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Nexuses between Child Exclusion, Child Rights and Human Capital Development: A study of South Punjab,
Pakistan

### **ABSTRACT**

This study was conducted in three districts of Punjab Province, Pakistan The central objective of this study to take the qualitative investigation among social exclusion of children with relation to human capital development and political economy formation in South Punjab, Pakistan. The present study adopted the Concurrent Triangulation Design of mixed method research (MMR) and both qualitative and quantitative researches were conducted to support main objectives and hypotheses. It was concluded that social exclusion of children directly damaging the human capital development which directly affect the political economy formation. It was also concluded that poor financial constraints of the families of the socially excluded children were the big hurdle in the way of human capital development and political economy. As the human capital development was the back bone of political economy of any economy so results from this study indicated that this exclusion damage the human capital development which directly and indirectly affecting the political economy. It was also concluded that from analysis if human capital development increases by including the excluded children in the social sphere, it automatically boost the political economy.

KEY WORDS: Social Exclusion of Children, Human Capital, Financial Constraints, Child Rights

## **Introduction:**

Children are considered tomorrow of all nations and the same is the case with Pakistan. There is no denying the reality that they are tomorrow's profitable laborers and promising citizens. The nation houses population of 80.4 million underneath 18 a long time youthful children that construct 39% of the entire population of Pakistan as per the insights of September 2017 (Circumstance Examination of Children in Pakistan). Such a critical figure appears the imperativeness of compelling arrangement detailing to winner the children rights. Vision 2025 echoes the commitment of the government towards creating the cognitive capital within the national improvement system of Pakistan considering it the exceptional premise for the nation's financial development. The United Nations International Children Instruction Support (UNICEF) has appeared its commitment to back the government to form beyond any doubt that all children develop up solid, well-educated, and secured from savagery or abuse having adequate water and sanitation and in a sexual orientation correspondence based environment over geographic and financial boundaries. That would be as it were way to getting prepared with the specified social, environmental and human capital for Pakistan to attain the prescribed goals such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contest commendably within the 21st century and past. All through the world, children are by and large considered the marginalized area of society, and they are inclined to the abuse of all sorts. Children who are prohibited and compelled to work are powerless to physical and sexual man handle at domestic as well as at the working environments. The social avoidance of children is considered one of the genuine human rights violations.

Multidimensional Donor Agencies; for instance, the United Nations Development Programs (UNDP), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and different two-sided help organizations are concentrating to lighten

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destitution but the complete domain is still going down and proposing serious issues of destitution only in underdeveloped and creating nations. Under these circumstances, social, political, and financial impacts affect the occurrence level of destitution. As destitution could be a multi-dimensional marvel, so it implies that this is often the requirement for diverse fundamental things and necessities for the individuals of a society. This leads the anomie among the children, and they are pushed into the circle of prohibition. Hence, prohibition may be characterized as the overall separation of the destitute from accessible brilliant openings which by implication leads undernourishment, foodlessness, need of instruction, misery, physical and mental ailment, passionate and social flimsiness, budgetary emergency, distresses, and hopeless.

About 208 million inhabitants make Pakistan the 6th most crowded nation on soil having around 39% of the populace comprising children beneath 17-18 whereas 12% within the 0-4 year age and Twenty one percent from the ages of 10 to 19 (adolescents). Whereas the extent of kids and teenagers within add up to populace is anticipated to decrease to forty one percent by 2022 and their outright number is anticipated to rise by 3.347 million which is an increment of 4.8%. These figures may infer a possible statistic profit, but they will too posture genuine tests in terms of the arrangement of satisfactory administrations, instruction, and employments. From the 2017 National Census, we find that the urban populace is 36.4% of the whole. Other sources like Agglomeration File 9 appear the urban and peri-urban populace as tall as 55.8% of Pakistan's add up to populace in 2010. The figure recommends the presence of sizable covered up urbanization. The gigantic estimate of the urban populace has genuine suggestions for the conveyance of administrations, especially for children. By and large, the richness rate in our nation is 3.8% which has diminished to 3.2% and 4.2% in urban and provincial settings separately. It is vital to note that the richness markers given underneath in Table 1 do not imitate all the dares which Pakistan is confronting. These were put uncovered by the rapid development within the nation's populace found by the most recent census of 2017. The tall ripeness rate includes a coordinate effect on mother and child mortality since shorter interims in births surrender are much higher mortality rates. On the other hand, tall ripeness rates put an address check on sustenance and instruction because it gets to be difficult to enough bolster or teach numerous children in a single family. Subsequently, tall ripeness rates include to the inter-generational cycles of destitution. The poorest riches quintiles which are found in poorer locale have no get to legitimate wellbeing care, immunization, sustenance security, instruction, or WASH administrations. Besides, these bunches incline to deliver additional double children being at a richness rate of 5.2 percent as equated to the wealthiest quintiles lying at 2.7% (Census 2017, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, 2017).

According to Stilwell, political economy rejects a narrow focus on "pure markets" in favor of a "broader view of economic enquiry, its social purpose and its political application". It's an approach that stresses the importance of historical processes, structural forces and institutions in shaping economic outcomes. Marxist Political Economy (MPE) denotes a range of political economy perspectives that are broadly connected to and in the tradition of the writings and insights of Karl Marx. According to Adam Smith, political Economy belongs to no nation; it is of no country: it is the science of the rules for the production, the accumulation, the distribution, and the consumption of wealth. It will assert itself whether you wish it or not. It is founded on the attributes of the human mind, and no power can change it.

## Main objective of the Study:

The researcher's central objective of the study is to take the qualitative investigation between social exclusion of children with relation to human capital development and political economy.

## **Hypotheses of the Study:**

This study has the two major hypotheses for the quantitative study which are as under;

- Financial Constraints responsible for the exclusion of children that negatively affect the human capital development and political economy of the state.
- Provisions of fundamental rights to the excluded children which leads the human capital development and political economy ultimately.

## Research Methodology:

The present study adopted the Concurrent Triangulation Design of mixed method research (MMR) and both qualitative and quantitative researches were conducted to support main objectives and hypotheses. Quantitative

research was done through a cross-sectional study approach by using survey research design while Qualitative research was completed through Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs) in three districts of Punjab Province. The total sample size for quantitative study was 600 excluded children working at auto workshops while 70 participants (parents of the children, auto workshop owners, government officials/executives, and heads of child welfare organizations) were the respondents for the qualitative study. The researcher used interview schedule for quantitative data and interview guide to conduct Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) data collection. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS-24) was applied for analyzing the quantitative data. The scholar used the descriptive data which comprised frequency, mean, percentage, inferential statistics, and standard deviation. Qualitative information was examined through content analysis with a detailed discussion on the themes of research. Content analysis generally called as "Thematic Analysis Technique" was used for focus group discussion analysis.

## **Analysis, Results and Discussions:**

**Analysis of hypothesis 1:** Financial Constraints of the families of the excluded of children that decrease the human capital development which affect the political economy negatively.

Table 1: Association between the financial constraints and human capital development and political economy

Financial Constraints		Humar					
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Strongly Agree	Count	32	31	28	101	67	259
	% of Total	5.3%	5.2%	4.7%	16.8%	11.2%	43.2%
Agree	Count	22	22	37	22	32	135
	% of Total	3.7%	3.7%	6.2%	3.7%	5.3%	22.5%
Neutral	Count	11	5	14	9	15	54
	% of Total	1.8%	.8%	2.3%	1.5%	2.5%	9.0%
Disagree	Count	5	9	12	4	84	114
	% of Total	.8%	1.5%	2.0%	.7%	14.0%	19.0%
Strongly disagree	Count	9	9	14	3	3	38
	% of Total	1.5%	1.5%	2.3%	.5%	.5%	6.3%
Total	Count	79	76	105	139	201	600
	% of Total	13.2%	12.7%	17.5%	23.2%	33.5%	100.0%

Chi-Square=174.172

D.F. = 16

Gamma=-0.269 P-Value=0.000\*\*

Above table 1 describes the association between the financial constraints of families of excluded and human capital development and political economy. The calculated figure of Gamma and Chi-Square test highlights the impressively significant relationship between both associated variables. So, the null hypothesis "There is no association between financial constraints and human capital development and political economy formation" is reject and alternative hypothesis there is association between financial constraints and human capital formation is accepted. The negative value of gamma shows the inverse relationship between variables that means higher financial constraints decrease the human capital development and political economy.

**Analysis of Research Hypothesis 2:** Provisions of fundamental rights to the excluded children which leads the human capital development and political economy ultimately

Table 2: Association between provisions of fundamental rights to the excluded children and human capital development and political economy development

Provision of Fundamental rights		Human Capital Development and Political Economy						
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	
Strongly Agree	Count	45	28	7	11	11	102	
	% of Total	7.5%	4.7%	1.2%	1.8%	1.8%	17.0%	
Agree	Count	15	27	55	91	51	239	
	% of Total	2.5%	4.5%	9.2%	15.2%	8.5%	39.8%	
Neutral	Count	7	8	7	18	21	61	
	% of Total	1.2%	1.3%	1.2%	3.0%	3.5%	10.2%	
Disagree	Count	6	7	20	15	31	79	
	% of Total	1.0%	1.2%	3.3%	2.5%	5.2%	13.2%	
Strongly disagree	Count	6	6	16	4	87	119	
	% of Total	1.0%	1.0%	2.7%	.7%	14.5%	19.8%	
Total	Count	79	76	105	139	201	600	
	% of Total	13.2%	12.7%	17.5%	23.2%	33.5%	100.0%	

Chi-Square=265.278

**D.F.** =16

P-Value=0.000\*\*

Gamma=0.476

Table 2 shows the association between fundamental rights and human capital development and the political economy. The calculated figure of Gamma and Chi-Square test highlights the impressively significant link between both of the variables used in hypothesis. Therefore, the null hypothesis "There is no association between basic fundamental rights and human capital development and political economy development" is rejected and alternative hypothesis "There is association between basic fundamental rights and human capital development and political economy development" is accepted. The value of gamma illustrates the strong positive strength of relationship between both the variables. The positive sign shows that both variables are directly proportional.

## **Thematic Content Analysis of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):**

In order to analyses the results of the Focus Group Discussions, the researcher made the three themes, under which all results are gone through; These themes are as under;

# Theme - 1: Socio-political and economic factors of Children's Exclusion

It was analyzed there is a large list of social and psychological issues prevailing in the areas which the children into social exclusion. It was also analyzed that participants from all the FGDs agreed that if their children are equipped with all fundamental rights they can become the source of human capital development and political economy formation for the future. Therefore, children's exclusion is damaging the social capital as well as political economy of the nation. These results of the qualitative study supported the results of the analysis came from the quantitative study, that the majority of the excluded children (60.9%) have big household size i.e. (8-12) members. Parents of the children are almost jobless or belong to very lower level occupations which directly affect the economic status of the people. The researcher's results are strongly supported by the results of Hamid (1993) found the positive relationship between father's income and children's social exclusion. Cultural and demographic factors have much importance regarding the children exclusion. Neighborhood, peer groups and cultural activities have strong influence in the personalities of the residents of the areas. Cultural inequality, disparity, cultural rigidity and bad geographical circumstances push the children towards social exclusion. It was analyzed by the responses of the participants of all FGDs, children working at workshops mostly belong to the areas where no education, no proper health facility, families are of larger sizes, people are poor and majority belongs to criminal attitude. Therefore, this cultural and demographic situation pushed the children towards social exclusion and they move to different areas to work. It was analyzed by the results of the FGDs conducted with all the stake holder that poor grip of governance by the local governing authorities was one of the biggest reasons behind the social exclusion of children in the study areas. Especially no implementation of law, no provision of children rights and non-provision of basic needs are the

major flaws which reflect the poor governance bound to send their children to work at different places. Government are unaccountable over their performances, no other NGOs/SDOs are seen to work for the children at all. Government service providing institutions are responsible for child's exclusion and this child exclusion is the damage of human capital of the country.

# Theme – II: Children with fundamental rights as a source of Human Capital development and political economy formation

Analyses were made by the researcher on the results based on the responses of all participants of all FGDs that low income of the family, parental joblessness, low industry and unproductive agricultural lands promote the child labor which ultimately increases the social exclusion of children in the area following the damage of the human capital and the political economy of the nation. Poverty is the major cause to push the parents to put their children for work at workshop. When they are remained uneducated and unskillful, they become involved in different kinds of unhealthy activities. These activities lead them to criminal and other unlawful arena and they become excluded so in this way family as well as the nation loses their human capital. It was also analyzed that children are alienated from their friends, family and other relatives; this situation is called the children exclusion. Family income from all sources plays the important role in the lives of the communities. The statistics of above table and the explanation of the same expressed the overall picture of the respondent's monthly income from all sources. Majority (35,50% & 36,17%) of them earned only (5001-10000 & 10001-15000) rupees from all resources which are very low amount to manage the budget of the single family. This amount of per month income could not fulfill the needs of the family, these situations bounds the family heads to send their children to do work or labor and this situation of working in underage become the cause of the child exclusion. It showed the poor economic picture of the respondents. Hansen (1997) verified the above results with his analysis research conducted under the umbrella of MGDs. The children from the poorest families were more excluded than the rich children (The Millennium Development Goals, Report 2015). Qualitative results of the discussions with all kind of members were also reflecting the poor situations of the residents of target areas. Due to low monthly income, majority respondents i.e. (40.66%) were showing their fear they cannot send their children to schools because non approachability of schooling facility in their areas bound them to invest more money for the transportation of pick and drop. These results are very close to the results of the study conducted by (Shabbir, 20015) that cultural rigidity of social pressure especially for girls, long distances from homes to school, harassments issues and poor economic status stopped them to send their children for education. In these circumstances, parents think to send their children for working on daily or monthly bases at auto workshops and hotels especially. All participants of FGDs also supported with their arguments that low income and non-availability of school facility increases their monthly expense. Studied done by Nolan and Wheelan (1996) and Chandrasekhar and Mukhopadhyay (2006) also found that poor family background compelled the children to work in different places to support the family economically and ultimately this working continuity excluded these children from the family bounding and social settings of society. It makes us usual to get loan or help from the micro credit loan agencies working in the whole Pakistan to give financial assistance and loans to the poor's. According to majority (78.50%) respondents they get debt from the micro credits banks or organizations like Akhwat, NRSP, PRSP, and PRSP. Daily wages of the children were also discussed during the FGDs as well as this was probed by the excluded children too. A small portion of 600 respondents, 24 (04.00%) just earned PKR 15000 and above which is reasonable to support the family, while a large portion of the excluded children working at workshops earning just between PKR 1000 to 15000. Moreover, no skills learning at this stage are possible because of low mind learning ability. Study done by Townsend (1997) concluded that the Poverty was one of the most affected causes of equally accessing and enjoying provisions. Poor economic status leads the family to different issues like conflicts with family members, conflicts with neighbors and psychological issues as well. If excluded children are educated, trained and skillful they become the good officers, good leaders, good managers and nationals. If they have no above mentioned qualities, they become the burden for the families as well as for the nation.

Results of FGDs are the same as the results mentioned above, that education polished the creative skills of the children and make them productive. Therefore, productive youth of any country will be the social capital which leads the state towards the stages of socio-economic development. Results from the quantitative study i.e. (22.66% with agreed and 27.00% with strongly agreed) response indicated that major portion of the excluded children having the understanding that there is strong nexus between their creative ability and their skill development and training sense. Therefore, these creative children with strong skill development and training sense will play important role in the political economy of the country. Technical hands always were the human capital for any state and boost the gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country.

During the discussions, it was analyzed by the opinion shared by the respondents that child exclusion losing the human capital which damage the political economy. Uneducated, untrained and unskillful children are the burden for the family and the whole nation too. Education, training and skill are the major indicators of the human resource development and a child equipped with these indicators play the vital role in the economy of the state and the family. So these equipped human resources are the future of the any nation, and the human capital of the nation. Under age working at workshops of the children make them excluded from the mainstream and make them away from availing the basic fundamental rights. This working at workshops made them uneducated, unhealthy and lethargic because they are unable to understand anything because of their lower capacity of understanding. Nation losing these children as a human capital at one side and parallel on the other side they become the burden on the economy of the state.

# Theme – III: Suggestions to overcome the social exclusion of children to boost the human capital development and political economy formation

Reasonable suggestions were framed by all the participant from the FGDs. Focus was made over the capacity building of both right holders and the duty barriers too. The government of Pakistan makes necessary the provision of free education along with free books and uniform. Students at all levels in specific poor areas should award the scholarships too. Larger family size become the major reason behind the working of children at workshops and their exclusion, so awareness campaigns by the government and for the parents should be launched to reduce the family size. Economic status is another reason behind the social exclusion of children, so people living in poor areas and with poor economic status should be honored with helping money to fulfill their needs and to start their small businesses through various social welfare and community development programs like BISP, NRSP and PRSP.

### **Conclusion:**

Children are considered tomorrow of all nations and the same is the case with Pakistan. There is no denying the reality that they are tomorrow's profitable laborers and promising citizens. By the understanding conceptual framework and review of relevant literate, researcher constructed the different research questions and formulated the objective. This study remained under the umbrella following domains; socio-economic, cultural and demographic conditions and characteristics of the excluded children and their families, opinion of excluded children towards the social life, how they satisfied, either they feel themselves excluded or not, exclusionary factors which put them towards exclusion, supplementary actors which pushing them towards exclusion to work at auto, how adaptation of HRM characteristics make the excluded children as human capital, nexuses between social exclusion of children, child rights and social capital. At the end suggestion from the innocent minds of these excluded children were also taken to make the results of current research worth able. It is concluded that parents are bound to send their children for working and labor due their poverty large family size. These deficiencies may change the brightness of the children into darkness. It means, this darkness damaging the social capital of the family and the state which ultimate stop the human capital development and political economy. It was concluded that everyone is annoyed and dissatisfied by the implementation of laws and they show unhappiness regarding the facilitation in providing the basic facilities like food, clothing, water and shelter by concerned governing bodies. Financial Constraints are responsible for the exclusion of children that decrease the human capital development and political economy too. There is association between the financial constraints and human capital development and political economy formation. The calculated figure of Gamma (- 0.269) and Chi-Square test with values of (174-172) highlights the impressively significant relationship between both associated variables. So, the hypothesis there is association between financial constraints and human capital development and political economy formation is accepted. Similarly, the provision of fundamental rights promote human capital among excluded children which leads the negative affect on human capital development and political economy formation. Test results of Chi-Square value (265.278), P-Value (0.000\*\*) and Gamma (0.476) highlights the impressively significant link between both of the variables used in hypothesis. "There is association between the provision of fundamental rights and human capital development and political economy formation" is accepted. From the FGDs results, it was concluded that poverty ratio at target districts is much higher. Children working at workshops are belongs to poor, uneducated and disturbed families. Such type of families prefers to put their children to work instead of putting them in schools. There were unanimously agreed that there is lack of governance, lack of provision of basic rights and other basic necessities to the community, which supplement the issues of poor people, and ultimately they are bound to send their children for labor. It was concluded that there was no networking between the parents of excluded children working at workshops, owners of auto workshops and government executives/ political leaders/NGOs/social development activists. Absence of implementing of local government system was observed in target districts which is the only way to promote democracy.

### **Recommendations:**

Adopting democratic system, make the provision of basic facilities possible even for the poor and disturbed families. Various suggestions were given by the all the respondents of both quantitative and qualitative studies. Different programs to support the poor people should be launched. Micro credit organizations and programs like BISP, PRSP, NRSP Akhwat should increase the installment to reasonable amount and should extend the time duration to return the loan. Equal implementing of law for all and discouraging discrimination between rich and poor people also include the excluded children and families in the mainstream. Government must try to make possible towards the equal provision of basic facilities and by provision of free education and health facilities to everyone without discrimination. Researcher suggested some recommendations on basis of the results. Enhancing policy implementation by building the capacities of government departments in all social sectors at the national, provincial and district levels must be upgraded. Some income generating programs should be initiated which will improve the income status of the families that ultimately minimizing the need for children to work. Monthly scholarships should be given to both boys and girls to the excluded children as well as they have to provide the basic necessities (stationary and other utilities) to all children. Strengthen coordination mechanisms between all authorities involved in human rights and children's rights at district and local levels and workshops and seminars on children's rights sensitization is very important.

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