

GROWTH AND SECTORAL INEQUALITY IN PAKISTAN: 2001-02 TO 2004-05

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Abstract. Existing work on inequality in Pakistan remains limited to analyzing inequality at regional and province level. Changes in inequality at sectoral level have not received attention. This paper examines within sector inequality and how changes in inequality are associated with growth using the most recent primary data of the two household surveys PIHS, 2001-02 and PSLM, 2004-05. The results show that the household head employed in Financing, Electricity, Manufacturing, and Community services appear to be more affluent than the other sectors' head. Financing sector turned out to be the most unequal distribution of consumption followed by Mining, Manufacturing and Community services sector. Between 2001-02 and 2004-05 inequality increased in most of the economic sectors, *i.e.* Agriculture, Manufacturing, Electricity, Construction, Wholesale and Retail Trade, Community and personal services and undefined sector. These sectors employed 87.5% of all head of households in 2004-05. In general, inequality increased in economic sectors, which witnessed a high economic growth. To reduce sectoral inequality, the government can focus policies to equalize the remuneration across sectors via tax and expenditure policies.

I. INTRODUCTION

The issue of income inequality has been central in Pakistan since the early 1960s when the country laid its foundation of development on the principle of rapid growth of GDP. Consequently, a number of authors examined the extent of income

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or expenditure inequality using the household income and expenditure survey data. The early attempts are based on published grouped data set of Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) conducted by the Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan. Later on, a number of authors/institutions used primary data when it became available and estimated income or consumption inequality in Pakistan. However, existing work is limited to examining inequality at regions and province level. Sectoral inequality has not received adequate attention in Pakistan. Sectoral inequality is important since it helps the policy maker to devise policies to improve extreme inequality at sectoral level. The paper address this issue and examines within sector inequality using the most recent primary data of the two household surveys namely Pakistan Integrated Household Survey (PIHS), 2001-02 and Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement Survey (PSLSM), 2004-05.

The organization of the paper is follows: The next section provides an overview of inequality and growth in Pakistan. Section III discusses the methodology and data used in this paper. Section IV presents the results for sectoral inequality. Concluding remarks are given in the final section.

II. AN OVERVIEW OF INEQUALITY AND GROWTH IN PAKISTAN

A number attempts have been made¹ to estimate extent of income inequality in Pakistan during the last four decades. These studies are based on published grouped data set of Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) conducted by the Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan. However, recently when primary data of HIES became available in the 1990s, a number of authors/institutions used the micro data to estimate the income or consumption inequality in Pakistan. These included FBS (2001), Word Bank (2003), Anwar (1997) and Anwar (2003, 2005).

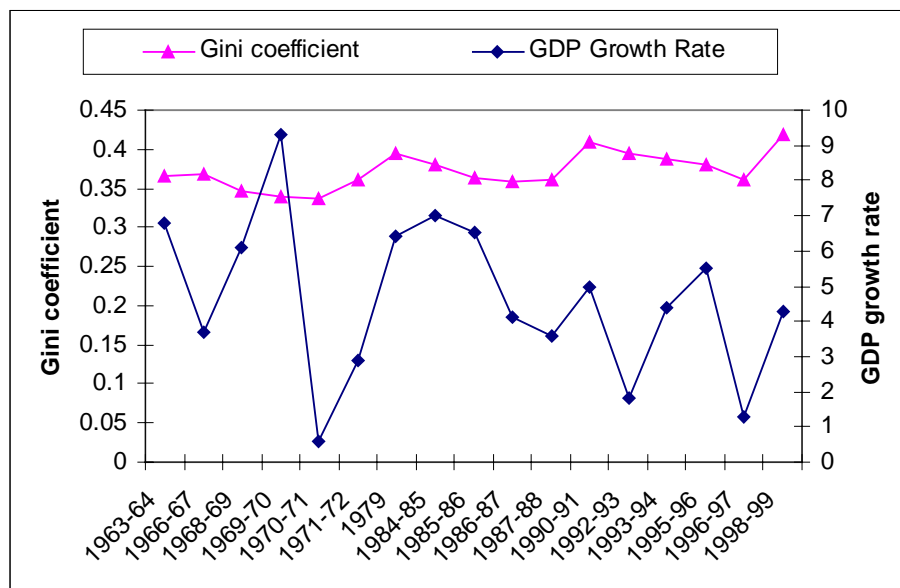
A review of these studies suggests that after initially increasing rapidly in 1966-67, income inequality declined in the late 1960s in Pakistan (*see* Figure 1). However, income inequality seems to have increased in the 1970s which later on decline till the late 1980s. Income inequality increased rapidly in 1990 and then declined till 1996-97. However, inequality increased rapidly between 1996-97 and 1998-99, turning 1998-99 as the most unequal distribution in Pakistan.

There seems to be no correlation between growth and inequality in Pakistan as the correlation coefficient is found to be very low at 0.003 during the whole period. This may be due to the fact that inequality declined during high growth period and increased during low growth period. For example, inequality declined in the 1960s which was the period of high economic growth rate. On the other hand, period of

¹These include Bergen (1967), Azfar (1973), Khundkar (1973), Naseem (1973), Alauddin (1975), Chaudhry (1982), Mahmood (1984), Kruik and Leeuwen (1985), Ahmad and Ludlow (1989) and Malik and Shahnawaz (1992).

1970s is differentiated as low growth period but inequality increased during this period. However, the growth rates were respectably high to about 6.0 per annum during the 1980s but inequality decreased during this period. Later on, economic growth slowed down during the decade of the 1990s, which seems to have affected the income of the poorest segments of the population and led to higher inequality in Pakistan. Thus, it appears that while rapid growth narrowed the inequality during the 1960s and 1980s, the slow growth increased inequality in Pakistan at the end of the 1990s.

FIGURE 1
Growth and Inequality in Pakistan, 1963-64 and 1998-99



However, most of the work is limited to examining inequality at regions and province level. Sectoral inequality has not received attention in Pakistan. An investigation of inequality at sectoral level may help the policy maker to devise economic policies to reduce extreme inequality at sectoral level. To fill this gap, this paper examines within sector level of inequality as well changes in it using the most recent primary data of the two household surveys namely Pakistan Integrated Household Survey (PIHS), 2001-02 and Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement Survey (PSLSM), 2004-05.

TRENDS IN SECTORAL GDP GROWTH, 2001-02 TO 2004-05

Over the last few years, Pakistan's economy recovered from the low growth path of the late 1990s. The recovery began in 2003-04 and gained further momentum in 2004-05 with real GDP rising to 8.6 percent — the fastest in the last two decades.

On average real GDP growth rate was at 6.9 percent per annum spanning the period of two household surveys, 2001-02 and 2004-05 (see Table 1).

TABLE 1

Real Sectoral GDP Growth Rates between 2001-02 to 2004-05 (%)

Sector	GDP Growth Rates (%)				
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2001-02 to 2004-05
COMMODITY PROD. SECTOR	1.3	4.3	9.2	9.2	7.6
Agriculture	0.1	4.3	2.3	6.7	4.4
Major Crops	-2.5	6.7	1.9	17.8	8.8
Minor Crops	-3.7	1.8	4.0	3.0	2.9
Livestock	3.7	3.0	2.5	2.3	2.6
Fishing	-12.3	3.4	2.0	2.2	2.5
Forestry	-4.4	11.1	-3.2	-30.4	-7.5
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	2.6				
Mining and Quarrying	7.3	6.6	15.6	9.6	10.6
Manufacturing	4.5	6.9	14.0	12.6	11.2
Large Scale	3.5	7.2	18.1	15.6	13.6
Small & Household	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
Construction	1.6	4.0	-10.7	18.6	4.0
Electricity and Gas Distribution	-7.0	-11.7	56.8	3.5	16.2
SERVICES SECTOR	4.8	5.2	5.9	8.0	6.4
Transport, Storage and Communication	1.2	4.3	3.5	3.6	3.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	2.8	5.9	8.4	11.1	8.5
Finance and Insurance	17.2	-1.3	9.0	29.7	12.5
Ownership of Dwellings	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.4
Public Admn. and Defence	6.9	7.7	3.2	0.6	3.8
Services	7.9	6.1	5.6	5.9	5.9
Real GDP (fc)	3.1	4.7	7.5	8.6	6.9

Source: *Economic Survey, 2005-06*. Finance Division, Islamabad

The growth was broad-based since each sub-sector witnessed robust growth. The acceleration in growth 2004-05 was aided by an exceptional performance in large-scale manufacturing, notable recovery in agriculture and a robust growth in services sector. After a four year of slow growth, Agriculture sector recovered and grew by 6.7 percent in 2004-05 on the back of an exceptional increase in the production of cotton and wheat crops. These two crops account for about 24 percent of the value added in this sector. On average, Agriculture sector grew by 4.4 percent over the household survey period.

Manufacturing sector which account for 18.3 percent of GDP, recorded an impressive growth of 12.5 percent in 2004-05 and 14.1 percent in 2003-04. The average growth rate for the Manufacturing sector was 11.2 percent between 2001-02 and 2004-05. Over the two surveys period Mining sector grew by 10.6 percent; Electricity and Gas sector grew by 16.2 percent; Construction sector by 4.0 percent.

Similarly, over the two surveys period the services sector which accounted for 52 percent of GDP record a growth of 6.4 percent; Of which Transport sector grew by 3.8 percent; Wholesale and Retail Trade grew by 8.5 percent; Financing sector grew by 12.5 percent' Public administration and Defence grew by 3.8 percent.

The high growth was supported by accommodative macroeconomic and financial sector policies which provided excessive credit to the private to generate domestic demand for consumer durable goods. Owing to lax monetary policy inflation accelerated to 9.3 percent in 2004-05. The overall inflation between the two-survey period was 21.5 percent mainly due to easy monetary policy and rising oil prices in the international market.

In this backdrop, it would be interesting to see how these sectoral growth rates of GDP translated in growth in household income or consumption expenditure. Does high growth in GDP resulted in higher growth in income or consumption of the households working in these sectors? How the increased sectoral growth affected the inequality of among households across economic sectors? The answers to these questions are addressed in the Section 4 of the paper.

III. METHODOLOGY, DATA AND VARIABLES

Although a number of inequality indices have been suggested² for the measurement of inequality, the Gini Coefficient is a well-known measure which is derived from the Lorenz curve, which plots the cumulative share of total income (or consumption), y_i earned by households or population, X_i ranked from bottom to top, where y_i are arranged in ascending order by their subscripts. It can be expressed as follows:

²For various inequality measures, see Kakwani (1980, 1990) and Culyer and Wagstaff (1997).

$$G = 1 - \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} (Y_{i+1} + Y_i)(X_{i+1} - X_i)$$

Where y_i are arranged in ascending order by their subscripts. The Gini coefficient is most sensitive to the middle part of distribution since it depends on the rank order weights of income recipients and on the number of recipients within a given range. It also satisfies some fundamental properties of an inequality measure. These included: (a) inequality aversion; (b) replication invariance and (c) anonymity.

To analyze changes in sectoral inequality, the most recent primary data of the two household surveys namely Pakistan Integrated Household Survey (PIHS), 2001-02 and Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement Survey (PSLSM), 2004-05 periodically conducted by the Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS), Government of Pakistan Islamabad have been used in this study. The sample of PIHS 2001-02 consists of 14,705 households whereas sample of PSLSM, 2004-05 consists of 14,706 households both rural and urban in all the four provinces of Pakistan. These surveys provide information and data on income and consumption of all members of households. The collected data on consumption expenditure are based on more than 196 food and non-food items at household level during the survey period. These surveys also provide information on the economic sector of employment of household head. These information and data can be combined to measure the changes in sectoral inequality between 2001-02 and 2004-05.

To measure the sectoral inequality, an appropriate living standard indicator is required. Income is an indicator of living standard that most clearly determines both relative and absolute economic status of an individual in a society. While PIHS 2001-02 provide detailed information on household income, PSLM 2004-05 does not provide detailed information on household income due to changes in questionnaire and method of data collection in 2004-05. The household income definition of PSLM, 2004-05 is, therefore, not comparable with PIHS, 2001-02 and thus one cannot draw a trend in income inequality over this period. However, the consumption expenditure module and its method of data collection remained unchanged in both surveys and thus give an opportunity to draw a trend in inequality between two survey period. Thus, household consumption expenditure on non-durables is used as proxy for 'household income' for the measurement of inequality across sector of economic activities. To take an account of differences in needs and economies of scale in household consumption expenditure, this paper corrects the data for household size and composition using 1.0 for first adult and 0.8 for all family members.

IV. SECTORAL INEQUALITY IN PAKISTAN: THE RESULTS

The GDP grew at an average rate of about 7.0 per annum between 2001-02 and 2004-05. At sectoral level, the growth is supported by agriculture, industry and

services. This section examines how consumption expenditure of households grew at sectoral level over the period? Is growth in GDP also reflected in growth in consumption of household's head employed across economic sectors? And how this rising pattern of sectoral growth affected the inequality of consumption among households across economic sectors?

TABLE 2
Mean (Adult Equivalent) Monthly Expenditure and
Population Share, 2001-02 and 2004-05

Sector of Economic Activity	Mean consumption expenditure		% change	Population share (%)	
	2001-02	2004-05		2001-02	2004-05
Agriculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing	876.7	1253.1	42.9	41.00	36.56
Mining and quarrying	1037.0	1623.8	56.6	0.22	0.41
Manufacturing	1138.6	1571.8	38.0	8.96	8.11
Electricity, gas and water	1191.0	1894.8	59.1	1.09	0.86
Construction	779.0	1176.0	51.0	8.73	7.32
Wholesale and retail trade and restaurant	1096.5	1582.6	44.3	14.4	16.2
Transport, storage and communication	1010.4	1344.6	33.1	6.86	5.36
Financing, insurance, real estate	2376.0	2991.9	25.9	0.86	0.49
Community, social and personal services	1130.6	1531.8	35.5	17.74	19.8
Activities not adequately defined	862.5	1622.5	88.1	0.15	4.89
Ratio of highest to the lowest mean consumption expenditure	3.05	2.54			
Overall	1018.6	1439.1	41.3	100	100

Source: Author's calculation based on Micro-data of PIHS 2001-02 and PSLM 2004-05.

Table 2 present the mean consumption expenditure and the population share of population by economic sector of household head. In 2001-02, 41 percent household head were employed in Agriculture sector followed by 17 percent in Community services, 14.4 percent in Wholesale and Retail Trade Transport, 8.96 percent in Manufacturing, 8.73 percent in Construction and 6.86 percent in Transport sector. While some moderate changes occurred in sectoral composition of household head employment, the changes were more distinct in Agriculture sector between 2001-02 and 2004-05. The proportion of household head employed in Agriculture sector declined from 41 percent in 2001-02 to 36.5 percent in 2004-05. The declined in Agriculture sector is mostly absorbed by the urban-based economic sectors — Wholesale and Retail Trade, Community services sectors and undefined economic sector. While income differential between rural and urban regions is a key determinant of migration, the urbanization and urban growth may have been one of the factors for this rapid change in employment share.

TABLE 3
Gini Coefficient, 2001-02 and 2004-05

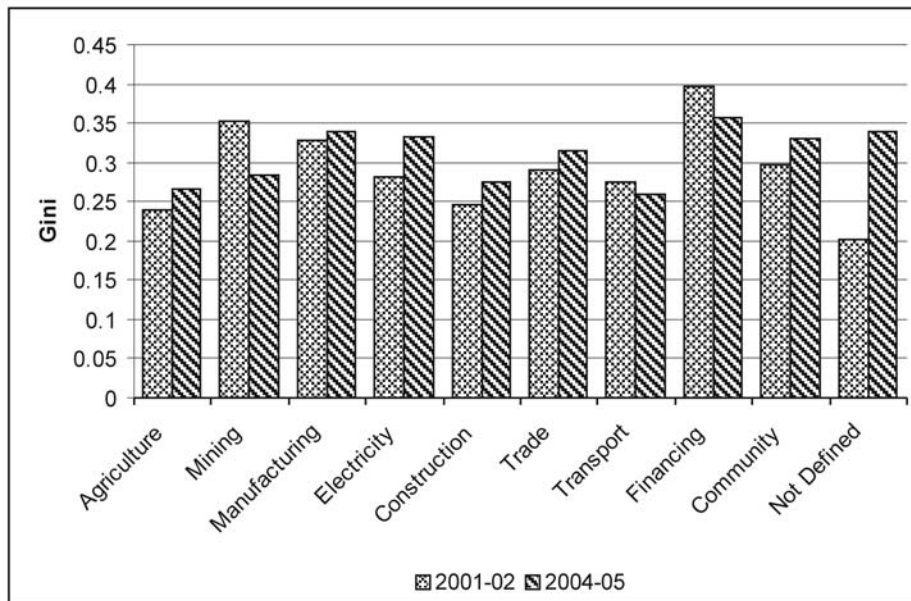
Sector of Economic Activity	Gini coefficient	% change in Gini coefficient	% change in mean consumption expenditure	
	2001-02	2004-05	2001-02 to 2004-05	
Agriculture, forestry hunting, and fishing	0.2396	0.2660	11.0	42.9
Mining and quarrying	0.3533	0.2833	-19.8	56.6
Manufacturing	0.3282	0.3384	3.1	38.0
Electricity, gas and water	0.2812	0.3325	18.3	59.1
Construction	0.2465	0.2748	11.5	51.0
Wholesale and retail trade and restaurant	0.2909	0.3140	8.0	44.3
Transport, storage and communication	0.2747	0.2592	-5.6	33.1
Financing, insurance, real estate	0.3974	0.3580	-9.9	25.9
Community, social and personal services	0.2980	0.3303	10.9	35.5
Activities not adequately defined	0.2012	0.3393	68.6	88.1
Overall	0.2933	0.3142	7.1	41.3

Source: Author's Calculation form Micro-data of PIHS 2001-02 and PSLM 2004-05.

The results indicate that the household head employed in Financing, Electricity, Manufacturing, and Community services appear to be more affluent than the other sectors' head. This is reflected by the highest mean consumption expenditure in 2001-02 was in Financing sector followed by Electricity, Manufacturing, and Community services. Finance and insurance was the richest sector whereas Construction was the poorest sector in terms of level of mean consumption expenditure. Nevertheless, the gap between the highest to lowest mean consumption expenditure in these sectors seems to have narrowed. This is reflected by the changes in the ratio of the highest to lowest mean consumption expenditure across sectors, which declined from 3.05 in 2001-02 to 2.54 in 2004-05. Between 2001-02 and 2004-05, the most rapidly growing sector as measured by consumption expenditure were Not defined³ sector (88%) followed by Electricity (59%), Mining (56%), Wholesale and Retail (44%), Manufacturing (38%), Community services (35%) and Transport sectors (33%).

FIGURE 2

Sectoral Inequality in Pakistan, 2001-02 and 2003-04



The results relating to sectoral consumption inequality as measured by Gini coefficient rank Financing sector as the most unequal distribution of consumption followed by Mining, Manufacturing sector and Community services sector (*see*

³The rapid gain in mean consumption expenditure may be attributable to a substantial change in population share which increased from 0.15 percent in 2001-02 to 4.89 percent in 2004-05.

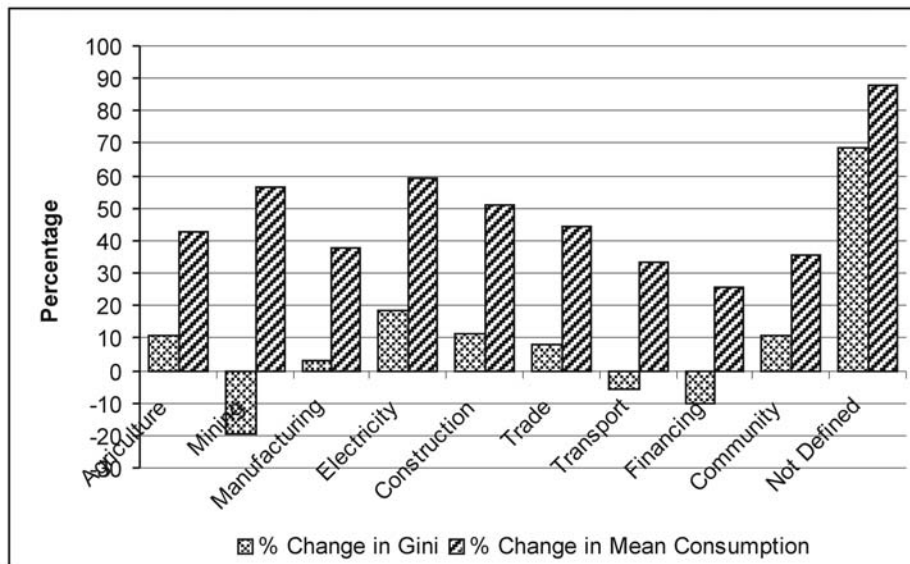
Table 3 and Figure 2). It is noteworthy that household head employed in Financing sector comprised of those working in financial institutions, insurance, real estate and business. The household head employed in Manufacturing sector comprised of those working in various industries such as food, beverages and tobacco, textile, wearing apparel and leather, wood paper, and paper products chemicals, petroleum, non-metallic mineral products, basic metal, fabricated metal products, machinery and equipment industries. On the other hand, the household head employed in Community sector included of those working in mainly public administration and defense services, social and community services.

CHANGES IN SECTORAL INEQUALITY

The results show that consumption inequality as measured by Gini Coefficient has increased across sectors in Pakistan between 2001-02 and 2004-05 (*see* Table 2). Except few, most of the sectoral consumption distributions reflect an increase in inequality over the period. Financing, Mining and Transport sectors were the exception. While the Financing and Mining sectors have very small share in population, the results may be biased due to sampling error. The growth in Transport sectors was not enough compared to other sectors which observed an increase in Inequality over the period. However, inequality increased in most of the economic sectors, *i.e.* Agriculture, Manufacturing, Electricity, Construction, Wholesale and Retail Trade, Community and personal services and undefined sector. These sectors employed 87.5% of all head of households in 2004-05.

FIGURE 3

Changes in Growth and Inequality Across Sectors, 2001-02 and 2004-05



It is noteworthy that GDP grew rapidly by about 7 percent per annum between 2001-02 and 2004-05. Consequently, inequality increases were more rapidly in those sectors where consumption increases was larger over the period. In other words, higher growth in consumption led to a rise in inequality at sectoral level over the period. For example, changes in Gini coefficient were high in undefined sector, followed by Electricity, Construction, Agriculture and Community services sectors. Thus, changes inequalities are consistent with growth in mean expenditure in these sectors (*see* Figure 3). These results suggest that inequality increased in most the economic sectors which witnessed a high economic growth and rich households seem to have benefited from high economic growth between 2001-02 and 2004-05. These trends are not desirable as concentration of income among the richest, influential and powerful groups is likely to undermine political stability and economic and social reform process.

V. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The paper examined level as well as the changes in sectoral inequality in Pakistan using two most recent household surveys data for 2001-02 and 2004-05. The results suggest the Financing sector as the most unequal distribution of consumption followed by Mining, Manufacturing sector and Community services sector. It may be noted that the household head employed in Financing sector are those working in financial institutions, insurance, real estate and business. The household head employed in Manufacturing sector comprised of those working in various industries whereas the household head employed in Community sector included of those working in mainly public administration and defense services, social and community services. It may be due to the fact that these sectors are skilled based and remuneration is generally higher in these sectors relative to others.

The results show that except few, inequality increased in most of the sectors 2001-02 and 2004-05. Financing, Mining and Transport sectors were the exception. It may be due to the fact that Financing and Mining sectors have very small share in population and the sample size is also small which may not be sufficient to capture the changes in inequality in these sectors. However, inequality increased in most of the economic sectors, *i.e.* Agriculture, Manufacturing, Electricity, Construction, Wholesale and Retail Trade, Community and personal services and undefined sector. These sectors employed 87.5% of all head of households in 2004-05. The higher growth in mean consumption expenditure led to a rise in inequality at sectoral level over the period. Thus, changes inequalities are consistent with growth in mean expenditure in these sectors.

It is noteworthy that inequality also increased in those sectors where most of the poor work such as Agriculture, Construction and Wholesale and Retail Trade sectors. These changes may not be pro-poor, if examines by the definition of Kakwani and Pernia (2000), and Datt and Ravallion (1992) who argue that growth is pro-poor when growth lowers inequality.

These changes are not desirable as rising inequality tend to reinforce the existing sectoral inequality and exclude the poor from opportunities that others enjoy such as a better education, access to loans, which are essential to develop their productive potentials. It is thus imperative to reduce income inequality to reduce poverty. Thus, if government aims to reduce absolute poverty via its growth accelerating strategy, it should focus primarily on policies to equalize the remuneration across sectors to reduce inequality via tax and expenditure polices which not only generate employment but also reduce poverty.

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