

# Critical Review On Past Literature Of Rural Development Programs In Pakistan

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**ABSTRACT:** Rural development play key role in the development of a country and without rural development a country development is impossible because rural development highly co related with other sector of the country economic development. When Pakistan came into being on the map of the world on, 14 August, 1947. From that time rural development programs were started for the development of rural area, to improve quality life in rural area of Pakistan. Seeing to its importance and scope the present study was conducted in November 2017. The major objectives of the study was to critically review the past literature of the rural development programs to investigate the situation to what extent they found the success in these programs in Pakistan. Due to time and lack of finance purposively total 14 programs were selected for the study. Published data were used and reviewed each program 15 to 20 times and analyzed the situation in Pakistan. The critical review shows that all programs found success in the initial stages while latter on failed due to lack of fund, lack of coordination among the building department, political interference ,international threats, terrorism, lack of quality administration set up, ethnicity, lack of technical labor in the rural area, lack of rural community involvement, high poverty, lack of proper required education according to situation, staff absentee from the field duty, financial dependency on other and lack of fund availability in time etc. On the basis of study finding the following recommendations were suggested for its future solution. Such as it is advised by Pakistani community to select educated people in the assemblies by democracy; through these assemblies better organization and institution should be developed; Honest staff should be selected for the organization to run the system very well; Decision should be taken on national basis in the Assemblies; Program continuity till fruit bearing; Honest staff selection in the administration set up; ; practical education provision to the community in rural area; Program and project preparation by trained expert committee for reduction of poverty etc.

**Key Words:** Critical Review, Past Literature, Pakistan, Rural Development Program

## INTRODUCTION

Pakistan made on August 14, 1947 which faced vast rural sector problems in the start of freedom and for solution time to time programs were launched in the country. These programs major objectives were to solve the problems of rural community Pakistan such as poverty; building of new institution according to requirement; infrastructure development; sanitation and water services for irrigation, school and college construction for education, road construction for transport services ; agriculture storage; corporations, agricultural Supplies, Storage Corporation and Federal Bank for Cooperatives ; Setting up national commissions, working groups and committees for the solution of specific problems etc. education, health, administration , agriculture or cooperatives; Carrying out agrarian reforms to regulate the tenant land lord relationship and the land ownership distribution pattern and specific programs directly linked towards the development of rural areas. Realizing the importance of the rural sector in the overall development of the country, its resource potential, and the numerous problems confronting to community, the Government of Pakistan launched specific rural development programs in different period to improve quality of the rural life in the country. These program were Village-AID (Village Agricultural and Industrial Development (1953-1961);Basic Democracy System (1959-1970); Rural Works Program/People Works Program(Since 1963); IRDP( Integrated Rural Development Program (1972-1979); Rural Development through Local Councils; Sarhad Rural Support Program; Punjab Rural Support Program); ARSP(Agha Khan Rural Support Program);Sind Rural Support Program; National Rural Support Program; Bacha Khan Rural Support Program; Musharaf Devolution Plan; Benazir Income Finance Poverty Alleviation Program and Tsunami Tree Plantation

Program were run for the development of rural sectors. Rural development has a great scope and without rural development the development of the world is impossible because the major agricultural industry is working in rural area, which provide foods and shelter to the country and without food the survival of life is impossible. However, they also provide employment to the rural community and cover 43.45% share in the whole employment in Pakistan. They earn foreign exchange and provide healthy soldier to Pakistan Army. It also provides raw material to industry. The tourism industry also working in the rural sectors and provide enjoyment facilities to the community of the world which increase the employment opportunities in the rural sector and enhance the income level and boost the GNP of the economy. The forest is also the main source of the rural area which provide wood, medicinal plants and healthy environment to the nation . Seeing to its importance the critical review of rural development program on past literature was arranged to examine all programs to what extent they found success and failure in the real field in achieving their objectives.

## 1. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Universe of the study is Pakistan. Majority people live in rural area and facing multiple problems in day to day life. The Government has arranged, different programs in different period in the country for its solution. Purposively total 14 rural development programs were selected from the published data and 15 times these programs were reviewed and analyzed the situation to what extent these programs have achieved the targeted objectives and to what extent they failed.

## 2. CRITICAL REVIEW ON PAST LITERATURE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN PAKISTAN

### i. VILLAGE AID PROGRAM

The village Aid program was started in 1953. The major objectives of this program was to improve socio-economic conditions of the community through agriculture output and expansion of cottage industries; to create self initiative among the rural mass for future sustainability; supply of rural services such as school and health services; to create conditions for a richer and higher life through social activities, including recreation for women to the whole country. The operation unit was development area, which consist of 100,000 under the leadership of development officer. The area further divided into two or three supervisory circles. Each circle had ten to 15 sets of five to six villages as operational units of village workers at the grass roots level. The village worker acting as a guide, philosopher and friend of the village people, carried out surveys of felt needs of the village, motivated the people, and mobilized local resources through a council of village elites. He lived and worked among villagers, assisted them in planning and implementation of self-help projects and acted as a link between the village and development departments. The program has covered 25 percent of the villages by 1960 but actually covered only 90 percent of that target. The first plan, however, made provisions to assist development scheme outside of village AID program organized by villagers to solve agriculture, health and other problems under the control of the district officers. Village AID was the first comprehensive, multi sectored and multipurpose program of rural development aimed to bring about a synthesis of all rural development efforts at the local level. As a community development program, it did arouse a spirit of self help and self initiative with a fair degree of overall success among the villagers. As can be referred from the second five year plan village contribution in monetary terms were about Rs.12 million in the field of education, health and other related services and toward construction and improvement of roads. The villagers laid out about 15000 demonstrations plots, dug out about 1000 miles of irrigation canals, constructed about 3000 miles unmetalled roads and put 400 miles of old roads into serviceable condition. The adoption of improved farm practices was faster in village AID development areas than elsewhere, although in general, accomplishments in agriculture were short of expectations. It was also the first program which extended organizational rings to the heart of rural areas, particularly the activities for rural women. The program also aroused enthusiastic participation by the villager during its operation. In first phase the program was found successful and established 176 units in all the country and established 6 center in west Pakistan while latter on it was failed due to lack of fund and coordination among the building department. The program was wound up in 1962 and transferred to provincial agriculture department and agriculture corporation while other community development activities handed over to Basic Democracy institutions in 1962( Karl et. Al)

### ii. BASIC DEMOCRACIES PROGRAM

The basic democracy system was introduced in 1959 by Ayub Khan. This system has four tier such as Union Council, Tehsil Council, District Council, Divisional council and Town committee. The union council was comprised five to eight villages with a population o 10000 to 15000 people, divided into 10 to 15 electoral wards. Each ward was represented by a basic democrat elected by 1000 to 1500 persons on the basis of adult franchise. The chairman of a Union Council was elected from among its members. The chairman of all Union Council in a tehsil/subdivision, along with officials of nation building departments, constituted the Tehsil Council under the official chairmanship of the assistant commissioner. Each administrative district had a District Council which consisted of both official and elected members. The latter were elected by an electoral college consisting of the Chairmen of the Union Councils, Union Committees and Town Committees within in the district official members were the district heads of nation building departments. The Deputy Commissioner was the ex officio Chairman of the District Council while the Vice Chairman was selected from among the elected members. Similarly, the Divisional Council was constituted by partly elected and partly official membership under the ex-officio Chairmanship of the commissioner. The Basic Democrats formed the electoral college for electing the President and members of the provincial and national assemblies. These councils became inactive after 1969 and 1970. The BDS presented an institutional framework for involving the people in social, economic and political development. The System provided a network of local institutions through out the country. It was well integrated and comprehensive as compared to the previous system. These councils were entrusted with wide ranging civic, developmental, social, Judicial, administrative and even political functions. Large amounts of funds were made available for rural development for the first time in the history of Pakistan, particularly under the rural works program from 1962/63 onwards. The BDS faced some crucial problems. In the first instance it lacked sympathy of the political parties at the national level because of its electoral college roles. The political parties and educated sections of the society did not accept the system in its totality because the scheme of local government was assigned the role of king makers. The political parties saw the system as a mechanism through which the then ruling regime could stay in power for much longer. Secondly the scheme suffered from some built in structural contradictions. It was based on rigid hierarchical structure that could not meaningfully involve the rural masses in planning and implementation at all important levels resulted in the failure of real decentralization of the development process. Moreover corruption and allocation of funds in the shape of political bribery weakened the confidence of the rural masses and system gradually lost the support of the society(Ibid).

### iii. RURAL WORKS PROGRAM

The rural works program was launched in 1962/63 with the objective to fulfill small rural physical infrastructure needs, to provide gainful employment on labor intensive and productive projects, and to make, full use of local resources and leadership. The program was based on the

encouraging results of pilot project undertaken by the Academy for rural development at Comila, Bangladesh (East Pakistan). The program, in its first instance, was linked with the BDS. The formulation execution and supervision of the projects were entrusted to the local councils. The Union Councilors, identified the needs of the people, presented the finding to the Union Council which, after approval, included it in the annual development program and sent it for approval and allocation of funds to higher levels. On the release of funds the respective Union Councilors had to execute the projects with the assistance of five member project. Committee of local elders under his leadership. After dissolution of the BDS, the Program was named people's works program in 1972 and extended to urban areas as well with more or less similar objectives. Since the late 1970s, it has been re-named Rural Works Program and its funds are being utilized by the Union and District Councils for rural development work. As the rural works program was linked with the BDS, it had to share its credit or discredit as an input program. Despite weaknesses, the program did achieve some success particularly in physical terms. After two years of operation, the RWP was made an integral part of the Third Five Year plan (1965-1970). During the plan period, a sum of Rs.620 million was allocated to the program. It has been estimated that during 1962 through 1972, a sum of Rs. 1000 million was spent on rural infrastructure under this program, in accordance with different allocation formulae. In the initial stages, the district wise allocation was designed to combat regional disparities. Hence, 50 percent of the fund was allocated equally among all districts, and the remaining half was distributed to the respective districts on the basis of variations in their population figure. During 1966/67, this formula was slightly revised by correlating the districts wise inflow of funds with the performance of the local councils during the preceding year. The revised scheme induced better performance by activating inter district completion for the inflow of funds. The program, thus, attracted a considerable amount of non monetary contributions, at least in terms of rural manpower for village level projects. Moreover, the program did achieve some success in physical terms, particularly in those areas where the project committees were constituted by sincere and honest members. The RWP has been operated for more than decades. It has kept itself alive during the past three political regimes in one way or another. During the BDS, the program suffered from a number of limitations and weaknesses. The program could not meaningfully involve the villagers in planning and implementation of rural projects. This was partly because of low technical and administrative capacities of local councils and, still more so, owing to the official domination inherent in the structure of the BDS. The Deputy Commissioners, being ex-officio chairmen of their respective District Councils and serving as project directors of the RWP, transferred the bulk of the funds to government departments for the completion of the projects. An important factor working behind the scene was the Government directive to weigh the performance of the Deputy Commissioners in terms of the amounts spent under the RWP in respective districts. Thus "By Pass Reverse process" of channeling investment through the government agencies discouraged the development of local capacities in project planning and

implementation at the grass roots level. The program was suffered by different limitation, as indicated by different experts at different points in time: Irregularities in the selection of projects with little regard to immediate local felt needs; Poor project formulation and workmanship; Delay in the release of funds for projects; More reliance on contractors rather than on project committees; Use of capital intensive equipments instead of labor intensive techniques at the village level; Misuse of public funds through malpractices and squandering; and Lack of built in arrangements for repair and maintenance of completed development projects, particularly of physical infrastructure(Ocit)

#### iv. **INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (IRDP)**

The program was started on July 1, 1972. The major goal was that to improve quality of rural life under policy recommended by higher level of committee of national recommended experts. The program aim was administrative decentralization of all services and facilities by combine efforts of private and public agencies for the improvement of social life of the rural poor particularly the small and medium size farmers. It was also targeted by different program to increase productivity by providing technical guidance, supervised credit, supply inputs, machinery on hire, storage and marketing facilities based on sound organization and institutional infrastructure by intensification, diversification and commercialization of agriculture through a social cooperative system. The operation unit was the markaz which consist of 50-60 villages and population 50000-100000. The markaz was the center for the all developmental activities under project manager with his own staff and government of all functionaries department. By the end of 1977 total 138 markaz was set up. According to some source the ADP allocation fund was Rs.194.2 million in the period of 1972-1978 and the utilization was only 74. 9 percent and the high cost inflow was on the construction of markaz buildings. During 1976/77 the conceptual, administrative, and organizational ambiguities were discussed and resolved while announced 625 markaz in March 1977 for the entire rural Pakistan. It was a comprehensive multi sectored program based on decentralization of administration and synergetic combination of all development inputs at the local level. The emphasis was on the provision of all essential services and facilities to rural people at their doorstep, both in public and private sectors, fully coordinated and supported with adequate supplies. The program was designed to inculcate self reliance among the rural people through the formation of village cooperatives and markaz federations. During the period of 1972-1977 total 2322 cooperative organizations were organized at the village level with a share of Rs.3681 million in 91 IRDP markaz. In Punjab and NWFP province primary village organization had started multi sectored activities through 23 markaz cooperative federation holding a share of Rs.34 million. These village organizations arranged credit and supply of agriculture implements for their members on easy terms from various sources and handled rural civil works through projects committees. During implementation number of problems faced to IRDP. The program suffered from delays in financial commitments

which disturbed phase wise implementation of the program. Majority department did not depute their representative to IRDP markaz which disturbed the administrative decentralization at the local level. The program could not established an effective mechanism for horizontal coordination among the various line departments for lack of firm support at the ministry level. The local government institutions were not established during the program period which have brought a firm political support for the program in the long run. Finally , IRDP presented a philosophy of rural development, which was based on local capabilities and mass motivation for a massive productive effort. This was the challenging task, which required properly trained project personnel with the leadership qualities for organization of all social sections of the community in the desired direction. Generally speaking, the IRDP could not succeed in establishing the required inventory of project personnel, which distorted the fruitful implementation of the program. The IRDP was at its infant stage and covered only a limited area. Two model in Punjab and NWFP namely Shadab and Daudzai were set up respectively. These projects show encouraging results and were followed in varying degrees by other province and regions. However it was in the effective stage when the local bodies system was revived in 1979 and the task of rural development was handed over to local councils(Ocit)

#### v. LOCAL BODY SYSTEM

Since 1979, a separate local government institution was established through out the country and the other program IRDP and RWP were emerged in local council in the era of Zia ul Haq Government. The district council forms the top tier of the rural local government system, elected by the adult rural population of each revenue district. Baluchistan and Sind Provinces have also constituted markaz Councils in each revenue tehsil, which was comprised of the chairmen of the Union Councils as ex officio members. Punjab province and Azad Kashmir constituted markaz Councils during the years 1980 to 1983 which compromised of the Chairmen of the Union Councils as ex officio members. Punjab discontinued them, while Azad Kashmir is still continuing them during the current term i.e, the years 1983 to 1987. The two councils are linked loosely through varying arrangement in different parts of the country. In most cases, Union Councils are represented by their chairmen (two to three) in the District Coordination Committee, constituting three to four councilors and District Head of all nation building departments under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the District Council. These local councils have been assigned wide ranging functions in the subjects of public works, public health, education, agricultural development and economic welfare, drainage, livestock and dairy development, and public safety. The Union Councils mostly depend on grants in aid from the Government and self help by the people, while the District Councils have also created their own sources of income in addition to grants in aid from the provincial governments. As can be referred to in the Sixth Five Year Plan, the rural development strategy was critically based on the efforts of the rural local councils during the period from 1973 until 1983. However, these local bodies could not assume their development role before the middle of the Fifth Five Year

Plan. During the plan period, their functions started with traditional activities. The income directly generated by the local councils increased by three times and their investment in the developmental schemes rose by about four times over the period 1978 until 1983. During this period, 1878 Kilometer of farm road were completed under RWP allocations 8287 villages were electrified, 9.94 percent of rural population were supplied with a safe drinking water and about 1.79 percent were provided sanitation facilities. A large number of petty rural civil works were also completed on aided self help basis which included desalting of local irrigation channels; construction of embankments, local a forestation; construction of culverts; terracing of land; improvement and repair of buildings such as schools , stores and dispensaries; introduction of adult education and vocational training programs for women; construction of water tanks and open surface wells; and street pavement. The experience of rural development through local councils has been quite encouraging, so far, in terms of popular participation in planning and implementation of projects at the local level. This process has encouraged the emergence of rural leadership which has facilitated the process of two way communication between the bureaucracy and the people . It has aroused a sense of participation by involving the villagers in government sponsored program. Great enthusiasm was witness among villagers during local bodies elections held in 1983, depicting activation of the democratic process at the grassroots level. As a whole, the program has achieved a fair degree of success during the past five years. However, the experience has indicated a few areas which must be given serious thought so as to further enhance its overall effectiveness. Firstly, there is a strong need for the decentralization of services and facilities offered by the government agencies, as the local structure has expand to close proximity of the rural population. Secondly, the activities of the Union Councils and District Councils have to properly coordinated among themselves as well as with the nation building departments. Under present arrangements, no formal coordination arrangements exist between the two tiers. Thirdly, there is a strong need for strengthening the developmental role of local councils by delegating to them powers for effective functioning of the government organizations at the local level. Finally, there is a need to build the capacity of local councils, particularly Union Council, in terms of finances, project planning and implementation so as to develop it as a viable institution of rural development at the grass root level. The experience of the past few years has indicated that Union Councils have been mostly depending either on the District Councils or on government departments for most of their financial and technical requirements. This process undermines the creation of an independent institution for local level planning and implementation. Hence, the institution of Union Council needs attention so as t improve and expand their financial support in the country(Ocit).

#### vi. AGA KHAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMM

The Aga Khan Rural Support Program is a private non profit organization which was started by Aga Khan Foundation in 1982. The major objectives was to improve the quality of the villagers of Gilgit Bultistan and Chitral. It is a non governmental organization program and part rural support program in Pakistan. It is development approach which gives power to the people and their abilities. It is based on the belief that local communities have tremendous potential to plan and manage their own social development. Once they are organized and provided access to necessary skills and capital. The organization proclivity for participatory approach found much support in Shoaib Sultan, the founding General Manager of AKRSP. This program past efforts have led to many notable achievements in social and economic domains. Key achievements include manifold increase in incomes, construction/rehabilitation of more than 4000 small infrastructure projects (bridges, roads, irrigation channels, hydropower units and other small projects). The planting of tens of millions of trees and the development of hundreds of acres of marginal lands, developing a cadre of more than 50,000 community activists, mobilization of nearly \$5 million village savings, and the establishment of more than 4,993 community organizations. AKRSP supported community organizations, which have established patterns of local governance that are Participatory, democratic, transparent and accountable to their members, are now federating at the union council level to establish Local Support Organization (LSOs). Currently, there 67 LSOs across Gilgit and Baltistan and Chitral that are forging direct partnerships with government departments, local development partners, donors and the private sector actors to increase the scope and outreach of services for their member communities. It has since won a number of awards, including the 2005 Global Development Awards for most Innovative Development Project and an Ashedn Award for Sustainable Energy in 2004 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aga\\_Khan\\_Rural\\_Support\\_Programme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aga_Khan_Rural_Support_Programme)).

#### vii. REVIEW OF LAND REFORMS IN PAKISTAN

The biggest reasons for the success of Pakistan movement was the fact that the big landlords in Punjab who had always supported the Unionist party switched over to Muslim League, similarly the landlords in Sindh supported the Pakistan movement as well. Perhaps the reason for this was the fear they had from the socialist policies of Congress. Such fears were quite justified as feudalism was indeed abolished in India while it still flourishes in Pakistan. Pakistan since birth has had a number of large landholding families who pay no tax on agricultural income and dominate national politics and economy. Some believe that this feudalism is the most important cause for Pakistan's problems. While this can be debated, it being one of the most important hurdles for progress cannot be denied. So why have we not been able to abolish feudalism? Let us have a look at the efforts made for land reforms and the reasons why they failed. The feudal system was initially established in India by the Mughals however it were the British colonial rulers who

expanded and systemized it on a large scale. In a nutshell the landed aristocracy practiced executive, judicial and revenue duties for the colonial government in exchange for land grants and the right to rule the people. Shortly after independence, the ruling Muslim League formed an agriculture reform committee headed by Mumtaz Doltana (himself the son of a landlord and leading Unionist Nawab Ahmed Yar Khan Doltana) that presented its report in June 1949. It proposed various short term measures aimed at improving the conditions for existing tenants and long term measures asking for a restriction on land holding putting a cap at 150 acres with the excess land to be re-distributed to the tenants. There was wide variation how these recommendations were implemented. In Baluchistan they were completely ignored, in Punjab, Sind and NWFP only the short term measures were implemented (and mostly on paper with no real improvement in the condition for the tenants/haris/muzaras), while in East Pakistan large land holdings were abolished and the ceiling for land ownership was put at 33 acres. As a result within a few years feudalism disappeared in East Pakistan. Not surprisingly in the Second Constituent Assembly (1954-56), none of the 40 East Pakistan representatives were landlords compared to 28 from West Pakistan (70 percent). In January 1959, soon after imposing the first martial law, Ayub Khan set up a land reform commission that presented a report within 3 months. It recommended land re-distribution with an upper limit of 500 acres for irrigated and 1000 acres for un-irrigated land. The implementation through ML Regulation 64 was inefficient. Land holders transferred land in names of various family members (some of whom did not even exist) and even after the reforms the average landlord still had 7,000 acres across West Pakistan (11,000 acres in Punjab)! ZA Bhutto came into power after the East Pakistan debacle with socialist slogans of Roti, Kapra Makan (bread, clothing and shelter). As the Civilian Martial Law Administrator (CMLA) and then President, he promulgated on March 1, 1972, Martial Law Regulation No. 115 often called Land Reforms Regulation 1972. The ceiling on land holdings was lowered to 150 and 300 acres for irrigated and un-irrigated land respectively, down from the 500 and 1000 imposed earlier. No compensation was to be given to the land owners. Exemptions for orchards, stud farms, etc. were abolished. The reforms failed to produce the expected results and a second wave of reforms were introduced through the Land Reforms Ordinance, 1977 (Ordinance II of 1977) on January 5, 1977. Ceiling on land holdings was reduced to 100 acres for irrigated land and 200 acres for un-irrigated land, this time compensation was to be given to the landowners. By the end of the 1970s Ayub Khan and Bhutto's measures had benefited only 272,000 out of the total 10 million eligible rural population, and only 4.5 million acres of cultivated land (less than 10% of the total) were redistributed. The state, even with absolute and dictatorial powers proved incapable of reigning in the landed elite. The two land reforms at best clipped their wings, but they remained the most powerful force in rural Pakistan. Therefore it is obvious that the land reforms had achieved only very limited results and there was a need to bring in more rigorous reforms or to put in measures to at least implement the reforms already in place. However any such possibilities were dealt a death blow when

General Zia created the Federal Shariat Court (FSC) for the first time in June 1980, its aim being to review whether a law is repugnant to the injunctions of Islam. The Federal Shariat Court was vested with 'specific authority to carry out judicial review of all laws, except the Constitution, on the criteria of repugnance to the injunctions of Islam' under Article 203D. As it so happened, a waqf (charitable endowment) near Lahore lost much of its land in the land reforms. Its name was Qazalbash Waqf and like all other religious landholdings, it claimed that its possession of hundreds upon hundreds of acres of land was merely to serve humanity according to the laws made by the divine. Qazalbash Waqf banged the doors of the then created Shariat Benches in the High Courts and Supreme Court. In total, 67 Shariat petitions were filed in various courts challenging the land reform legislations and after nine years, the final decision was delivered. The legal history concluded with the ultimate and landmark judgment of the Shariat Appellate Bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in the Qazalbash Waqf case Qazalbash Waqf v. Chief Land Commissioner, Punjab and others. The judgment was split 3-2 in favor of declaring the various questions raised on land reforms as un-Islamic. The composition of the Shariat Appellate Bench is such that it has five judges, three from amongst the Judges of the Supreme court and two ulema judges from the Federal Shariat Court (or as nominated by the President). The three SC judges on the bench that heard the Qazalbash Waqf case were Justice Nasim Hasan Shah, Justice Shafi-ur-Rehman (who had earlier dissented in the Said Kemal case) and Justice Afzal Zullah. The ulema judges on the bench were Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani and Pir Karam Shah (Mufti Muhammad Karam Shah). The two ulema judges were of the opinion that the said reforms were un-Islamic. Of the three "classically" trained judges – classically as in trained in common law – two dissented with the majority opinion. The "classical" judge who concurred with the majority opinion was Justice Afzal Zullah, a highly religious man who would later lead the vocal tirade against the first government of Benazir Bhutto to implement Qisas and Diyat Laws (which would be implemented by an interim government after GIK dissolved assemblies under 58-2(b) and by all accounts GIK and Justice Zullah did a tit-for-tat i.e. you give me Qisas Laws and I'll approve of the dissolution of assemblies on flimsy grounds). The lead judgment has been penned down by Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani. Arguing that the land reform legislations were repugnant to the injunctions of Islam, he states:- Individual property rights in Islam are the same as rights over other categories like goods, etc. Everything in the world actually belongs to Allah and he has granted humans the right to utilize them within the limits of divine laws. Limits have been prescribed both on the acquisition and use of property. There are certain obligations on the person who uses the land. The right to property in Islam is absolute, and not even the state can interfere with this right. Islam has imposed no quantitative limit (ceiling) on land or any other commodity that can be owned by a person. If the state imposes a permanent limit on the amount of land which can be owned by its citizen, and legally prohibits them from acquiring any property beyond that prescribed limit, then such an imposition of limit is completely prohibited by the Shariah. So as we can see once again

religion and its involvement in legislature has blocked any possibility of land reforms in Pakistan. Understandably some will be quick to jump to defend Islam with the often repeated sentence, it is not Islam but the way it is being understood/used that is wrong. Well that may well be true but the same individuals have no answer as to how to tackle such problems and do not even agree that the use of religion (Islam or any other) should be abolished from politics, legislature, judiciary, commerce etc. Also to be noted is that despite the rhetoric, like the laughable one Imran Khan was using in his election campaign that Islam introduced the first ever welfare state in actual fact welfare in Islam largely ends at zakat and while there are promises of huge rewards on helping the needy — an obligation defined by Islam as social responsibility — Islam is very much pro-capitalistic and opposes ceilings on wealth accumulation. Reflective of the inner contradictions of our society is the fact that secular ideals of socialism and reform brought forward land reforms (even if supported by Islamic rhetoric) and were thrown into the dustbin of history on the basis of religion. Unfortunately with each passing day the urban middle class is becoming more and more religious in the traditional rather than a progressive way and the demon of feudalism has been given divine protection under religious laws that can't be challenged as this can be considered blasphemy (<https://hubpages.com/education/LAND-REFORMS-IN-PAKISTAN>)

#### viii. SARHAD RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

It is the largest non profit organization working in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and Federally Administrated Tribal Areas of Pakistan. Since its was started in 1989 which works with grass roots communities and includes them in the development process. At the heart of the RSP approach is the belief that marginalized communities and disadvantaged people have within them the capacity for self help. This is illustrated by the strong ties of reciprocity, social networks and many instances of collective action witnessed in our society which communities tap in times of adversity or for collective good. The RSP idea is based on the question: Can this capacity for self help be used for their development, reducing poverty and improving the quality of life of our people. The RSP's, based on evidence and experience, are convinced that an organization which is flexible, responsive, adaptive and learning and accountable can build trust with the communities and can do this effectively. The RSPs, as catalyst organizations, are modeled to play this role. SRSP builds both the capacity of the community leaders and organizations and works through them. Its long run vision is to create institution of the people which are downwardly accountable to their basic members and which have the capacity to undertake development on their own initiative. All its projects and programs are designed to have maximum community input in design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. SRSP is committed to change; but it believes that change is only sustainable if it has wider ownership in the society and all stakeholders and brought on board. SRSP believes that by building awareness and competencies and empowerment within the communities it would ensure access of the communities to quality services, give them a voice and bring change in

inequitable political and social structures that marginalize them. SRSP is committed to gender equality and has put in place a gender policy which ensures that all of its staff and communities irrespective of their gender have equal opportunities and benefit from its p-programs and activities. SRSP does not have a project approach to development. It believes that in complex environments and chaotic situation with poor information, in which it operates ,an organizational approach to development works best. The organizational approach to development builds both the programs and organizational structures necessary to implement them through interactions and learning in the field rather than building them as blue prints. Even after projects it implement end, the Core is retained to retain trust and relationship with communities on a long term basis. SRSP has built an endowment with hard earned assistance from the government and its own work to support such a commitment. SRSP works on a scale. It believes that the issues of poverty can only be addressed if we work on a scale and make an impact. SRSP believes that the government has the largest outreach and resources to address issues of poverty. It therefore goes the extra mile to work with government. But this is never done at the expense of its autonomy and independence. SRSP is implementing a wide range of development and humanitarian program in different district of KP in partnership with government and international donors. Since November 2011 SRSP is implementing “Legal Empowerment Project” in 3 districts of KP with technical and financial assistance of “Foundations Open Society Institute -Pakistan”. The project aims at improving access to justice for the most marginalized and disadvantaged communities. For this purpose community based paralegals have been identified and trained who are providing basic legal services to their communities. The paralegals are supervised by a team of skilled head paralegals and a legal adviser. Free legal aid , linkage development and navigating authorities are integral part of SRSP’s Legal Empowerment Project([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarhad\\_Rural\\_Support Programme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarhad_Rural_Support_Programme)).

#### ix. NATIONAL RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

Established in 1991, NRSP is the largest Rural Support Program in the country in terms of outreach, staff and development activities. It is a not for profit organization registered under Section 42 of Companies Ordinance 1984. NRSP's mandate is to alleviate poverty by harnessing people's potential and undertake development activities in Pakistan. It has a presence in 56 Districts in all the four Provinces including Azad Jammu and Kashmir through Regional Offices and Field Offices. NRSP is currently working with more than half a million poor households organized into a network of more than 115,076 Community Organizations. With sustained incremental growth, it is emerging as Pakistan's leading engine for poverty reduction and rural development. The main objective of NRSP is to foster a countrywide network of grassroots level organizations to enable rural communities to plan, implement and manage developmental activities and programs for the purpose of ensuring productive employment, alleviation of poverty and improvement in the quality of life. NRSP is designed in such a way that it specializes as a support organization,

which provides social guidance to the communities. The guiding tenets of NRSP’s philosophy are to organize rural communities develop their capital base at the local level through savings and credit schemes, support human development endeavors and link the communities with the government service delivery departments, donors, NGOs and the private sector. While interacting with so many stakeholders, NRSP carefully outlines its role as that of a facilitator. This leads the communities and other partners to maintain their relationship independent of NRSP. The generic principles of NRSP’s philosophy prevent it from following a preconceived package approach. The whole quest is to identify and support whatever activities communities intend to do on their own according to their prioritized needs. The only reliable indicator to assess a community’s willingness to achieve a particular goal is the intensity of its previous endeavors to accomplish that desire and the persistence and consistently towards the work. **Sectors** Micro-finance Enterprise Development Program (MEDP) Urban Poverty Alleviation Program (UPAP) Human Resource Development at NRSP-Institute of Rural Management (IRM) Physical Infrastructure and Technology Development (PITD) Environment and Natural Resource Management (ENRM) Social Sector Services: Education and Health for a Better Future Monitoring Evaluation and Research (MER) **Area of Operation** Initially NRSP commenced its operation in eight districts of Pakistan, which included Attock, Chakwal, Khushab, Rawalpindi, Badin-Mirpurkhas, Rawalakot and Turbat. Currently NRSP is working in the Islamabad Capital Territory and in 54 districts of all four provinces of Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir(<http://www.prsp.org.pk/Home/Home.aspx>).

#### x. PUNJAB RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

This program was started in November 1997 under section 42 of Companies Ordinance, 1984. The major objective was that to support and subsidize means, programs, plans and scheme for rural uplift , socio-economic welfare including giving credit to persons having dealings with the company. Currently it is working in 20 districts of the Punjab with the “Core” Program and through other interventions in Partnership with the Government(s) and certain Donors. The activities were overseen in 3 Regional Offices located at Faisalabad , Multan and Sialkot . These Program operate 65 “Social Mobilization Teams” (SMTs) in 20 Districts. This program mission is to alleviate poverty and enhance household income, empower the disempowered and improve the quality of life of the poor in the rural Punjab. PRSP's objectives were achieved best through organizing the poor households, creating solidarity groups, building their capacity to explore, create and grasp opportunities for the alleviation of poverty while social guidance, with counseling, advocacy, technical assistance provided by a specialized organization till such time that the poor acquire the capacity of creating and using the opportunities without such support. PRSP believes in supporting people in harnessing their potential and in supplementing this potential. For this purpose, it helps in fostering a network of grass root level organizations to enable rural communities to reflect, plan, implement and manage activities and programs for productive employment and optimizing use of resources. PRSP, thus, provides assistance to the people in the

following forms: Organize multi-purpose and broad based Community Organizations (COs) to create a feeling of strength that comes from being together; to facilitate focus on needs; to create the ability to plan; pool resources; reduce overheads, achieve economies of scale, etc. identify true and genuine activists within the community. PRSP believes that only through these individuals, the potential of the community can be harnessed. No outsider, no matter how sincerely motivated, can truly substitute a motivated member of the community itself in such a role. Identify and prioritize the endeavors people are willing to make in terms of opportunities and needs. Budget Allocation for the year 2017-2018 is Rs. 421 Million(<https://www.rozee.pk/company/punjab-rural-support-programme>).

#### **xi .SINDH RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM**

Community development, poverty alleviation, social development and natural resources are interlinked processes with conservation, and they require sustained contribution of the state, market and civil society. Responding to this need, economists, academics, social workers and progressive farmers formed Sindh Rural Support Program (SRSP) in 1995 to promote sustainable development to reduce the poverty in Sindh particularly in its rural areas. SRSP has also undertaken a mission SRSP in its development programs gives importance to disadvantaged social groups and women such as haris (sharecroppers), small land owners and wage earners. It prefers to work in the most underdeveloped regions of the province. These groups and areas have been marginalized through defective development planning. And neither state nor market is doing much to promote their development. Many NGOs and CBOs are already working for the rural development but they need support to enhance their professional capacity. Recognizing this demand, SRSP actively provides them technical assistance to improve their organizational capacity. Through its activities, SRSP promotes the values of participatory development, women empowerment, social justice and conservation of natural resources. It plays very active role through support, training, research and advocacy for poverty alleviation in Sindh. Mobilize disadvantaged groups, women such as haris (peasants), small farmers, landless laborers and other poor people for socio-economic empowerment. Enhance capacity of mobilized groups through trainings, workshops, seminars and learning tours. Provide micro credit and support their proper utilization for poverty alleviation. Facilitate to increase social infrastructure (health, education, water, electricity, roads) through participatory interventions. Engage in research and advocacy for water, health, and sanitation, women empowerment and poverty alleviation. Support the communities for environmental up gradation and conservation of the natural resources. Enhance institutional capacity of NGOs and other civil society organizations. (<http://www.sindrsp.org/introduction/>)

#### **xii. BACHA KHAN POVERTY ALLIVIAION PROGRAM**

The Bacha Khan Poverty Alleviation Programme (BKPAP) was initiated by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a two year poverty alleviation pilot

programme. Implemented in the forty Union Councils of the four districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, BKPAP demonstrates a holistic and innovative approach to addressing the issues of poverty, which is considered to be one of the main driving forces for conflict in the region. Alleviating poverty has, therefore, been a challenging task for the government and BKPAP puts the people at the centre of this approach. The programme is executed through a non-government organization, Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP), working in development and humanitarian fields in the province for the last two decades. SRSP has a long and successful experience of working with communities, and delivering such program across different regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The main components of the program are social mobilization and grass root institution building, livelihoods strengthening and social protection through the use of the poverty score card to target the most vulnerable groups. The BKPAP model symbolised a unique partnership between government and civil society in the province. The government provides leadership, resources, monitoring and regulatory role. Whereas, SRSP's systems and procedures are used to provide the program with autonomy, responsiveness, flexibility and downward accountability to the communities. At the heart of the program are the communities and their institutions which are meticulously built through a process of capacity building. The program believes that organized and empowered communities would have their voice magnified to be capable of influencing policy, improve quality of service delivery and build linkages with service providers. The process of social mobilization raises awareness among the communities to demand their rights. To strengthen this process of institution building, a set of activities are delivered through the community institutions. The activities are designed to meet the needs of different categories of people in the rich-poor continuum, encouraging autonomy, ownership and sustainability. Development of community infrastructure, delivery of innovative alternate micro-finance services through the introduction of community investment funds, vocational trainings, support to activities that enhance agriculture and livestock production are some of the key areas. The program also introduces micro-insurance services to vulnerable households to mitigate unforeseen health and social shocks. Since its inception, BKPAP has made tremendous strides in implementing a successful poverty alleviation program in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Ensuring financial transparency and social accountability in its implementation, the program's financial audit is carried out by a well-reputed private accounting firm and a social audit by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute. The Bacha Khan Poverty Alleviation Program was established under the framework of public-private partnership which the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has proactively encouraged. As a first step to facilitate this the Chief Minister, like the Government of Sindh, Punjab and at Federal level, decided to provide SRSP with an endowment to build its capacity "for survival and sustainability" and its ability to deliver poveecifrty program in the province. The BKPAP was the first program under this initiative. A funding of rupees one billion was provided to SRSP through the



Special Development Unit to initiate a targeted poverty program in the forty Union Councils of the province of Khyber Pakhtunkwa. The Planning and Development Department and SRSP actively participated in designing this program based on the feedback from communities and the best practices in poverty-focused programs in the province and the region. The program is implemented by SRSP using its own systems and policies. Monitoring oversight is provided by the Project Management Unit based in the Special Development Unit of the Planning and Development Department in Peshawar. The highest policy body for BKPAP in Peshawar is the Provincial Steering Committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary with representation from all departments. At each district, there is a District Implementation Committee headed by the District Coordination officer, including representatives of the line departments. Planning is initiated at the social organization unit and crystallized at the District Level in the District Coordination body before being sent to the Provincial Steering Committee for final decisions. The District bodies meet regularly to monitor progress of the program and settle coordination issues. The Chief Minister has had briefings on the program from the Board and Management of SRSP and also attended functions organized by the program. Elected Members of legislatures, and district officials have paid regular visits to the program. The BKPAP is envisaged to directly and indirectly benefit more than a million people. A distinctive objective of the program is ensuring inclusion of the poor. Therefore, through every phase of the program, whether it is planning and development or implementation, the utmost importance has been given to the willingness and participation of the communities. This process of inclusion of communities has been ensured through community dialogues and terms of partnership based on equality. All of this has led to community commitment and ownership of the program. As a broad objective, the program envisages to reduce rural poverty through reviving livelihoods, improve human and productive assets and develop the government's capacity for implementing pro-poor, inclusive development with a particular focus on the vulnerable, particularly women in the selected four districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Specifically, the BKPAP program is driven by the following objectives: To empower poor and vulnerable groups, reviving community collective action and rebuild community institutions and networks to make claims for their rights and negotiate with the government and intermediary organizations. To improve and strengthen livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable, especially women, in targeted areas through Community Investment Funds, Micro-credit, Micro-health Insurance, participatory Infrastructure Schemes and improve men. The program was incorporated in the three four district of Khyber Pukhthunkhwa namely Mardan, Batagram, Karak, Dir. **The major outputs and outcomes of the Bacha Khan Poverty Alleviation Program are the following**: Formation of up to 4,382 men and women community, village and Union Council level LSOs in four districts; 126,000 members to benefit from NRM inputs and capacity building in NRM. Capacity building of up to 28,480 members in community managerial and leadership training. 16,960 members to benefit from micro-loans, CIF and CO capacity building under Rural Financial

Services. Development of new and rehabilitation of (if needed) 840 small-scale community-based infrastructure schemes benefiting 315,000 members and non-members. Micro-insurance, technical and employable skills training benefiting 180,000 beneficiaries. **The program outcomes include** developing social capital, community institutions and technical models for poverty reduction and sustainable development. Raising the income and quality of life of people, especially the poorest and most vulnerable community members, living in the target area. Improving productivity, efficiency and effectiveness through improved infrastructure; enhancing women's mobility and self confidence by facilitating their access to services and opportunities. Improving financial self sufficiency of apex level organizations comprising of men and women based community institutions. **Top Social Mobilization Session in District Mardan (Middle)**. One of the major challenges for the program was to identify and mainstream the poor in its activities. To meet this challenge, a Poverty Score Card exercise was undertaken at the very onset of the program. This entailed collecting data from every single household in the 40 Union Councils of the four selected districts. The Poverty Score Card survey was initiated simultaneously in all four districts in December 2009 and was completed in January 2010. The whole exercise was carried out in consultation with the community members to involve them from the start of the program and develop ownership of the initiative. A total of 139,921 households were interviewed for the poverty survey and were divided into four poverty categories

(<https://www.scribd.com/document/351537581/Bacha-Khan-Poverty-Alleviation-Programme>).

### xiii. MUSHARAF DEVOLUTION PLAN

Since its inception, Pakistan had been suffering from political structural dysfunctionality therefore the shuffling of governments and transformation of the political systems had been a common practice. So, along with its federal and provincial governments, its local government system could not evolve as required. Though, Ayub Khan and Zia-ul-Haq had introduced their local government systems to gain their constituency and legitimacy, but they met their ends along with their originators. General Pervez Musharraf came into power on October 12, 1999, dissolving the elected government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif through a military coup. The *de facto* government of General Pervez Musharraf had taken certain steps towards its heightened authority and legitimacy like other military regimes including 'Devolution of Power Plan 2001'. Following Ayub's model of 'Basic Democracy', General Musharraf attempted to increase his power through the local bodies which also helped to decrease the political powers of national leadership and its influence on the local politics. After independence, the bureaucracy, despite its authority, used to be politicized and pressurized by the ruling elites and could not retain its independence and honesty like that of the British colonial era. The elected local bodies in Sub-Continent were traditionally weaker and subordinated to the bureaucracy. The weakness of local bodies in the region encouraged the 'elected authoritarianism' by the political leadership. First time in the history of Pakistan, the bureaucrats had to perform their duties under the

elected representatives of the local bodies. Being against the nature and practice of their profession, the bureaucracy could not support to promote the devolution of powers even they created certain hurdles and difficulties for the elected administrations of the local governments. The local bodies system in Pakistan had never been under the protection of the constitution but had delegated some powers by the provincial governments. Provincial authorities used to establish the local bodies. They were also empowered to make the rules and regulations for them as municipal corporations, town committees, district and union councils which were responsible to the provincial authorities. Under devolution of power plan, the local bodies were established through an ordinance but still could not get any constitutional shelter. Therefore, after Musharraf regime, the local government institutions could not survive and popularly elected federal and provincial governments not only had revived the old magistracy system but are also discouraging to have the local governments' elections in their domains. Though, under the devolution of power plan, the social issues of a common man were being addressed at lower level and the allocation and implementation of development funds was easier than before. But, unfortunately, the devolution under power plan faced the allegation of corruption and favoritism and could not sustain its existence. According to the 'Devolution of Power Plan, Musharraf regime had devolved the administrative powers to the lower level and established the institutions of district governments through the public participation but he had not allowed the political parties to participate in the electoral process. Non-partisan elected representatives had no political agendas based on national issues but ethnic, local and feudal influence in their politics which had divided the social life of the country into local and regional segments. Military authorities had been feeling comfortable using the local bodies' members to act upon the authoritative governmental policies, under the centralized authorities practice, without any criticism and answerability. Therefore, they were used during the presidential referendum and general elections in 2002 for political favoritism. The local bodies' members were also inclined to be the part of Pakistan Muslim League, patronized by the military regime, during and after the general elections 2002. Anyhow, the two consecutive terms of local bodies' elections produced a fresh generation of political elites for the political system which not only served as the local leaders but also joined the national level politics as well. The Devolution of Power Plan met its demise along with its creator and no local government election could be conducted after 2005. Interestingly, all of the local bodies' plans had been implemented during the authoritative governments but none of the democratic regimes volunteered to establish any of those. According to the prerequisites and conditions mentioned earlier, Devolution of Power Plan 2001 could not fulfill any of them and ended as dysfunctional. Firstly, central government in Pakistan needs to be strong enough to bring its fragmented feudal, ethnic and tribal authorities into balance which is the traditional part of the society. In a political environment surrounded among landed, industrial and religious elites, true devolution is difficult if not impossible. Secondly, a strong civil society requires; a substantial human growth, a favorable political culture, a

religiously split society, the quality of political institutions and the good governance. The conditions of a strong civil society had not been fully available in the country, at least since 1977. Thirdly, in democratic political systems, political parties provide opportunities for political socialization to aggregate the public demands to the political authorities. They play their role in political environment according to their party policies and programs. They also communicate between the public and political authorities and help to produce leadership qualities among their political domains. During the period of study, non-party local governments' elections, held in 2001 and 2005, enhanced local and kinship politics instead of the exploring the national issues and national developmental attitudes. To avoid such kind of handicaps, local bodies' election must be conducted on party basis at their regular times as they function as the political nurseries for the national level politics. They also produce the matured and administratively experienced leadership to the nation. Lastly, though, devolution plan was not the part of constitution but enforced by an authoritative ordinance. Devolution of power is the beauty of the federalism under democratically elected government where the local bodies' help to resolve the public problems at the local level. For a successful devolution in Pakistan, local governments' structure should be mentioned in the constitution. It was a positive initiative towards the decentralization of powers and extensive political participation at the lower level. It helped to meet the public issues at their door-steps but, inadequate planning and improper structural stratification caused a gulf between the local governments and the bureaucracy producing dysfunctionality interest. Instead of the traditional bureaucracy (Abbasi and Musarat, 2015)

#### **xiv. BENAZIR INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAM**

The Benazir Income Support Program is a federal unconditional cash transfer poverty reduction program in Pakistan. It is the largest single social safety net program in the country with nearly Rs.90 billion distributed to 5.4 million beneficiaries in 2016. Benazir Income Support program was started in 2008 by Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani by the advice of President Asif Ali Zardari. However the program was tribute to Benazir Bhutto who was assassinated in 2007. Since in 2005, the purchasing power of Pakistani families was decreased due to high inflation and increasing cost of food and oil. This program main objective was that to increase the purchasing power of the community of the poor families to easily purchase the food items for daily consumption. Subsequently BISP later on also seek to empower women by presenting cash transfers directly to female members of households. Currently it is the largest aid program in Pakistan and third largest budgetary allocation of the Pakistani government. The BISP spending fund is equal to 3% of Pakistan's GDP. In Fiscal Year 2008-2009 more than 3 million Pakistani families received cash transfers by BISP which equal to 1.5% of the general population and 10% below the poverty line. Fiscal year 2009-2010 the program was expanded to cover 5 million low income families while at the start in 2008, the Pakistani government allocated Rs.34 billion to this program. BISP doubled to Rs.70 billion in the preceding year. The Benazir Income Support Program is planning to launch a new initiative

that encourages human capital development through a conditional cash transfer. The Waseela-Taleem initiative will condition cash payments on primary enrolment for the children of eligible families. On June 18, 2017, BISP launched an e-commerce platform for its beneficiaries. The Department of International Development United Kingdom is the largest foreign donor of this program, providing \$244 million 27% of the total funds in 2016. In Fiscal Year 2016 the program distributed Rs 19338 per annum distribute per month stipend is linked to the consumer price index and is paid through a smart card The Benazir Income Support Program has been implemented in the provinces of Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan and Khyber Pukhtunkhwa while the program was also operated in federal administered regions Azad Jamu and Kashmir and Islamabad Capital Territory. In its first year of operation, recipients of BISP cash transfers were identified and selected by Parliamentarians through a process of recommendation. Each Parliamentarian received 8,000 forms to distribute throughout his or her constituency. Selected individuals underwent an eligibility verification process through the National Database and Registration Authority. A final list of eligible families was generated and sent to the postal service. Funds were disbursed from the Treasury directly to the postal service and then delivered to the female head of eligible households. In April 2009, the process for identifying a selecting eligible families through Parliamentarian recommendation was ended. The identification process was reformed and now used a Poverty Scorecard. Through the Poverty Scorecard, families are identified through a proxy means test. The Poverty Scorecard was approved by the World Bank and requires families to answer 13 questions regarding assets and expenses in a survey. The poverty survey was tested in 16 districts and was distributed nationwide. Internal monitoring systems were developed to track deliveries and payment amounts to eligible families. Another mechanism to address corruption and political favoritism is being considered that would allow a neutral third party access to the list of eligible families to verify eligibility. Recently, BISP has expanded to include several special initiatives. The Waseela-e-Haq program empowers women through the provision of small loans. A vocation training program, Waseela-e-Rozgar, offers members of eligible families up to 1 year of professional training. The Waseela-e-Sehat program provides financial assistance specifically for obtaining basic health care. BISP will launch its first program that conditions cash payments on schooling. The Waseela-e-Taleem initiative will require families receiving cash payments to enroll children between the ages of 5 to 12 to enroll in primary education. BISP also provides cash payments for emergency relief efforts. These payments are similar to the payments received by low-income families but are distributed to families affected by terrorism, war, and natural disasters such as earthquakes. To be eligible for cash payments under BISP, families must earn less than RS 6,000 per month; equivalent to \$67. Further eligibility requirements stipulated that families must have a female applicant holding a valid ID card; An individual applicant must be a widowed or divorced female without male family members; Eligible families include those with physically or mentally disabled individuals. Families deemed ineligible for cash payments through BISP include those

who members employed by the Pakistani government, army, or any other government-affiliated agency; Drawing a pension or receiving post-retirement benefits from the government; Owning more than 3 acres of farmland or more than 80 square yards of residential land; Members receiving income from other sources ; Members holding a machine readable passport ; Members with a National Identity Card for Overseas citizens ; Members with a bank account excluding microfinance banks and those catering to low-income families. Eligible families receive cash payments of 4834 quarterly. This amount increases the purchasing power of families earning approximately RS 5,000 each month by 20%. Most low-income families spend 50–70% of total income on food alone. According to BISP, the cash payment of RS 3,000 every two months, or RS 1,500 each month, will allow a family of 5–6 to purchase 20–25 days worth of flour. Since the program's inception, critics have pointed out several overall flaws in the Benazir Income Support Program design. Some claimed that the amount of RS 3000 bi-monthly, or RS 1,500 per month, is not enough to move impoverished families above the poverty line as this would require RS 2,550 per month. Another major flaw with BISP is its lack of conditionality. Conditional cash transfer programs in Latin America have experienced greater degrees of success because recipient families must meet certain requirements before receiving a cash payment. These programs build human capital through requiring recipients to enroll their children in primary education, participate in health and nutrition seminars, and visit health care providers. Apart from the Waseela-e-Taleem initiative, cash payments do not require recipients to meet particular obligations in return for cash payments. There have also been accusations of corruption and political favoritism. By some estimates, only 50–60 percent of beneficiaries actually receive cash payments from BISP. The previous method of identifying families through the recommendation of Parliamentarians was flawed. Many have claimed that Parliamentarians simply recommended their own family and friends to receive cash payments. It has been pointed out that there is a disproportionate number of families receiving BISP aid in geographic areas where the ruling Pakistan People's Party dominates. For example, in the Prime Minister's hometown of Multan, there is twice the number of people receiving BISP payments than in Lahore, the opposition party's stronghold. Punjab, another area where opposition parties dominate, has the lowest ratio of eligible families—1,974 for every 100,000 people; versus 6,829 families for every 100,000 people in Sindh, the ruling party's stronghold. Beneficiaries have also complained that the postal service charges an additional Rs 100 to Rs 200 for each delivery of payment. Other critics have argued that as the Benazir Income Support Program makes up a substantial portion of the Pakistani government's budget, impact evaluations should be conducted to evaluate the benefits and actual need for the program(Users\dell\Desktop\Benazir Income Support Programme - Wikipedia.html).

#### xv. BILLION TREE TSUNAMI AFFORESTATION PROJECT

To paint economy Green, the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has launched the “Green Growth Initiative”. The Task Force on Green Growth Initiative has been set

up. The Task Force on Green Growth has identified six focus areas: Forestry, Protected Areas, Clean Energy, Climate Resilience, Water/Sanitation and Waste Management for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The “Green Growth Initiative” of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a flag bearer of the clean and green revolution in Pakistan. It bears promise that the Government will endeavor its best to provide a better quality of life to the citizens of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, create decent and clean job opportunities for the youth and also provide a means for social uplift and poverty eradication in the province. It is an admitted fact that the forests are vital to achieve global sustainable development. They provide solutions for addressing many development challenges including poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, support to the livelihoods, food security and agriculture, energy, clean water and watershed protection, biodiversity conservation, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, combating desertification and land degradation, and disaster risk reduction. Hence the forests are vital for creating green economies. Thus after expert deliberations Forestry was prioritized along with two other sectors and the following targets were announced during launching ceremony of Green Growth Initiatives on February 9, 2014 at Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar:-Increase area of forests by two percent through converting 30,000 ha additional land into forests annually. Increase density (area of forests having canopy cover below 50%) of 7% degraded forests by closure against grazing and fire. Launch “Billion Tree Afforestation” campaign to involve local communities in sacred pursuit of greening Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Establish rules for REDD+ to assign Carbon value to forests and institute REDD+ a tool to promote conservation. Conserve Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Forests as valued natural asset. Billion Tree Tsunami Afforestation Project is aimed at planning, designing, commencing and implementing “Green Growth Initiative” in the Forestry Sector of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The project will thus, support Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Forest Department, as a catalyst, to plan, design, and launch sustainable development in the Forestry Sector (through active involvement of local communities ) and promote green jobs. It will accordingly result in enhancement of forest resource base, rehabilitation and improvement of existing forest ecosystems of the province, arresting environmental degradation, livelihood improvement and job creation for rural youth at their door-step. The project objectives are thus positively correlated with the sector objectives both at federal and provincial levels. Since, the project aims at improving ecosystem of classified forests, as well as privately owned waste and farm lands, the project therefore entails working in close collaboration with concerned communities/stakeholders to ensure their meaningful participation through effectuating project promotion and extension services. A province in Pakistan has planted a billion trees in just two years as part of an effort to restore forests wiped out by decades of felling and natural disasters such as floods. Cricket-star turned politician Imran Khan, who heads the political party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), launched the green mission in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the north-west of the country. The project – dubbed Billion Tree Tsunami – aims to slow down the effects of global warming in Pakistan which ranks in the Top 10 in a list of countries

most likely to be affected by the phenomenon. And the effort in the province, which lies in the Hindu Kush mountain range, has surpassed an international commitment after it restored 350,000 hectares of forests and degraded land. The work in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was focused along the area beside the Gambila River, in the Bannu District, where vast swathes of forest were wiped out in the past after its banks broke. The Billion Tree Tsunami was completed this month ahead of the deadline set for December 2017 and is expected to be extended across Pakistan. It comes after decades of tree felling have reduced the country’s forests to less than 3 per cent of its land area. About 40 per cent of the remaining forests are in the north-western province. Khan said: “If you plant trees, we have discovered, by the river banks it sustains the rivers. But most importantly, the glaciers that are melting in the mountains, and one of the biggest reasons is because there has been a massive deforestation. So, this billion tree is very significant for our future.” The PTI party head launched the green project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as part of an international goal that calls for the global restoration of 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded lands by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030. The International Union for Conservation of Nature set up the Bonn Challenge in 2011 and more than 20 countries have so far signed up to the commitment. The organization congratulated Mr Khan on reaching a “momentous milestone”. A statement read: “This marks the first Bonn Challenge pledge to reach its restoration goal.”

### 3.CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The critical review concluded that rural development program play key role in the development of a country and without these programs the development of the country is impossible. In different era the government has launched many programs for development of rural area in Pakistan. Among these program village Aid Program, Basic Democracies, Integrated rural development program , local body system, Aga Khan rural support program, Sarhad Rural Support Program, Punjab Rural Support program, Sindh Rural Support Organization, National Rural Support Program in Pakistan, Rural Works Program, Benazir Income Support Program, Pervaz Musharaf Devolution Plan and Tsunami Billion Tree A forestation Project are very popular. These all programs main objectives were to solve the problem of poverty in the country and to improve the quality of life in the rural area of Pakistan. They implemented the program in the right time while did not achieved the specific objectives of the program. In the beginning the movement went very well while latter on due to political intervention, lack of funds, lack of proper staff and monitoring, the programs were failed. Different political parties came into powered and started efficient program for the development of rural sector while latter on by other political parties, the programs were discontinued and emerged in another program.. This process has wasted the time and the target objectives of the programs were not achieved. The poverty year after year increased and no improvement occurred in the countries due to these hurdles and turmoil. Three time Marshala were imposed due to failure of democratic system in the country. By army, local bodies system was

established for decentralization of the power. Really the power was not decentralized and monarchy was run in the country and because of this the local masses started slogan against the army government. The study finding recommends the following suggestion for further poverty reduction in the rural sector to select educated people in the assemblies by democracy; through these assemblies better organization and institution should be developed; Honest staff should be selected for the organization to run the system very well; decision should be taken on national basis in the Assemblies; when a program started it will be continued till fruit bearing; corrupt people should be removed from the organization; practical education should be provided to the community of Pakistan in the rural area; Every program and project proper appraisal should be made by trained expert committee and analyzed from different angles.

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