

# JAPAN'S HUMAN-CENTERED ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN

*Ishrat Afshan Abbasi\**

## **Abstract**

*The research paper aims to highlight the significance of the concept of human security in Japan's foreign policy. In this respect, Pakistan is taken as a case study. The paper assumes Japan as a main source to empower the people of Pakistan to live a standard life. To explore the reality the paper contains three main sectors including Education, Health and Water and Sanitation as three priority issues to ascertain the role of Japan for the development of human resource in Pakistan. The paper concludes Japanese role in Pakistan commendable as regard to human development.*

## **Introduction**

Twenty first century is witnessing a new structure of International System where borderless and timeless interaction among states has been the cause of dual implications for human being. On one hand this advanced communication system is facilitating the lives of people, Nonetheless, inversely; it results easy transformation of evils across the world. Thereby, in positive analysis this trans-border activity aware people of all life threatening problems in society such as International terrorism, drug trafficking, environmental degradation, which emerges complicated health problems for human being, poverty and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In this manner, individuals' responsiveness to life

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\* Lecturer, Department of International Relations, University of Sindh, Jamshoro

endangering problems gave rise to the idea of human security. According to late Dr. Mehboob-ul-Haq, Former Finance Minister of Pakistan and founder of the world renewed United Nations Human Department Program.

“Human Security is a concept that places emphasis on every individual in order to protect them from threats against their lives, livelihood, and dignity and to help them fulfil their abundant potential.

It means, the concept of human security emphasizes importance of “Protection” and “Empowerment”. In other words, human security seeks to protect individuals from “Fears” such as Conflict, spread of infectious diseases, destruction of environment and natural disasters and the “threats” such as poverty hunger, and lack of education and health care services. It also aims to strengthen people’s ability to choose and take action against threats at their own”. As this idea is universally adopted so the implementation of this notion is linked to the responsibility of International Organizations, states, NGOs, local authorities and individuals themselves.

In this term the primary responsibility is undertaken by the United Nations Organization. This is the platform to decide the fate of Nations. In consideration of this fact before dawn of 21<sup>st</sup> century the UN Millennium summit held in New York in September 2000, attended by 189 representatives of world, to sort out the diversification of threats to the Human security and National Integrity. The outcome of the meeting appeared on the scene in the

form UN Millennium Declaration. This comprises of eight goals. The eradication of extreme poverty

- Universal primary education
- Gender equality and the empowerment
- Reduction of child mortality
- Improvement of maternal threats
- Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- Ensuring, environmental sustainability
- Establishing global partnership for Development

All these goals were to be achieved until 2005. In this respect Japan has imparted responsibility upon Developed countries. Japan conceives indispensable help of great powers to developing countries toward the eradication of these evils. Therefore, Japan is champion of Millennium Development goals, being one of the founding members of Commission on Human Security and the seeker of multidimensional security and signatory to the International Convention for the suppression of Financing Terrorism. Japan has placed a significant emphasis on Humanitarian issues. It has positioned the MDGs as one of the important pillars of its assistance policies, Japan's official Development Assistance Charter, which constitutes the basis of Japan's official development assistance (ODA) policies, pertinent to the global issues, such as; environment, population, Health, Education, Sanitation, Women development and Governance. Accordingly, Japan is making efforts toward achieving the MDGs in line with both ODA Charter and the Medium-Term Policy on ODA, which forms the framework of Japan's ODA policies. Japan's assistance to Pakistan for the cause of human security is part of this policy.

### **Characteristics of Japan's Human-Centered Assistance**

Japan's human security philosophy and approach is linked to its official development assistance program that initiated 50 years ago

so as to empower the people of developing countries in social and economic fields and infrastructure. As regard to it the faculty of development was to shift Japan's knowledge and technology, to assist and encourage for the process of Democratization and Progression to Market Economies of the developing countries. The point of convergence of this plan is "self help", which means to bring the developing states and their people in the position of "self-responsibility" of future. In line with this policy, Japan extensively supports and highly appreciates the human resource development projects for the development of an economic and social foundation, such as, social infrastructure including education, health care, and sanitation, and economic infrastructure like transportation, communication and energy.<sup>1</sup>

Japan became the emblem of human security in January 2001 when in the wake of UN Secretary-General Annan's visit to Japan then Prime Minister Morio's proposal was accepted in the form of the establishment of human security commission. The commission consisted of 12 experts including Mome. Sadako Ogata, UN High Commission for refugees and Dr Amarta San the then Master of Trinity College, Cambridge University.

Immediately after the establishment, the commission engaged itself in holding meetings, dialogues and conducting research on a variety of coordinating themes at various places around the world. In September 2003, the Advisory Board on Human Security was established, so as to counsel with the UN Secretary General on various forms to accomplish the recommendations of the report and utilize the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security. The board meets annually, under Sadako Ogata. Moreover, a meeting on "Friends of Human Security" was held in October 2006 under the leadership of Japan with the aim of attracting the attention of both developed and developing countries concurrently towards the sensitive issues of human security. Associating with this

commission, Japan held the International Symposium on Human Security to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its admission to the UN under the “Human Security in Post-conflict peace building-Transition from humanitarian Relief to development.”<sup>2</sup>

Government of Japan has embraced the subsequent main six approaches as the notable characters of its development assistance in its trust fund for Human Security established in the UN and bilateral assistance toward the NGOs of developing countries through Grant Assistance for Grass-Root Human Security projects.

- Assistance that focuses the people as a central point of states concerns and that efficiently extends to the people
- Assistance to make stronger the local communities
- Assistance that emphasizes empowering the people of developing countries
- Assistance that call the government and international communities’ attention in the peoples’ favour who are exposed to threats
- Cross-sectoral assistance that mobilizes a range of professional expertise.<sup>3</sup>

These main approaches are not new in Japan’s assistance policy. The significant indications of its tendency to the concept of human security are traced back in March 1999, when first time the Government of Japan established grass roots Grant Aid in the UN contributing ¥500million as human security assistance, which rose up to the mark of ¥33.5 million until the fiscal year of 2006. This assistance is donated to local and international NGO’s, and educational and medical institutions in developing countries for supporting nearly small projects that are well worthy for basic human needs. In 2003, the name of this instrument was changed from grass roots Grant Aid to Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects, In order to display the features of this

assistance program as an instrument of human security.

Meanwhile the ODA Charter had also been revised linked to Human security concept. The present Agenda of ODA contains five basic principles of Human security process. These are to,

- Make stronger the self-help struggle of developing countries, supporting their efforts for the maintenance of good governance.
- make people as central point of states' policies
- The guarantee of credible supports to the socially vulnerable, especially for bettering the Position of women in developing countries.
- Assist the economic and social development of developing countries utilizing experience and expertise of Japan.
- Partnership and collaboration with the international community in consideration of joining hands with international organizations and other donor countries for security and dignity of human being.

Following are the priority issues of Japan's Human-centered Assistance toward developing countries

- Poverty reduction
- Sustainable growth
- Addressing global issues
- Peace building
- Promotion of democratization<sup>4</sup>

### **Factors of Japan's Human-Centered Social Development**

It is said, "Human resource development is a source of nation building and social development". In view of this saying Japan has given a significant place to human resource development in its assistance program because it is radically considerable factor in

addition to “self help” efforts of developing countries that is one of the key code of Japan’s assistance program. Assistance for human resource development incorporates the furtherance of mutual linkages on personal as well as states level in various sectors. This exchange is essential to promote the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are universal development objectives and are to be achieved by 2015. In this respect the following sectors describe Japan’s support for social development.

- Education
- Health and Welfare
- Water and sanitation
- Gender
- Environmental Issues
- Food
- Energy
- Terrorism and Piracy
- Drugs
- Internationally organized crimes.<sup>5</sup>

### **Significance of Japan’s Human Centered Assistance to Pakistan**

Since the establishment in 1947, internal socio-economic and socio-political condition and external linkages especially on regional level have remained vulnerable. In face of such constraints and external threats the country could have not utilized and properly developed the human resource wealth to the desirable extent. As a result the concept of human security is far from the reach of practical implementation within country. The main issues that have been hindrance in the way of smooth development of country are,

- Feeble Political Orientation
- Poverty and unemployment
- UN equal access to social opportunities
- Low income and consumption level in education and health

sectors

- Unfavourable natural phenomena
- Lower economic growth
- Declined labour absorption capacity
- Nuclear testing
- Foreign Intervention

These problems indicate the inevitability of three-pronged-strategy to remove the disparities and embark on the route of development. This strategy aims at fortifying all social, economic and political grounds for strong human-centered society in Pakistan.

- Political Consensus for sake of human welfare and development
- Consistency and continuity of economic development strategies
- Vigorous social monitoring policy to check the equality of access to social opportunities in real terms

The Three priority areas given below are essential for achieving the goals of ensuring human security and human development with in country. Among them, the importance of:

- Reduction of various social, economic and other disparities in education and health care.
- Support for higher education and technical training to promote the expansion of the middle class
- Ensuring access to primary health care, safe water and sanitation and the reduction of various other disparities<sup>6</sup>

### **Directions of Japan's Human-Centered Assistance for Pakistan**

Japan initiated its human-centered economic assistance towards Pakistan through three phases in three forms like in 1954 technical



assistance; in 1961 loan aid and in 1970 grant aid, which has played persistently an important role in country's development.<sup>7</sup>

During 1990s, while other donors were decreasing their assistance to Pakistan because of its nuclear Policies but Japan maintained its assistance for social sectors, economic infrastructure, agriculture, and the environment.<sup>8</sup>

Even in the wake of response to the nuclear tests conducted by Pakistan in May 1998, Japan imposed economic measures suspending loan aid and grant aid to new projects. However, the Government of Japan continued to provide grants assistance on emergency and humanitarian basis and grant assistance for grassroots projects, technical cooperation aiming at poverty reduction and human resources development, emergency and humanitarian assistance and grassroots grant aid for promoting human security. These economic sanctions were lifted as a result of 9/11 attacks, when Pakistan joined international community in war against terrorism.<sup>9</sup>

Based on the recognition of the importance of extending medium and long-term cooperation for Pakistan's stable development and thus rectifying the various social disparities in Pakistan and reducing poverty, which creates a breeding ground for terrorism.

Japan took the initiative in announcing 40 million U.S. dollars in emergency economic assistance to Pakistan.. In November, Japan announced additional assistance of 300 million U.S. dollars (which included the above-mentioned 40 million U.S. dollars) in grant aid for poverty reduction, including in the fields of education and medical care. In December, Japan agreed to the Paris Club's rescheduling of Pakistan's official debt (amounting to approximately 4.5 billion U.S. dollars in case of Japan), with the international donor community unites in the war against terrorism.<sup>10</sup>

On 3rd February, 2005 the Government of Japan approved the country Assistance Programme for Pakistan (under its Medium-Term Policy on Official Development Assistance (ODA) towards developing countries) that are aimed at "Building a sustainable society". For this specific goal, three priority based target areas have further been identified as guideposts for extending economic cooperation to Pakistan that include ensuring human security and human development: development of a sound market economy; and achievement of balanced regional socio-economic development. These three areas are essential for this country to achieve economic and social development.<sup>11</sup>

With regard to Pakistan's social concerns as towards development three main issues were discussed here with reference to Pak-Japan human-centered relations. These are,

Education, Health and Welfare, Gender and Water and Sanitation

### **Education**

Education plays a significant part in the socioeconomic growth of every country. It is an important source of human development. According to worldwide figures there are 77 million children who are currently unable to attend school for a variety of reasons; female figure is higher than man. In order to improve literacy rate in 1990 the international community initiated Education for All Program to provide access to every one to the basic education. Besides, some targets of the Framework for Action were included in Million Development Goals for rapid achievement, such as the achievement of universal primary education by 2015. Being a staunch supporter of human resource development in a wide range of fields Japan's worldwide education policy is to expand basic, higher, technical, vocational and training education around world as well as accepting foreign students to Japan's institutes of higher education.

Government of Japan has been assisting Government of Pakistan in literary and non-formal basic education to achieve its "Education for all goals". In this respect, Japanese experts are sent to Ministry of Education to reinforce the function of formal and non-formal literacy program to keep up the activities and projects pertaining EFA.

Recently, Japan extended grant in favour to empower the distance education system in Pakistan, at the institute of Educational Technology of Allama Iqbal Open University. The Japanese grant comprised of TV broadcasting centre, different re-broadcasting stations and educational video program for distance teaching to crop up proficient standard educational programs for TV and radio. The grants effected imparting education to people in their homes in a wide area of Pakistan at easy cost. This grant will also be utilized to make better measures of university's print production unit. Moreover, 32 regional campuses and centres of the university, scattered all over Pakistan will be strengthened by provision of equipment such as TV and DVDs.<sup>12</sup>

Presently among the ongoing assistance program Punjab Literacy Promotion Project with 4 model districts is one of the vital projects to revitalize the administrative and planning capacity of literacy department. Japan's educational assistance to Pakistan is not limited to only one region of Pakistan, in recent times, it has granted assistance to construct 30 new primary schools in NWFP and to middle level education especially for the girls in this province.<sup>13</sup>

Besides, to go to equip and reconstruct 130 schools across FATA, it has initiated assistance costing US\$ 5 million (300 million Rupees), since the last year. This project aims at promoting and putting in service the capabilities of students by means of boosting up the educational infrastructure and thus multiplying educational opportunities and motivation for schooling of local children.

There is another current ODA project that aims to improve characteristics of elementary education and lessen gender disparity in the province of Balochistan. In this respect, Japan supports upgrading of 200 primary schools to middle schools, construction of science rooms and technical workshops, as well as the requirement of essential provisions. The project also involves entrance into service and training of technical teachers.<sup>14</sup>

## Health

United Nations Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) lists three objectives for health and welfare sector: to reduce child mortality, to improve maternal health, and to combat the spread of infectious diseases. Being a principled supporter of UN MDGs, Japan announced the Health and Development Initiative (HDI) in June 2005, which aims to provide US\$5 billion over the five-year period from FY2005 to FY2009 for the health development in developing countries. This program revolves around the measures to tackle infectious diseases, maternal and child health measures, strengthening health systems, as well as cross-sectoral assistance.<sup>15</sup>

In case of Human Security assistance to Pakistan the health sector is one of the priority sectors of Japan's assistance. Under the new country Assistance Program, Japan has provided financial assistance to various health projects including basic health units and rural health centres. As regard to health assistance, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) is also a focal point of Japan's donation to the health care system in Pakistan. Japan has so long granted an amount of about 60.7 million US dollars to build and furnish four paramount contents of PIMS among its seven clinical and academic components, their details are as following:

Children's Hospital {Japanese grant of 4300 million yen (approx. US\$ 17.2 million) and inaugurated in March 1985} {another grant of

*625 million yen (approx. US\$ 5.2 million) was extended in August 2003 to mitigate and prevent damages caused by natural disasters}*

College of Nursing / College of Medical Technology {*Japanese grant of 2510 million yen (approx. US\$ 10 million) inaugurated in February 1987 and September 1987 respectively*}

Mother & Child Health Care Center (*Japanese grant of 2464 million yen (approx. US\$ 22.5 million) and inaugurated in December 1998 Japan's Development Assistance towards Pakistan.*<sup>16</sup>)

Since 1996, under Expanded Programme of Immunization of the Pakistani government the Japanese government has constantly been supporting Pakistan's efforts to eradicate Polio among Pakistani children for procurement of oral polio vaccine. In the same way, as considerable donation has also been extended for medication toward Neonatal Tetanus. Technical teamwork to intensify EPI and Tuberculosis (TB) control is also being implemented. Recently, a project has been announced for the betterment of basic health care delivery system in 8 districts of Balochistan. In view of the poor health care system, major needed equipment for instance X-ray machines, dental centre and 175 Basic Health units, heavy generators, , anesthesia machines, ENT units, ambulances, , will be provided. The project carries on three programs such as "In-country training" "Safe Management of New born Infants", "to reduce infant and maternal mortality rate".

Likewise, since 2004, Japan has initiated a Study on Improvement of Management Information Systems. The main purpose of this study is to give form to a national movement for the enhancement of health information system, which will confirm to the information needs at each level of public health service delivery.<sup>17</sup> With the collaboration of Japan's Life Welfare Society, Pakistan is working on a project. Aim of the project is for Construction of a Care and Rehabilitation Centre

for Special (Handicapped) Children in Lahore". Project's ongoing implementation area includes 22 villages located around Lahore and adjacent to the Wagha border. (Workshop to Introduce Japan's Country Assistance Program for Pakistan held in Islamabad.<sup>18</sup>

The Government of Japan also imparted a grant of approximately US\$ 5.2 million to the Islamabad Children's Hospital an integral part of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in August 2003. This grant aid intends to design wanted steps for avoiding and decreasing the effects of natural disasters as the hospital damaged as a result of flooding on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2001.<sup>19</sup>

### **Water and Sanitation**

Water and Sanitation is a sensitive issue that needs special attention and effective execution in developing countries particularly in Asia. According to the survey report of World Health Organization and United Nations Institution for Culture and Education found about 1.1 billion people around the world were deprived of safe drinking water in 2004 and 0.6 billion of which live in Asia. Moreover, about 2.6 billion people worldwide have no approach to required sanitation such as sewage systems, of which approximately 1.9 billion live in Asia. According to the same report, this problem is cause of 1.6 million young children's' demise each year. In view of this case, the UN set a MDG target to halve by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation" and marks the period from 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade for Action Water for Life.

Japan has been greater donor in the sector of water and sanitation since 1990s. In the wake of the Third World Water Forum, which was held in March 2003 in Kyoto, Japan announced the Initiative for Japan's ODA on Water, a comprehensive assistance package for the water sector. Over the five-year period from 2001 until 2005, it spent

US\$4.88 billion in ODA in this area.

Besides, at the Fourth World Water Forum held in March 2006 in Mexico City, Japan declared taking the first step toward the Water and Sanitation Broad Partnership (WASABI). This initiative is pointed at to reinforce collaboration with international organizations, other donor countries, domestic and overseas NGOs and other pertinent parties, in the sectors of water and sanitation.

Following its partnership program in FY2006, Japan granted approximately ¥360.1 billion of joint action done for an association of around ¥21.6 billion in grant aid (to 30 countries) and roughly ¥338.5 billion in loan aid (to 13 countries). Through technical cooperation in FY2006, Japan accepted 633 trainees and dispatched 64 experts.<sup>20</sup>

To meet the rapidly growing demand of potable water in big cities such as Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and Karachi, Japan has provided soft loans. While the water resources in the urban areas have been for the piped water availability after treatment, in the rural areas it has been for construction of wells to provide potable water.<sup>21</sup>

Pakistan, along with other developing countries extremely suffers from the problems of hazardous water and its lethal consequences. Especially, the cities in Pakistan confront with the widening demand for proper sewage disposal on account of rising population and swift urbanization. As a part of Japan's attempts to support improve the urban infrastructure, it is meant to advance development of sewerage systems in urbanized areas because the development and augmentation of such systems has a direct bearing on other essential sectors like education, health, and economic development.

Grant aid for rehabilitation of water treatment system (1991-19992) and metropolitan water projects (khanpur and simply as yen loans projects) completed in 1997 and 2000 respectively are good examples of

Japanese ODA projects aimed at building water supply system in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Karachi Water supply Project is another project, which is currently being implemented to strengthen filtered water supply capacity at Hum and Pipri treatment plants.

The fresh example of Japanese backing to help refine the extant sewage and drainage system and to mitigate likely flood damages can be found in the northern parts of Lahore City. Under the grant project, along with monitoring and cleaning equipment, additional pumps and related equipment for pumping stations, cleaning and dieseling equipment for sewer pipes and drainage channels are purchased.

Another important Project is initiated in Faisalabad for improvement of Water Supply System. The project covers main function like construction works for water collection, transmission and distribution facilities in Faisalabad City.

Regarding the large-scale rehabilitation and improvement of sewage and drainage system in Sindh, The Taunsa Barrage at Indus River system is main example, this barrage is not only a key irrigation facility but also a facility to prevent possible damages from floods. Therefore the rehabilitation and electrification of gates and decks is being undertaken along with the availability of some necessary operational, maintenance and construction equipment.

The total grant funding by Japan in tandem with Pakistan 's rehabilitation project is 5,281 million yen (approx. 3 Billion Rupees) of which 129 million yen (approx. US\$1.2 million) was initially extended to carry out a detailed design for the barrage.<sup>22</sup>

Through the GGP programme a sum of US \$ 81,025 has been extended to Agha Khan Foundation in order to assist "The project for Improvement of Sanitation System in Broshal Hoper, Nagar", a remote village in the Northern Areas of Pakistan. The project is



aimed at improving the health and environmental conditions in one of the oldest historic settlements with 100 households in tehsil Nagar-I of Gilgit.<sup>23</sup>

### **Women Development**

In developing countries Women are seemed a weak creation of nature and are deliberately placed in ineffective position in various social areas of life. It is conceivable to say that one of the main reasons of developing countries' feebleness is insufficient participation of women in social life. The sustainable development of developing countries requires that men and women should be in equitable position in the society.

Japan's commitment against the gender discrimination in the developing countries is visible from that in 1995 Japan formulated the Women in Development (WID) Initiative, which it then drastically revised in 2005 into the newly formulated Gender and Development (GAD) Initiative.

The viewpoint of gender equality is brought into existence in the Fundamental Order of the revised ODA Charter, which states that Japan will work to empower women in developing countries.

In Pakistan Women have relatively confined approach to educational, health and other facilities Japan is strong supporter of this country in case of providing access to women to the basic living facilities therefore it has been providing assistance to various projects in this area. These include a training college's lady teachers, mother & child health care and drilling of wells to lessen the labour of burden of the rural women. For the establishment of teachers training college for women in NWFP, Japan provided financial assistance. Under a grant, a comprehensive programme spread over five years comprising services of Japanese experts, acceptance of Pakistani women for training in Japan and provision of medical equipment and supplies

for on the job training, education and information.<sup>24</sup>

Management has also been initiated. With the partnership of Japan's Life Welfare Society Pakistan is practical on a project. The project aims at Construction of a Care and Rehabilitation Centre for Special (Handicapped) Children in Lahore". Project's upcoming achievement contains 22 villages placed encompassing Lahore and close to the Wagha border. This Society intends to construct a new girl's section of the Centre's own under construction building including hostel.

Japan is paying special heed to girls education in Pakistan therefore it can be expected that Japan's assistance will help the organization to upgrade the girls' schools to secondary level, therefore, it can be expected that the girls students enrolment will increase to around 600 in future. And local girls to get education up to middle level, which will not only generate social equity but these girls, will have more opportunities to excel in future.<sup>25</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Japan is extensively supporting developing countries in the field of human empowerment. Japan's commitment with United Nations human development program urges it to work in this field. Pakistan is one of such countries of the world, which needs acute assistance of developed countries from security to economic sectors. Being a staunch supporter of the notion to empower people of the developing countries in social and economic fields, Japan is consistently supporting Pakistan. In the field of education, its support for higher education is well praised. Focusing its assistance on supporting science and engineering universities and colleges, but recently, from the perspective of poverty reduction, Japan has been strengthening its cooperation for basic education, particularly literacy and numerically education.

Besides, in the health sector it is persistently supporting to eradicate the main diseases indicated by UN millennium program. In the field of health and medical care, cooperation not only for the provision of facilities and equipment for hospitals, but also for expanding basic medical services is also an important concern. As regard to safe water and sanitation Pakistan is among one of the sensitive regions of the world. Therefore, it needs help of the world powers for the solution of basic programs in this sector. Concerning women development this country is trying to apply a moderate approach.

Being one of the top donors in the development of Pakistan, Japan has succeeded in developing ties of genuine trust with Pakistan through its development cooperation. Japan's cooperation can be seen in the development of underdeveloped sights in Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan has also been highly appreciative of Japan's efforts to respond positively and actively to the various problems.

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