

Socio-Economic Conditions of the Poor: A Case Study of Bricks Industry

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Abstract

Poverty is a very serious and difficult issue in almost all developing countries in the world. Education income and health play important role to reduce poverty. The objective of our study how can alleviate poverty. The main focused of our study to show the miserable condition of the labor of the bricks industries. For this purpose we used the focused group discussion method to collect the data and used the qualitative analysis. After the discussion we found that the main reason of the miserable condition of the bricks industry labor is the attitude of the owner and society. The main reason of the poverty is borrowing, unemployment, poor health, lack of education, lake of the awareness about rights.

Keywords: Poverty, Income, Education, Health

Introduction

Poverty is a critical and serious issue almost in all developing countries of the world but our main focus is in Pakistan. Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, any person who is deprived from anything is considered as a poor, lack of education, lack of basic needs, no access to clean water and electricity, lack of sanitary system, they have no courage to take out their own political decision, lack of shelter. There is 58.7 million out of 180 million people are below poverty line. The people below poverty line in Baluchistan 58%, 33% in Sindh, 32% in KP, and 19% in Punjab [Aijaz.K.(2012)]. It is more prevalent in rural areas. The poverty increase in 1960, but it has been decreases in 1970 [sohail, (1994)]. In Pakistan Poverty prevail urban as well as rural area as like Islamaabad, Karachi, Lahore are big cities of Pakistan but poverty prevail in these area because of highly populated, unemployment, lack of basic skills, facilities as like education, health, etc as like in these area poverty is more than in small cities and town as Gujranwala, Waziranabad and Gujrat city,

As poverty prevail in these cities but our main focus is on District Gujrat especially in rural area Shadiwala and Lalmusa. According to 2011 in district Gujrat 12.72% people are below the poverty line and all kind of poverty is prevail here [www.iknomics.wordpress.com(2011)]. The main reason of our study is to show the miserable condition of the bricks workers in District Gujrat (especially in Shadiwal and Lalamusa). We have seen some studies that show the relationship between poverty and FDI, microcredit, migration and remittances, infaq, education. We have seen many research papers on poverty may be many studies have been done on bricks industries but we have not seen studies especially on bricks industries.

The objective of this paper is to find the reasons of poverty and which type of poverty exists in district Gujrat. For this purpose, we survey the in district Gujrat find the household income and expenditure. The rest of this paper organized in as follow. In section two literature review, in section three cause, types, and variables. In section three data and Methodology. In section five results and discussion, last of the paper conclusion and policy recommendation.

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Literature Review

Chaudhary, et al (2006) the article Rural poverty in Pakistan Explained in the basic concept & issue of rural poverty by looking at agriculture and rural economy. Author checks the macro variable impact on the rural poverty. in which article use the secondary data and applying the simple OLS Regression, use the data 1963 to 99 .the Empirical result suggest that inflation, Unemployment and growth have significant effect to alleviate rural poverty in Pakistan.

Aref (2011). Explained the Impact of Education on Poverty Reduction in Rural Areas of Iran .the objective of the study How education can help reduction poverty .author also explained barrier of education..To achieve the objective of study uses the quantitative method. And focus group discussion of the school teacher. The finding of the study that education was the positive impact on poverty, but poverty is multidimensional, rural educational system, cannot solve the poverty problems.

Malik, et al (1994) author explained impact of Infaq on poverty alleviation in Pakistan. The objective of the study is how Infaq can help reduction poverty. They use the secondary & primary data. And variable are the dependent variable expenditure & independent is income. The finding on the paper Infaq has positive impact on poverty.

Quibria (2012), Explained the Role of Microcredit on Poverty Alleviation. Author use the variable is household earning, nature of labor market, technology, product demand and entrepreneurial skills. It explained which creates economic opportunities, helps alter the household power dynamics, improves the woman's agency to make family decisions and tilts household consumption more toward family goods that improve health, nutrition, and educational outcomes. The empirical evidence say family empowerment does not directly related to microcredit.

Adejumobi (2006), explained the role of Governance on poverty reduction. In this article author say government reduction of poverty play important role, they make the policy for the poor .and generate the employment for the people of Africa and also provide education. Mahmud, et al, checked the relation of Privatization and poverty Reduction in Nigeria. In which article author use the secondary data. writer argue theory say the privatizations positively related to economic efficiency .In the case of Nigeria they have the negative impact on some service & employment of vulnerable groups, This will engender competition that will increase efficiency, reduces cost hence ensures the descending of the trickle-down effects to the lower strata.

Buchanan (2008) explained the relationship Migration, Remittances and Poverty Alleviation in Bangladesh. Use the secondary data to achieve the objective of paper. Writer say in Bangladesh has positive impact of migration. People migrate the other country increase the income of people Remittances can also encourage microenterprise development, generating substantial employment and income and thus spurring economic development and poverty alleviation.

Feeny (2003) explained the impact of foreign aid on poverty and well-being Papua New Guinea during the 1990.the methodology use in this paper comparing mix of donor aid policies aimed at the promotion of economic growth, direct targeting of the poor and the provision of safety nets with the poverty and well-being situation in Papua. The finding of paper foreign aid has ineffective reducing the poverty and increase the income inequality between rich and poor. Author gave the five suggestions. greater targeting of foreign aid to those in the poorest regions, clean water supply, give the finance in rural area, construct the new road, most of the population live in rural area and operate in the informal sector.

Shirazi, et al (Winter 2009) explained the microcredit Fund on poverty reduction of the borrowers. The data collected in Gallup (2005) has been used. Set the poverty line 2004-05 for achieving the objective of paper. And decompose the poverty line through household

survey and use the methodology combine with and without approach. the finding of the paper the poverty reduction in Pakistan by 3.05 percentage points in the period under study.

Data and Methodology

We collect the data from the areas of district Gujrat (Shadiwal, Lalamusa). Total population was 50 bricks industry and 100 families, we select 20 bricks industries' workers and 25 families out of them. We collect the data through focus group discussion. Our result is biased on qualitative analysis. For the measurement of Poverty we use the calories approach, World Bank poverty line, and Basic Need Approach.

Qualitative Analysis

How many child you have? 70% respondents have 6 to 7 children, 30% respondent have 8 to 9 child. What is your income level? 50% respondent saying that whole family member earning 450 Rs daily. 30% respondent saying that whole family member earning 600 Rs daily. 20% respondent saying that whole family member earning 1000 daily. How many bricks you made in a day? 80% saying that 1000 bricks made daily. 20% saying that 1500 bricks daily. How many amount you got after preparing 1000 bricks? 100% respondent saying that 450. How many years you live in bricks industry? 50% saying those 20 years. 30% saying the 40 years. 20% saying the 30 years. Have any family leave from the brick industry? No one can leave the brick industry. Why no one leave the brick industry? We are borrowing the owner of the industry and can't pay back this amount. This borrowing system started from the forefather and this circle move from generation to generation. How much debt you have? 50% people says they have more than 1,00,000, 20% people says they have the 2, 00,000. 30% people they have above 70,000. Why are you not send your children to school? Because we have not so much money to fulfill our basic need. How can bear their education expenditure. Government provide the free facility for education then why are you not avail these facility? Government provide only books, not note books uniform, bags, shoes etc and mostly school teachers do not provide to needy persons. Are you working whole year? No we only work for 9 month. How can survive in 3 month? In these month we borrow from the owner of industry and fulfill our expenditure. This debt cuts day by day from our wage. If you cannot fulfill your basic need, so why you born too much children? If we have more children so we can earn more money.

Why do you early marriages of your children? We have not the separate houses and our honor was not protect that's why we do marriages our children in early age. Owner of the industry provide all facility? No. the owner gives only one rooming house. We have not the clean water, gass facility. Bricks owner gain large amount of benefit but labor does not receive. Are you poor? We have not much money for the fulfill our basic need, no education, no clean water, no shelter, have no ability to take our rights, no better health, have no respect in the society.

Results and Discussion

According to survey main reason of poverty is borrowing and borrowing has been taken for different purpose some people spend it on some basic needs as they are seasonal employ. They work 9 month out of 12 months due to environment they want to do work in this time period but the owner restricts them and not permit them to do any other work.

They take loans from their owners and spend it. Child marriages, Treatment of diseases, In case of death, Basic needs. Government provides facilities but they cannot receive the facilities due to upper class societal behavior. Like doctor, teachers, owner, other respectful people of the society cannot gave the respect.

These people also have no protection of their daughter because many people live in same courtyard this is also a reason of early marriages of their daughters. These people have many children because they don't use contraceptive method and they also think that their children will help them in their work and their earning will be increase. These people want to remove circle of poverty but they cannot because of their owner like brick industry has 8_10 families and each family live in one small room and they pay 800 per month of this one room they have no facilities of gas, clean water and proper shelter.

Many poor people have skill but they cannot use their skills due to Financial assets, Government do not provides subsidies, Government not provided them loan due to security, Surrounding people don't provide them loan because they think that they can't return their loans. The bricks worker said that government wage rate is 500 rupee daily. But the owner of the bricks not gave the wage according to law. Bricks worker filed cause in court since many years. But the cause is as it is.

Critical Analysis on Approaches

We used the World Bank approach for the measuring poverty. After the discussion of our respondents we find that approach was not the better approach to measure poverty, 2\$ is not sufficient for the people because the food prices increasing every day and decrease the purchasing power parity .according to this approach no one is the poor. Mostly people earn 2\$ daily, But in these dollar one person only purchase the one kg cooking oil and one kg flour but other needs how can fulfill.

Calories approach is used in Pakistan. Any person received 2350 calories that was not poor.2350 calories complete after eating the three bread because 600 calories in one bread ,one person only eating bread and other needs how can fulfill. Poor have no right to receiving education, clean water, electricity, shelter, better clothing.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendation

Poverty has very serious and difficult issue almost all the developing countries. In Pakistan multidimensional poverty is prevailed but our study conduct in the district Gujrat (Shadiwal, Lalamusa, Gujrat).our variable are the income, education, and health, positively related to poverty. We used the qualitative analysis. We collect data through focused group discussion. We used the two approaches for the measurement of the poverty but the result say that approach had not the better measure. We find that the main reasons of the poverty was the borrowing, unemployment, lack of education, lack of the awareness of the rights, Poor health.

Many people have the skills but that people have not the better platform to use them. The first all Government finance those people have the skills. For this purpose government making microcredit bank and complete check and balance on these banks. Second is the Zakat that was imposing on the religion on every person those have the high income. Third government making the pro-poor policy and impose the high taxes on the richest people and that tax use for the betterment of the poor. Government gave the intension to the bricks industry especially rural areas in which have no rule and regulation.

Fourth is society divide into sectors according to different function that was regard as important for the working of society. Investment in the health care sector that gave the good result such as increase the life expectancy among poor population, decreased the infant mortality and child mortality, and improved access to health care, and decreased the disease.

Investment in the educational sector has decreased the illiteracy and improved the vocational skills. Investment in the waterworks have increase the access to safe water and proper disposal of wastewater

Investment in the agriculture sector decreases the prices of the basic food items that access to everyone, and increase the prices of the luxury good.

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