
**TRENDS, MEASUREMENT AND AFFECTING FACTORS OF POVERTY
IN PAKISTAN: A REVIEW ARTICLE**

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ABSTRACT

Pakistan is an agrarian country facing many problems such as poverty, which rose in the sixties, and declined during the seventies and eighties it again increased in the nineties. Many authors had defined poverty and measured it by different approaches in different times, using Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) data. This study included around 150 documents out of which 50 peer reviewed articles, working papers and the government and multilateral reports were selected for the review. At present Cost of Basic Needs is the method for measuring poverty in the country, this method was adopted by the government of Pakistan in the year 2013-14. This study reveals the poverty at national level declined from 61.60 percent to 21.50 percent in 1998-99 to 2018-19 respectively. Furthermore, poverty also decreased from 47.40 percent to 10.70 percent in 1998-99 to 2018-19. Poverty has also declined in all four provinces of Pakistan. Some factors affecting poverty in Pakistan are education, health, gender, household size and remittances, agricultural inputs foreign direct investment, private investment.

Keywords: Cost of Basic Needs, Factors, Poverty, Measurement, Pakistan, Provinces, Trends

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture sector has great importance in the Pakistan's economy, this sector provides 37.00 percent employment and contributes 23.5 percent to the GDP and 0.56 percent growth of this sector was recorded in FY, 2025 (GoP, 2025). Pakistan faces many problems including poverty. Different authors and institutions at

national and international level have worked and also highlighted poverty issues and suggested to get it rid from poverty.

Poverty has been defined by the different authors and institutions in different times as Samuel A. Botchway (2013) says it is an 'endemic disease' it is a situation where people, groups, or communities are repeatedly deprived of their wellbeing. Adam Smith, father of Economics also defined poverty as "the inability to purchase necessities required by nature or custom" (Sanchez and Davis, 2014). Poverty, it is a viral disease because your basic requirements aren't being met in that condition (Tariq et al., (2014). Some authors have also explained that there is an alternative to Food Energy Intake method is called the Cost of Basic Needs method for measuring poverty like Ravallion, 1994 & 1998, Ravallion and Bidani, 1994, Ravallion and Sen 1996, and Wodon 1997 (Nazli, et al., 2015). "Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being" as this is stated by the World Bank Institute, in 2005. Mabughi and Selim (2006) defined poverty, according to conventional economic thinking; poverty is the social deprivation of a reputable standard of living. Poverty has a very lengthy history and a wide range of terminology. Early research conducted on poverty in the 20th century and it goes back to Booth's (1892) pauperism and Rowntree's (1901) investigation of town life. Rowntree was the first to describe poverty in terms of "physical efficiency" – a physiological norm related to a predetermined "basket of goods".

Ferreira referred Encyclopedia Britannica about definition of poverty as "the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions. Poverty is said to exist when people lack the means to satisfy their basic needs" (Ines A. Ferreira, 2022).

In Pakistan three main authors namely (Naseem, 1973 and 1977), (Allauddin, 1975), (Mujahid, 1978) who initially worked out on measurement of poverty and showed their results/findings from the year 1963-64 to 1969-70. Government of Pakistan has implemented policies to reduce poverty in rural and urban areas from 67.5 to 27.6 percent and 47.4 to 10.7 percent respectively from 1998-99 to 2018-19.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Numerous writers and organizations worldwide have developed methods for measuring poverty and recommended their governments for poverty alleviation.

According to UNDP and OPHI (2024), 93 million people in Pakistan live in poverty and according to (Barriga, 2024), it was estimated that 21.9% of the country's population living below the poverty line in FY 2019. The World Bank Group stated that the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) provides the data used to measure poverty in Pakistan and also referred the Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) method to measure the poverty level which was stood at Rs.3030 per adult equivalent per month in the year 2014.

In 2013-14, the government implemented the Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) methodology. The poverty line was therefore determined to be Rs.3030 per adult equivalent per month for the specified period. The same poverty threshold was adjusted for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the years 2015-16. For 2015-16, the revised poverty level was Rs.3250 per adult equivalent per month. The new poverty level for 2018-19 is determined to be Rs.3757.85 per adult equivalent per month using CPI-based inflation (GoP, 2018-19).

According to Sohail and Hina (1999). In their research, the authors found a strong link between rural poverty and credit availability. Small farmers received loans from shops at the highest interest rates, but these loans were not given to them appropriately for their farming.

In 1990s there was increasing trend in poverty and credit facilities were extended by the formal institutions to the farmers for improving socio economic conditions of rural people (Mahmood, M. (2006) explained in his research work that the most estimates seem to indicate that poverty, particularly rural poor, increased during the 1960s. However, economic disparity decreased. The 1970s saw a reversal of this trend, when poverty decreased and income inequality increased. The 1980s saw a continuation of this pattern, with income inequality rising and poverty declining.

In order to determine Pakistan's rates of monetary poverty in 2019-20, the World Bank Group conducted a survey. Total 126 districts of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan and

for the first time, the districts of the erstwhile Federal Administered Tribal Areas and the former Frontier Regions were chosen. The poverty map based on two household method survey viz. the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) for 2018-19, and Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement Survey (PSLM) for 2019-20. Their study reveals that 21.9 percent national poverty rate, poverty rates vary significantly by district, from 3.5 percent in ICT to 76.9 percent in Tharparkar. The provinces of Sindh and Balochistan have the greatest rates of poverty; areas in Punjab province, on the other hand, have significantly lower rates.

The province with the largest poverty gap is Balochistan; on average, the impoverished are further away from achieving sufficient consumption to be considered non-poor. The average monthly per-adult-equivalent consumption in Tharparkar, Sindh, is PKR 927 below the national poverty line. In contrast to the Pakistan 2014-15 poverty map, the majority of districts in Punjab, Sindh, and KP record decreasing rates of poverty. Nonetheless, poverty rates rose in some Balochistan and Sindh districts.

Ali and Ali (2018). Their research study revealed that 23.9% percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 2006 according to the UNDP and the government determined the poverty level to be 25.7% at that time. And they further referred Pakistan's Economic Survey (2014-15), that 34% of the population lived below the food poverty threshold. Food accounts up a significant portion of household budgets in Pakistan. At the national level, the household's nutritional needs are met with half of its consumption expenditures. They further explained kinds of poverty, there are many different types of poverty, but the two most severe ones are relative poverty, in which a person cannot maintain the lowest standard of living within a certain community. The government determines a person's low income based on where they reside. The second kind, known as absolute poverty, is characterized by a lack of fundamental necessities, such as clothing, food, water, housing, health care, and education. In other words, those who make less than \$2 are deemed to be in absolute poverty. According to their study analysis of the factors that contribute to poverty in Pakistan which stood 40 percent of households are impoverished on average.

Rural poverty grew and urban poverty declined during 1960s, almost all studies on poverty agreed on this, however, poverty decreased throughout the ensuing ten years and the downward trend remained up to 1987–1988 (Qureshi & Arif, 2001 and Zaidi, 1999).

According to, (ADB, 2002 & Ashraf, 2017). Normally, it is known that decreasing trend in Pakistan's poverty during the period 1970s and 1980s and was reversed during 1990s, poverty incidence enhanced to 32.2% in fiscal year, 1999 from 26.6% in fiscal year 1993, over 12 million more individuals became poor between 1993 to 1999. Poverty increased more quickly in rural areas than urban areas during the period of 1990s.

At least 37 percent of population in Pakistan remained poor in the period of 2018/19 (Jamal, 2021). Major portion of population in developing nations like Pakistan falls under below the poverty line and it is still main issue (Idrees, 2017). Approximately 132 million of the world's poorest people, according to the World Bank, reside in rural areas (Luqman et al., 2022).

Liu. Y et al. (2020). They described in their research study and suggested that in long-term poverty reduction is assisted by agriculture and other factor such as foreign remittances also affect in reduction of poverty in short run. Rural population must be given agricultural credit, and their crops must be protected. Poverty according to the National Headcount declined from 41 percent in 2008-09 to 19.9 percent in 2015-16, but it rose to 31.9 percent in 2019-20 (Mumtaz et al., 2022).

Pakistan's extreme poverty is a major source of concern. The country's predominantly illiterate population, unequal taxation, unemployment, higher rates of inflation, trade deficit, political instability, unequal resource distribution, corruption, malpractices, poor law and order conditions, internal and external debts, issues with good governance and the effective operation of public institutions, etc. are all considered to be the most significant causes of poverty in Pakistan (Arif et al., 2022).

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The paper is a systematic literature review with the backing of document analysis. It generalizes the published data to (i) explain how poverty measurement methods have changed over the years in

Pakistan, (ii) outline trends in poverty on the national and provincial levels, and (iii) to determine the key causes of poverty in Pakistan reported in the literature. Peer-reviewed journal articles on measuring poverty, poverty trends, and determinants of poverty in Pakistan and institutional publications were used as secondary sources to get evidence. These institutional sources comprised Government of Pakistan reports (Pakistan Economic Survey, poverty/inequality reports), publications of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), and reports/briefs of international organizations like the World Bank, UNDP and OPHI.

Relevant studies and reports were found with the help of a structured search strategy. Searches used keywords to measure and trends of poverty, including but not limited to the following: poverty, Pakistan, poverty line, headcount and poverty gap, Food Energy Intake (FEI), Cost of Basic Needs (CBN), and Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). Geographic and explanatory dimensions were also taken with additional terms such as province, rural, urban, determinants and drivers. The sources relating to academics were located in the popular academic search engines (e.g., Google Scholar and journal databases), whereas institutional ones were found in institutional websites and report databases (Government of Pakistan, PIDE, World Bank, and UNDP/OPHI). Moreover, the reference lists of other papers and reports relevant to the topic were manually searched to provide other sources that could not be found when using keywords.

The sources were included when they paid attention to Pakistan (national and/or provincial estimates), reported or discussed poverty measurement by means of recognized approaches (FEI, CBN, and/or MPI) and/or provided poverty estimates (e.g. poverty lines, headcount measures, rural-urban and provincial trends), and/or addressed determinants or factors influencing poverty, such as household-level, sectorial, macroeconomic, policy, and institutional factors. Sources have been filtered out based on the criterion of neither being concerned with Pakistan nor offering interpretable data on the measurement of poverty, trends, or determinants nor possessing enough methodological clarity to allow such interpretation.

TREND OF POVERTY IN PAKISTAN

In order to measure poverty in Pakistan, a number of Pakistani and international institutions, authors, experts and researchers gathered

data over a number of years and displayed the country's poverty trend. The rates of poverty at the national and provincial levels (rural and urban) from 1998 to 2018 were revealed by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics study (PIDE, 2021 and 2025) Islamabad.

POVERTY AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Poverty trend at national level during the period from 1998 to 2018 in Pakistan has been shown in table-1.

TABLE-1
POVERTY TREND AT NATIONAL LEVEL
DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1998 TO 2018

Year	Poverty Rate	Year	Poverty Rate
1998	61.6	2009	40.8
1999	63.2	2010	37.5
2000	64.9	2011	36.4
2001	66.5	2012	33.0
2002	61.9	2013	29.7
2003	57.3	2014	27.0
2004	52.7	2015	24.3
2005	54.3	2016	23.4
2006	50.9	2017	22.4
2007	47.6	2018	21.5
2008	44.2	--	--

Source: PIDE Report (2021 and 2025).

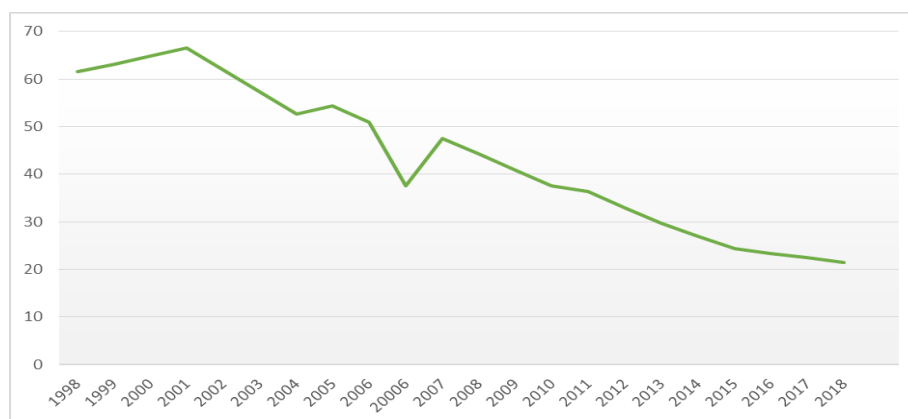


FIGURE-1: POVERTY RATE FROM 1998 TO 2018 IN PAKISTAN

Table-1 and figure-1 describe the poverty rate that stood above 61 percent during the period 1998 to 2002, the poverty rate in Pakistan

peaked in 2001 (66.5%). However, it decreased from 61.6 percent in 1998 to 21.5 percent in 2018.

RURAL AND URBAN POVERTY AT NATIONAL LEVEL FROM THE PERIOD 1998-99 TO 2018-19

Poverty, rural and urban at national level during the period 1998-99 to 2018-19 in Pakistan has been indicated in table-2 below:

TABLE-2
POVERTY, RURAL AND URBAN AT NATIONAL LEVEL
DURING THE PERIOD 1998-99 TO 2018-19

Year	Pakistan	Rural	Urban
1998-99	61.6	67.5	47.4
2001-02	66.5	71.9	53.3
2004-05	52.7	59.4	38.3
2005-06	43.3	61.8	39.5
2007-08	47.6	53.6	35.2
2010-11	37.5	42.8	26.7
2011-12	36.4	43.2	22.8
2013-14	29.7	35.8	18.4
2015-16	24.3	30.7	12.5
2018-19	21.5	27.6	10.7

Source: Afzal & Ahsan (2021).

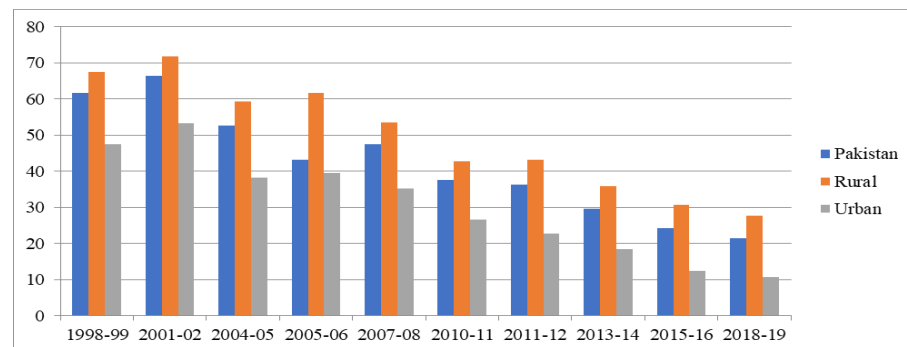


FIGURE-2: RURAL AND URBAN POVERTY FROM 1998 TO 2019 IN PAKISTAN

Table-2 and figure-2 illustrate the rural and urban poverty in Pakistan during the period 1998 to 2019; it shows that rural poverty is higher than urban poverty. Rural and urban poverty 71.9 percent and 53.3 percent in the period 2001-2002 respectively reached at highest level in the same period, however, it dropped to 27.6 to 10.7 percent from 67.5 to 47.4 percent from 1998-99 to 2018-19 respectively.

POVERTY AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL

Poverty trend at provincial level in Pakistan from 1998-99 to 2018-19 has shown in table-3.

TABLE-3
POVERTY TREND AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL IN PAKISTAN
FROM 1998-99 TO 2018-19

Year	Punjab	Sindh	Balochistan	*KPK
1998-99	61.8	57.0	55.9	71.0
2001-02	63.2	68.2	74.3	74.3
2004-05	51.5	47.5	59.8	64.8
2005-06	49.4	54.4	79.6	64.2
2007-08	42.7	51.2	77.9	51.5
2010-11	35.0	38.1	47.9	42.4
2011-12	32.9	38.6	56.7	40.9
2013-14	25.6	34.5	56.6	27.5
2015-16	20.8	32.2	42.2	18.1
2018-19	16.3	24.6	40.7	27.0

Source: Afzal & Ahsan (2021 and 2025) *Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Table-3 shows poverty trend in four provinces of Pakistan from 1998 to 2019 with a reducing trend. In Punjab, poverty declined from 61.8 percent in 1998-99 to 16.3 in 2018-19, in Sindh province it reduced from 57.0 percent in 1998 to 24.6 percent in 2018-19, poverty also reduced in Baluchistan and KPK, from 55.9 to 40.7 and 71.27 to 27.0 percent respectively during the same period.

Table-4 uses the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) to explain the average, minimum, and maximum poverty rates in four provinces of Pakistan from 1998-1999 to 2018-19.

TABLE-4
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS OF THE POVERTY (PROVINCE WISE)

Province	Mean	Min:	Max:	Std. Dev	Variance	Kurtosis	Std. Error of Mean	Std. Error of Kurtosis
Balochistan	59.1600	40.70	79.60	14.05167	197.449	-1.173	4.44353	1.334
KPK *	48.1700	18.10	74.30	20.03985	401.596	-1.517	6.33716	1.334
Punjab	39.9200	16.30	63.20	16.51402	272.713	-1.290	5.22219	1.334
Sindh	44.6300	24.60	68.20	13.30305	176.971	-.565	4.20679	1.334
Total	47.9700	16.30	79.60	17.13499	293.608	-.830	2.70928	.733

Source: Author's calculations based on Afzal & Ahsan (2021) data.

*Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Table-4 describes the average poverty rate in four Pakistani provinces: Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan. Additionally, the lowest and highest rates were noted. The average poverty rate was found to be 39.92 percent in Punjab, 44.63 percent in Sindh, 48.17 percent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 59.16 percent in Balochistan. Punjab's poverty rate decreased during the period from 1998-1999 to 2018-2019.

MEASUREMENT OF POVERTY IN PAKISTAN

The earlier work on measurement of poverty in Pakistan from 1963/64 to 2018/19. The work done by the authors were Naseem (1973 & 1977), Alauddin (1975), Mujahid (1978), Kruijk & Leeuwen (1985), (Zaidi et al. (1993), Anwar. T (2005), Jamal. H (2002), Haq. R & Bhatti (2010), Malik, M. H. (1988), Malik, S. J. (1992), Irfan & Amjad (1984), Muhammad & Amjad (1994) Anwar et al. (2004), Ghaus & Jamal (2000) Arif et al. (2000), Qureshi & Arif (2001), Anwar & Qureshi (2002), Gazdar. H. (1999) Anwar. T. (2006), Afzal & Ahsan (2021). Almost, all authors used Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) data in different times conducted by the Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS), Pakistan. Households and population ratio had been taken for estimation of the poverty in the country and their study approach were arbitrary, calories intakes and cost of basic needs methods for choosing poverty line. The unit of analysis of their studies were individual/per capita/household/adult equivalent and poverty line was arbitrary, CBN and FEI as this is also explained by the Idrees (2017) and Murtaza (2018).

From 1998-1999 to 2018-19, the Cost of Basic Need (CBN) Method has been used to determine the poverty level on the basis of different survey of Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), Islamabad. The Food Energy Intake Method (FEI), Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), and Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) methods have been used to calculate poverty. The Food Energy Intake Method (FEI), Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), and Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) methods have been used to evaluate poverty. Government of Pakistan (GoP), official adopted CBN method first time in 2013-14 for estimating poverty and this method remained more effectively. The CBN method covers food as well as non-food items and focuses on

households that can fully meet the Food Poverty Line at their current level of food expenditures, taking into account both food and non-food expenses (such as clothes, shelter, education, etc.) that are necessary for households to calculate the poverty line. In 1998-1999, the estimated poverty level was determined to be Rs. 930 per adult equivalent per month, and it was enhanced to Rs.3776 in 2018-19 (Afzal & Ahsan, 2021 & PIDE report, 2021 and 2025).

Different methods were applied by the different authors to measure poverty in Pakistan such as the Cost of Basic Need (CBN), the Food Energy Intake Method (FEI), and Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). In 2013-14, the Government of Pakistan (GoP), implemented CBN method first time for measuring poverty. Previous work on measurement of poverty in Pakistan carried out by the different authors as mentioned in table-5 below.

TABLE-5
PREVIOUS WORK ON MEASUREMENT OF POVERTY IN PAKISTAN
(in percentage)

Sr. #	Author & Year of Study	Year of Measurement	National	Rural	Urban	Page/Ref.
1	(Naseem, 1973)	1963-64	--	60.5	70.0	322 & 325
		1966-67	--	59.7	59.3	
		1968-69	--	61.5	57.9	
		1969-70	--	59.7	58.7	
2	(Allaiddin, 1975)	1963-64	--	83.01	70.0	435 & 438
		1966-67	--	80.10	59.3	
		1968-69	--	75.49	57.9	
		1969-70	--	73.27	58.8	
		1970-71	--	81.75	59.26	
3	(Mujahid, 1978)	1963-64	--	41.6	55.0	374
		1966-67	--	55.8	54.0	
		1969-70	--	52.6	51.9	
4	(Kruijk & Leeuwen, 1985)	1969-70	65	73.0	50.0	410
		1979	43	51.0	30.0	
5	(Zaidi et al. (1993)	1987-88		36.1	18.1	1174
6	(Anwar. T, 2005)	2001-02	40.7	46.7	31.1	1118
7	(Jamal. H, 2002)	1887-88	23.0	26.0	19.0	88 & 89
		1996-97	28.0	30.0	25.0	
		1998-99	30.0	32.0	25.0	

8	(Haq. R & Bhatti, 2010)	1987-88	34.50	40.65	18.75	09
		1993-94	38.70	52.80	21.90	
9	(Malik, M. H, 1988)	1963-64	--	44.97	52.34	512
		1966-67	--	52.35	49.79	
		1969-70	--	55.66	47.92	
		1979	--	38.84	33.70	
		1984-85	--	31.45	27.78	
10	(Malik, S.J., 1992)	1984-85	--	21.1	--	990
		1987-88	--	15.5	--	
11	(Irfan & Amjad, 1984)	1963-64	--	32.0	--	Malik, 1992
		1969-70	--	43.2	--	
		1971-72	--	29.30	--	
12	(Naseem, 1977)	1963-64	--	45.0	--	Malik, 1992
		1969-70	--	36.0	--	
		1971-72	--	43.0	--	
13	(Mohammad & Amjad, 1994)	1963-64	--	32.20	--	30
		1966-67	--	38.79	--	
		1969-70	--	43.19	--	
		1979	--	29.31	--	
14	(Anwar et al. (2004)	2001-02	38.02	42.93	26.04	860
15	(Ghaus & Jamal, 2000)	1996-97	31.0	32.0	27.0	09
16	(Arif et al. (2000)	1993-94	27.40	29.90	23.10	1094
		1996-97	29.60	31.60	27.40	
		1998-99	35.20	39.80	31.70	
17	(Qureshi & Arif, 2001)	1998-99	35.20	39.80	31.70	13
18	(Anwar & Qureshi, 2002)	1998-99	30.43	32.11	26.39	870
		2001	35.60	41.02	26.47	
19	(Gazdar. H, 1999)	1984-85	46.0	49.30	38.20	24
		1987-88	37.40	40.20	30.70	
		1990-91	34.0	36.90	28.0	
20	(Anwar. T, 2006)	1998-99	31.1	35.1	21.4	792
		2004-05	29.3	34.1	18.9	
21	(Murtaza. F, 2018)	2011-12	41.18	48.44	26.78	190
22	(Afzal & Ahsan, 2021)	2018-19	21.5	27.6	10.7	05

Source: Afzal & Ahsan (2021 and 2025) *Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Table-5 depicts the measurement of rural and urban poverty in Pakistan from 1963-64 to 2018-19, all authors' studies show that the rural poverty significantly higher than urban poverty except during the

year 1963-64 (sr.1 and 3) that shows urban poverty is higher than the rural poverty. Furthermore, it shows that the poverty declined in rural area to 27.6 from 60.5 percent and in urban area to 10.7 from 70.0 percent from 1998-99 to 2018-19 respectively.

FACTORS AFFECTING POVERTY IN PAKISTAN

According to PIDE reports, 2021 and 2025 some factors which are affecting the poverty, these factors are education, gender, household size and remittances. Due to low level of human capital, a big population with rapid growth rates in a developing country like Pakistan is a main problem. If a family size is large, it signifies that the level of poverty in the household is higher. If family size increases from small to medium and large; poverty would become very worse. It enhanced from 17.6 percent to 38.4 percent small family size to large family size respectively. There are two broad categories of household employment status i.e agricultural and non-farm sectors. Households are less likely to be poor if their status falls within the agricultural sector. Poverty is estimated to be lower for households connected with the agricultural sector. Majority of people are linked with traditional agricultural sector; it is observed in the developing countries like Pakistan. Households whose link is with the non-agricultural sector are comparatively more impoverished, that stood about 22.5 percent as compared to the agriculture household's which stood at 21 percent. Another source of income is called remittances; it also helps to decrease poverty and also affects the rural poverty because the majority of people from rural households' lives abroad or in highly developed cities within the same nation as workers and support their families by sending remittances. According to the PIDE analysis, the poverty levels peaked at 22.9% when no remittances were received and then dropped to about 14.2% as both domestic and international remittances were received.

Akhtar et al. (2017) discussed five macro-economic variables and their ratios in GDP and effects on poverty; these are: agriculture, foreign direct investment, education, private investment and military expenditure. The percentage of agriculture to GDP, Poverty decreases when agricultural production increases. Poverty is significantly impacted negatively by long-term primary school enrollment. Author's finding that education helps to reduce poverty and to improve

socioeconomic conditions of individuals and society. The number of impoverished people in the country can be decreased by educating more people. However, domestic credit has a major detrimental impact on poverty, whereas, military expenses have a considerable positive impact on poverty in Pakistan.

Asian Development Bank (2002) has also explained some factors /causes of poverty in Pakistan such as: "Poor governance is the main cause of Pakistan's poverty. Low business confidence is a major contributing factor to bad governance, which lowers investment levels and growth in addition to making businesses more vulnerable. The country's human development has been greatly impacted by the inefficient provision of social services due to problems with governance. Another significant feature of the impoverished is the prejudice against women. In Pakistan, women are more likely than men to live in poverty. Lack of land and other productive assets, unemployment, discrimination at work, and limited access to political and economic possibilities are characteristics of poverty among women. In terms of the economy, the decline in GDP growth over the previous ten years is directly responsible for the increase in poverty. All economic sectors saw reduced growth in the 1990s, with labor-intensive industries growing more slowly than the rest. Household heads who work as day laborers in the trade, transportation, construction, and agricultural sectors make up the biggest percentage of the impoverished. Furthermore, independent contractors like sharecroppers and street vendors in rural and urban regions, respectively, have a high rate of poverty. In addition to location, a number of other factors also characterize Pakistan's impoverished. Most of the characteristics that set the poor apart from the non-poor have to do with education. For example, the percentage of literate heads of homes in low-income households was nearly half that of families in higher-income households. Second, compared to non-poor homes, poor households typically had 75% more children. The poverty cycle is perpetuated since most of these children do not attend school. Third, almost one-third of the impoverished households were led by older individuals who depended on transfer incomes such as pensions and other forms of social support.

Batool (2003) explained some causes of rising poverty; one of them is growing population in the developing countries, the issue of

food scarcity is aggravated by the insufficient delivery of essential services such as health and sanitation facilities, housing, safe drinking water as well as lack of education and rising unemployment are the causes of poverty rising in the country.

Faridi et al. (2021) explained the role of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, land holdings, use of tractor, livestock, farmers' education, excellent health, and experience these are very important factors which can reduce rural poverty.

Rashid, Amjad (2003). The author identified a number of factors that contributed to the rise in poverty in Pakistan's rural areas during the 1990s, including the country's increasing fiscal deficit, rising energy prices, rising input costs, and pest attacks on cotton production that reduced yield and affected the textile industry.

RECOMMENDATIONS

An important part of Pakistan's economy is the agriculture sector. Additionally, this study shows that households with strong ties to the agricultural sector are less impoverished and vice versa. Poverty is a global issue that needs serious attention. Pakistan is one of the many developing nations that have put policies in place to lessen poverty and work toward achieving the first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-1, No Poverty) by 2030. Poverty can be reduced by providing proper education facilities, health facilities, improved seeds, supply of water, micro credit facility, modern agricultural technology to the farmers and poor people living in rural areas of Pakistan. Facilities of education, health, transport, credit, modern agricultural implements may be provided to the farmers for reduction in poverty in rural areas of Pakistan.

CONCLUSION

According to the current study, poverty can be influenced by both large and small families; small families have less poverty as compared to large families. Poverty is being aggravated by bad administration and increasing populations in developing nations. Lacks of land, unemployment, workplace discrimination are some factors that contribute to poverty among women. The country's growing population is also one of the factors contributing to poverty. Food scarcity is made worse by inadequate access to basic services like

housing, safe drinking water, health and sanitation facilities, education, and rising unemployment.

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