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Can a Poor Citizen Enjoy the Fruits of Prosperity? A Case of Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

Aim of the Study: Inclusiveness of growth is of vital concern for the policymakers and policy debates. It has become need of the hour to measure the strength of decision making of poor people. This study measures the inclusive growth in Pakistan for the different regimes so that situation of equitable distribution can be analyzed in each decade, each political regime, dictatorship and democratic regimes.

Research Methodology: The methodology adopted to measure the inclusive growth index is Asian Development Bank's methodology.

Findings: Results revealed unsatisfactory performance of Pakistan depicting unequal distribution of fruits of growth among the rich and poor masses of the society in all the political regimes, and all the decades under consideration of the study.

Conclusion: By keeping in view the displeasing picture of the Pakistan in accordance with the inclusive growth, appropriate policy steps are need of the hour to eliminate the poverty and to achieve equitable distribution of resources in order to carve the better picture of the economy.

Keywords: Inclusive Growth, Equity, Poverty, Economic Growth.

Introduction

To assess the economic progress of an economy, it is essential to measure the inclusive growth because it necessitates the inclusion of the voices of the masses (especially poor) of the economy in the decision-making process. Society's well-being can be judged by achieving equity rather than relying only on equality. The equitable distribution of the fruits of the economy among rich and poor can be made sure with the help of inclusiveness of growth (Cheema & Sial, 2010; Anand et. al., 2013; Elena & Sushanal, 2013; Kakwani, 1980).

With the increasing poverty and to achieve the sustained development, it has become need of the hour to discuss the importance of inclusive growth in Pakistan. The absolute definition of inclusive growth is that growth should take place in absolute terms; means poor people should get benefit from it equally like the rich ones. By achieving the inclusivity of growth, efficiency level of the masses increases and in effect must cause an upward pressure on employment opportunities. So, the resulting effect is increased output and increased size of the economy. Now, along with the positive role of government, redistribution of

resources will occur and hence the equitable distribution of fruits of economic growth will be encouraged. According to the World Bank (2009), inclusiveness is a synonymous concept of the aggregate of the equitable distribution, achieving equality in opportunities, market protection and transition in employment. It also enhances productive growth with the help of increased employment. Bhalla (2007) explained that productive employment assists in deteriorating unemployment, decreasing poverty and enhancing the efficiency level with a condition of equitable spread of it in all the segments of the economy. According to the Asian Development Bank Reports by Ali and Son (2007) and Ali and Zhaung (2007), there exists no any complete and finalized definition of inclusive growth. However, this idea may be taken as 'development combined with equivalent open doors'. This idea mainly revolves around opening doors and making all the fruits available to all, not only for poor people. So, it can be said that inclusive growth persists when whole society plays its role in the growth process equivalently regardless of their individual status. Like-wise, inclusive growth can also be explained as the one which stresses that all the benefits obtained from growth must be for all the individuals of the society, especially the poor ones (Dollar & Kray (2002), Kakwani (1980). Fig 1 shows the situation of inequality and economic growth of Pakistan for the time period of 2000-2019. It is evident from the graph below that economic growth of Pakistan has almost increasing trend from 2000 to 2018, but in 2019 and 2020 its value deteriorated as compared to the previous year. While on the other hand, gini co efficient has been taken.
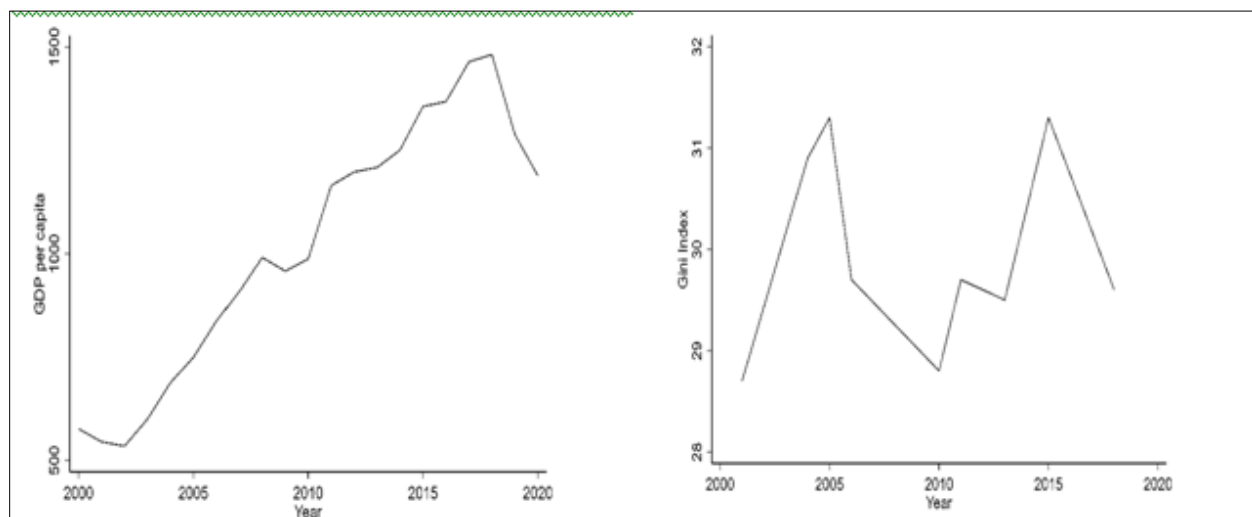

Fig 1: Gini Index and GDP per capita of Pakistan (2000-20)

Gini co-efficient works as a tool to measure inequality. Lower value indicates more equality while the higher value depicts higher inequalities (Cheema & Sial, 2010). In Pakistan, there is widespread inequality in the income distribution. So, only economic growth is not desirable, in fact, all the main four main pillars of inclusive growth play significant role (Raunyar & Kanbur (2010)).

The research question of the study is to ensure either both poor and rich classes are getting benefit from the economic growth of an economy during each decade, under each political regime, under dictatorship rule or under democratic rule. The main objectives of the study will be to calculate the inclusive growth index, to compare development in terms of inclusive growth in each decade, to compare development of inclusive growth in each political regime, to compare development in terms of inclusive growth in democratic and dictatorship rule.

Literature Review

Noticeably, Inequality and poverty fills in as the driving parts of inclusive growth. In light of emerging writings, the central factors relating to inclusive growth are summed up underneath.

Jiang et. al. (2021) looked into the unequal distribution of economic growth in the rural areas of China during 2004-17. They constructed an index for this by using the entropy weight matrix and relied their index in economic growth, environment, infrastructure and social equity. Their results indicated an attractive picture of declining inequalities among the rural areas of China mainly due to improved infrastructure.

Kacem et al. (2019) measured the inclusive growth index for Tunisia by utilizing the Principal Component Analysis (PCA) for the time period of 1980-2017. Main indicators for the index were Health, Education, Governance, Environment, Poverty and Inequality. Their results revealed that inclusive growth in Tunisia has declined from 5.35 to -3.40. The authors suggested to incorporate such policy reforms which induces the economy towards an egalitarian and inclusive path of economic growth. But unfortunately, the study failed to reflect the many other important indicators of inclusive growth index and remained confined towards a little number of it.

Sabir & Qamar (2019) investigated the linkage between fiscal policy institutions and inclusive growth by using Generalised Method of Moments. Findings revealed a positive relation between institutions, fiscal policy and inclusive growth. The authors suggested to improve the social overhead capital of the economy and to boost the government expenditures in order to attain more enhanced inclusive economic growth.

Anand et. al (2013) found the linkage among the macroeconomic variables, human capital and structural changes for providing the basis of inclusive growth over three decades. Tripathi (2013) did the analysis of 54 cities of India and found inclusive growth and poverty to be lower with rising inequalities for the time period of 2004-05 to 2009-10.

Ali & Ahmad (2013) explained in his study that income inequality and economic growth have negative relation with each other in case of Pakistan during 1972-2007. They also found that labor force participation rate, foreign aid and foreign direct investment have positive relation with inequality. They applied Vector Error Correction Model (VECM) to check for the long run relationships among the afore-discussed variables and found significant results.

Asghar and Javed (2012) investigated the situation of education sector, employment opportunities, income inequality and inclusive growth for the time period of 1998-2008 for Pakistan. They concluded inequality persists in case of larger opportunities of education and employment sector.

Pasha (2007) highlighted the impact of inequality, poverty and growth for the Asian countries during the time period of 1981 to 2004. He calculated the poverty growth elasticity to measure the extent of inclusiveness. He found that East Asian countries (Malaysia and Thailand) had greater inclusiveness of growth, while India's inclusiveness value was very low. He also found that from early 1990's, Pakistan's economy was backward but after 2000's; rapid growth was made and hence achieved insignificant elasticity and thus wider inequality in the country. He concluded that, after 2000's poverty and income inequalities in income distribution went on deceasing greatly.

Pasha &Palanivel (2003) determined the long run relationship of poverty and economic growth of nine East Asian countries and five South Asian countries. Their conclusion showed deteriorating poverty with increasing growth levels. But the results were not same across countries and time.
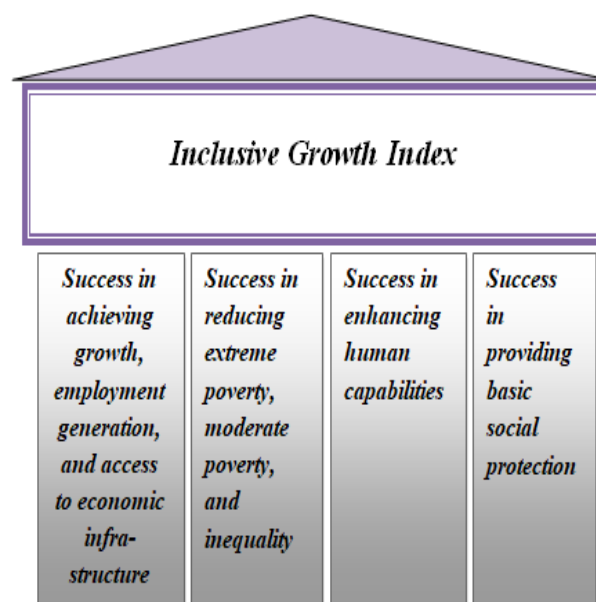
In the study of Klasen (2010), Health, education, nutrition and social integration of the miserable ones is rich in exacerbating inequalities. Furthermore, a wide literature regarding definition of inclusive growth was presented in his study initiated by Rauniyar & Kanbur, Ali & Son and Ali & Zhaung. They defined this concept relying on income and non-income factors including education attainment, improving survival rates like mortality rates of children, improved nutritional values, improved facilities of transport and communication, household services including potable drinking water, electricity, etc. Another important element considered by them was productive employment opportunities for inclusive economic growth.

Sachs, (2003); Bhalla (2007) and Ianchovichina & Lundstrom, (2008) discussed the important dimensions of inclusiveness of growth. Sachs (2004) highlighted three main structural factors of developing economies which were subsistence oriented, decreased savings level, and increasing imports. He also said that these dimensions also play their roles in exacerbating poverty level. It was suggested in this study to enhance the productive employment opportunities. Side by side, education, health, transportation and communication, sanitation and public services are also some significant elements in enhancing the inclusive growth intensive culture in the economy. Ascheaur (1989) empirically tested the relationship between infrastructure and growth for United States. He concluded that one percent increase in infrastructure enhances growth by 0.29 percent. Hulten (1996) elucidated the direct linkage between investments on infrastructure and growth. Likewise, Calderon & Serven (2005) investigated the liaison between growth and inequality in context of investment on infrastructure for 100 countries for the time period of 1960-2000 And found varying results for all the economies. The presence of ample studies of infrastructural investment and growth directs towards its significance for deprived individuals and achieving inclusive growth.

Earlier studies didn't give a sound framework to check either the economy gained inclusive growth or not. Furthermore, there is hardly any study for Pakistan analyzing the working of economic growth to measure the inclusive growth over two decades. This study provides the spread of inclusive growth in Pakistan linked with the concepts of pro-poor growth

Data and Methodology

Inclusive growth index is used as a tool to measure the level of economic growth along equitable distribution of resources among the rich and the poor. This index is based upon the four pillars, (i) increased economic growth, efficient employment sources, equitable distribution of economic infrastructure (ii) reduced poverty and inequality (iii) better human capabilities (iv) basic social protection. So, the success in achieving inclusivity of growth depends upon the afore discussed pillars. To analyze the relationship between the poverty income inequality and inclusive growth, many scholars made contribution in the literature by comparing the trends of inclusive growth. Ali (2007) compared the time period of 1990 and 2005 and pointed out the prevalence of inequality in the Asia Pacific. Likewise, Pasha (2009) presented his work on the same region by raising the different elements of the inequality. Mckinley (2010) measured the inclusive growth index and applied the Asian Development Bank's methodology for different countries including India, Cambodia, Uzbekistan and Bangladesh. Chaudhary and Razaq (2012) and Raunyar & Kanbur (2010) pointed out the importance of inclusive growth by measuring it for the time period of 1970-2011 in Pakistan by using Asian Development Bank's methodology. It was concluded that Pakistan showed disappointing values of inclusive growth index during this time period. This study will also use the Asian Development Bank's Methodology. Main focused indicators of this study are growth, efficient employment, inequalities among income level, and capabilities of the individuals, achieving equity in gender and poverty and social protection. While the analysis will use the following basic indicators including income growth (per capita), value added obtained from agriculture, industrial, services and manufacturing sector as the percentage of GDP. Employment level of Industrial sector, agricultural

Inclusive Growth Index			
Success in achieving growth, employment generation, and access to economic infra-structure	Success in reducing extreme poverty, moderate poverty, and inequality	Success in enhancing human capabilities	Success in providing basic social protection

Source: Author's own analysis based upon Asian Development Bank Report (2010)

sector, and services will be utilized as the percentage of labor force. While the indicators of infrastructural stock are internet users per 100 people; telephone lines (per 100 people); mobile cellular subscription (per 100 people); rail lines (total route 10 kilometer); and roads (Km/1000Sq km of geographical area). Poverty is taken as head count ratio and inequality is taken as gini co-efficient. The indicators of human capabilities index is comprised of health (mortality rate under 5 (per 1000), mal-nutrition prevalence, weight of children under 5 years, access to safe potable water, better water resources in rural areas and urban areas.

Moreover, human capabilities comprises indicators like health (which is reflected through mortality rate under 5 (per 1000), malnourished children, weight of under 5 years children (%), clean potable water availability (% of population with the facility), improvement in water resources among rural areas and urban areas(% of population with the facility), improvement in sanitation (% of people with the facility) and improvement in sanitation as percentage of people with access to the facility in rural and urban areas); education (it is measured through net enrollment in primary and secondary levels);gender equity (measured through births by skilled health workers (%), mortality ratio of per 100,000 maternal births, ratio of literate boys to girls aged 15-24, ratio of girls to boys in education level of primary and secondary, and share of employment in industrial sector are utilized. Further, provision of basic social protection is captured through number of persons who took benefit from the programs of social protection, ratio of spending on social protection programs and GDP. Time period selected to carry out this analysis is 2000-20 to detect the situation of inclusive growth (data since the independence of Pakistan was not taken due to non-availability of data). Inclusive growth index is used as a measurement tool to assess the situation and prevalence of inclusive growth in Pakistan for the time period of twenty years by adopting the methodology given in Asian Development Report. According to this methodology, weights are being assigned to all the above discussed indicators as per their importance in the economic theories for the achievement of inclusive growth, which are as under;

Table 1: *Achieving growth.*

Statement	Percentage
Success in achieving growth, employment generation, and access to economic infrastructure	50%
Success in reducing extreme poverty, moderate poverty, and inequality (including vertical, horizontal, and gender inequality)	25%
Success in enhancing human capabilities (e.g., health, education, water, and sanitation)	15%
Success in providing basic social protection (especially for eliminating extreme poverty)	10%

Source: Asian Development Bank

According to Table 1, fifty percent weight age has been given to the success in achieving growth, employment generation and economic infrastructure, twenty five percent weight age has been given to the success in decreasing extreme poverty, moderate poverty and inequality, fifteen percent weight age has been allocated to the success in achieving human capabilities, while the remaining ten percent has been allocated in providing basic social protection. Indicators related to growth, employment, economic infrastructure, equity in gender, poverty and inequality, health and nutrition, sanitation, potable water, education, sanitation and water supply and variables of social protection are weighted as 0.25, 0.15, 0.10, 0.05, 0.10, 0.10, 0.0.5, 0.05, 0.5, 0.5 and 0.10 respectively. The value thus obtained of inclusive growth index ranging 1 to 3, 4 to 7 and 8 to 10 depicts the efficiency of the indicators of inclusive growth tagged as being unsatisfactory, satisfactory and superior distribution of growth among poor people. Data for the indicators used in inclusive growth indexes has been taken from the website of World Development Indicators (WDI) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). According to my knowledge there exists hardly any study which has revealed the inclusive growth index of Pakistan for this time period and gave the

picture of each decade of the Pakistan; comparison of different political regimes and; democratic and dictatorship rule. So, this study bridges this gap in the literature by measuring the inclusive growth index.

Empirical Results and Discussions

There exist many ups and downs in growth patterns of the economic growth of Pakistan during last half century. The indicators of inclusive growth of Pakistan have also not showed consistent growth over time. Table 2 shows scores of each pillar category, weight assigned to each category and total score of the inclusive growth index during 2000-20. Total score in the last row of the table 2 is giving us the estimates of inclusive growth index for the specific time period as satisfactory, unsatisfactory and superior. Ascore range of 1-3 will be considered as unsatisfactory performance, 4-7 means satisfactory performance while 8-10 indicates superior picture of the inclusive growth (Mckinley, 2010). Dictatorship period is taken as 2000-07 and democracy period is taken as 2008-16. Estimates of the inclusive growth index are also explained below.

Table 2: *Inclusive Growth Index 2000-10 and 2010-20*

Pillar Category	Weight Assigned	Score Obtained for the time period of 2000-10	Total Score Obtained for the time period of 2000-10	Score Obtained for the time period of 2010-20	Total Score Obtained for the time period of 2010-20
Growth	.25	3	0.75	2	0.5
Employment Generation	0.15	3	0.45	3	0.45
Economic Infrastructure	0.10	2	0.2	4	0.4
Poverty prevalence	0.10	4	0.4	3	0.3
Inequality in distribution	0.10	2	0.2	2	0.2
Gender Equity	0.05	4	0.2	2	0.1
Health or Nutrition	0.05	3	0.15	1	0.15
Education Level	0.05	3	0.15	3	0.15
Water and Sanitation	0.05	2	0.1	3	0.15
Social protection	0.10	1	0.1	2	0.2
Total Score Obtained	**1**	**-**	**2.7**	**-**	**2.6**

According to the estimates obtained in the table 2, the overall score obtained of inclusive growth index is 2.7 for first decade and 2.6 for the second decade. The values lies between the range of 1-3, which means the Pakistan showed unsatisfactory performance in first decade mainly because of the poor performance in providing social protection, maintaining equity and providing good economic infrastructure. While in the second decade, growth, inequality, gender equity and social protection are mainly responsible for the bad performance.

Table 3: *Inclusive Growth Index under democratic and dictatorship rule*

Pillar Category	Weight Assigned	Score Obtained for the Time Period of Democratic Rule	Total Score Obtained for the Time Period of Democratic Rule	Score Obtained for the Time Period of Dictatorship Rule	Total Score Obtained for the Time Period of Dictatorship Rule
Growth	0.25	3	0.75	2	0.5
Employment Generation	0.15	2	0.3	3	0.45
Economic Infrastructure	0.10	3	0.3	2	0.2
Poverty prevalence	0.10	2	0.2	3	0.3
Inequality in distribution	0.10	3	0.3	3	0.2
Gender Equity	0.05	4	0.2	2	0.1
Health or Nutrition	0.05	2	0.1	1	0.15
Education Level	0.05	3	0.15	2	0.1
Water and Sanitation	0.05	2	0.1	3	0.15
Social protection	0.10	1	0.1	2	0.2
Total Score Obtained	**1**		**2.5**	**-**	**2.45**

The table given above shows a comparison of democratic and dictatorship rule time period's performances. According to the growth figures, the performance remained unsatisfactory under both regimes and lying between the range of 1-3. However, the scores of democratic regimes are slightly better than the democratic regime. It is worth noting that mostly a general perception exists that economic performance becomes better in the dictatorship regimes as compared to democratic regimes but our results showed a slightly contradictory situation here. It is a new addition in the literature, which was never discussed earlier before this study.

Table 4: *Inclusive Growth Index under Each Political Regime*

Pillar Category (Weight Assigned)	Total Score Obtained for the Regime I	Total Score Obtained for the Regime II	Total Score Obtained for the Regime III	Total Score Obtained for the Regime IV	Total Score Obtained for the Regime V
Growth (0.25)	0.25	0.5	0.75	0.5	0.5
Employment Generation 0.15	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.45	0.45
Economic Infrastructure 0.10	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3
Poverty prevalence 0.10	0.2	0.15	0.2	0.2	0.3
Inequality in distribution 0.10	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2

Gender Equity 0.05	0.15	0.2	0.1	0.15	0.1
Health or Nutrition 0.05	0.3	0.1	0.15	0.10	0.2
Education Level 0.05	0.25	0.2	0.15	0.15	0.10
Water and Sanitation 0.05	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.15
Social protection 0.10	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total Score Obtained	**2.45**	**2.25**	**2.35**	**2.35**	**2.5**

Table 4 provides us the estimates of the each political regime during 2000-20. These regimes are taken in the following manner, regime I is the regime when Mir Zafarullah Khan was the prime minister of Pakistan (2000-04), regime II is the time period of 2004-07 when Shaukat Aziz took the hold as prime minister, regime III is the time period of 2007-12, Mian Muhammad Soomro (2007-08) and Yousaf Raza Gillani (2008-12) were the prime ministers, regime IV is defined as the time period of 2012-17 and the prime ministers were Raja Pervez Ashraf (2012-13) and Nawaz Sharif (2013-17), regime V spans over 2017-20 and the prime ministers were Shahid Khaqan Abbasi (2017-18) and Imran Khan (2018-22).[1] If we have a look on the growth estimates of these all afore discussed political regimes given in the above table, it can be easily said that none of the government showed satisfactory performance. Al the growth estimates are lower than 3, depicting unsatisfactory performance.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

The study focused mainly on the measurement of the inclusive growth of Pakistan from 2000 to 2020. To conduct the empirical analysis, Asian Development Bank's methodology was adopted for the creation of different indices. The empirical evidences drawn from the results are discussed as under.

Main theme of the welfare of economy always lies under the achievement of the welfare of masses of the society. So, the attention of the economists shifted to the economic development instead of economic growth. With the passage of time, this attention further opened its way for the inclusion of basic needs, social action plans and prevailing poverty and then further evolved as the inclusive growth. The debate on the pro-poor growth and elimination of poverty was on rise to achieve the welfare of masses of the society. It can also be said that the voices should be heard and should be allowed to make decisions. This will lead towards the creation of environment of equitable advances in the living standard of the people of society. It caused the literature to bend towards the emergence of relation between poverty, income inequality, human capabilities and prevalence of economic and physical infrastructure, leading towards the idea of inclusive growth.

Literature on inclusive growth also started to accumulate for Pakistan. Unlike the existing literature, this study encompasses the inclusive growth measurement for Pakistan for the time period of 2000-2020. For this purpose, many indices were formed comprising many indicators relying on the pillars of inclusive growth including infrastructure development, employment creation, nutrition, health, sanitation, education, safe drinking water facility, reduction in poverty, and social protection Unluckily, these indicators showed disappointing picture with hardly any positive change towards attaining the inclusive growth. The time period of 2000 to 2010 experienced the slow economic progress. During 2010 to 2020, the performance became more depressing than the previous regime.

By keeping in view the results obtained in the study, an important fact drawn is that current public policies are not creating favorable environment to induce the equitable distribution of fruits of prosperity.

It can be easily said that economic and social welfares showed unsatisfactory performance in Pakistan for the time period of 2000-20, which is leading the economy towards alarming situation for the policy makers. Moreover, it is also evident that bad governance is also responsible for absence of equity among rich and poor ones, so there arise a need to chalk out such policies which should be superior to the previous ones and must be in favor of achieving inclusiveness of growth.

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