffering and let it go rather than pushing it back onto those who inflicted that suffering upon them. She believes that the main goal of humanity is to uplift equality into connections where everyone is included and given an equal opportunity to thrive.

In a nutshell, Gates narrates to us how her pursuit to make a difference helped her discover the importance of addressing gender equality all around the world. She found that connection and basic empathy for each other is what is required to make this world a better place for all of us. Melinda Gates makes it clear she's not just

about lifting women up for their sake, but for the world's sake. She explains that she has never been of the opinion that women are better than men, or that they should be included as opposed to men. Rather it's about bringing women along with men. It is about bringing everyone in.

One of the criticisms that I have on this book is that it tends to narrate a lot of stories into a single section. Due to which, at times, it becomes difficult to keep track of the topic under discussion; however, all the stories undoubtedly have a tremendous impact on the reader.

A major strength of this book is that Malinda has backed her narrative by shocking data while presenting her arguments related to misconceptions about family planning, child marriages, lack of access to contraceptives, lack of access to education for girls and workplace gender inequity.

Furthermore, Gates does a great job with acknowledging her own privilege as a wealthy white female, while also being insightful about how similar worldwide gender bias tends to be.

Much-admired by all of its reviewers, *The Moment of Lift* has been endorsed by noted personalities from Barack Obama to Malala. It is, indeed, a well-timed and required call to action, as its reviews state.

Bill Gates, the author's husband and founder of the famous Microsoft Company (on Apr 09, 2019) while reviewing the book wrote:

"I would say this even if I weren't married to the author: The Moment of Lift is a terrific read. It is a wise, honest, and beautifully written book about how empowering women lift up everyone. (None of that will be surprising to anyone who knows Melinda.) Although it took her about a year to write, in a way she has been working on it her whole life. The Moment of Lift is about the women who have inspired Melinda, starting with her own mother, through her colleagues at Microsoft, and continuing today with the amazing scientists, farmers, educators, and leaders she meets through her work with our foundation. Melinda opens up about her personal journey from private citizen to public advocate. You see how she pushed our foundation to focus more on women's empowerment. She shares insights about our marriage, the path we took to become equals in our work, and how she has helped me grow as a father and husband. But to me, what is really impressive about the book is the way Melinda combines her mastery of data with her ability to tell powerful stories about individual women she has met. In an especially memorable passage about how she handles seeing people in desperate circumstances, she writes: All of us have to let our hearts break; it's the price of being present to someone who is suffering. Your heart will break more than once when you read this book. But more often, you will be enlightened and inspired".

By the title of the book and its reviews one might think that this book should be read only by women but it is a highly recommended book for men as well as women. Women should read it to understand that they are all in the fight for

equality together. On the other hand if men read this book it will help them see the extent of women's troubles worldwide, and who knows, maybe even turn them into activists for women's rights. Policy-makers should also read this book to understand why this fight is just.

This book is extremely inspiring and empowering and is certainly recommended to those who are interested in development, and economics. The book would be a good additional source of ideas about the implications of development studies (of Gender and Development in particular) for real policy making.

It is also a great read for those who want to bring and see a change in this world as it makes one rethink the core cultural and familial values that all of us have unconsciously adopted.

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MEET OUR ALUMNI





maryam parvez

Thesis Title: Assessment of Multidimensional Household Urban Flooding Vulnerability in KP province of Pakistan

Testimonial: I completed my MS in Development Studies from S3H, NUST. I would like to show my sincere gratitude, and I would like to add that the department and faculty members are very student-friendly and approachable in nature. The faculty members make sure all the sessions are interactive and interesting. They use a lot of case studies, discussions, and many innovative ways of evaluation. The departments have organized various field visits and guest lectures to give hands-on experience to its students.

The university has multiple facilities to help you evolve as a student, from a well-stocked library, to hi-tech IT Labs, gymnasium, management clubs' activities, and many extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

Current Job: Trust: Act of Kindness

tehreem tassaduq

Thesis Title: The Perception of the Repatriation of Afghan Refugees and its Implications for the Future of Pak-Afghan Ties

Testimonial: Studying at the Department of Development Studies for the last two years has been a pleasant learning experience. Not only has it helped me successfully nurture and polish my existing knowledge base and skills but it has also helped instill in me a higher order of thinking. Furthermore, the positive, engaging as well as professional attitude of the faculty has acted as a great support throughout the course of study. I am grateful for this enriching experience.





sobia shah

Thesis Title: Effect of Artisanal Small-scale Mining on Sustainable Livelihood: A case study of Sumayar valley, Hunza- Nagar District of Gilgit Baltistan

Testimonial: My experience at NUST was great and a memory to cherish for lifetime. It was full of learning and grooming for oneself. Since my course was research driven, I have learnt a lot of research and development skills with the help of the distinguished faculty at NUST, from which I shaped my career as per my interest.

Huge respect, love and devotion for the entire faculty and department of Development studies. It is their efforts that allow me to count myself as a better professional.

Current Job: Interactive Research and Development (IRD), Pakistan

mariam ijaz

Thesis Title: Secondary Education Curriculum and Ethnic Intolerance: A Case Study of Quetta

Testimonial: My journey here in the development studies department of S3h has been incredible and was a watershed in my life that truly opened the windows of my mind and the horizons of my thinking. Having such competent teachers and extremely competitive class fellows around was all I needed to not just evolve academically but also intellectually. I am so content to have chosen Development studies as my graduate degree at Nust which is a contemporary degree as it incorporates content on major aspects of National and international issues from all the different perspectives i-e political, economic, social, strategic, environmental, philosophical. I would personally recommend this degree to everyone as it gives you a lot of exposure and offers an immense amount of learning. Lastly, I would really like to appreciate the quality of research work that is carried out at the Development studies department. No doubt the whole journey of my research work has been extremely rigorous but at the end of the day the teachers make sure that you have produced some quality work.





zara naveed

Thesis Title: Smog and Cognitive Impairment in Children: A Comparative study between Lahore and Islamabad.

Testimonial: My experience at the department of development studies has been a memorable one. I have learned a lot from the highly qualified faculty members. The department has not only provided a platform for me to polish my skills but also has inculcated critical thinking skills in me. The faculty has been successful at engraving a sense of responsibility and moulding me into a smarter professional. I am forever grateful for this unforgettable experience.

Current Job: National Cleaner Production Centre

ubaid ullah

Thesis Title: In-Depth Analysis of Climate-Terrorism Nexus in Pakistan: A Case Study of Federally Administered Tribal Areas

Testimonial: This MS in Development Studies from S3H, NUST is what I was looking for after learning sociological critique of development during my BS dissertation in Sociology. Being taught by great teachers, this multidisciplinary programme has enlightened me to the different pioneers of development, coupled with different case studies across the globe. Its research stream 'Climate Change and Development' provides an amazing platform for the students to learn and become more aware about the notion of Climate Change and also by enabling the students to take practical steps to avoid or lessen climate change upsurge. This research stream has also given me an insight into different socio-economic and political forces that has the influence on ecological and social wellbeing; along how to prevent the negative influence of such forces.

Current Job: Sustainability Week Pakistan





ariba khan

Thesis Title: Impact of Solid Waste Management on Health: A Case Study of The French Colony, f7/4 Islamabad

Testimonial: Studying at the department of Development Studies was a memorable experience filled with learning, new adventures, and enthralling life lessons. I can say it without a doubt, these two years were the most astounding years of my life so far.

kiran kaifi

Thesis Title: The Role of the Government of Pakistan in tackling women vulnerabilities in Disaster Management

Testimonial: As I complete my master's degree in development studies from NUST, I am overwhelmed with joy for being able to gain valuable academic and applied knowledge in the discipline of development management, especially in gender and disaster, under the supervision of world-class academic faculty.

The Department of Development Studies at NUST is well-known for its multidisciplinary academic excellence and impressive culturally diverse environment that crafts a global perspective among the student community. The entire faculty of MS Development Studies have been super cooperative and provided undivided attention with consistent support throughout the program. The program also encourages students with an opportunity to harness and expand their public speaking, leadership and teamwork skills.

The master course is highly recommended to the students who are seeking to acquire a career edge and knowledge in the field of development studies. As an alumna of this noble institute, I feel great honor to be a part of the NUST family.





warda malik

Thesis Title: Horizontal Inequalities and Relative Deprivation of Ethnic Saraikis in South Punjab, Pakistan

Testimonial: My time at NUST has been nothing short of an incredible experience. Not only was the degree intellectually challenging and rewarding, the faculty was very hands-on regarding every concern any student may have had. From the appealing architecture to the comfortable and supportive environment, I take away a lot more from this experience than I had initially imagined.

iman tariq

Thesis Title: The Association Between Air Pollution and Self-reported Gastrointestinal Disorders Among Residents in the Proximity of Industrial Estate Islamabad, Pakistan

Testimonial: Studying at the Department of Development Studies was a remarkable experience for me. Under the guidance of the competent, encouraging and cooperative faculty members, I didn't only get the chance to polish my research skills but was also able to build my critical thinking skills. I am very contented to have chosen Development Studies as my postgraduate degree. I can say it without a doubt, these two years were the best years of my life.

Current Job: National Cleaner Production Centre





anam asil

Thesis Title: Level of Emergency Preparedness of Schools in the Mountainous Region of Swat, Pakistan

Testimonial: Getting the opportunity to study in one of the greatest names of the country was truly the best experience where I developed my knowledge and learnt under highly qualified professionals with discipline and respect. The degree, in such a state of art educational institution, was a 100% self-development experience throughout.

osama ijaz kiani

Thesis Title: Advocacy Role of Think-Tanks: A Case Study of Post-Pulwama Incident and Impact on India-Pakistan Relations

Testimonial: A very memorable experience; I learnt a lot from the faculty. Doing the MS Thesis research for the first time in my life was very helpful and practical for me.



saba iqbal

Thesis Title: Parental verbal abuse and its impacts on psychological health and educational attainment

Testimonial:

In the past two years, The department of Development Studies at NUST and the remarkable faculty has polished me into the best version of myself academically and research wise. I have learned new things and have gained many positive experiences that will not only stay with me in the form of memories but will help me throughout my life. I am grateful towards the hard working faculty and will always cherish the time I spent at the department.

Current Job: Research Assistant at NUST



fatima khalid

Thesis Title: Formulating Policy for Universal Primary Education: A Study of Pakistan

Testimonial:

MS Development Studies, being multidisciplinary in nature, has provided me with in-depth theoretical and applied knowledge. My specialisation in Peace, Conflict & Development has prepared me as a development practitioner who is well-versed about the global security challenges. By conducting primary research as part of the degree, I've gained valuable experience of data collection and data analysis using statistical tools. I would recommend this degree course to anyone who wants to gain expertise in participatory sustainable community development, and is seeking to acquire the understanding of multilateralism and the political economy of globalisation.

maurice chafulumira

Thesis Title: Household Vulnerability, Resilience & Adaptation to flood Disasters (A case of Nsanje District-Malawi)

Testimonial: No matter how negative one might be about his future, intellectuals will dramatically change his line of thinking into an independent and brilliant thinker. Hard working is an understatement to MSDS instructors, but rate them as game changers illuminating students thinking capacity and their future.

Current Job: Government of Malawi under Ministry of Labour, Skills & Innovation





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