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### Challenges Relating to the Realization of Right to Development in Pakistan

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Original Article

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*Economic challenges, CPEC, Constitutional dilemmas, Human development, Governance reforms, RTD (Right to Development)*

#### Abstract

*This paper analyzes the multifaceted challenges affecting Pakistan's economy, with a focus on the historical trajectory of economic development, constitutional dilemmas, and the impact of terrorism. It highlights Pakistan's once-promising economic growth from 1960 to 1990, followed by significant deterioration due to political instability, inconsistent policies, and poor governance. Additionally, it addresses Pakistan's constitutional challenges and the setbacks in framing a stable legal structure. The ongoing threat of terrorism has also imposed severe economic costs, hindering trade, investment, and human development. The paper underscores the potential of CPEC to stimulate economic growth and emphasizes the need for improved governance, economic policies, and regional cooperation to unlock future economic opportunities.*

#### I. Challenges relevant to Economy of Pakistan

The relationship between law and economics is progressively becoming more evident. It is a multidimensional phenomenon and its practical impact on economic development has acquired added importance in view of growing integration of economies in the world in recent decades. In case of Pakistan, the economist argues about the economic conditions of Pakistan that, in 1960 to 1990, Pakistan was one of the world's fastest-growing developing developed economies, with an annual average growth rate of 6%. On account of certain challenges, the structure of Pakistan economy was distorted during this time period, consequently share of agriculture sector in the national growth was reduced from 50% to 20%. The succeeding 25 years have, however, reflected a substantial deterioration in economic growth. It is worthwhile to note that, in recent years, Pakistan has left behind among the other South Asian states in the region in terms of human development, and the RTD was badly affected due to these factors. Therefore, the consistent political instability and interruption in the democratic process, inconsistency in the economic policies and pathetic governance caused irreparable loss to the national economy of Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan has not got the required benefits of trade and investment, on account of its

geostrategic location in South Asia. However, the CPEC may act as a catalyst to enhance the economic growth of Pakistan. Despite of the fact there are certain challenges and threats for Pakistan, therefore, there is a dire need to develop a concrete strategy and planning in order to convert these challenges and threats into opportunities, and the whole success of this project depends upon the political will of the present government. It is argued that the CPEC will be proved not only a game changer but, also a game changer in terms of economic growth and raising the living standards of Pakistanis. The experience of Pakistan shows that many economic opportunities were lost due to consistent tension of war with India. Both countries spent a huge share of their budget on the defense of the country rather than utilize that huge amount for the collective benefits of the people at large. The future benefits of both the neighbor states can only be achieved through dialogues and mutual cooperation. It is argued that, if there were good relations between India and Pakistan, trade and investment in both countries would produce immense economic benefits, which will lead towards the uplift of the people and the alleviation of poverty. Moreover, to achieve these goals, there is an emergent need to formulate sound economic policies, better governance and structural reforms in institutions, *inter-alia*, continuity in democratic process and human development. (Ishrat Husain, 2018) In previous decades, Pakistan's economic progress was higher. In the 1980s, average GDP growth was 6.0 percent; in the 1990s, it was 4.0 percent (Khurshid Iqbal) According to the 2019 Human Development Report (HDR), about 600 million people survive on less than \$1.90 a day (Report, 2019). The Human Poverty Index (HPI-1) places Pakistan at number 54 (Mehta Haider, 2019) In 2021, the average life expectancy was 67.48 years. (Pakistan Life Expectancy 1950-2021) It's worth noting that schooling will play an important role in the production of human skills and wealth, resulting in faster economic growth and development. As a result, the development of human resources is precarious in terms of improving productivity through process of technological advancement and innovation, which in turn leads to continue great economic growth of the state. Education also acts as an instrumental force to cope with the challenges of the globalization and enhance the capacity building of the state institutions and good governance. Reportedly, the economic survey of Pakistan, 2019-2020, reflects that Pakistan is ranked 152 out of 189 Countries in the UNDP, human development index (HDI) (United Nations Development Programme Human Development Reports). Unluckily, Pakistan has not shown betterment in educational sector. Now the Pakistan's literacy rate is 57% which is less than all other comparative countries in the South Asia region. It shows that Pakistan has spent 2.3 % of its GDP on the education, which is lowest allocation to the education as compare to other south Asian countries (19-01-2021).

It is pertinent to mention here that Higher Education (HE) plays a pivotal role to the growth of a state through imparting specialized skilled based knowledge and enhance the intellectual manpower. Unfortunately, the national budget for research and development for Higher Education has reduced to a greater extent. The new government of Pakistan has imposed a massive cut of 37% to the budget of higher education. However, the statistical analysis reflects that in the previous regime the budge fixed for higher education was 300 Million US dollars, which is reduced now to 189 million US dollars (Ameen Amjad Khan). As far as health sector is concerned, the health indicators are not satisfactory in Pakistan. However, in the other South Asian Countries the budget for health sector is reasonable. According to World Bank forecast on January 2021, Physicians (per 1,000 people) in Pakistan was reported at 0.9801 (Trending Economics). In the 2018-2019 fiscal year, gross health expenditure as a proportion of GDP was 1.1 trillion. From 1.2 percent in 2017-2018, the percentage has decreased. It has set aside Rs 64,891.26 million for health-related infrastructure initiatives in the fiscal year 2020 (Pakistan Economic Survey: The state of healthcare

in 2020), which is lower than the defence budget 2020-21 which is 2.86 percent of GDP (Dr Farrukh Saleem). It is pertinent to mention here that, there are some compelling factors relating to national security, behind the increase in defence budget. According to World Bank reports, Pakistan's actual GDP growth is expected to be -1.5 percent in FY20, down from 1.9 percent in FY19. (The World Bank in Pakistan). However, pace of Pakistan's performance on the SDGs is slow. Pakistan is one of those countries which have adopted the SDGs. Pakistan has been promptly transforming its national development policies in accordance with the development agenda 2030. Therefore, law and public policy the paradigm for human development was created with all of the SDGs' related aspects in mind. Pakistan has taken result-oriented measures in order to overcome the practical obstacles in the way of economic growth and governance structure. Moreover, the restructuring of the various institutions is under consideration. Furthermore, new steps have been taken to establish institutions, taskforce, and organizations at domestic, provincial and federal level. In this connection, Pakistan has also introduced judicial reforms in order to promote the trade and investment, because, there is a strong relationship among rule of law, trade, investment and development (Ishrat Hussain). In the recent past, the Honourable Superior Courts of Pakistan have contributed a lot through judicial activism and suo-moto actions and ensured expeditious and inexpensive justice, reforms in procedural laws, introduced modern techniques in the case management, and promoted the alternative dispute resolution (ADR), inter-alia, formulated National judicial policy 2009 for the expeditious disposal of cases. In this reference, former chief justice of Pakistan has illustrated that: "ADR techniques should be freely applied to expedite disposal of cases particularly by sub-ordinate judiciaries where pendency of cases is enormous" (Honourable, accessed on 19-01-2021). As a result, Pakistan must establish an enabling atmosphere for ADR strategies and processes in order to sustain society's social and economic order. In another example, the Honourable Justice Mr. Muhammad Raza Khan said that time has come to follow alternate dispute settlement for expeditious case disposition to prevent delays during the traditional litigation period." Pakistan has also developed commercial courts in order to make alternative dispute resolution (ADR) more successful and result-oriented for the promotion of trade and investment in the country (Mehta Haider, accessed on 19-01-2021)

Almost half of the country's primary school-aged children are illiterate, and enrolment in rural areas is disproportionately male. With a small budget of just 2.3 percent of GDP, the SDGs of universal primary education would be impossible to obtain. There is concern that, as a result of COVID-19, Pakistan will not be able to meet its literacy targets by 2030. Furthermore, the achievement of maternal wellbeing and infant mortality targets is insufficient. The gains of global prosperity, on the other hand, have not been distributed fairly. In the light of above facts, it seems that such conditions are challenging for the realization of RTD at the national level because the UNDRTD provides that the state has obligations to ensure a just distribution of the benefits arising out of a development policy. Hence, unequal development is not a development in the light of Declaration.

#### **a) Constitutional Dilemma**

In Pakistan, drafting a constitution has proven to be a difficult process. Pakistan has had three constitutions since independence: in 1956, 1962, and 1973, respectively. It took nine years to write the first constitution. The first constituent assembly was formed under the Indian Independence Act of 1947, and the Constituent Assembly took the first major step toward the formulation of the Constitution in 1949, when it passed a resolution on the Constitution's goals and objectives, known as the Objective Resolution. It set the groundwork for the Constitution and outlined its form in clear strokes. It has been characterized as the most significant event in Pakistan's history, second only

to the country's independence. The resolution as well as the controversy around it, are of considerable importance because they reveal the political ideology of Pakistan's then-government and its main opponents. (Hamid Khan, third edition, 2017, )The preamble of all three constitutions was modified to include the Objective Resolution. Through the passing of time, it has grown in significance. Under a revised Article 2-A, the military dictatorship of General Zia made it a functional part of the 1973 constitution in 1985 (Khurshid Iqbal, 2010)

The Constitution making method has several challenges. In 1953, the Governor-General expelled the elected prime minister and his cabinet. The Governor-General dismissed the Constituent Assembly when the constitution was being written in 1954. The Sindh High Court (then the Chief Court) ruled on a writ petition that the Governor General's action was illegal and without authority. The decision was overturned by the Supreme Court (then the Federal Court), which upheld the Constituent Assembly's dismissal. Pakistan succeeded in framing a Constitution after nine years of effort. The proposed Constitution was prepared by the new Constituent Assembly, which went into force on March 23, 1956, declaring Pakistan as an Islamic Republic. In general, the 1956 Constitution followed the template of the Government of India Act of 1935. The 1956 Constitution established a federal-style political system with an Islamic philosophy. It included a list of human rights, policy directives, and an impartial judiciary. The Islamic provisions were mentioned separately. Unfortunately, the 1956 Constitution did not last more than two and a half years; no general election was held under it, and it proved to be short-lived. Pakistan's President abrogated it in 1958, dissolving the national and regional assembly and imposing martial law. Constitutional rights were swept down, and judges were stripped of their ability to investigate violations of fundamental rights. The declaration of martial law and the abrogation of the Constitution left the justice system in shambles. As a result, three days after martial law was imposed, on October 10, 1958, the Laws (Continuance in Force) Order was promulgated in order to establish a new legal order. This had the effect of validating legislation that were in effect prior to the 7th of October, rather than the previous Constitution. Both courts, including the Supreme Court and the High Courts, regained their jurisdiction. The Order also said that the Pakistani government should behave as closely as possible in compliance with the previous Constitution, and that the rule proclaimed by the Supreme Court should be binding on all Pakistani courts. Writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warrant, and certiorari were also given to the Supreme Court and the High Courts. However, no writ of habeas corpus may be issued against the Chief Martial Law Administrator or someone acting under his or her authority. It was made clear that no court or individual may bring into doubt I the proclamation of 7 October, (ii) any order issued in pursuance of the proclamation or any martial law rule, and (iii) any discovery, decision, or order of a special Military Court. (Hamid Khan, third edition, 2017,)The President's action was later validated by the Supreme Court in a constitutional lawsuit. (Khurshid Iqbal, *The Right to Development in International Law.*, 2010,). President Mirza and General Ayub Khan, who had been serving as Chief Martial Law Administrator, took control of the state after martial law was declared (CMLA). At a meeting with his Generals on October 27, 1958, Ayub resolved to get rid of Mirza and take full care of the state's affairs. (Hamid Khan C. a., third edition, 2017)As a result, Ayub Khan deposed the president in the same year by arresting him and sending him into exile and declared martial law in the region.

In 1962, the military government of Ayub Khan adopted the second Constitution. (In February 1960). The presidential system of government was established in the 1962 Constitution. The people' constitutional rights were remembered. Two organizations, an advisory Council of Islamic

Ideology and an Islamic Research Institute, were founded to help with the Islamization of legislation. Equal protection of minorities, advancement of the rights of backward nations, schooling, improving living standards by distributive justice, and the provision of basic necessities were among the Policy Principles. (The Constitution of 1962). The 1962 Constitution was in effect until 1969, when Ayub Khan turned over authority to a new military government, which enforced martial law once again. In a Constitutional appeal, the legitimacy of the new military dictatorship was questioned, and the regime was declared unconstitutional. (*Miss AsmaJillani v. Government of Pakistan*)General elections were held in 1970 and for the first time, the National Assembly was elected on the basis of adult franchise. In 1971, shortly after the elections due to significant political disagreements, East Pakistan seceded from West Pakistan and emerged as the independent state of Bangladesh. An interim Constitution was adopted in 1972. The National Assembly passed a new Constitution (the third) in 1973. The preamble of the 1973 Constitution was almost entirely taken from the Objectives Resolution, and it contained a lengthy list of human rights as well as the Principles of Policy. It established a representative government and a separate judiciary. It also contained Islamic provisions as well as an Islamic doctrine Council that was to advise on the Islamization of legislation. Provincial sovereignty was also given due consideration. General elections in 1977 sparked political divisions within political parties, leading to a military coup d'état by Army Chief Zia and the overthrow of Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's administration. The Action of Zia was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1977 (*Staff*). The 1973 Constitution has been revised several times, with a total of 26 amendments enacted to date. The most notable was the eighth amendment, which, in 1985, the military government validated all of the martial law regime's rules and regulations. It also made the above-mentioned Objective Resolutions a substantive part of the Constitution, gave the President the authority to disband the National Assembly at his discretion, and created a Federal Shariat Court (FSC). In 1987, Zia used his executive authority to dismiss the government that had been elected in 1985. (The elected government of Muhammad Khan Junejo was dismissed by Zia, 1985)After Zia's death in 1988, Pakistan reverted to civilian rule (Khan, in 1990 and 1993, respectively). However, between then and 1993, the President dissolved two representative governments, each of which was later reinstated by the Supreme Court. (*Muhammad Nawaz Sharif v. President of Pakistan*)In 1997, general elections were called, and an elected government assumed office as a result. The 1997 thirteenth Constitutional Amendment removed the President's discretionary authority to dissolve the National Assembly. General Musharraf deposed the elected government in a victorious coup in October 1999, and the Supreme Court upheld his decision. (*Wasim Sajid and others v Federation of Pakistan*). General Musharraf was elected President in a contentious referendum in 2001. In 2002, the pro-Musharraf faction was elected to power in general elections. The president's right to disband the National Assembly was restored by the legislative structure order of 2002. Pakistan's participation in the US-led war on terror placed pressure on Musharraf's government from both the outside and the inside. The United States and the West have repeatedly demanded that Pakistan combat the country's growing military, especially in the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan. (*Khurshid Iqbal T. R., The case of Pakistan, 2010,* ).The frequent bombing by US forces on Pakistan tribal areas in search of the Taliban militants also exerted considerable internal pressure on the government and proved to be a problem for the government. In March 2007, the former chief justice was suspended from his office without due process of law, which sparked an extraordinary judicial crisis in the region. However, the Supreme Court of Pakistan reinstated the former chief justice, but the question of Musharraf's legitimacy for a second term as president brought his government back into conflict with the superior judiciary. Later on, Musharraf imposed emergency rule on 3 November 2017, dismissed

the chief justice and other judges of Supreme Court. While Musharraf was successfully elected as a president for a second term, however, he could not support the PML-Q for its success in the general election. Consequently, PPP came into power. Ultimately, Musharraf finally resigned in July 2018. It is worthwhile to note that, the emergency rule imposed by the Musharraf was later validated by the Honourable Supreme Court. This action on the part of the judiciary upraised a question regarding the independence and impartiality of judiciary during the unprecedented constitutional crisis in Pakistan.

The above-mentioned constitutional dilemmas have deep implications for the RTD at national level. Frequent political unrest has obfuscated the prospects of creating a real and stable democratic culture in Pakistan. Although an elected government was installed after the 2002 elections, real power remained in Musharraf's hands. As a result, there was no genuine political involvement in the region. The policies relating to the fight against terrorism were not developed by a democratic process. In the development and execution of these measures, neither the Parliament nor civil society is consulted. As a result, the factor of engagement, which is a required component of the RTD, was overlooked. Without a doubt, economic prosperity is on the rise, but it is not balanced by fairness and justice, which are the RTD's cornerstones. Furthermore, current economic development is incapable of promoting and realizing all human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly the rights to health and education. Another conundrum is 'federalism,' which involves the relationship between the government and the provinces, as well as the distribution of powers between the two. Since independence, regional autonomy has been a complicated and sensitive problem, and the equitable allocation of natural resources among provinces has been a source of contention among provinces on the one hand, and between provinces and the center on the other. It is argued that, the progress and development of any country is gauged from positive indexes of its human resource development that usually signifies education, health and economic sector. However, the situation of human resource in Pakistan is still unsettled, despite of the fact, that the 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendment was incorporated in 2010 which aimed at devolution of power to provinces and to ensure the provincial autonomy. The said constitutional amendment shifted the health and education sectors, to the legislative domain of Provinces; however, the situation is not commendable and satisfactory in its true letter and spirit. It is worthwhile to note here that, financial constraints, lack of capacity building, political will and restricted policy making for provinces, are the root causes of the decline of human development. The Constitution establishes an administrative structure in the form of the 'Council of Common Interests' and the 'National Economic Council,' but these two bodies are yet to effectively promote 'federalism.' In a nutshell, political unrest, inequitable wealth allocation between the center and provinces, and constitutional dilemmas are the key impediments to the realization of RTD at the national level in Pakistan (The case of Pakistan, 2010).

#### **b) Impact of Terrorism on the RTD**

The RTD is an inalienable human right, which enables every individual and the members of the society to participate, contribute, and enjoy socio-economic and cultural and political development process including self-determination. The state is under obligation to provide congenial environment to protect the RTD. It is argued that, in economic terms the RTD can be achieved through the promotion of trade and investment in present scenario of the world. Therefore, Trade and investment among the nations are considered as important factors for economic growth, better standards of living and peace. In the globalized world, as no state is now an island unto itself, it is not possible to maintain the higher standards of living without increasing volume of trade and

investment. Therefore, in practical sense, the contribution of trade and investment to the welfare of the people is an undeniable fact and the relationship between peace and economic growth is inevitable, because economic development cannot accelerate in a trajectory form without upholding the peace, security and rule of law. However, the menace of terrorism caused a serious injury to the economy of Pakistan in the last two decades. Terrorism has caused socio-economic, cultural and psychological effects on the lives of the people of Pakistan. Therefore, it is pertinent to mention here that, the momentum of terrorism increased after the 9/11 incident, when Pakistan started war against terrorism as a front-line state in the region. In this connection Pakistan has faced internal and external challenges of terrorist activities. The research explores that Pakistan has suffered a lot in terms of economic cost and human life. According to reports, Pakistan's economy experienced a \$23.77 billion loss in 2010-11 due to costs associated with the war on terror. In 2011-12, this figure dropped to \$12 billion. Pakistan's economy lost \$5.47 billion in 2016-17 and \$2.07 billion in 2017-18. Pakistan's government reports that the war on terrorism has cost the country \$126.79 billion in direct and indirect financial damages. Moreover, terrorism negatively affected all the economic activities of the country including trade and investment, which has been proved as a leading cause for the failure of Pakistan in achieving its targets of economic growth and human development. During these two decades, it is very much clear from the indicators that, FDI, Foreign Exports and Tax collection are the major areas in Pakistan, which faced a heavy loss due to terrorism. It is worthwhile to note that, on account of war against terrorism, Pakistan could not collect 3459.67 Million US dollars in previous years, in addition, 383.93 million US dollars have been spent on infrastructure and 129.89 million US dollars have been paid to the aggrieved families in the above-mentioned period (Pakistan Today). However, along with all these financial losses, the country has also agonized with the loss of human capital. The Data shows that, during the war against terrorism, Pakistan has lost almost 6660 security personnel, and more than 20 thousand civilians. In this agonizing situation, Pakistan took impressive measures to cope with the challenge of terrorism, it launched a military operation Zarb-e-Azab in 2014 near the Pak-Afghan border, and later-on, Pakistani government announced a National Action Plan (NAP) in December 2014, in order to overcome the issue of terrorism. It is important to note here that, Zarb-e-Azab and NAP both the steps were proved very constructive in elimination of terrorism and improved the security and economic situations in the country. However, a large share of economy has been disbursed on these operations and plans (M .Zakariya et.al, Published online: 23 Jul 2019, ). It is worthwhile to note that, terrorism has affected the national economic growth of Pakistan in both direct and indirect ways. It has imposed direct impacts on infrastructure, human capital, education sector, health sector, inter-alia, caused the issue of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country. The direct influence of terrorism indicates that 1% rise in terrorism will shrink the growth by 0.002%. Furthermore, terrorism has hampered the economic growth through indirect effects on FDI, domestic investment, inflation rate, stock exchange and employment rate of the country. Therefore, in the view of these facts Pakistan has had to face the financial constraints and could not improve the areas of human development on account of the diversion of funds to fight the war against the terrorism and for the rehabilitation of IDPs. However, the present government is trying its best to revamp the economy and formulating new policies regarding poverty, education economic trade and investment policies. It is also pertinent to mention here that the present government has doing its best to revisit the laws relating to money laundering and terrorist financing on the strong demand of FATF (Naeem Ullah Khan).

## II. Repercussions of COVID-19 on the RTD

After the agony and destruction of WW-II, the worst ever crisis, which the world has faced, is COVID-19. The pandemic has extended its curse on all over the world except Antarctica. It has shattered the socio-economic, political and cultural norms of the world. A number of paramount and populated cities of the world have been converted into deserts, as the inhabitants have been restrained to go outside either by their own will or through the government directions. The business activities have been locked across the globe. The pandemic has left devastating impacts on the economic lives of the people; as a result, people are losing their source of income by every coming day. According to an estimate of ILO, about 25 million people could lose their jobs because of this hazard (UNDP, accessed on 21-01-2021).

As the other countries of the world, Pakistan has also encountered with the immense outbreak of the COVID-19. Pakistan is a developing country, whose economy is not much resilient, hence, closure of business activities and disruption in trade and investment has badly affected the economic growth of the country during this pandemic. It has been proved as a horrifying calamity for the people of Pakistan, particularly the poor ones. The socio-economic and human development structure has been destroyed in the country, resultantly, a number of people have been slipped down under the poverty line, and the COVID-19 has also stressed the capability of the health sector, which caused a huge loss of human lives.

The appearance of Covid-19 in Pakistan was reported in February 2020. To prevent and control the spread of COVID-19, in this connection, Pakistan has announced different categories of lockdown for the purpose of securing health and lives of the peoples. As earlier stated above that, Pakistan is an agro based country, whose GDP per capita income for the year 2020 is 1130 USD, and more than 600 million people of Pakistan are living below the poverty line. The Pandemic has sternly damaged the international and national economies. In the domain of economic sphere, the foremost aggrieved of the pandemic are micro, small and medium sized business entities, called as MSMEs in Pakistan. Consequently, due to lockdowns the business entrepreneurs are facing unprecedented antagonistic impacts on their business' activities (Mohsin Shafi). Reportedly, the Global GDP is likely to be affected between 2.3% to 4.8% on account of this natural catastrophe (Asia?, Philippines (2020)). In this contextual perspective, it is also reported that Pakistan has lost one-third of its revenue and reduced 50% of foreign trade due to Pandemic (I. Junaid Pakistan virus cases cross 5). Therefore, the Economists argued that the continuous lockdown in the country may cause the collapse of economy<sup>1</sup> (lockdowns, Accessed on 22-01-2021). Likewise, the World Bank also intimated to Pakistan regarding the possible threat of recession (World Bank, DC (2020)). However, the Pakistan's real GDP growth has shrunk approximately 1.3% in FY-2020, due to the ongoing Pandemic, and its repercussions will continue in the coming years. (World Bank South Asia economic focus s. 2.) Therefore, During the Pandemic, the Government of Pakistan has announced the economic relief package of one billion, USD. Moreover, Pakistan has implemented a strategic Action Plan to cope with the challenge of COVID-19. The purpose of the said plan was to control and respond the current epidemic of COVID-19 expeditiously and effectively. It is worthwhile to note that, the Apex Court of Pakistan in a suo-moto case (2020) directed the Government to mitigate the melancholies of people through an instrumental force of good governance, economic relief; health related facilities, among the other things, ensure the timely availability of health equipment for the vulnerable.



In terms of the above, it may be suggested that the Covid-19 tragedy has harmed human rights such as the right to life, health, travel, and socioeconomic rights of people all over the world. The virus did not differentiate, but its effects do on combined human lives and health. The international bill of Rights (UDHR) placed international and national obligations of the state to combat with Covid-19 to protect the lives of all human beings. "To invoke the right to life tells us that "all states have a responsibility to protect human life, including by resolving the general circumstances in a community that give rise to direct risks to life," according to courts in various jurisdictions. It was discovered that states had taken special precautions to protect people's lives and welfare. It has been claimed that the pandemic has had negative consequences for human rights, with a focus on RTD. (Naeem Ullah Khan) The OHCHR official, Bachelet, spoke that, there is an emergent need for the restoration of international cooperation, partnership and solidarity to cope with the challenge of Pandemic and its consequences. She emphasized that solidarity is the soul of RTD, as enumerated in UNNDRTD, which declared that RTD and global solidarity are interlinked with each other. Moreover, there is a great chance to reverse the process of poverty and inequality through getting better from pandemic (COVID-19 and the right to development: a call for international solidarity). Therefore, with the adoption of human rights-based approach in the Pandemic response, we would be able to curtail deaths, illness and miseries among the most deprived people of the planet. As a result, she stressed the importance of emerging growth strategies in the midst of a large funding deficit. "Noting that developed countries are facing an abysmal funding deficit of two to three trillion US dollars, she expressed support for strong cooperation on the right to growth, including closing digital divides and improving connectivity according to another official." (development:, accessed on 22-01-2021). It is an admitted fact that, global human development is the amalgamation of world's health, living standards and education. As consequences of Pandemic, deterioration could be happened in these areas of human development in the present year for the first time since 1990, when the concept of human development was familiarized (COVID-19: Human development on course to decline this year for the first time since 1990). The facts reveal that, all countries including rich and poor have faced the decline in the core dimensions of human development. However, according to UNDP indicators, an enormous increase has been witnessed in the global death rate, and there is a strong apprehension that, this year international per capita income may reduce up-to 4 percent (IBID). During this pandemic, the education sector has badly affected, the educational institutions were closed, and more than 60% children of primary school education could not avail internet access for their online classes. Therefore, in the light of the above facts and figures it is quite evident that the collective repercussions could show the biggest setback in the history of human development (IBID)

### **III. Conclusion**

Pakistan's economic trajectory has faced numerous challenges, including political instability, inconsistent policies, and governance issues, which have hindered its potential growth. Once a rapidly developing economy, Pakistan's progress has deteriorated in recent decades, with significant declines in agricultural contributions and a failure to capitalize on its geostrategic location. The long-standing conflict with India has diverted critical resources from economic development to defense, further limiting trade and investment opportunities. Additionally, the rise of terrorism, particularly post-9/11, has inflicted profound socio-economic damage, resulting in massive financial losses and human casualties. Despite these adversities, initiatives like CPEC offer a promising pathway to reinvigorate Pakistan's economy. However, for sustainable growth, the country must address its constitutional issues, strengthen democratic processes, and formulate consistent economic policies. The need for regional cooperation, particularly with India, and

investment in human development remains crucial for uplifting the population and ensuring long-term prosperity.

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