

# Urbanization Yields Economic Growth Along with Social Disparities, Devastated Agriculture, and Energy Crisis in Pakistan

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## Abstract

Pakistan has the top-echelon urbanisation rate in South Asia. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), 38.82 percent of the population lives in urban areas, whereas 61.18 percent lives in rural areas. Urbanisation fosters industrialization, boosts economic growth, and offers technological modernization, better employment opportunities, health, and education, however, it could be auspicious and troublesome for Pakistan. This paper is an attempt to analyse the unidirectional link between urbanisation and economic development and to investigate the inverse relationship between urbanisation and the agriculture sector, social disparities, and the energy crisis in Pakistan. The study finds that unplanned rapid urbanisation is causing trouble in Pakistan. Industries are the main users of energy assets, creating environmental degradation that is harmful to living organisms.

**Key Words:** Urbanization, Development, Industrialization, Energy Crisis, Agriculture, Environmental degradation

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## Introduction

Urbanisation is a process through which a considerable size of people begin to congregate into distinct localities which leads to the alteration of land into industrial and residential areas (Environmental Protection Agency, 2023).

Urbanisation can become an efficacious metamorphic power for every dimension of development. If urbanisation is appropriately organised and managed, it will lessen poverty and inequality by providing better employment opportunities; otherwise, it could cause inequality, overcrowding, crimes, and social debarment (United Nations, 2020). People migrate to urban areas to get privileged economic facilities and social services, which include better sanitation, housing, transportation, business chances, etc (Rinkesh, 2023). Development is related to the social and economic procedure, through which people become more efficient in living with it and get authority over challenging social and economic matters. One of the crucial prerequisites of the development is to generate such circumstances; which can be considered suitable for the production of surplus. Development demands continuous economic progress, amendments in the political and social conditions, and stretchability in the structures of institutions (Venieris & Gupta, 1983).

Development and urbanisation work side by side, and urbanisation is crucial for capital production, social alteration, economic amendments, opulence, and growth (United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2020).

The urbanisation rate of Pakistan is higher than other South Asian countries. The United Nations (UN) forecasted that Pakistan's half population would be urban residents by 2025 because cities are considered 'growth engines'. Housing growth is unmatched by the growth of the population in Pakistan, while agriculture is also negatively affected due to urbanisation. Cities generate more economic growth but are also responsible for

carbon release into the atmosphere, which creates an environmental issue (Artaza, 2019).

Although there are many studies present, that discuss the urbanization and industrialization affirmative association in Pakistan which accelerates the economic growth of the country there is a need for further research to explore the reasons for the shrinking of the agricultural lands, energy crisis and adverse climate change in Pakistan. This study will address some significant aspects of urbanisation, which could influence the development of Pakistan productively or detrimentally. Moreover, this study aims to provide some insightful proposals to overcome the challenges of rapid urbanization in Pakistan.

## **Marxism and Neo-Liberalism Debate on Urbanization**

According to Karl Marx, urbanisation is the innate result of the growth of constructive forces and the launching platform for maintaining that progress. He considered urbanisation unavoidable, as he took the marketplace as the hub of the distribution of labour, which authorised industrial capitalism to replicate. He focused on the class struggle and elaborated that the dominant class certainly utilises political institutions (Nas, 2009). While investigating urban poverty, it has been revealed that Marxist thinkers believe that distinctness, allocable affairs, and challenges of power are major concerns due to the existence of power dynamics in many urban areas (Okeke & Ahaotuh, 2021). Harvey interpreted urbanisation with a reference to capitalism based upon the integral link between accumulation and class struggle. He identified that investment can switch from one to another sphere in the reciprocation of the class struggle to that level, so the regulations for capital accumulation can be discerned. The investment in health or housing of the working class can be altered into the wheels for aggregation through manufacturing for them. In shaping the capital circulation

between regions and spheres, the role of class struggle is crucial (Harvey, 1989).

Neo-liberalism focuses on gentrification and plucks out the paramount value of the land at any expense, although gentrification encourages inequality and class differences among people, depriving the masses of houses. It emphasised buying houses from the market, which is certainly unaffordable for those people who have lower incomes or lower middle incomes. It creates social and economic disparity in society. It is also influencing urban development policies. Neo-liberalism claims that the state is supposed to transfer many of its responsibilities to the private sector, but Neo-liberals are unable to provide affordable housing facilities and infrastructure services to low-income people (Hasan, 2016).

## **Types of Urbanization**

Urbanisation falls into the following two categories.

### **i. Urbanisation with Development**

Type one happens with development, when internal economic progress and development both exist, which encompasses a state policy that combines fiscal and spatial designs, a high-yielding agriculture sector, progress in establishing secondary commercial areas, and controlled rural-to-urban migration. It occurs in developing countries where the rise in the proportion of rural and urban residents will happen at a time when there is a rise in income, agriculture yielding, and employment manufacturing.

### **ii. Urbanisation with limited development**

Type two occurs with restricted development when the state's economic progress and development are insufficient to meet the necessities of an increased population. The absence of internal policy, which combined financial and spatial plans, lower productivity in agriculture, massive migration towards big cities, and the lack of middle-level towns and cities. It occurs when the expansion in urban population happens, but there will

be a lack of sufficient agricultural yield, lower employment, and secondary urban areas' income progression (Mason, 1989).

## **Economic Development Linked with Social Development**

The economic development of a state can influence the state's capability to improve the social conditions of the people because economic and social development are both interrelated, as a state needs financial capital to ameliorate the living situations of people (Holmes, 2023). Economic development alters the structure from low productivity to high productivity; moreover, due to reallocation among different sectors, the employment structure is also altered. Due to the maximum production rate, labour is concentrated in urban areas (Narayan, 2014). People need better employment opportunities to meet the basic needs of life. People get more attracted to the cities due to their better education and health systems, which make their lives better. Amartya Sen stated that egalitarianism in social opportunities leads to social development. The link between economic tasks and urbanisation changes with the phases of development because urbanisation or population size can rise or decline in different circumstances (financial crisis, war, etc.) (Harris, 1990).

## **Urbanization in Pakistan**

According to the worldometer, Pakistan's population stood 243,805,456 in March 2024 and 85,615,064 is the urban population of Pakistan in 2024 which was 83,500,516 in 2023 so Pakistan's urban population has increased from 34.7 percent to 34.9 percent (Worldometer, 2024).

According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, and Islamabad have 84.99 percent, 59.30 percent, 46.27 percent, 69.04 percent, and 53.10 percent of the rural population, respectively. Likewise, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, and Islamabad have 15.01 percent, 40.70 percent, 53.73 percent, 30.96

percent, and 46.90 percent of the urban population, respectively in 2023 (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2023).

**Wilson Center produced a longer publication, 'Pakistan's Runway Urbanization: What Can Be Done?' in 2014, which is comprised of essays written by different scholars and Michael Kugelman who** is the director of the Wilson Center and an author and editor of various books has edited this publication. This publication has mainly discussed the major urbanisation challenges faced by Pakistan and proposed some suitable suggestions.

**Nadeem Ul Haq** elaborated that the productivity of the cities makes the difference between poor and rich countries. The government in Pakistan is brooding with certain structural amelioration, which is based on austerity, to obey the command of the benefactor circle on MDGs. 'Pakistan's Planning Commission' approved the 'Framework for Economic Growth (FEG)' in 2011. The major outputs of the FEG were: (1) Dependency on the projects, which rely on aid and delay the necessary amendments, will not help sustain growth, (2) Outworn software (public administration, rules, and capability) is limiting development, not hardware (dams, roads, and bridges). Moreover, he highlighted that sub-urban sprawl gets favouritism from the policy, but still, there is a lack of serious discussion on the issue of energy consumption. People migrate to urban areas to get the benefits of proximity, which increases productivity and facilitates the trading sector in Pakistan. The non-competitive local government system, the absence of a well-reasoned management structure, and little participation are some of the reasons for the lack of reform. Good governance and deregulation of cities and markets are needed to overcome such challenges.

Another scholar, **Tasneem Siddiqui**, discussed that misapprehending growth plans acquired by urban and rural areas is one of the reasons for migration. Land does not generate jobs for poor people in rural areas, so the need for employment is the

reason for migration, but when jobless people do not get employment in formal offices and cannot afford living space, they end up living in slums in Pakistan. Now development officials turned into developers to overcome the financial issue, and they accumulated a large amount of money. Moreover, she highlighted that illegal subdivision of land is progressive in Pakistan because it accords with the social and economic status of poor urban people. Squatter setup has been expanding in Pakistan even though there are limitations, but still, it has issues like not getting sewage disposal setup and lack of titles, etc. The incremental approach has been implemented in Hyderabad '**Khuda Ki Basti**' later replicated by Saiban in Ghara, then in Karachi, and now planning in Lahore.

**Murtaza Haider** discussed the transport and mobility aspects of urbanisation. He shed light on the role of the middle class in Pakistan as he specified that the middle class is the offshoot of Pakistan's urbanisation, which has the power to establish goods and services in the domestic market and can be supportive of the proficient labour force, which will become the hub for development and the wellspring of revolution. He highlighted that movability hurdles in Pakistan are the result of a collapsed supply-side system. The escalation in travel demands has surpassed the demands of the transport department. Moreover, there is an absence of trustworthiness and competence in public transit facilities, and even affordability becomes an issue. Many transit agencies have collapsed due to the bad governance in Pakistan. Municipal and local governments are dependent on the capital transferred from the provincial and federal governments and lack a tax revenue system. The upper class does not prefer to travel by public transport, so the real demand comes from the middle class. The upper-level middle class asks for good-quality transport, while the lower middle class demands punctual services even without air conditioners or other comforts. Another crucial matter is that motorised and non-motorised vehicles on

the same roads escalated the accident ratio as well as travel time. A comprehensive transit fare system is required for better transit operations.

Sania, Farrukh, and Jawad elaborated on the urbanisation effects on health; urban and rural health acknowledgment is crucial. Inequality is prominent in this aspect, and a demonstration of public and private health providers' coexistence is present in Pakistan. The spread of non-communicable diseases in masses, the destruction of the climate, and air pollution pose serious threats to human health. To overcome the hospital overburden issue, a public-private partnership is a suitable suggestion. A supply chain with the appropriate inducements can ensure the availability of goods in Pakistan's remote areas.

Ahsan Iqbal discussed urbanisation through a governance lens. He had served as the Minister of Interior of Pakistan and Minister of Planning, Development, and Reforms. He highlighted that in Pakistan, 'cultural urbanisation' is happening rapidly. In Pakistan, many rural areas, due to IT, media disclosure, and market establishment, have been transformed into virtual cities. Earlier, only land-related issues sought help, but now people demand gas supply, good health, proper voter satisfaction, electricity, and appropriate infrastructure. They discuss inflation and corruption issues as well. Moreover, he highlighted that the development of intermediate cities in the peri-urban areas would be helpful in this matter. China is a prime example of this. The capacity of big cities' municipal structures has been surpassed due to rapid population growth. People from both rural and urban areas can be affected. Food security, employment opportunities, and the availability of social facilities in urban areas, along with urbanisation, are challenges for decision-makers. A public-private partnership for employment, health, education, and transport is necessary to meet urbanisation demands.



Lastly, Nadeem Hussain and Ayub Tahir have discussed the financial inclusion role in urbanisation that microfinance has played in Pakistan. “Tameer Bank” could be a good example of it, which offers monetary facilities to the unbanked people of Pakistan to ensure their social and economic welfare. Equity, an unbranched system of banking, and micro-insurance programmes are some of the initiatives. Their key objective is to create a suitable and profitable atmosphere for urbanisation through fiscal inclusion. ‘Mobile financial service (MFS)’ is enabling the easy accessibility of rural areas for people to transfer, invest, or save capital. Fiscal inclusion makes people economically empowered without disturbing farmers (Michael Kugelman, 2014).

This publication reveals that urbanisation is not just promising for Pakistan’s economic growth; it also generates certain issues, like market depression, and challenges the country’s capability to deliver the necessary services in urban areas. It is highlighted that there are two crucial driving factors for urbanisation: (1) addition to Pakistan’s general population; (2) mass migration from rural to urban areas. Good Governance, the Presence of proficient local government, and a competent management structure is essential to appropriately manage urbanisation and its influence on employment, housing, health, and transport sector in Pakistan.

### **Significant Influences of Urbanisation in Pakistan**

Urbanization can impose positive and negative impacts like industrialization accelerates economic growth by providing better employment opportunities and improving living standards. At the same time, it generates energy crisis issues and environmental problems in Pakistan.

Certain factors affect urbanization and Foreign Direct investment is crucial among them because it has a prominent impact on economic development and employment opportunities. (Can-Ming & Jin-Jun, 2015). Trade is a significant determinant of

urbanization because the trading activities in trading centers generate employment opportunities which could be taken as a pull element for urbanization. Gwadar port city plan claims that in 2035 the urban population will be almost 1.5 million, which is currently 0.038 million, due to the trading opportunities and industrial activities in that city. Therefore, CPEC will be proved as a promoting factor for urbanization (Khan et al., 2017).

### **Urbanization and Industrialization in Pakistan**

Urban Pakistan contributes almost 55 percent of the country's GDP. Industry offers more employment opportunities than services, but agriculture provides fewer employment chances. Industry contributes 73 percent, and services contribute 24 percent to the urban economy. Expanded market sizes enhance production. Rapid migration from rural to urban areas and agglomeration can enhance manufacturing power, but in Pakistan, industry is still lacking in generating good-paying jobs for the migrants. Approximately 25 percent of young labourers are doing less-paid jobs, even with no benefits. The labour productivity of Pakistan is lower as compared to the developing states (Shaikh, 2019). According to International Labour Organization Pakistan's employment-to-population ratio was almost 47.6 percent and job gaps were estimated 2.4 million in 2023. The unemployed people were approximately 5.6 million in 2023 (International Labour Organization, 2023)

### **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Impact on the urbanization and development in Pakistan**

China Pakistan Economic Corridor will effectively enhance the industrialization rate combined with urbanization in Pakistan. Once the CPEC project is completed, it will accelerate the economic progress and urbanization in Pakistan. CPEC will attract people across the country to take advantage of this development. Baluchistan has the greatest volume for urbanization because the density of the population in

Baluchistan is low and the population is disseminated there. Gwadar contains almost 14.7 persons per sq.km population density and there are higher chances of decentralized urbanization and equal utilization of natural resources. The Foundation of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) could be taken as the engine for economic development and rapid urbanization because it will promote urban development. Unplanned and disorganized expansion of cities could be problematic to run urbanization process smoothly and several settlement problems could be generated with the abrupt urbanization in Pakistan. Therefore, effective ancillary policies or measures are required to overcome these challenges (Akhmat, 2018).

Governance strengthens infrastructure and establishment, tackling demographic allowances to aggregate human and social capital, which will raise the industrialization position and generate an efficient, grounded economy in Pakistan. CPEC will rapidly increase urbanisation and industrialization operations and transform Pakistan into a globally comprehensive, efficient, and affluent country. Moreover, China and Pakistan firmly harmonising fiscal and trade schemes will enable them to have unconstrained trade because both states are supportive of funding and financing each other, which will strengthen fiscal amalgamation. Macroeconomics is getting better due to CPEC. Furthermore, it will bring social and economic stability, better livelihoods, boosted transportation, energy commercial demands, low inflation, equilibrium in the international balance of payments, an increase in international exchange reserves, and better employment opportunities (China Pakistan Economic Corridor Secretariat, 2017).

Apart from the positive influences of urbanization, some serious concerns need to be addressed e.g. energy crisis and Climate change.

## Urbanisation Generates Energy Crisis

Economic growth and energy usage have a one-way informal relationship. Industrialization surges manufacturing tasks, which are related to maximum energy utilisation as compared to agriculture, which consumes energy. The society has transformed from agricultural to industrial. Urbanisation and industrialization work side by side because they enhance the progression of people and introduce betterment in urban activities. Industrialization increases urban progression, which leads to economic growth, but due to the struggle and intemperate urbanisation in developing countries, the relationship between them could be exogenous (Fatima, 2022).

In Pakistan, haphazard urbanisation could be possible because of energy instability. In Pakistan, the relationship between urban population growth and electricity production and its consumption gap is inverse. Expeditious requirements for electricity and depletion in the accessibility of hydropower, especially during the winter season, exacerbate the electricity supply. Energy is crucial for advanced agriculture, capital-concentrated industries, and ICT-dependent services departments, but urbanisation has increased consumption, but generation has not gotten better (Mahmood, 2017).

Punjab uses almost 68 percent of its electricity because it has the highest population. Due to the load shedding, many industries in Punjab are severely affected, and excessive use of UPS is creating more energy crisis issues in Pakistan at the macro level (Arshad & Ali, 2017). Electricity availability duration, low electrical potential, and unforeseeable disruptions are causes of peri-urban and rural household dissatisfaction, but peri-urban has higher energy consumption as compared to rural. Energy-impaired homes are more common in rural areas, and even the availability of electricity metres is 6.3 percent as compared to 15.5 percent in peri-urban areas. They said that grid stations are distant from their homes (Naeem et al., 2021). Demand from 'Sui

Southern Gas' is 1165 mmcf; it has a capacity of 180 mmcf local supply and 90 mmcf RLNG, and the full availability stands at 900 mmcf, so the department is having a 265 mmcf shortage of gas (Mustafa, 2023). Transportation and power departments utilise petroleum goods at 78.5 percent and 10.8 percent, respectively (Yousafzai, 2023).

Urbanisation has escalated the energy issues because now consumption is greater than production. Although Pakistan uses other energy resources like hydro, thermal, wind power, solar, and nuclear, due to rapid urbanisation and advanced lifestyles, urban people consume more energy as compared to rural people. In cities, people use different home appliances. Specifically, UPS utilisation makes the issue worse. Gas load shedding has also negatively affected industrial activities. People are asked to manage their tasks according to the schedule.

Electricity bills and high petroleum prices have made people anxious. In many cities, people went on the roads and burned their electricity bills. Electricity costs have increased from June to September, and 50 rupees are fixed for a kilowatt, while petrol costs jump from 262 to 305 per liter from June to September 2023 (Ebrahim, 2023).

Illegal use of energy is a crime. Gas and electricity theft is one of the causes of the energy crisis in Pakistan. People commit this crime without any hesitation. Due to urbanisation, there is already a shortage of gas and electricity in Pakistan. Industrial, commercial, and domestic activities have been affecting and putting more burden on the country's economy.

Approximately 100 billion bills are due, and 4500 megawatts of energy have been purloining. If this issue is not addressed appropriately, then Pakistan will not be able to purchase energy under that circular debt. In 2021, almost 2.73 trillion energy theft will be recorded (Rehman, 2023).

## **Urbanisation Adverse Influence on Climate Change**

Industrialization increases the economic growth of Pakistan but also poses harmful effects on the environment and enhances energy consumption. Energy utilisation is highly responsible for climate degeneration, so energy aid in economic development is understood as a crucial factor in carbon emissions.

Economic growth is transforming rural areas into urban areas but also destroying the environment through excessive energy utilisation and deforestation because industries are the primary consumers of energy resources. (Majeed & Khan, 2023) Urbanisation promotes industrialization; industries are not just boosting the economy but also causing adverse climate effects like air and water pollution, smog, etc. that are not just harmful to humans but to other living organisms. Big industries dump their waste into the sea, which is harmful to marine life and also affects fishermen's livelihoods.

Karachi residents who live in the fishing village are facing a hard time due to the increasing water pollution. Now they need more advanced motor boats, strong and large nets, and more labour to sail in the sea to find fish, and it takes several days. Because they said that discarding trash and streaming the sewage water into the sea has adversely affected the fish. Chemical waste is just dumped into the sea untreated, and the tanneries are the most polluting (Guriro, 2016).

## **Urbanization Impact on Agriculture**

The agriculture sector is crucial for Pakistan, but low-quality services in agriculture are causing a decline. Urbanisation not only raises economic growth but also extends social problems, inequalities, and economic challenges.

Pakistan has abundant agricultural assets but is still unable to meet food demands, which leads to food security issues. Industrial expansion on fertile lands is one of the reasons for agriculture's decline. Demand for manufacturing urban labour and people for services and transportation departments has

caused migration from rural to urban areas, which generates a shortage of assets for farmers in Pakistan. Urbanisation has enhanced the industrialization value while lowering the agriculture position. In addition, deforestation is also causing the destruction, mainly in Karachi and Lahore. Food demand with city growth also increases, but local agriculture cannot meet it, so it leads to a rise in the number of imported food goods. Urbanisation has shifted the employment trend. Due to the introduction and growth of supermarkets in cities, high-level producers will make successful efforts to fulfill the demands, but medium- and small-scale farmers will be on the edge of losing their lands to powerful players. Few people intend to work in agriculture, and many people prefer to get employment in vending, retailing, transport, etc. Urbanisation has the power to boost economic development, but it is also generating inequalities, social issues, and economic problems in Pakistan (Iqbal Institute of Policy Studies, 2023).

Housing schemes are shrinking the agricultural land in Pakistan because, in major cities, agricultural land has been transformed into housing communities. The government should introduce plans to use barren lands for housing, not fertile land. Mango trees had been cut down for the housing scheme in Multan. Farmers work hard to make the land fertile, but the owner sells it to accumulate more capital (Business Recorder, 2022).

The decline of the agriculture sector and the rise in food demands due to the increase in population growth are creating social and economic problems. Food security is a serious matter, as industry is essential for the economy, just as agriculture is.

The Pakistan Business Council made a report on “The State of Pakistan’s Agriculture 2023”. It highlighted five aspects that affect agricultural development, which are seed, technology, funding animal ailments and feedstuffs, and water.

The report highlighted strategies and priorities to improve the growth of agriculture in Pakistan, and a few are as follows:

Pakistan needs to be a food exporter, not an importer. Private investment should be encouraged by modifying the Seed Act, 1976 because good-quality seeds are crucial for the long-term growth anticipated in the agriculture of Pakistan. There are a few challenges to seed development, like legal and administrative authorities' daunting private investment. In addition, hybrid seed production at the local level must be enhanced. Equity capital investment in modern agriculture technologies will be helpful to increase growth. The Pakistani irrigation system needs to be reformed to increase agricultural exports in Pakistan. There is a need for a risk transfer system to save farmers from environmental change. In rural areas, capital production from agricultural growth is the source of prosperity (The Pakistan Business Council, 2023).

## A Way Forward

- World Bank emphasises that lawmakers in Pakistan and other South Asian states need to focus on two levels to boost up economic development due to urbanization. At the first-place institutional level and then at the policy level. At the institutional level to get maximum advantages from betterment in the ways through which cities and towns are administered and capitalized., Especially, an Amendment is needed to tackle three basic governance shortfalls accountability, empowerment, and resources. Financial terms between governments should be better to address empowerment. Rational methods should be recognised to enhance the availability of resources for local-level governments to let them do their assigned duties. The system should be strong enough to hold local governments accountable for their acts.

Moreover, to manage the messy urbanisation , and to introduce lasting developments in welfare and livability, reformation is required in the directions through which cities



in Pakistan are organised and connected as well as cities' pliability to the hazards or consequences of climate variation (The World Bank, 2015).

- The government must take suitable actions to spare the customs tariff on the imported solar system and other appliances related to it. For example, lanterns, batteries, converters, etc. These appliances would help combat energy problems during the summer because most electricity consumption reaches up to 18 GW.
- In Pakistan, an equivalent dispensation of the energy resources among all the provinces can help manage the energy crisis. There is a need to design the National Finance Commission (NFC) award in a way that none of any province has reservations over the determined allocation (Arshad & Shamshad, 2022).
- Rural development is required to manage the migration issue. People migrate to cities for better health, education, transportation, and employment opportunities. The government should take suitable initiatives to develop rural areas by establishing hospitals and educational institutions, providing better transport and communication systems, building roads, generating jobs, providing grants on imported items like fertilisers, and offering loan schemes for farmers.

Urbanisation strengthens the economic development of Pakistan as it promotes industrialization, which generates more capital and offers more employment opportunities for people. CPEC will promote urbanisation and industrialization, which will boost the economic growth of Pakistan. On the other hand, urbanisation is responsible for the energy crisis, as industries and urban residents consume more energy than people in rural areas do. The decline in agricultural fertile lands due to urbanisation is generating food security problems in Pakistan. Housing schemes are taking control over the fertile lands, which causes the

shrinking of agricultural land in Pakistan. Although the energy sector is prominently contributing to Pakistan's economy still emanation of greenhouse gases is still increasing air pollution, which is creating health problems. Moreover, waste disposal in oceans is escalating water pollution, affecting marine life and fishermen's livelihoods. Many people who migrate to cities for a better life end up living in slums. Private and public partnerships are essential to meeting the needs of people, so everyone can have access to quality education, better health, appropriate infrastructure, affordable housing, and well-paid employment opportunities.

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