

Socio-Economic Development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Assessing The 1st Term of Pakistan Tahreek-i-Insaf

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ABSTRACT

This research meant to assess the socio-economic development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province after general elections of 2013. Pakistan Tahreek-i-Insaf (PTI) won the elections for the first time and was successful in forming government in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to the PTI chairman Imran Khan, he was all set to govern the country as per his anti-corruption drive and agenda for socioeconomic development of the nation. So, it was about his test that how he run the province and to what extent PTI is able to govern the country. This study is qualitative in nature where the primary data was collected from the archives, official record, statements of the government official and official websites. Secondary data was gathered from research articles, newspapers, and journals. Content analyses was utilized for the gathered data so desirable answers could be offered to the research questions. After careful research and analysis, the researcher reached to the conclusion that PTI has successfully contributed to the socioeconomic development of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The outcomes of the research are also validated by the results of next two general elections where the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa voted in majority for PTI and Imran Khan.

KEYWORDS: PTI; Socio-Economic Development; Khyber Pukhtunkhwa; Governance; Democracy.

INTRODUCTION

According to the Pakistan's constitution of 1973, general election should be held after every five years (Article 52, Constitution of Pakistan 1973). On May, 11, 2013, 10th general elections were held throughout Pakistan, in all federating units i.e. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab Balochistan. This election is considering as a historical event because of successful transfer of power to civilian from civilian was possible after completion of 5

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years' term of democratically elected assembly in 2008. Almost all the considerable political parties contest elections for central government and four provincial governments i.e. Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Balochistan (ABC News, 2013).

According to the results, PML-N became the single largest party in Center and Punjab province, PTI won majority in KP assembly, PPP-P got clear-cut majority in Sindh, and none of the political party got considerable majority in Balochistan. Following the results, in KP, the PTI was able to form their government in coalition with Jamat-e-Islami (JIP) and Qaumi Watan Party (QWP). Pervez Khan Khattak of PTI sworn in as Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on May, 31, 2013 (ECP, 2013).

After the 18th amendment, many items which were, before, either in federal list or in concurrent list. Being in federal or concurrent lists, the provinces has very little say in the affairs of these items. After the historical 18th amendment, major segments of the items were shifted to the provinces and now these were the provinces who were solely responsible for their affairs. Important items, which has been shifted from federal and concurrent lists and now rests in residuary which shall be vested 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 has enjoyed full powers and were less dependent on federal government as in past they had been. 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.

Pakistan is a developing state and rests in 3rd world countries. Being a developing state, every government in Pakistan tries their best to improve the life of citizens of Pakistan since its inception in 1947. It was of great public interest and voter to explore the performance of PTI government regarding Socio-economic development in the provinces. After 18th amendment, major share of responsibilities rests now on the shoulder of provincial government rather than on federal government. The researchers have keenly explored the efforts of the provincial government of PTI in Education, Health, Gender Equity, Poverty alleviation, Provision of employment, and Transport sectors during the period of 2013-2018. It is important to comprehend and evaluate the steps taken by PTI government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for socio-economic development.

The existing research shows 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 a 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%³² 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 Jonejo 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 2nd 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 timed 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 21st 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 18th 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 18th 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 KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA: 2013-18

The steps taken by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under the banner of PTI in educational sector have been discussed in the following headings.

- i. **Funds Allocation:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 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. 89.704 billion (Rs. 70.948 billion on Current Expenditure, Rs. 18.756 billion on Developmental expenditure). In fiscal year 2014-2015, government billed Rs. 111.711 billion (Rs. 83.205 billion on Current Expenditure, Rs. 28.506 billion on Developmental expenditure). During FY 2015-16, government has spent Rs. 112.231 billion (Rs. 93.306 billion on Current Expenditure, Rs. 19.925 billion on Developmental expenditure). In FY 2016-17, the government has spent Rs. 136.121 billion in educational sector (Rs. 109.482 billion for Current Expenditure, Rs. 26.639 billion on Developmental expenditure). In the financial year 2017-18, the Educational sector of KP has spent Rs. 169.084 billion (Rs. 138.944 billion on Current Expenditure, Rs. 29.141 billion on Developmental expenditure). (Alif Ailaan, 2018)
- ii. **Construction of New Schools:** The KP government has established 916 Primary, 578 Middle, 534 High and 319 Higher Secondary schools during 2013-18. In these 1157 are of male and 1190 are of female. (Samaa TV, 2018)
- iii. **Construction of New Colleges and Universities:** Khattak led provincial government has been established 8 new male and 2 female universities during her tenure in office. Similarly, 47 new colleges (Male= 9, female= 32, commerce= 6 and home economics= 2) has been established during 2013-18. (Samaa TV, 2018)
- iv. **Gross Enrolment Rate (GER):** Gross enrolment rate in KP in 2013-14 was 89% (Male 102%, Female 76%) and stands on 2nd position among all the four provinces. This rate was 90% (Male 102%, Female 77%) in 2014-15, in 2015-16 was 88% (Male 98%, Female 76%), 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 in KP during 2013-14 was 54% (Male 62%, Female 46%). Next year this rate was 56% (Male 61%, Female 51%). During 2015-16 it was 53% (Male 58%, Female 47%). The data of next two year

is not available. So the data of this year 2015-16 may be consider for the next two years i.e. 2016-17 and 2017-18. (PSLM, 2018)

- vi. **Literacy Rate:** Rate of literacy was supposed to be 86% by 2015 by National Education Policy. The data of Pakistan Social And Living Standards Measurement Survey 2013-14 shows 60% at Pakistan's level while 53% (Male 72%, Female 36%) in KP. In 2014-15, the survey shows 53% (Male 71%, Female 35%). During 2015-16 literacy rate in KP was 53% (Male 72%, Female 36%) and in 2016-17 this survey was not conducted due to Census 2017-18, so the results of 2015-16 should be considered for the remaining two years of government. (PSLM, 2018)
- vii. **Induction Of New Teachers:** The government of KP has inducted 40,000 teachers during 2013-14 in 3 phases. Similarly, 4th phase was also initiated during 2013-18 of 17000 new teachers` induction. However, this phase was not completed during the said period. (The Nation, 2018)
- viii. **Provision Of Missing Facilities:** PTI government has spent 21 billion rupees to address the missing facilities in government schools of the province under "Tameer-e-School" project. So far 400,000 chairs, 1,400 new computers and 8,000 new playgrounds worth Rs7 billion have been distributed among different schools in different districts." The KP government hire 3rd party to purchase educational facilities for the schools where facilities are lacking. accordingly, 41 schools were fully completed. (The News, 2014)
- ix. **Training Of In-Service Teachers:** The current government first trained the existing teachers in all the districts and has signed MOU with NGO named British Council to provide training to 83,000 teachers. (TNN, 2016)
- x. **Scholarships to Students:** KP governemnt has provided two scholarships namely Chief Minister Educational Endowment Fund (CMEEF) which was started with 500 million rupees initially. This scholarship covers pocket money of Rs.5000/- per month with hostel and other expenses during study and Higher Education Endowment Fund that are 819 scholarships, given to BS students, studying in 38 different colleges of the province, having the worth of 7.4 million rupees. The KP government also allocated Rs. 300 million for higher Education Endowment fund. (HED KP, 2014)

- xi. **Monthly Stipend For Female Students:** The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government has increased the monthly educational stipend awarded for girls from Rs200 to Rs500, which aimed at promoting the education of girls at the secondary level. This program was introduced in the province in 2006, but was later halted for various reasons. The PTI government then restarted the program in 2013-14. Initially the KP government had launched the program in seven districts but now the program covers all districts of the province. Rs1.72 billion has been allocated for this program. (The Express Tribune, 2017)
- xii. **Solarization Of Schools:** The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has been provided solar energy units to 1,959 primary schools of southern districts i.e. Bannu, Hangu, Lakki Marwat, Karak, Dera Ismail Khan having worth of 950 Million PKRs. The project is being jointly supported by International Development department of UK and Saudi Development Fund (SFD). (The News, 2018)
- xiii. **Establishment Of IT Labs:** The KP government has been initiated a program to promote Information Technology in the province. For that, the government established Information Technology Labs in different schools across the province. During 2015-16, the government was able to build 500 IT Labs in various schools of the province. However, the since its capturing the power, the PTI government has been established 1,369 IT Labs in the province. (TOI, 2017)

HEALTHCARE IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA: 2013-18

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has initiated the following programs in the province for better healthcare facilities.

- i. **Health Insurance Scheme:** KP government had distributed 1.5 million Health Insurance Cards among such persons who are living below the poverty line. 2.6 billion rupees have been spent under the scheme. Every card holder is allowed to spent up to Rs 540,000/Year for their own and family`s healthcare at any healthcare center of the province. (The News, 2018)
- ii. **Increase in Beds in Hospitals:** Health department of KP has completed 15 running projects, which has resulted in addition of 2,085 beds to existing beds in government hospitals. 15 projects are going on too which will add 2,626 beds additionally.

- iii. **Mobile Health Service:** The KP government has launched a Mobile Health Service and provide health cards in 17 districts of the province. According to these projects, the government will provide medical facilities to the pregnant women at their door step through a qualified physician with a vehicle in the remoter areas of the province. (TrendsPak, 2017)
- iv. **Immunization Program:** The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has introduced a project to curb the old problem of polio named ‘Sehat Ka Insaf’. This program has been initiated in Peshawar worth of 5.3 billion. This project has replaced the polio campaigns. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa emerged as the first province for implementation of its own vaccination program according to its specific plan. The basic aim of “Sehat Ka Insaf” program is consist of free immunization touching 9 inoculation preventable diseases. Under this program, the families are provided by hygiene kits. The campaigns were running on Sundays by 12,500 volunteers for 12 times under firm security. (Dawn, 2014)
- v. **Provision of free Medicine:** The provincial government has tried their level best to provide free of cost medicine at public hospitals. So far, 1 billion rupees has been spent in providing free medicines in emergency department of each DHQ and MTI hospitals. (The Express Tribune, 2017)
- vi. **Burn Centers:** The PTI government had completed the province first ever burn centre of 120 beds with worth of 2.2 billion rupees. 347 posts of health professionals has been advertised. (The News, 2018)
- vii. **Basic Health Facilities in Rural Areas:** 62 out of 111 BHUs has been made fully functional by provincial government to cover health issues in rural areas.

ROADS AND COMMUNICATION IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA: 2013-18

Road’s infrastructure development and urban mobility in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been summarized in the form of following headings.

- i. **Construction of New Roads:** KP government has completed dualization of 107 km while 67.5 km roads are in progress. Similarly, 185.5 km roads have been re-constructed while 48.5 km are under construction. In the same way, Widening & Improvement of 478.5 km roads has been completed while 231.15 km roads are under progress. (Pakistan Today, 2017)

- ii. **Bus Rapid Transit Project:** The provincial government of KP under PTI on October, 29, 2017 started work on a mega project in transportation and urban development named Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit at a cost of 68.9 billion rupees. This mega project has been splatted into 2 phases. 1st phase is covering east-west corridor of 26 Km (ground=15 km, flyover= 8 km and underpass= 3 km) main corridor, having 31 stations (having 850 m distance), initially with 383 comfortable buses with capacity upto 95 passengers initially. Corridor`s stating point is at Chamkani and end point is at Karkhano in Peshawar. (Transport department KP, 2017)
- iii. **Swat Motorway:** Swat Expressway, which was initiated by ANP government, was renamed as Swat Motorway which is the first ever provincial motorway in history of Pakistan.
- iv. **Vehicle Inspection Certification System:** Vehicular Emission Testing Station (VETS) was, for the first time, initiated in Peshawar and Swat. The basic aim and objective of these stations were to inspect and check and monitor the conditions of vehicle in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. After successful operation in Peshawar, same stations are installed in Mardan, D.I.Khan and Abbottabad. This stations are contributing not only financially to the operators but also contributing to environmental sustainability, improvement in transport regulations and promoting public health. (Transport Department KP, 2015)

MEASURES FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA: 2013-18

- i. **Educational Voucher Scheme For Poor Students:** To bring back the out of school poor children, the KP government initiated a pilot project in KP named Iqra Farogh e Taleem Voucher Scheme and allocated 500 million rupees for this project. According to this scheme, Rs. 500, 600 and 800 will be granted for primary, middle and high school students respectively to poor students of the province. (The Express Tribune, 2017)
- ii. **Initiatives for Health of Poor People:** KP government has continued the operation of The Lissail wal Mahroom foundation, which was established in 2015, and its operation includes providing free treatment to the patients, skills to

unemployed persons and financial assistance to the orphans in the entire province. (Social Welfare Department KP, 2015)

- iii. **Self Employment Programs:** KP government has initiated number of programs to empower the citizens to start their own business. Major programs are “Khud Kafalat Program” which is projected for granting loans of 50,000-200,000 rupees to unemployed people of 18-45 year’s age through the Bank of Khyber. Similarly, Fisheries Department of KP has established 49 fish farms in 5 districts under “Cooperative Fish Farming”. Additionally, training has also been provided to 100 farmers for strengthened their professional abilities regarding fish breeding. 173.122 million rupees has been allocated for 5 ongoing and 3 new projects in KP. (The News, 2013)
- iv. **Provision of Subsidies:** The KP government has started a subsidy program named “Sasta Atta and Ghee Program” for food items to unprivileged people of the entire province with 1.9 billion Rupees. Through utility stores, the government will provide 5 kg ghee free of cost and subsidy of Rs. 600 on 40 kg flour bag to the poor and deserving peoples of the province. 743,201 families are benefited from this subsidy program. 500 million were provided in 3rd fiscal year too for this program. (The News, 2015)

STEPS FOR GENDER EQUITY IN KP: 2013-18

- i. **Female Staff at Police Stations:** Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has established 70 female police counters at police stations in different areas of the province in order to encourage women to file their complaints and have safe dealings at police stations.
- ii. **Stipend for Female Students:** The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government has increased the monthly educational stipend awarded for girls from Rs 200 to Rs 500, which aimed at promoting the education of girls at the secondary level. Initially the KP government had launched the program in seven districts but now the program covers all districts of the province. Rs 1.72 billion has been allocated for this program.
- iii. **Quota for Women in Jobs:** To empower the women economically and socially, the KP government has increased quota in jobs from 10% to 15%. Additionally,

- KP government has abolished the upper age limit for girls, who are going to take admissions in colleges and universities. (Dawn, 2014)
- iv. **Protection Against Voilence:** KP governmnt has launched a toll free helpline for females in order to register their complaints agianst any type of voilence, whether its domestic, sexual, or abuse and harrasment etc.
 - v. **Representation of Female in Different Bodies:** The KP government, under local government Act, reserved a considerable number of seats at all levels of local government. At village council level, one female to be elected through direct vote and at Tehsil and districts level seats are reserved for female. In Local Bodies Elections, 2015, about 21% seats were held in reserve for women in province.
 - vi. **Women Facilitation in Business:** The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, in July 2017, has stated that government will establish the country's first-ever women industrial park for entrepreneurship in Peshawar. Additionally, 25 industrial sites would also be allotted to female entrepreneurs. (Dawn, 2017)

CONCLUSIONS

Socio-economic development in any country has most significant importance the citizens. In Pakistan, after 18th amendment in the constitution of Pakistan in 2010, majority of governmental affairs have been transferred to the federating units. Now the provinces have more financial, political and constitutional independence as compared to the pre-18th amendment era. The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, under the vision of its Chairman Imran Khan and under the leadership of Chief Minister Pervez Khan Khattak, has considerably added to the socio-economic stability of the province during 2013-18. Provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was able to recruit more teachers, doctors and buildup new institutions in educational and health sectors. Similarly, the province has now first provincial motorway, and rapid bus transit system those are beneficial for the millions of people on daily bases. The self-employment schemes have also benefited the younger population of the province. However, after FATA merger in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, it is the responsibility of provincial government to take such measurements in the merged districts too so that that portion of population also enjoy their share in the socioeconomic development.

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