

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN PUNJAB: THIRD TERM OF SHEHBAZ SHARIF AS CHIEF MINISTER

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### ABSTRACT

This research work has been carried out in order to assess the socio-economic development in Punjab province after general elections of 2013. It was record third time that Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) became the Chief Minister. Shehbaz Sharif has been commonly praised for his untiring efforts in the governance spheres. According to the experts and analysts, the record victory of PMLN in general elections of 2013 fruit of Shebaz Sharif's rigorous administrative performance in Punjab during 2008-2013. This study is qualitative in nature where the primary data was collected from the archives, official record, statements of the government officials and official websites. Secondary data was gathered from research articles, newspapers, and journals. Content analyses has been utilized for analysis of gathered data to answer the research questions. After careful consideration and analyses of data, the researchers have reached to the conclusion that Shehbaz Sharif has significantly contributed to the socioeconomic development of Punjab during his 3<sup>rd</sup> term as Chief Minister of Punjab. The results and conclusions of the research are also evident in public opinions where Shehbaz Sharif has been scored high amongst all the four Chief Minister of Pakistan.

### INTRODUCTION

According to the Pakistan's constitution of 1973 stipulation, general election would be held after every five years. (Article 52, Constitution of Pakistan 1973). On May 11, 2013, 10<sup>th</sup> general elections were held throughout Pakistan, in all federating units i.e. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan. This election has been considered as a historical event because of successful transfer of power to civilian from civilian was possible after completion of 5 years' term of democratically elected assembly in 2008. Almost all the considerable political parties contested elections and deployed their candidates for Central provincial legislatures. (ABC News, 2013).

According to the official results from Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), PML-N became the single largest party in Center and

Punjab province, PTI won majority of KP assembly, PPP-P got clear-cut majority in Sindh, and in Balochistan, no single party got considerable majority. Following the results, in Punjab, PMLN formed its ministry with two-third majority and Shehbaz Sharif was designated to sworn in as Chief Minister of Punjab for the record 3<sup>rd</sup> time. (ECP, 2013)

After the 18<sup>th</sup> amendment, many items, that were either in federal or concurrent list, were transferred to the provinces and significant responsibilities rests now on the shoulders of provincial governments. Important items, that have been transferred from federal and concurrent lists to residuary that are now vests in the hands of provinces, are Police, healthcare, education, public transport etc. The provincial governments in office during 2013-18 were the

first of its kind who have enjoyed provincial autonomy and were less dependent on federal government as in past they were. This is the reason that the voters and common people have expected more than before from provincial governments to deliver and bring changes in their lives through Socio-economic development.

### **Problem Statement**

Pakistan is a developing state and rests in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries. Being a developing state, every government in Pakistan tries it's best to improve the life standards of citizens of Pakistan since its inception in 1947. It is of great public interest and voters to explore the performance of Punjab government regarding Socio-economic development in the province. After 18<sup>th</sup> amendment, major share of responsibilities rests now on the shoulder of provincial government rather than on federal government. The researchers are keenly interested to elaborate the efforts of the provincial government of Shehbaz Sharif in Education, Health, Gender Equity, Roads and Transport and Poverty Alleviation sectors during the period of 2013-2018.

### **Research Questions**

1. What steps were taken by Shehbaz Sharif government for social development of the province during 2013-2018?
2. What measures were initiated by PMLN in Punjab for economic prosperity during 2013-2018?

### **Literature Review**

Zaidi (2005) has contended that Pakistan inherited an agrarian economy in 1947 as share of agriculture in GDP was 53% of total in 1947, and increased to 53.2% in 1949-50. In 1947, Pakistan's population was 30 million where 24 million were living in rural areas. 65% of the labor force were involved in agrarian activities and 99.2% of total exports were from agriculture sector. Moreover, agricultural side contributed up to 90% of Pakistan's foreign exchange earnings. Per capita income of Pakistan was about US\$360 in 1954 and a literacy rate was 10%. To address the shortage of capital in private sector, the Government of Pakistan relied on the public sector to build economic-cum-industrial base. So, in 1949-50 government registered a national

savings rate of 2%, foreign savings rate of 2%, and an investment rate of 4%. As a result, manufacturing sector contributed 7.8% to GDP and the services, trade, other sectors contributed 39% to GDP. (Zaidi, 2005)

Fasih & Swati (2009) are of the opinion that the decade of 1950 brings for the first-time economic planning in Pakistan. After introducing the Colombo Plan in 1951, Pakistan launched a series of 5-Years Plans in the period of 1955-1998. After 1998, Pakistan introduced 10-Year Perspective Plan with regular 3-Year Development Plan. Pakistan persistent its imports-substituting industrialization policy during 1950-1960. During the Korean War, public sector and emerging private sector flourished on huge merchant profits. These profits were converted into industrial capital that enhanced process of industrialization in Pakistan. Pakistan stopped imports of cotton textiles and luxury items in 1952 and regularized all imports in 1953. As result, Pakistan entered into the group of fast-growing states in the 1950s. But, after adaptation of anti-agriculture prejudices and anti-agriculture conditions of trade between industry and agriculture resulted in decline of 0.7% in growth rate per annum of agriculture in 1958. After attaining self-sufficiency in cotton textiles in the late 1950s, export development presumed vigorous worth, among arrival of the United States military and economic aid of 500 million US dollars during 1955-58. Thus, Pakistan come into an era of foreign aid-dependent development in the 1950s. In 1959 – after Ayyub Khan coup d'état in 1958, the martial law government announced export bonus vouchers, which were considered as import licenses, and list of the commodities, which could be bring in without having any import license. Balance of trade worsened from -831 million Rs in 1951 to -1043 million Rs in 1960 due to severe decline in exports from 1,038 million Rs in 1951 to 763 million Rupees in 1960. But, on other side, Agricultural growth rate 1.6% per annum and manufactural growth rate was 7.7% per annum in 1950-1960. In the same period, Per Capita GNP was Rs.355 in Western wing of Pakistan and Rs.269 in Eastern wing Pakistan. (Fasih & Swati, 2009)

Hasan (1997) has elaborated that in 1960s, due to huge influx of US aid and political

constancy, Pakistan became able to achieve high growth rate in the 1960s. Poverty headcount ratio, showed as a % of total population, declined to 50% in the early 1960s from 54% in this era. Moreover, Pakistan gained agricultural growth rate of 5%/annum by attaining substantial investments in water resources, better inducements for farmers, modernization of agricultural processes, usage of scientifically advanced fertilizers and pesticides, and the improved cultivation of high resilient kinds of rice and wheat. Growth rate of large-scale industrial products was 16% per annum during 1960-1965. The basic reason for this was safeguard of national industry from imports and provision of subsidies to exporters. But, Indo-Pak war of 1965 destroyed western economic aid which resulted in decrease of 6% large-scale manufacturing growth rate in 1970. In this period, Pakistan succeeded to attain an average annual growth rate of 6.7% in GDP. In 1969-70, poverty hand count ratio dropped to 46%<sup>32</sup> in 1970 which was 50% in 1964-65 and Per Capita GNP jumped to Rs.504 from 355 in West Pakistan and Rs.314 from 266 in East Pakistan. This disparity between the 2 wings of Pakistan resulted in revolt in 1971 and unfortunately, Pakistan was broken and eastern wing became Bangladesh. (Hasan, 1997)

According to World Bank (2012) the whole country was in deep sorrow because of defeat in 1971 from India. Poverty incidence jumped to 55% in 1972 which was just 46% in previous decade. Pakistan faced increase in import bill due to world oil price shock in October 1973, decrease of cotton production in 1975, insects' attacks on crops, and floods in 1973-77. Pakistan faced the worst ever inflation rate during 1972-77, when prices increased by 15%/annum. During the period of 1973-77, annual average financial deficit was 8.1%. Deficits of trade balance were 337 million US dollars in 1971 and 1,184 million US dollars in 1977. In 1977, Gen Zia Ul Haq's coup d'état occurred, and then stopped nationalization, regulation, and bring privatization. Overall growth rate of Agricultural sector grew @ 2.4% per annum and large-scale production grew @ 5.5% per annum in 1970-80. Similarly, share of large and medium-scale private industrial production was 75% of total investment 1970-80. (World Bank, 2012)

Haque (2010) have concluded that significance of the Era of 1980-90 was blow on nationalization process of 1970. In this era, private sector share in industrial investment was boosted, which resulted in high degree of growth. Poverty incidence dropped to 29.1% in 1987. Unemployment rate dropped to 2.6% in 1990 from 3.7% in 1980. Government of Pakistan, in 1985-88, introduced interest free Islamic banking which resulted in Islamic business partnerships on the principle of common profit and loss. Pakistan got GDP ratio of 16% in 1987 due to huge influxes of workers' remittances from the Middle Eastern states. The country's budget deficits were booming in this era. This deficit was managed through non-bank domestic borrowing. Domestic debt hits the figure of in 521 billion Rs 1988 from 58 billion in a1981. As a result, the public debt/GDP ratio reached to 82% in 1990. This ratio was 77.1% in 1988. This situation caused for huge interest outflows, public spending, and financial deficits. The martial law was lifted in 1985 with ever first non-party based election and Mohammad Khan Junejo became Prime Minister and Gen Zia became Civilian president. During this era, Pakistan's middling annual growth rate of GDP was 6.3%. Industrial exports were at better position in this decade as annual large scale manufacturing growth rate of Pakistan was 8% and agricultural growth rate of 5.4% per annum. (Haque, 2010)

State Bank of Pakistan (2010) in its report has revealed that Pakistan faced problems of decline in remittances from middle east and rise in external deficits. Due to decline in growth rates of GDP, Pakistan faced 2<sup>nd</sup> worst inflation in this era. Unemployment rate hiked to 5.9% in 1991 and reached to 7.2% in the end of this decade. Pakistan supported the expended current deficits through constant increase in state's citizens' Foreign Currency Deposits. In mid of this decade, foreign debt reached to 30 billion US dollars which was increased by three times in 1980-1995. Due to worsening sketch of Pakistan's foreign liabilities, local debt rose to 909 billion Rupees and local debt/GDP ratio rose to 42% in this era. Severe debt crisis rose in last years of 1990-2000, when public debt/GDP ratio reached to 102% in 1999 which was 57.5% in 1977. In the same way, public debt/revenues ratio raised to 624% in 1999, interest payments ratio

raised to 42.6%, and the public debt became fluctuating. Pakistan reached to the banks of foreign debt default when US and other western countries imposed sanctions on Pakistan in 1999 when Pakistan responded to India and tested Nuclear weapons. These sanctions caused in huge capital flight from the country. However, Pakistan was able to maintain agricultural growth rate of 4.4% per annum. Moreover, Pakistan achieved large scale production growth rate of 4.8% per annum in this era. With the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century, the military government situated an official Debt Reduction and Management Committee to evaluate and examine high public debt to look into less growth rate. Debt crisis continued in this decade too. However, Pakistan saw enhancement in growth rate in 2005 when growth rate reached to 8.6%. In remaining years, Pakistan Socio-economic situation was featured by decline in growth rate with high rate of inflation, imbalance of payments with energy crisis. Poverty incidence decreased to 22% in 2006 from 34.5% in 2001. Unemployment rate first hits 7.8% in 2002 and then decreased to 5% in 2008. In last financial year of this decade, inflation rate was at best i.e. 4.1%, rate of agricultural growth was 2%, industrial production growth rate was 4.9%. In last year of this era, total public debt reached to 8,160 billion rupees with total public debt/GDP ratio of 56%, while foreign debt/GDP ratio was 25%. In this decade, Pakistan witnessed decline in share of agriculture in GDP while growth in share of Services and Industrial sector. Share of agriculture fallen to 21.2%, share of industry rose to 25.4% and share of services rose to 53.4%. (State Bank of Pakistan, 2010)

PILDAT (2017) has initiated a unique series to assess the performance of provincial governments regarding Socio-economic development in Pakistan. PILDAT has released 3 reports on annual performance of the Pakistan provinces in 2014, 2015, 2016. Assessment made by PILDAT were based upon the data provided by the provincial governments to the organization. PILDAT assessed the socioeconomic development on 24 parameters. However, PILDAT has not assessed the remaining 2 years of government i.e. 2016-17 and 2017-18. (PILDAT, 2017)

Hussain & Kokab (2012) have stated that the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment in the Constitution of

Pakistan is considered as a milestone in political and Socio-economic history of Pakistan. This amendment has empowered the federating units with charges of possible administrative, financial and legislative powers. By 18<sup>th</sup> amendment, provinces are now in charge of education, healthcare, social development and other important items which were in federal list of legislation before this. This amendment has occupied significant place in constitutional history and ensure maximum decentralization. Changes brought out by this amendment are broad in scope, multifaceted in detail and fate changer in their consequences. Now Socio-economic development is the duty of the provinces and answerable to the public for their efforts. Hussain, M. & Kokab, R. U. (2012)

### **Education in Punjab: 2013-18**

The steps taken by the government of Punjab under the banner of PMLN in educational sector have been mentioned in the below.

- i. **Funds Allocation:** Punjab government has utilized considerable funds in educational sector during his tenure in office 2013-2018. In financial year of 2013-14 the government spent Rs. 218.038 billion (Rs. 187.556 billion on Current Expenditure, Rs. 30.482 billion on Developmental expenditure). In fiscal year 2014-15, the government allocated Rs. 227.090 billion (Rs. 201.882 billion on Current Expenditure, Rs. 25.208 billion on Developmental expenditure). During FY 2015-16, government has spent Rs. 251.471 billion (Rs. 224.608 billion on Current Expenditure, Rs. 26.863 billion on Developmental expenditure). In FY 2016-17, the government has spent Rs. 260.642 billion in educational sector (Rs. 221.049 billion for Current Expenditure, Rs. 39.553 billion on Developmental expenditure). Till the first half of financial year 2017-18, the educational sector of Punjab has spent Rs. 148.043 billion (Rs.

- 129.216 billion on Currant Expenditure, Rs. 18.827 billion on Developmental expenditure). (Alif Ailaan, 2018)
- ii. **Construction of New Schools:** In FY 2014-15, 618 new schools were established by government under New School Program (NSP). 400 dangerous schools were reconstructed and 300 schools were rehabilitated, which were damaged by the floods. 6,667 functional literacy centers were established by government to address out of formal education adults. 1,000 Non-Formal Basic Education Schools and 210 Community Learning Centers were established under Punjab Workplace Literacy Project (PWLP) to provide vocational education. (Business Recorder, 2016)
- iii. **Construction of New Colleges and Universities:** Punjab government has established 160 new colleges with cost of 17.28 billion and 19 universities in Punjab during 2013-18. (Samaa TV, 2018)
- iv. **Gross Enrolment Rate (GER):** Gross enrolment rate in punjab in 2013-14 was 100% (Male 106%, Female 94%) which was outstanding among all the four provinces. This rate was 97% (101%, 92%) in 2014-15, in 2015-16 was 93% (Male 99%, Female 88%), in 2016-17 there was housing and population census so the results of 2015-16 may be considered for next two years. (PSLM, 2018)
- v. **Net Enrolment Rate (NER):** The NER at primary level in Punjab during 2013-14 was 64% (Male 66%, Female 63%). Next year this rate was 61% (Male 63%, Female 59%). During 2015-16 it was 59% (Male 60%, Female 58%). The data of next
- two years, however, is not available. (PSLM, 2018)
- vi. **Literacy Rate:** According to National Education Policy 2009, the rate of literacy was supposed to be 86% by 2015. PSLM survey of 2013-2014 shows 60% literacy rate on national level while 61% (Male 71%, Female 52%) in Punjab. In 2014-15, the survey shows 63% (Male 71%, Female 55%). During 2015-16 literacy rate in Punjab was 62% (Male 72%, Female 54%) and in 2016-17 this survey was not conducted due to Census 2017-18, so the results of 2015-16 should be considered. (PSLM, 2018)
- vii. **Induction Of New Teachers:** 100,000 teachers have been hired by Punjab government during her tenure in office. In which 30,000 were of sciece and mathematics. (PESRP, 2018)
- viii. **Provision Of Missing Facilities:** During 2013-14, the government of Punjab has been completed 15,239 schemes of missing facilities in southern Punjab including boundery wall, electricity, toilet and drinking water etc. moreover, 50 hazardous and 500 damaged school building were re-constructed and rebehlitated by the governmnet of Punjab. The percentage of schools having facility of electricity in Punjab in 2013 was 70.9% which increased to 89.9 % in 2017. The percentage of schools having boudary walls was 86.3% and reached to 89.9% till end of 2017. similarly, %age of schools, having 1 toilet was 71.8% in 2013 and increased upto 97.3% in 2017. 7400 dengorous buildings are re-constrancted by government since 2013 with 23 billion Rupees. Overall Rs. 25 billion are provided to 43,000 schools and 5.5 billion to 22 colleges were provided for missing facilities.

- ix. **Training Of In-Service Teachers:** More than 100,000 teachers have been provided with training in scientific subjects during 2013-18.
- x. **Scholarships to Students:** Punjab government has granted scholarships of 15 billion rupees to 2.2 million students of higher and professional educational institutes through Punjab Endowment Fund For Scholarship, Shehbaz Sharif Merit Scholarships and Punjab Education Foundation. Education Voucher Scheme.
- xi. **Monthly Stipend For Female Students:** This program is to pay Rs. 1000/month stipend to those girls, who have 80%+ attendance during educational calendar. Students of secondary level are providing such facility through "Khidmat Cards". (The News, 2017)
- xii. **Solarization Of Schools:** The government of Punjab has solarized 20,000 schools by providing them Solar system of electricity by government upto 2017. (Finance Department Punjab, 2018)
- xiii. **Establishment Of IT Labs:** The Punjab government has established 4,286 IT Labs in schools of different levels in Punjab at a total cost of 8.3 billion Rupees during 2013-18.

#### Healthcare in Punjab: 2013-18

Punjab government has initiated the following programs in the province for provision of better healthcare facilities.

- i. **Health Insurance Scheme:** Central government of Pakistan has started PM's National Health Insurance Scheme on national level. In Punjab, the government has introduced this program initially in 4 districts of Punjab. Through this program, 3.7

million inhabitants of 0.69 family have been registered, enabling them to get health insurance and having good health facilities at cost of not a single penny. Free of cost health facilities are available at 30 primary and secondary healthcare hospitals and 9 of tertiary healthcare hospitals having 5,502 beds. In next attempt, the government of Punjab has introduced such program in additional 7 districts of Punjab, expanding the coverage of the scheme to 13.2 million more people of 2.5 more families. Round about 7,000 patients is documented to receive better and free of cost health facilities in 57 secondary and in 9 tertiary healthcare hospitals with 4,940 beds of Nine districts of Punjab additionally. While expanding the program to remaining districts of Punjab, the provincial government is looking for bringing 14 million additional people of 3.8 million additional families. According to available data, the government of Punjab has planned to expand this program to approximately 30 of total population i.e. 33.1 million peoples of 7.1 million families. (Dawn, 2016)

- ii. **Increase in Beds in Hospitals:** 9-story Ghazi Ilam Din Shaheed Block has been functionalized at Services hospital, Lahore, Punjab having 280 beds for patients. The number of beds in children's hospitals at Lahore and Multan has been increased. The children hospital Lahore was of 400 beds which is now of 1080 beds with increase of 680 beds. Similarly, the children hospital Multan was of 150 beds now the number of beds is doubled. The children hospital Lahore has been granted with 16 operation theaters additionally. The Faisalabad children hospital has recently been opened, having capacity of 200 beds, for general public. In addition, the Punjab

- institute of Neurosciences has also been functionalized with 500 beds. If we look at the facts and figures, it reveals that there has been increase of more than 4500 beds in 2017. This addition increased the total number of beds in tertiary healthcare centers to more than 28000. According to an estimate, daily 110,000 patients are facilities at OPD and 15,000 in emergency. (Pakistan Observer, 2017)
- iii. **Mobile Health Service:** To cover the far and uncovered areas of Punjab, the government of Punjab has introduced Mobile Health Units (MHUs) across Punjab. The basic aim of MHUs is to serve those people who are not able to receive proper healthcare facilities at door steps due to any reason. These units are auto mobile vehicles having medical kits and health professionals. These mobile health units are working with the collaboration of LHWs and LHSs and providing outpatients with laboratories for tests of medical purposes. These units are also plying their vital role in healthcare in such areas which are affected by natural hazards like flood, fire, earthquake etc. and other communicable and widespread diseases as dengue. The MHUs have also served in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during dengue outbreak in 2017. For ensuring smooth services, the MHUs are visited on surprise basis by officials and also by online through Geo-tracking. Patients are provided with standard medicines at visit to Mobile Health Units. MHUs have also close contact with rescue 1122 in case of emergency. (PHFMC, 2017)
- iv. **Immunization Program:** To track the immunized children, a same system “E-Vaccs” was developed by PITB and adopted by the government in order to keep the record of these children with their complete history and bio-data. The “E-Vaccs” system is also used for attendance of the vaccinators, as a result the attendance of vaccinators rose up to 90% and for record of covered area, which increased up to 84% in 2015-16 as compared to 60% in 2014-15. Considerable change is also seen in vaccination of pregnant women from tetanus as this ratio was 76.6% before and increased up to 82.5% in 2017. (Business Recorder, 2016)
- v. **Provision of free Medicine:** The government of Punjab has granted 40 billion for repairing and upgradation of secondary level hospitals of Punjab. In 1<sup>st</sup> phase of revamping, the government of Punjab has revamped 25 DHQ hospitals and 15 THQ hospitals. It’s expected that in 2<sup>nd</sup> phase the government of Punjab will revamp the remaining 1 DHQ and 84 THQ hospitals. Moreover, 13,700 posts are created at DHQ and THQ hospitals. In the same way, the government has provided CT scan, X-ray, fully equipped ICU-CCU and dental section facilities to each and every hospital of secondary level. Round about 85% medicine is provided by the government of Punjab free of cost at all governmental hospitals. (Government of Punjab, 2017)
- vi. **Burn Centers:** The government of Punjab, during 2016-18, has established burn centers in three districts of Punjab i.e. Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad which are of 205 beds and state of the art ICUs, HDUs and OTs. (Pakistan Today, 2018)
- vii. **Basic Health Facilities in Rural Areas:** There are 2520 BHUs in Punjab across 36 districts at Union Council level. During the period in office 2013-18, under supervision of Chief Minister Mr. Shehbaz Sharif, the Punjab government has upgraded 1000 BHUs to 24/7 healthcare services where Basic Emergency Obstetric and New Born Care facilities are provided to the rural

masses of Punjab across 36 districts. In the same way, 1 ultrasound machine has also been provided to each BHU of these upgraded to 24/7 service for early screening of pregnancies of dangerous nature. Moreover, 90% BHUs has been provided by a Medical officer through central induction policy. The ratio of availability of medical officer to each BHU was 58% in 2015. Similarly, provision of free medicine in BHUs has been improved from 73% in 2015 to 92% in 2018. Government of Punjab also focused on furnishing of outer look of BHUs with infrastructure availability of electricity, supply of drinking water, sewerage, fans toilets and overall cleanliness and neatness of BHUs. The outlook score of BHUs has been increased up to 94% in 2018 from 67% of 2015. Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system has been provided in 35 BHUs by early 2013 in first phase of this program. Due to their quality services provision, 110 BHUs has received MSDS certificates from Punjab health commission and 8 amongst them also rewarded by ISO certificates from Global agency. (DND, 2018).

### Roads and Communication in Punjab: 2013-18

Road's infrastructure development and urban mobility in Punjab have been summarized in the form of following headings.

- i. **Construction of New Roads:** 7,000-kilometer roads with 67 billion rupees have so far been completed in the province under Khadim-e-Punjab Rural Road Program. This program is of mission to change the outlook of rural economy. This program is first ever program in Pakistan to construct and rehabilitate rural roads. The Rural Road Program is helping the farmers take their product to market. Policy of speedy completion of developmental programs is also

applicable to this program for ensuring high-quality standards in construction of rural roads. (The Express Tribune, 2017)

- ii. **Metro Bus Systems:** After Lahore, the Pakistan Metro Bus system was also commenced with joint effort of Federal Government. This system is consisting of 25 km long route, where half of stations are in Federal capital Islamabad and the remaining half in Rawalpindi city of Punjab. There are 24 stations, 68 modern buses with estimated ride of 150,000 passengers per day. Similarly, The government of Punjab has developed metro bus in Multan after Lahore and Islamabad in 2017. This system has a route of 18.5 km, with 21 stations, starting from Zakaria University to Chowk Kumharan and with fleet of 35 state of the art buses. (Punjab Mass-Transit Authority, 2017)

- iii. **Orang Line Metro Train Lahore:** Keeping in view the greatest demand for transportation, the Punjab government has initiated Orange Line Metro Train system in Lahore. Orange line metro train Lahore is railway track with 27.1 km route (mostly elevated), 26 stations and 27 trains. Daily base total ridership is 245,000 passengers/day. This system was estimated to be completed with the help of budget of 165.2 billion rupees but budget was increased due to stay orders from judiciary. (Punjab Mass-Transit Authority, 2018)

- iv. **Vehicle Inspection Certification System:** For reduction of road incidents, the transport department of Punjab developed a system to regulate axle load over the heavy vehicle under the Vehicle Inspection Certification System during 2015-16. Government of Punjab in partnership with Opus Inspection (Pvt) Ltd have adopted up-to-date and digital Vehicle Inspection & Certification System (VICS) network. Accordingly, all public



transport vehicles of the province shall be inspected regularly and shall be awarded with Fitness Certificate upon satisfaction. 39 VICS stations will be established under Public-Private-Partnership all across the Punjab. VICS has started their operation on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016. (Transport Department of Punjab, 2016)

### Measures for Poverty Alleviation in Punjab: 2013-18

The government of Punjab has initiated number of projects for poverty alleviation during 2013 to 2018. Major projects of the Shehbaz Sharif's government have been mentioned below:

- i. **Educational Voucher Scheme For Poor Students:** Punjab government has initiated a program named "Zawar-e-Taleem" program. This program is to pay Rs. 1000/month stipend to those girls, who have 80%+ attendance during educational calendar. Students of secondary level are providing such facility through "Khidmat Cards". (The News, 2017)
- ii. **Initiatives for Health of Poor People:** The Chief Minister of Punjab has launched the Punjab Khidmat Card Program in Dec-2015 with total worth of 15 billion rupees. The main aim of this program was to provide interest-free loans, free of cost technical training, convalescence, wellbeing and economic assistance to the disabled persons. For the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of this program, Rs 2 billion has been allotted. The Social Protection Authority is expecting to benefit 200,000 special persons of the province. Every card holder will get Rs 3,600 after 3 months i.e. 1200/Month, through ATM machines. (The Nation, 2016)
- iii. **Self Employment Programs:** Under Southern Punjab Poverty Alleviation Program, the government has provided free of cost 5,228 heifers,

goats and sheep and poultry units to needy women and widows for their economic uplifting. (Dawn, 2016). Similarly, The Ushar and Zakat department of Punjab initiated a program of provision of Auto Rickshaws to needy and desirable persons of Punjab under Social Rehabilitation Scheme in 2015-16. (Dawn, 2016). Additionally, provincial government has provided interest-free credits to young people run their own business plan. So far, Rs 16 billion loans had been given to 800,000 families. The rate of returning the loan is 99.9% according to the officials of Punjab government. (PSPA, 2015)

- iv. **Provision of Subsidies:** The government of Punjab has allocated billions of rupees in each financial year for provision of subsidies to the needy people in different ways. Some regular subsidies were "wheat subsidy" of 10 billion, "Ramadan Package" of 5 billion, transport subsidy of 3.5 billion etc. (The News, 2015)

### Steps for Gender Equity in KP: 2013-18

The provincial government of Punjab, under the leadership of CM Shehbaz Sharif has taken efficient steps to bridge the gulf between male and female in order to ensure gender equity. These projects have been highlighted as under.

- i. **Female Staff at Police Stations:** Punjab government have hired separate staff of 28 ladies including 2 Inspector, 2 ASIs, 3 Head Constables and 21 Constables with the post of DIG Gender Crimes. A SP rank female will be available in every Violence Against Women Center (VAWC) too. There is 2 prosecutors and forensic experts to deal with legal matters. The officials are expected to have a separate judge of their own for provision of speedy justice. (The News, 2017)
- ii. **Stipend for Female Students:** Punjab government has initiated

- “Zawar-e-Taleem” program which core aim is to assist female students financially. Accordingly, each female student is receiving Rs. 1000/month. Qualification for this program is 80%+ attendance during educational calendar. (The News, 2017)
- iii. **Quota for Women in Jobs:** To empower the women economically and socially, 33% quota has been reserved for women in all statutory and public sector companies in Punjab. Women quota in public sector jobs was increased up to 15% from 5% during 2014-15. (Business Recorder, 2016)
- iv. **Protection Against Violence:** For protection of women against each kind of violence, the government of Punjab has established the first ever progressive, online and assisted by female staff “Violence Against Women Center” (VAWC) in Multan. Additionally, the government has established Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Human Rights Centers for Women (Crisis Centers). 12 regional centers have been working across Punjab. These centers are providing shelter in emergency, First Aid, Legal assistance, Free of cost psychological counseling and free liaison to redress grievance of victims of violence against women. (SWD, 2014)
- v. **Representation of Female in Different Bodies:** The government of Punjab has ensured that in all executive bodies of trade unions, at least one member, shall be female. Proportional representation has also been given to females in all these unions. (The News, 2017)
- vi. **Women Facilitation in Business:** The government has also to establish 36 business facilitation centers across Punjab i.e. 1 center in each district. These centers will facilitate the female in establishing their own business. Similarly, Women

Business Incubation Centers (WBIC) has been established in 8 Chambers of Commerce & Industries. (The Nation, 2018)

### Conclusion

Socio-economic development has been a key responsibility of modern governments. In Pakistan, after enactment of 18<sup>th</sup> amendment in 2010, major share of responsibilities regarding insurance of socio-economic development of the citizens rests on the shoulders of provinces. Now the provinces have more financial, political and constitutional powers as compared to the pre-18<sup>th</sup> amendment era. The government of Punjab, under the leadership of CM Shehbaz Sharif, has considerably contributed to the socio-economic development of the province during 2013-18. Provincial government of Punjab was able to ensure provision of teaching, non-teaching staff along with the provision of missing facilities in educational institutions. Besides, new institutions were established across the province on school college and university levels. Similarly, Punjab government was successful in recruitment of new doctors and allied staff to the hospitals and ensured smooth functioning of Basic Health Units. The self-employment schemes have also benefited the young generation of the province and became able to earn with honor their livings. Additionally, Punjab has the Pakistan's most smooth and swift public transportation system in form of Metro Buses and Metro Train. These projects are supposed to reduce the environmental pollution on one hand and to provide quick service to the public on another hand. In Punjab, we have relatively more share of women in the socioeconomic affairs as compared to the other provinces. However, Punjab government need to continue with the mass-oriented agenda of socioeconomic development and to ensure the consistent increase in the living standards in Punjab.

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