
Title: Why Pakistan is running dry?

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Pakistan, a third world country where the economy is moth-eaten, an inflationary storm stricken country, a country where officialdom is corrupt, a country where never-ending penury prevails, a country where literacy rate remains stagnant, a country where unemployment/underemployment is alarming, a country where gender equality is disturbing, a country where education and health are amongst the worst hit, a country where food insecurity is agitating and what not is turning my beloved but poor Pakistan, dry.

Even after 75 years, we live in a beloved Pakistan that clusters around the themes of poverty,

corruption, illiteracy, unemployment, child labor, crime, child marriage, inflation, discrimination, smuggling, food and water crisis, health issues, religious conflicts, gender inequality, sanitation and cleanliness that are shaping it other than political cataclysm.

Pakistan is celebrating its Platinum Jubilee this August but its crippling economy is putting it in a quagmire. The founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision of was not only to see Pakistan as the greatest nation in the Muslim world but also the world. Even after more than seven decades, Pakistan remains vague and vagueness lies both in strength and weakness as there are still no defined parameters. In the first winters of Pakistan, he was aware of the danger that Pakistan would be facing in the coming years but unfortunately, those issues are engraved in the pillars of Pakistan, have become grave concerns to be addressed as a priority and turning Pakistan dry.

Poison of corruption, nepotism, mismanagement, inefficiency, weak governance, cataclysm, shadow economy, social instability and blight public faith in state institutions is shaping the reality of Pakistan. Political parties illustrate the primacy of personalism over the organization. This scenario is seen in the progeny of political parties. The borrowed growth and feudal-dominated political culture is resulting in a chronic social crisis.

The grave social challenges also revolve around corruption. There's no doubt that much of

officialdom is corrupt but so are the citizens. Opportunities provided due to huge discretionary powers vested with bureaucracy are the major cause of corruption. High inequality leads to greater incentives for corruption. Pakistan ranks at 140 out of 180 countries in terms of corruption and alas! corruption has reached every organ of the state due to lack of accountability, low salaries, monopoly of power, lack of transparency, power of influential people, red-tapism and others. Accountability, transparency, power justice and enforcement of the law is easy to prescribe but hard to enforce in Pakistan where bribe serves as an incentive for the government employees. Non-adherence to rules and regulations not only weakens the writ of the government but also promotes malpractices.

Moreover, some of the major constraints identified in the supply of safe water are water scarcity, intermittent water supply, improperly designed water supply schemes, cross-contamination caused by the closely laid water supply and sewage pipelines, disposal of untreated sewage and industrial effluents and inadequate technical capacity of the service providers. Moreover, unsustainable and unrestricted groundwater abstraction policies, lack of strict enforcement of groundwater laws and poor governance have placed immense stress on the groundwater quality and quantity in the country thus risking the lives of citizens.

Talking about poverty, The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that approximately 43pc of

Pakistanis are food insecure and 18pc of those have acute food insecurity as affordability is the greatest barrier in achieving a nutritious diet. Here, girls have a comparatively low social status, remain marginalized, and are unable to avail opportunities restricting their socio-economic empowerment, thus remaining a neglected target group for health and nutrition interventions.

Likewise, Pakistan has the world's second-highest number of out-of-school children (OOSC) with an estimated 22.8 million children aged 5-16 not attending school, representing 44 percent of the total population in this age group but our capable politicians are busy in playing a blame game.

Unemployment/underemployment is also a factor in elevating poverty. Who is responsible for creating opportunities for youth by crafting and supporting the aiding circumstances? You, me and us because our politicians are busy in filling the coffers and enjoying the power game. The enabling conditions are based on economy, society, politics, equality, right to life and right to information as seen in the cases of in Nigeria, Southwestern Ontario, the United States, African countries and Zimbabwe. Pakistan is the fifth largest country in the world with an estimated 63% of its population comprising of youth. Pakistan is home to about 40 million adolescents (aged 10-19), equivalent to 23% of the total population but still, we are not investing in them and ironically naming them "our future".

A large number of Pakistanis lack basic amenities, some of them to the extent of being unsure of

food, clothing and housing but still it's our beloved country. Concluding this piece of writing with a question raised by Sadat Hassan Manto, why Pakistan is ignorant despite being poor?